

His Majesty, preceded by the ministers of state, the twenty-four deputies, and M. le Duc de Brissac, proceeded to his place, and, having bowed to the members, who now rose from their seats, began a speech, which will be for ever memorable in the annals of monarchy. After enumerating the many great objects accomplished by the wisdom and exertions of the Assembly, the re-union of the three orders, the suppression of privileges, the organization of the municipalities, and the subdivision of the kingdom, he adverted with commendable modesty to his own endeavours for the maintenance of order and peace, for enforcing the respect due to the legislative body, and for appeasing the discontents excited by the enemies of the revolution.

Immediately afterwards, M. Goupil de Prephen moved, 'That all the members should take the Civic Oath;' a motion which was loudly applauded, as was an amendment by M. Emery, for excluding absentees from the rights of voting till they had conformed to this new regulation. Upon the motion of the president the following form of an oath was adopted—

'I swear to be faithful to the Nation, the Law, and the King, and to maintain the constitution to the utmost of my power as decreed by the National Assembly, and confirmed by the King.'

The President having then read the oath, desired, and was permitted to take it first: after which, each member being called by name, advanced to the tribunal, and holding up his hand, said aloud—'This I swear.'

A deputation was then voted to present the thanks of the Assembly to the King and Queen, and the sitting was concluded with the admission of several extraordinary deputies and other public officers, amongst whom were M. Bailly and De la Fayette, to take the oath upon their own request.

This was a proud day for France, and in the Evening all Paris was illuminated in testimony of its joy.

8. M. Moresu de Tours moved the Assembly to declare, that persons served with a personal summons were incapacitated from exercising their municipal functions. When the votes were to be taken upon this motion, it was mentioned that all members, who had not hitherto obeyed the decree of the 4th instant, should immediately qualify by taking the Civic Oath.

M. M. de Bouville, de Chalones, and de Mirabeau, against whom this motion was levelled, now severally rose to justify their refusal to take the oath unconditionally, because an obligation to maintain the

constitution would, in fact, prevent their agreeing to any changes, which future circumstances might render necessary.

In reply to this, the President very judiciously observed, that an oath to maintain the constitution was not an engagement to oppose that right, which must always be implied to be inherent in the nation, of reforming, modifying, and changing the laws, by consent of the national representatives; but rather went to ensure an opposition to all individual attempts, made by cabal or otherwise, contrary to the general inclination.

M. Mirabeau, being informed that he must take the oath without reservation, or retire, chose the latter; and his retreat was accompanied by a loud shout from one side of the galleries, which provoked the censure of M. Maury and several other members, but was not thought worthy of notice by the Assembly, the refusal of M. Mirabeau having deprived him of the rank of member.

A motion was then made, but rejected, that the discontented members should have twenty-four hours allowed them for consideration. M. Mirabeau, de Bouville, and Chaloney, now seemed about to take their final leave of the Assembly, when the Abbé Montausier approached them, and, upon his representations of the nature of the oath, they were induced to return and take it, though not without some signs of disgust.

14. This day the Commons of Paris, preceded by M. Bailly and the Commandant General, with the colours of the sixty battalions, passed through a double rank of soldiers from the Hotel de Ville to the Cathedral, where the National Assembly with a detachment of cavalry at their head, soon after arrived. A discharge of artillery announced the entrance of this august body, and the regimental bands, stationed round the church, performed while the members were taking their seats. The sixty standards were arranged on the right and left of the church, with an escort, commanded by the chiefs of divisions and battalions. Mass was then celebrated by the Abbé de St. Martin.

After a sermon by the Abbé de Mulot, M. Bailly saluted the President of the Assembly, and took the civic oath in his own name and that of the Commons, upon an altar prepared for the purpose; upon which were inscribed the words—'God, the Law, and the King.' The performance of this ceremony was made known by a signal from M. de la Fayette, and immediately the colours of the sixty battalions were elevated, the troops drew their swords, and, with hands uplifted to hea-