



GRAND COURT OF THE LOUVRE.

The view in every direction from this point is imposing. To the westward rises the broad and handsome Champs-Elysees. On the north we look up the short Rue Royale to the front of the Madeleine. To the eastward lie the extensive and beautiful Gardens of the Tuileries, laid out originally by Louis XIV. as a playground for the royal princes, afterward thrown open to the whole people, and quite recently extended eastward from the portion on the farther side of the Palais des Tuileries. To the southward, just across the Seine, is the Greek front of the Corps Legislatif, otherwise known as the Palais Bourbon from the fact that it was built, or at least begun, by the dowager Duchess of Bourbon in 1722. Here the famous Council of Five Hundred sat in 1795, and

here the Chamber of Deputies now holds its sessions. From its portico we may enjoy a grand view backward over the whole superb Place de la Concorde, with its obelisk, and its splashing fountains striving to do what Chateaubriand' declared not all the water in the world could do—wash out the blood-stains of this fearful spot.

But starting now from the base of that Obelisk of Luxor, and walking straight northward by that short Rue Royale, we find ourselves in a moment standing just in front of the Madeleine, which to a stranger would seem rather a Greek temple than a Christian church. Louis XV. began the building in 1764; but the Revolution put a stop to it. Napoleon, in 1806, proposed to convert it into a "temple of glory," to be dedicated