

Some months after there was a new transformation. Collet made himself an inspector-general. In this character he could bleed the public treasuries freely. This was in 1812: Napoleon was struggling in Russia against the winter which was decimating his army; in Spain, the divided generals were retreating before a nation which had risen against them. The eyes of France were upon Russia; Napoleon had taken the soul, and left behind him only the skeleton of the empire—that powerful but complicated organization whose only sentiment was a blind devotion to a single man. It was at this time Mallet succeeded in shaking, and almost overturning, this admirable edifice, by the single expression, "The Emperor is dead."

The moment was well chosen by Collet. He withdrew from the centre of the empire. He had made himself a commission, conferring upon him full powers to organize the Army of Catalonia, and the right to draw from the public treasuries the means necessary for raising this imaginary army. Having obtained the permission of his colonel, Collet departed for Paris. There he arranged his plans and departed for the south of France, and, on the way, removed his lieutenant's uniform and assumed that of an inspector-general. He was henceforth the General Count Charles-Alexandre de Borromeo.

He arrived at Valence and went directly to the citadel. The commander was not a little astonished, not having been officially informed of this intended visit: but the Count Borromeo excused the informality of his coming by the crisis in which France was then plunged; he showed his commission, carelessly exposed his various decorations, and received all the honors due to his rank and his office. The first step was taken. But it was as necessary for a general to have a staff as for a bishop to have an almoner. Collet soon made for himself a brilliant one.

He attached to his suite a captain, whom he promoted to the rank of lieutenant-colonel, and some officers, whom he decorated. He went so far as to promise to the prefect, Hérault, the Cross of the Legion of Honor.

But these were only the means; the end was an access to the public treasuries. From that of Valence he demanded and was paid 20,000 francs: 115,000 from that of Avignon; Marseilles handed over 200,000 francs, and Nismes 30,000 francs.

[To be continued.]

INSOLVENT NOTICES, ETC.

Quebec Official Gazette, July 20.

Dividends.

Re Blais & Emond.—Second dividend payable Aug. 5, H. A. Bedard, Quebec, curator.

Re A. E. Boisseau.—First dividend, payable Aug. 5, H. A. Bedard, Quebec, curator.

Re James Corbeil.—Second and final dividend, payable Aug. 7, C. Desmarteau, Montreal, curator.

Re P. C. D'Auteuil, dry goods dealer, Quebec.—Second and final dividend, payable Aug. 5, H. A. Bedard, Quebec, curator.

Re J. A. Demers. Lévis.—First dividend, payable Aug. 5, H. A. Bedard, Quebec, curator.

Re H. Gagnon & Co.—First dividend, payable Aug. 5, H. A. Bedard, Quebec, curator.

Re Joseph Martineau, Stanfold.—First and final dividend, payable Aug. 9, Gauthier & Parent, Montreal, curators.

Re Simon Méthot, Grand River.—First and final dividend, payable Aug. 5, H. A. Bedard, Quebec, curator.

Quebec Official Gazette, July 27.

Judicial Abandonments.

Andrew Boa, trader, Lachute, July 22.

Curators appointed.

Re Emmanuel Day, Montreal.—Kent & Turcotte, Montreal, joint curator, July 19.

Re Ferdinand Genest.—T. Gauthier, Montreal, curator, July 25.

Re C. F. Laforêt, trader, St-André.—H. A. Bedard, Quebec, curator, July 18.

Re Pierre Leroux.—C. Desmarteau, Montreal, curator, July 18.

Re Napoléon Mercier.—L. N. Lemieux, Montreal, curator, July 19.

Re Wm. Peatman.—J. Morin, St-Hyacinthe, curator, July 10.

Dividends.

Re G. A. Drouin.—Second and final dividend, payable Aug. 14, C. Desmarteau, Montreal, curator.

Re Philéas Dubé.—First dividend, payable Aug. 3, M. Dechenes, Fraserville, curator.

Re C. H. & D. H. Sawyer, Clarenceville.—First and final dividend, payable Aug. 13, W. A. Caldwell, Montreal, curator.