The French Republic

We have ave been favored through the kindness of Hon A D. Williams of perusing the "London Times," of the 14th December,—and the "London Weekly Dispatch," of the 7th. From them we make extracts of the state of affairs in France. We regret that our time will not permit us to give a more detail d account of the revolution—but what we do give, will enable our readers to form some idea of the deplorable condition of that country. The "Times" and "Despatch" are strong n their reprobation of the conduct of President Louis Napoleon Bonaparte—it is to him they charge the present disorder in Paris. That the President violated the Constitution in dissolving the National Assembly, there can not be a doubt—and he is therefore, guilty of an act of high treason. The 68th. article of the Constitution reads thus:—"The President and his Ministers are each responsible for the acts of the Government, and any measure by which the President shall dissolve or prorouge the National Assembly, or place any obstacle to the exercise of its Functions, is an act of high treason." By that very act the President forfeits his authority, and every citizen is bound to refuse obedience to his orders."

The National Assembly after being dissolved, attempted to meet, they were dispersed by the soldiery, a portion of them, however, succeeded in assembling in a retired place, and hastily decreed the following.—"The Assembly,—after reading the 68 Article of the Constitution—therefore, since it is hindered by violence from accomplishing its mission, decrees."

"Louis Napoleon Bonaparte is deprived of his functions as President of the Republic, and the citizens are called on to refuse him obedience."

"The Executive passes in its plenitude to the Assembly."—

"The Judges of the High Court of Justice are called upon to meet immediately, upon pain of dismissal to proceed to judgment against the President and his accomplices."

"It is enjoined upon all functionaries that they obey the requisition made in the name of the Assembly, under penalty of forfeiture and the punishment prescribed for high treason."

Made in public sitting this 2nd Dec. 1851.
Boulay (de la Meurthe) President,
Victor Vice President,
Chapot and Moulin, Secretaries

Proclamation of the Assembly.

"Whereas, Article 68th of the Constitution, provides, &c. see it quoted above. Considering that Louis Napoleon Bonaparte has violated his oath and the Constitution, and employed the public force to consummate his crime." The undersigned Members of the Assembly, after taking official cognizance of the violence offered by the President to its meeting, and the arrest of its Bureau and several of its Members declare—"That the 68th. Article of the Constitution points out to every Citizen the duty he owes to the Law."

"The President is thus declared deprived of his authority, the High Court of Justice is summoned; every citizen is forbidden to obey the deposed power, under pain of punishment."

"The Grand Councils are convoked, and are to meet immediately; they will name a Commissioner from the members of their own body, who will assume the administration of the department, and will communicate with the Assembly in whatever place it shall place to meet."

"The Treasurer of the public funds, who shall render up possession of the same to any person or persons, other than those authorized in the regular and lawful manner, shall be held responsible, both in person and property. Done the 2nd of December, 1851,"—and then follow the names of the signers.

It is certain that Bonaparte has the military under his control and is prepared to execute any order he may issue. He has commissioned a new ministry, who is steadfast in carrying out all his plans. Several members of the Assembly were arrested and imprisoned: and a large number of the people—many have left the country. The people were being massacred in all parts o Paris.

The "Patrie" publishes the following votes of the army.

Number of votes - - -	65,289.
Votes for Louis Napoleon, 4 -	61,456
Against " " - -	3,749
Abstained.	84

PARIS, TUESDAY, DEC 2. 4 P. M.

The President of the Republic was informed last night that a meeting was held at General Changarnier's house, attended by M. Thiers, M. Baze, and others of the chiefs of parties, at which it decided that the *coup* against the President should be made this very day—that is, that he should be arrested, the Assembly prorogued or dissolved, and the Republic abolished.

It was considered absolutely necessary to take steps immediately, and proclamations were at once prepared, among which was the following:—

"APPEAL TO THE PEOPLE.

"Frenchmen.—The present situation cannot last much longer. Each day the situation of the country becomes worse. The Assembly, which ought to be the firmest supporter of order, has become a theatre of plots. The patriotism of 300 of its Members could not arrest its fatal tendencies. In place of making laws for the general interest of the people it was forging arms for civil war. It attacked the power I hold directly from the people; it encouraged every evil passion; it endangered the repose of France. I have dissolved it, and I make the whole people judge between me and it. The Constitution, as you know, had been made with the object of weakening beforehand the powers you intrusted to me. Six millions of votes were a striking protest against it, and yet I have faithfully observed it. Provocations, calumnies, outrages, found me passive. But now that the fundamental part is no longer respected by those who incessantly invoke it, and the men who have already destroyed two monarchies wish to tie up my hands in order to overthrow the Republic, my duty is to baffle their perfidious projects, to maintain the Republic, and to save the country by appealing to the solemn judgments of the only Sovereign I recognize in France—the people.

"I, then, make a loyal appeal to the entire nation; and I say to you, if you wish to continue this state of disquietude and *malaise* that degrades you and endangers the future, choose another person in my place, for I no longer wish for a place which is powerless for good, but which makes me responsible for acts that I cannot hinder, and chains me to the helm when I see the vessel rushing into the abyss. If, on the contrary, you have still confidence in me, give me the means of accomplishing the grand mission I hold from you. That mission consists in closing the era of revolution, in satisfying the legitimate wants of the people, and in protecting them against subverse passions. It consists especially to create institutions which survive men, and which are the foundation on which something durable is based. Persuaded that the instability of power, that the preponderance of a single Assembly, are the permanent causes of trouble and discord, I submit to your suffrages the fundamental basis of a constitution which the Assemblies will develop hereafter.—

"1. A responsible chief nominated for 10 years.

"2. The Ministers dependent on the Executive alone.

"3. A Council of State formed of the most distinguished men preparing the laws and maintaining the discussion before the legislative corps.

"4. A legislative corps, discussing and voting the laws, named by universal suffrage, without the *scrutin de liste* which falsifies the election.

"5. A second Assembly, formed of all the illustrious persons of the nation; a preponderating power, guardian of the fundamental pact, and of public liberty.

"This system, created by the First Consul in the beginning of the present century, has already given to France repose and prosperity. It guarantees them still. Such is my profound conviction. If you partake it, declare so by your suffrages. If, on the contrary, you prefer a Government without force, Monarchical or Republican, borrowed from some chimerical future, reply in the negative. Thus, then, for the first time since 1804 you will vote with complete knowledge of the fact, and knowing for whom and for what you vote.

"If I do not obtain the majority of the votes I shall summon a new Assembly, and lay down before it the mission I have received from you. But if you believe that the cause of which my name is the symbol, that is, France regenerated by the revolution of '89, and organized by the Emperor, is still yours, proclaim it to be so by ratifying the powers I demand of you. Then France and Europe will be preserved from anarchy, obstacles will be removed, rivalries will have disappeared, for *all* will respect, in the will of the people, the decree of Providence.

"Done at the Palace of the Elysee this 2nd of December.

"LOUIS NAPOLEON BONAPARTE."

PROCLAMATION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC TO THE ARMY

"Soldiers!—Be proud of your mission; you will save the country. I rely upon you, not to violate the laws, but to command respect for legitimate representative.

"You long suffered, like me, from the obstacles that prevented me doing you all the good I intended, and opposed the demonstrations of your sympathy in my favour. Those obstacles are removed. The Assembly sought to impair the authority which I derive from the entire nation; it has ceased to exist.

"I make a loyal appeal to the people and the Army, and I tell them—either give me the means of ensuring your prosperity, or choose another in my place.

"In 1830, as well as in 1848, you were treated as a vanquished army. After having branded your heroical disinterestedness, they disdained to consult your sympathies and wishes, and, nevertheless, you are the *élite* of the nation. To-day, at this solemn moment, I wish the voice of the Army to be heard.

"Vote, then, freely as citizens; but, as soldiers, do not forget that passive obedience to the orders of the chief of the Government is the rigorous duty of the Army, from the General down to the soldier. It is for me, who am responsible for my actions before the people and posterity, to adopt the measures most conducive to the public welfare.

"As for you, maintain entire the rules of discipline and honour. Be your imposing attitude assist the country in manifesting its will with calmness and reflection. Be ready to repress all attempt against the free exercise of the sovereignty of the people.

"Soldiers, I do not speak to you of the recollections attached to my name. They are engraved on your hearts. We are united by indissoluble ties. Your history is mine. There is between us in the past a community of glory and misfortunes. There shall be in the future a community of sentiments and resolutions for the repose and grandeur of France.

(Signed) "LOUIS NAPOLEON BONAPARTE."

"Palace of the Elysee, Dec. 2."

The Prefect of Police to the inhabitants of Paris:—

"Parisians.—The President of the Republic, by a courageous initiative, has baffled the machinations of parties, and put an end to the anguish of the country. It is in the name of the people, in its interest, and for the maintenance of the press, that the event is accomplished.

"It is to the judgment of the people that Louis Napoleon Bonaparte submits his conduct.

"The greatness of the act makes you understand with what imposing and solemn silence the free exercise of the popular sovereignty ought to be manifested. To-day as yesterday, let order be our watch word: let all good citizens, animated as I am by the love of the country, aid me in my unalterable resolution.

"Have confidence in him whom 6,000,000 of votes have raised to the first dignity of the country. When he summons the entire people to express their will the factious alone would place obstacles in the way. Any attempt at disorder shall be promptly and inflexibly repressed

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Since on last we have received further intelligence from the army. Our readers will, however, notice that it differs somewhat in the particulars but does not materially differ from the reality.

On the 8th from Taboucorro we have the following direct intelligence: "On monday morning half past 6 o'clock the whole line moved off in the direction of Softy John's town, which place we reached in 2 hours without opposition. Just as we entered the town the natives set fire to it, and escaped by the rear gate. We succeeded in extinguishing the fire—saving enough house for comfortable quarters for our men. Soon after entering, the native sharpshooters from the wooded hills, Congos and Boatswain's people were sent out to dislodge them; which they did successfully, killing some five or six, and capturing 16. We remained at Softy John's during the night without interruption. At 6 o'clock in the morning, yesterday we were under arms; the second Regiment under command of Colonel Weaver, number about 300, was ordered to march round the Bassa Country, attacking and destroying the towns of the enemy, and to join the 1st Regiment at Weh's town on morrow 9th inst.

"Soon after the 2nd Regiment moved off, the 1st was in motion to march through the Tabacorro country taking Grand's town in the route. After a march of about 1 1-2 or 2 hours, the head of the column entered a swamp of large poplars, and was attacked by some force, not very considerable. He soon retreated and we moved up as rapidly as possible. The swamp is about 150 yards across, and be most difficult pass I ever crossed. The people that first fired which happ ar to have been a detachment from the main body—fell back to the opposite side of the swamp where they had erected a formidable stockade pretty well concealed from view. When within about 100 yards of it, he opened on us a murderous fire, which he kept up for 1 1-2 hours. Our men stood the fire well, and advanced steadily that frequently up to their waist in mud and water; when within 50 yards of the stockade Company No. 1 Captain Gabriel Moore, was ordered to file left, and flank the enemy. Captain Moore pushed bravely on keeping up a steady fire, which so well d the enemy as to compell him to retire. After crossing and mustering our men, we found that we had 14 men wounded none thank God dangerously. Captain Seymour—received a slug, which struck the collar bone, and glanced, the place is painful, but not dangerous, and he will return to day to Bassa. A Vey boy was wounded in the leg, and one Congo in the thigh; one of Boatswain's men was wounded in the thigh also—these we had to carry—the others, were wounded in the arms, and two or three slightly on the sides of the face.

"Some of our men had expended all their ammunition; and others got their cartridge boxes wet in crossing the swamp we had therefore to halt at the stockade, for an hour or so to distribute ammunition. This through, we continued our march. The enemy in the mean time had rallied, and posted himself on an elevation, about a mile in advance of us. The place was well chosen—a pretty large hill in the middle of an old cassada farm and covered with Pocabog bills.—just as we emerged from the forest, and when nearly the whole right wing was exposed the enemy opened upon us; the men rushed forward and soon dislodged him. Here we had two of Boatswain's men wounded, one pretty badly. We halted upon the ground from which we had driven the enemy, and refreshed ourselves from our knapsacks, with a well earned breakfast. While we were thus engaged we saw the smoke of Grand's town ascending high just before us. I considered it be we had beaten, and that we would no have more fighting—which turned out to be the case. We, however, advanced quite prepared for any thing—the men in high spirit. We reached the barricade without further opposition—it was then too late in the afternoon to burn the beach before night, we therefore contented ourselves as comfortable as possible in the barricade. Boatswain's men went out and burned two or three small towns, and collected a quantity of plunder. We have not gained any intelligence of the girl that was taken from the Cove. I forgot to mention that we burned some six or eight towns around Softy John's town, and obtained some rice for the troops in effecting this. Yarbuter lost one man, and had another wounded pretty badly.

"We left Grand's barricade yesterday morning, and reached this place about 4 P. M.—As we approached the beach the Frenchmen fired their towns to prevent their falling into the hands of the New Cess. But of all traveling, yesterday's march beats every thing. Bogs and swamps every two or three hundred yards, the first we came to was forty yards wide, the men frequently sinking up to the hips, they had to sling their cartridge boxes around their necks; and one place was scarcely fordable. But here we are, in our rude tents upon the beach; the Americans are employed in making cartridges, and the Congoes and Boatswain's people in scouring the country burning towns. The natives will remember this expedition for years and years to come. "Our American troops, so far, have been wonderfully preserved by a kind Providence. We have had very little sickness or complaining among them; and but few accidents. The wounded and few sick will be dispatched to Grand Bassa.

We hope to be able to move off from here early to-morrow morning; it is not yet decided whether we will proceed immediately to Weh's town from here or go first to New Cess, and thence to Joe Weh's town, and send a detachment from there to bring up the 2d Regiment. I presume we shall not have much more difficulty till we reach Brier's town—it is contemplated to make such disposition of our force as to foil his anticipations, and save our men as much as possible."

While the troops were at Bassa, the President received a letter from King Joe West of New Cess—there is an extract from it—it is dated Joe West's Town, 6th January: "Dear sir, your's came safe to hand, and read with great pleasure. I am very glad that you have heard I have nothing to do with the war. I never meddle to do with it whatever, I tell. I could have joined Mr. Thos. R. Bethune and Capt. Carroll—the natives came here to force me to deliver them up to them, but I refused to do so. You say, we will be in the New Cess country soon. When you come if the natives fight you at Poor river, it will be the Trade Town and Grand's people the reason they will fight you there, as to make an evidence that it was us. If you should come by the beach, do not call at my town but go on to Grand town first. Then—you do, we can come to Monrovia, the Trade Town people will fight me."

"And say, that I have held communication with you &c. &c. Grand is no friend of mine he has caused some of my people and son to leave this country. I am an old man, and am travelling to the grave—and do not feel inclined to be involved in a cause. Please write me by the bearer, King Jim, King Freeman and Prince Weh join with me in writing this letter—so let you know they have nothing to do with the war.

"I am your true friend
signed "Joe West."

Circumstances, we think, did not permit the President to avoid Joe West's town as requested—he took it in his route to Trade Town—The New Cess people have remained true to their word and kept a coal from Grando and River. Our next news will, we presume, come from Trade Town.

Our last date from the Army is January 17 in Trade Town in high and hard.—The moment it is noised that a cause will be at his evening for Monrovia. We had a long march through the country since I last wrote you from Tabacorro. We met no resistance in the New Cess country. At 6 o'clock Tuesday A. M.—we commenced our march from Joe West's town, for Trade Town—Brier's—which place we reached about 2 P. M.—We had heard of his boasting and his great preparations he was making to receive us—and we enough were within a mile of it. Regiment halted our van with a volley of musketry at Davey—a Congo—was badly wounded in each and arm—we pushed forward and obtained a sight of the Barricade;—they opened from it a terrible fire of muskets, and cannon charged with slugs and—we were brought to a dead halt; the ground was so favorable and unfavorable for us—it was low a dense and prevented us from advancing under their heavy fire—but in consequence of their elevation of position they overshot us—but we could not advance against their fire—we continued in this position for an hour—and finally we made a flank movement to the with a part of our force, and occupied an elevation which as soon as the enemy discovered he began to slacken his fire, and our men from three sides, rushed upon the barricade and caused quite a panic—the enemy disputed very inch of ground with us fighting from house to house. In two hours from the time he began commenced we had quiet possession of the town—it was dearly won. We had four killed, Lieut. Wm. E. Brown 1st Company, J. B. Smith, and [illegible] Frame twenty three wounded. Col. McGill and Dr. Roberts [illegible] in the leg—and very badly; Major Ross slightly; Rev. Miller Houston from Kentucky, and two company [illegible] The others are all flesh wounds and not dangerous. President Roberts escaped with a ruse on the knee.

"We have just arrived here and will soon embark for New Cess, and embark Monday morning for Bassa—you may look for us home the latter part of a week."

Every hour we are expecting to hear that the troops have arrived. They will receive a hearty welcome. They have undergone much exposure, and [illegible] many privations. We fear Grand and Boyer, if not punished will again harass our off villages. It is true they have received a severe lesson; but it must be remembered that they show a sickleness in their rebellion, hitherto unheard of by the oldest of our citizens. Are they not incited to do so by some dark designs or misgivings? In time, the truth of our statement will be brought to light. We do not charge any one but the tone of these follows the natives, is different from what it always has been, leads us to the belief that others have counselled them in such opposition to the government.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

XII. Newspapers
B. Liberia Herald

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