

**A VISIT TO PARIS
IN JUNE 1814**

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A visit to Paris in June 1814 by Henry Wansey

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VISIT TO PARIS,

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BY

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1814.

INTRODUCTION.

A French Officer made this observation to me in the Hall of the Thuilleries, when conversing on the late changes in France. “If these events,” said he, “do not convince the people of France of a God, nothing will.” I have thought again upon this, and upon the wonderful events that have taken place; and in conformity to that idea, arranged a few facts as follow :

1. When the Duke of Brunswick marched through Lorraine and Champaigne into the very heart of France, with a powerful army of 100,000 men, the French had neither armies nor generals to oppose them; and yet in less than three months, his army retreated like a beaten host, without any competent cause.

2. When the Duke published his ill-advised manifesto respecting the safety of the French King, threatening to burn Paris, and decimate its inhabitants; instead of its intimidating them, as he expected, it produced a re-action, dreadful in its outset, and terrible in all its future progress. What signifies, said one unlucky voice, our marching against our foreign enemies, and leaving so many traitors behind us in Paris. Then began the dreadful Septembrizing work, and Paris became a slaughter-house.

3. Notwithstanding the French were not soldiers, they gained the battle of Jemappe; although they were destroyed by thousands, and fought under a General who was not hearty in the cause, but betrayed them, and ran off within two months afterwards.

4. All the nations of Europe were at this time leagued together to crush their infant republic, and the Sovereigns had made so sure of conquering France, that at the celebrated treaty of Pilnitz, (or of Pavia, as it has been called since,) they proceeded to plan a division of the French territories amongst themselves.*

* The Elector Palatine was to have all Belgium added to his territories, which state was in future to be called Austrasia.

5. The French fearless of their efforts, were at this time cutting off the heads of their own Generals, Custine, Hoche, and Houchard ; and cashiering others, as Fayette and Dumourier ; because they did not effect impossibilities against the enemy ; and yet, though terrible was the responsibility of the office, they were never in want of Generals to command them.

6. While their troops were undisciplined, and the greater part of them mere rabble, they made themselves masters of the strongest fortresses on the borders of Germany, Bische, Ehrenbreitstein, &c. and they beat that consummate General Wurmser out of his very trenches, on the heights of Hagenau and Wrotte, although he was all the while slaughtering them like sheep, in six or seven repeated attacks.

The Archduke Charles and his Aunt were to have the Dutchy of Lorraine.

The Emperor of Germany was to take Alsace, and the King Sardinia, le Bresse, le Bugey, and the province of Dauphiny.

The King of Spain was to have Rousillon and Bearn, on the north side of the Pyrennees, Corsica, and the French part of St. Domingo. All these sovereigns, it so happened afterwards, instead of obtaining these fine dominions, actually lost their own.—See *New Annual Register* for 1792 p. 118.

7. In one period of her glorious struggle for liberty against her foes, united with England who boasts of its love of liberty, and in short against all the civilized nations of Europe, she had no allies, except the Emperor of Morocco, and the Emperor of the Turks, who are both sworn enemies to liberty, and the greatest of all despots.

8. France fought to eject the family of the Bourbons, the great grand-children of their adored monarch Louis le Grand, in order to become a republic; and having established this point against the united powers of all Europe, who are brought to acknowledge it; then they opposed this republican system themselves.

9. They had denounced every man as an enemy to his country, who should even mention the name of a despot or king ever ruling in France again; and yet they submitted to a greater despotism and tyranny, than ever they had endured under the worst of the Bourbons.

10. That this despot at the head of one of the finest appointed armies that ever marched to the field of battle, with a train of artillery of 1000 cannon and upwards, with all

appliances and means to boot to aid 500,000 men, confident of success, and penetrating even into his enemy's capital, totally failed of success, and fled back to Paris almost alone :

11. That in six months afterwards he should raise another army for the field, which should still outnumber his enemies, and even beat them ; and yet, that after all this apparent renewal of his strength, he should, by a kind of infatuation, fail of his object, and return in disgrace to Paris a second time :

12. That he should reject the Armistice at Prague, whereby he might have most firmly established his power, and have remained the first Sovereign in Europe :

13. That failing in this, and having a second opportunity, at Chatillon, of retaining his throne and power as acknowledged Sovereign of France, he should stand out : That within a fortnight after this, he should have lost all his power, sunk into nothing, and in another month be found quietly possessing a little petty government in a small Island in the Mediterranean sea :

14. And lastly, that the Bourbons should quietly, and without a struggle, retake possession of the throne of France, no man

forbidding them ; although two months before there was no prospect of it :

What man is he that could beforehand have traced even a probability of one of these events happening, by looking to second causes only. Surely, then, the Captain of the Royal Guards at the Thuilleries was very right, when he said, "If these events will not convince the French people of a GOD, (an over-ruling controller of events,) nothing will."

Let those who think, ' be candid where they can,
' And vindicate the ways of GOD to man.'

CORRIGENDA.

- Page. 5, l. 14, for *rain*, read *rainy*.
 36, l. 23, for *Louis Fourth*, read *Louis Fourteenth*.
 38, l. 26, for *trimes* (*tr*) *of it's ductu suo*, read *trimestris*
spatio ductu suo.
 56, l. 70, the word *had* is omitted at the beginning.
 61, l. 19, for *ceramics*, read *ceramicos*.
 67, l. 16, insert after presently "on the times."