

still more certain, you have only to furnish me with the hosts; and if they should prove poisoned, the blame will not be imputable to me." To this the council made no immediate answer; but the members went into the room where they usually held their meetings. The king's demand was formally deliberated on; after which, the abbe being called in, the president said: "Citizen minister of worship, that which Louis Capet requests, not being contrary to law: we have agreed to grant it on two conditions: first, that you sign the request; and, secondly, that ceremony you intend to perform shall terminate before seven o'clock to-morrow morning, as, at eight o'clock, Louis Capet must go hence to the place of execution."

The abbe Edgeworth submitted to these conditions, and went to inform the king, who expressed the highest satisfaction at the hope of once more having the consolation of hearing mass, and of receiving the communion. When his confession was ended, M. Edgeworth, seeing the king exhausted by the anguish and fatigue he had undergone, advised him to go to bed, and endeavour to obtain a little repose. With this advice the king thought proper to comply.

Having slept with tranquillity, Louis called for Clery, his valet, early next morning to assist him in dressing. He heard mass and received the communion with the most profound devotion. After having finished his prayers, he said to M. Edgeworth, how happy I am in having retained my faith in religion. Yes! I shall be enabled to show that I do not fear death!"

A noise being heard at the door, the abbe was agitated. He thought the fatal moment had already arrived. The

king, without betraying the least emotion, maintained his usual serenity. It was the guards who resumed their posts. "Here they come, however," said the king, calmly, on hearing some persons ascending the stairs. It was the commissioners of the commune, with a priest at their head called Jacques Roux. They came to announce that the hour was at hand. "It is enough," said the king, "I will join you directly; but I wish to pass a few moments alone with my confessor." They retired. His majesty shut the door, and said, falling on his knees:

"All is consummated. Give me your last benediction."

Fear of the danger to which M. Edgeworth might be exposed, in accompanying the king to the place of execution, had prevented his majesty from making such a proposition, and he supposed they were now about to separate; but when he found it was the fixed determination of this venerable man, worthy of the sacred functions he exercised, to abide by him to the last, his majesty was at once moved by tenderness, and filled with satisfaction. Having thrown open the door, "Marchons," (let us go) said he with a firm tone of voice, to Santerre, who waited without.

Here the king offered to Roux, the priest, a packet, containing his testament, desiring that he would deliver it to the commune. He refused to take it, saying that it was his duty to conduct him to the scaffold, but nothing else. One of his companions, however, took the packet, and remitted it carefully to the commune.

Before they came to the stair of the Temple, the king perceiving that the commissaries were covered, desired Clery to bring his hat, which he im-