

Great was the throne of France even in those days, and great was he that sat upon it; but well Joanna knew that not the throne, nor he that sat upon it, was for *her*; but, on the contrary, that she was for *them*; not she by them, but they by her, should rise from the dust. Gorgeous were the lilies of France,<sup>6</sup> and for centuries had the privilege to spread their beauty over land and sea, until, in another century, the wrath of God and man combined to wither them; but well Joanna knew, early at Domrémy, she had read that bitter truth, that the lilies of France would decorate no garland for *her*. Flower nor bud, bell nor blossom, would ever bloom for *her*.

But stay. What reason is there for taking up this subject of Joanna precisely in the spring of 1847? Might it not have been left till the spring of 1917; or, perhaps, left till called for? Yes, but it *is* called for; and clamorously. You are aware, reader, that amongst the many original thinkers whom modern France has produced, one of the reputed leaders is M. Michelet.<sup>7</sup> All these writers are of a revolutionary cast; not in a political sense merely, but in all senses; mad, oftentimes, as March hares;<sup>8</sup> crazy with the laughing gas of recovered liberty; drunk with the wine-cup of their mighty revolution; snorting, whinnying, throwing up their heels, like wild horses in the boundless pampas, and running races of defiance with snipes, or with the winds, or with their own shadows, if they can find nothing else to challenge. Some time or other I, that have leisure to read, may introduce *you*, that have not, to two or three dozen of these writers; of whom I can assure you beforehand, that they are often profound, and at intervals are even as impassioned as if they were come of our best

6. **Lilies of France**; The lily, or fleur-de-lis (flower of the lily) is said to have been the royal emblem of France from the time of Clovis. The Revolution of 1789-93 caused the royal lily to "wither," when Louis XVI. was beheaded, and the people for a time ruled the kingdom.

7. **Jules Michelet** [mceesh-lā'] (1798-1874): A French historian Professor of history in the College of France. His principal works are "History of France," "History of the French Revolution," "Women of the Revolution," and several books of a poetical and speculative character, such as "The Bird," "The Insect," "The Sea," and "Woman." His writings are especially remarkable for their brilliancy of style.

8. "As mad as a march hare" is a very old saying. In the month of March hares are unusually wild and excitable.