

## THE PETIT TRIANON

Sometimes fêtes were held at Trianon, and the doors were opened to large numbers of guests. Such, for instance, were the occasions when Marie Antoinette gave magnificent receptions to her brother the Emperor Joseph II. during his visit to France; to the hereditary prince of Russia and the Grand-duchess Marie, who travelled under the name of the Comte and Comtesse du Nord; and finally to the King of Sweden, Gustav III. Three hundred guests were then invited to supper; a thousand attendants were lodged in the dependencies of the château; the bands of the French and Swiss Guards played in the gardens, where the guests walked among the illuminations that lit up the shrubberies discreetly, and made the Temple of Love the most brilliant spot in the garden.

Knowing the taste for the stage that then prevailed, we can well believe that Marie Antoinette wished to add a theatre to her house. She had it built in 1780, and often sent for the troupes of the Parisian theatre. This resulted in extravagances and expenses that caused her to be much inveighed against, especially when the national finances began to be seriously embarrassed. Marie Antoinette incurred no less disapproval by appearing on the stage herself, and acting a play with her brother-in-law, the Comte d'Artois, and Madame de Polignac's set. She was,