

**THE BONAPARTE PLOT:
WHY IT WAS
ENGAGED IN, AND HOW
IT WAS ACCOMPLISHED**

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The Bonaparte Plot: Why it was Engaged In, and how it was Accomplished by A. Granier De Cassagnac

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THE
BONAPARTE PLOT:

WHY IT WAS ENGAGED IN,
AND
HOW IT WAS ACCOMPLISHED.

AN OFFICIAL NARRATIVE AND JUSTIFICATION OF THE
EVENTS OF DECEMBER, 1851.

Adolphe
BY A. GRANIER DE CASSAGNAC.

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LONDON:
DAVID BOGUE, 86, FLEET STREET.
1851.

P R E F A C E.

THE following pages comprise an unabridged translation of a very remarkable pamphlet which has recently appeared in Paris, and which has there met with a most enormous sale. The author of it, a distinguished Parisian journalist, is known to be an emissary of the French President's, and was the party employed by him to disseminate the first apparently truthful statement respecting the conspiracy which Louis Napoleon alleged had been entered into by numerous members of the Assembly with a view of effecting his deposition from the Presidential office. That this official narrative and justification of the events of December is worthy of being reproduced in an English form may be gathered from the following extract from the *Times*, which a few days since reviewed the French edition of this pamphlet.

“The pen of an able writer has been successfully employed to illustrate, if not to justify, the re-

markable proceedings by which Louis Napoleon accomplished the overthrow of the Constitution he had sworn to maintain. M. Granier de Casagnac has published a narrative of the conspiracy and its execution, which may probably be received for an approximation to the actual truth as near as we are likely to obtain. Of the motives which originally induced the Government to misrepresent the circumstances of the transaction many are now past, and the same security which suggested the release of the Parliamentary captives will now permit a genuine history of their capture. A more curious document has seldom been given to the world; and in perusing it we seem to have fallen upon the details of some old Genoese or Venetian plot, where one faction of the Senate or nobility conspired against the other to break forth in the dead of night, to seize the galleys, to storm the palaces of political foes, and to announce to the citizens in the morning that a revolution had been effected during their slumbers.'

A FULL AND AUTHENTIC ACCOUNT
OF THE
EVENTS OF DECEMBER, 1851.

I.

To this very hour does the general astonishment continue which was excited by the intolerable situation wherein France found herself plunged through the systematic hostility of the Assembly and the barefaced cabals promoted by the partisans of a former order of things.

Trade and labour, and the conduct of government, had become impracticable. Agriculture, industry, commerce, the landed interest, constituted authorities, the social system itself—all seemed at their last gasp.

As for the railways, the Assembly put a stop to their construction by ceaseless delays and by systems incapable of being carried into effect.

How could the authorities exert those strong and only means possessed by them for the suppression of Socialism? They were held in check by the Assembly by the refusal of a law for the cashiering of unworthy mayors. As regarded the gratitude and consideration due to the army's ancient services, the Assembly refused to acknowledge them, by rejecting the petition, modest as it was, tendered with a view to aid the glorious state of privation endured by our old soldiers.

Or how revise a senseless constitution that handed over France, bound hand and foot, to the Communist

and demagogue, when the Assembly rejected such revision, although demanded by petitions to which above 2,000,000 signatures were affixed, by an immense majority of the conseils d'arrondissement, and by eighty conseils general of departments out of eighty-six?

II.

Such a situation was intolerable: to bring it to an end became indispensable.

On this all parties were agreed. Ere they set out to proceed to their respective departments, a considerable number of conservative representatives, when waiting on the President to take their leave, conjured him to dissolve the Assembly before they returned.

At the same period the party termed the *fusion* party set on foot overtures to the President, either with the view of aiding him to save society or to re-unite themselves to him for the maintenance of order should it become indispensable to have recourse to a *coup d'état*.

A few days prior to the meeting again of the Assembly, representatives belonging to the Red and Socialist party caused a proposition to be submitted to the President to the effect that he should rely upon them, and select a Minister from their ranks.

To crown all, during the evening of the 1st of December, a proposal to co-operate with Louis Napoleon was brought to him in the name of the heads of the Legitimist party.

Thus it appears that all parties without exception were of opinion that the position was no longer tenable, and each offered its aid to the President in order to facilitate his extrication therefrom—only each respective party wished the President to rely on it, and it exclusively, and Louis Napoleon chose to rely on France alone.

III.

The President of the Republic, beset by two conspiracies, and compelled by his responsibility as head of the