

his 7,000 guests in the great gallery, with its gilt Corinthian columns and 3,300 wax lights, the whole suite of rooms measuring more than 1,000 yards in length. In and about the building were some 500 statues of French celebrities, from Charlemagne to Louis XV. in a full-bottomed wig. Painting, gilding, carving, glass, and velvet here had done their utmost, and as a specimen of magnificence in the modern French taste the furniture and decorations of the Hotel de Ville were unrivalled. The building, however, was far from depending altogether on its sumptuous upholstery. Not only was the architecture worthy of all praise and the art of much of the decoration as intrinsic as its gold, but here had been enacted many famous and infamous scenes in the history of Paris. Here the first Commune held its bloody sittings; here Robespierre took refuge with his partisans, and was found by the soldiers with his broken jaw - the "Citizen King" was presented here to the people by Lafayette from a central window; here the soldiers were quartered in 1848; and here in 1871 was the stronghold of the last Commune, less bloody in its life but more desperate in its death than the first.

THE PALAIS DE JUSTICE.

The Palais de Justice was a vast pile, which includes the Sainte Chapelle, numerous courts of law, and the prison of the Conciergerie. Anciently the site of palaces inhabited by the Kings down to Francis I., afterwards the meeting place of the Parliaments of Paris, it has been repaired and rebuilt since 1831, at a cost of nearly £1,000,000. The Courts of law opened from the vast but inelegant Salle des Pas Perdus, which answer to Westminster-hall. One of these courts was the Chamber of the Tribunal Revolutionnaire, and communicated by a small door with the Conciergerie Prison. In the precincts of the Palais stood the Sainte Chapelle, an exquisite specimen on a small scale, of the best style of Gothic architecture. The Chapelle was finished in 1249, having been built by Pierre de Montreuil to enshrine the thorns of our Lord's crown and the wood of the cross, relics bought for an immense sum from the Emperor Baldwin by St Louis, and carried through the streets of Paris by the King barefoot. In 1791 the Sainte Chapelle became a club, then a corn store, then a record office. Louis Philippe commenced its restoration, and up to the fall of the Empire about 2,000,000 fr. had been spent upon it. It was in two stories, corresponding with the floors of the ancient palace; the lower chapel, or crypt, was intended for the servants, the upper, on a level with the royal apartments, for the royal family. The glass was exquisite, and the statues of the twelve Apostles dates from the 13th century, and were admirable specimens of the art of their age. A small square hole to the south of the nave communicated with a room in which Louis XI. was wont to sit and hear Mass without fear of assassination.

THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE.

The Ministry of Finance was a large building, situate in the Rue de Rivoli, just opposite the end of the Tuileries-gardens, one of the best sites in Paris. The hotel of the Council of State was situate nearly opposite, in the Rue de Lille, on the other bank of the Seine. Near this was the Palace of the Legion of Honour, which is also destroyed. The palace was built in 1786 by an architect named Rosseau for the Prince de Salin.

THE LUXEMBOURG PALACE.

The Luxembourg Palace, which has been blown up, stood nearly half a mile to the south of the Louvre, in the midst of charming gardens. It was begun in 1615 by Marie de Medicis, from the designs of Desbrosses and passed by bequest to various persons until it came into the possession of Louis XVIII, who inhabited it until the expulsion of his family. It was afterwards used as a prison in which the Girondins were confined, and in 1795 it became the palace of the Directory. In 1800 Napoleon left it for the Tuileries, and it was then deserted for a time, until, during the reign of Louis Philippe, it was used as a Chamber of Peers. It played an important part during the Revolution of 1848. Socialist meetings under Louis Blanc were held there. In 1852 it again became the Palace of the Senate. In this building there were pictures representing scenes in the career of Napoleon I., and the history of France.

HOW NOTRE-DAME WAS SAVED.

Notre Dame had a narrow escape. The incendiaries heaped the chairs together at various points especially against the beautiful wooden choir, and had set it on fire in various places, and then, secure that this work would be accomplished, left to set fire to the Palais de Justice and surrounding courts. The students in the seminary close by saw the mob passing from the window, roused all the inhabitants round, burst open the doors, and with enormous trouble and much risk, for many were carried out insensible from the dense smoke, succeeding in putting out the fire. During this time the incendiaries returned, and endeavoured to drive the people out, but the indignation was so fierce and the opposition so determined, and the guns of Cisy were already thundering so close upon the left bank, while Vinoy was pressing down upon the right, that they had no time to recommence their work, and were forced to leave the object of their hate, not intact, indeed, for the interior wood work is much damaged,

but at least without any permanent injury. The portion of the Tuileries which is destroyed can be rebuilt, the Palace on the Quay d'Orsay can be restored, the loss of the Palais de Justice, Prefecture of Police, and Court of Cassation is a mere matter of money. Notre Dame once destroyed could never have been replaced.

Foreigners Serving the Commune.

The *Figaro* gives the following list of foreigners who held high positions in the service of the Commune:—

Anvs-el-Bittar, director of MS. in the National Library (Egyptian); Biondetti, surgeon-major of the 23rd battalion (Italian); Babick, member of the Commune (Pole); Becka, adjutant of the 27th battalion (Pole); Cluseret, general, delegate for war (American); Cernatesco, surgeon major (Pole); Crapulinski, colonel of the staff (Pole); Capellaro, member of the military commission (Italian); Carneiro de Cunha, surgeon major of the 38th battalion (Portuguese); Charalambo, surgeon major (Pole); Dombrowski, general of the forces of the Commune (Pole); Dombrowski (his brother) colonel of the staff (Pole); Durnoff, commandant of legion (Pole); Echenlaub, colonel of the 88th battalion (German); Ferrera Gola, director-general of ambulances (Portuguese); Frankel, member of Commune (Prussian); Giorock, commandant of the fort of Issy (Wallachian); Grejorak, commandant of the artillery of Montmartre (Wallachian); Kertzfeld, chief director of ambulances (German); Izquierdo, surgeon major (Pole); Jalowski, surgeon-major of the Republican Zouaves (Pole); Kobosko, cavalier estafette, mis à l'ordre du jour de l'armée de la Commune (Pole); La Cecilia, general-in-chief (Italian); Landowski, aide-de-camp of General Dombrowski (Pole); Mizara, commandant of the 104th battalion (Italian); Maratuch, aide-major of the 72nd battalion (Hungarian); Moro, commandant of the 22nd battalion (Italian); Okolowicz and his brothers, generals and officers of the staff (Pole); Ostyn, member of the Commune (Belgian); Olinski, chief of the 17th Legion (Pole); Pisani, aide-de-camp of General Florens (Italian); Potampeuki, aide-de-camp of General Dombrowski (Pole); Ploubinski, officer of the staff (Pole); Paziwerski, commander of the Fort de Vanvres (Pole); Piazza, chief of Legion (Italian); Pugno, director of the music at the opera (Italian); Romanelli, director of the personnel of war (Italian); Rozyski, surgeon-major of the 44th battalion (Pole); Rubinowicz, officer of the staff (Pole); Rubinowicz, P., surgeon-major of marine fusiliers (Pole); Syneck, surgeon-major of the 151st battalion (German); Skalski, surgeon-major of the 210th battalion (Pole); Soteriadi, surgeon major (Spaniard); Thaller, lieutenant governor of the Forts of Bicetre (German); Van Ostal, commandant of the 115th battalion (Dutchman); Vetzal, commandant of the forts of the south (German); Wroblewski, General commandant of the army of the south (Pole); Witton, surgeon-major of the 72nd battalion (American); Zengerler, surgeon-major of the 74th battalion (German).

The Bank of France and the Commune.

One of the most interesting episodes in the history of the Commune is that which concerns the Bank of France. The *Débats* publishes a letter from the sub-Governor, the Marquis de Plœuc, who says that the Bank, after sixty-seven days of terror, is intact—no armed force has crossed the threshold in spite of numerous attempts direct and indirect, armed and diplomatic. M. de Plœuc admits, however, that the Bank handed over to the Commune 3,401,000 francs belonging to the city and an extra sum of 7,290,000 francs in order to save the establishment from being sacked. Jourde, the Finance Minister, who wished to resign when the Committee of Public Salvation was created, has been examined, and has given the following account of his stewardship:—"The resources of the Commune consisted," he said, "on the 18th of March of 4,000,000 francs found in the Treasury; 2,000,000 were demanded from the railway companies; 24,000,000 were obtained from the Bank; then there were the city dues and the ordinary taxes." As for the expenses, we find that the National Guards cost 350,000 francs per diem, although, according to citizen Jourde, only 30,000 men towards the close of the struggle performed their duty. About 600,000 francs were required to meet the other expenses in the first week, and 700,000 for the second week. This miscellaneous expenditure finally amounted to 1,200,000 per week which is not astonishing when one considers the large sums found on several members of the Commune. Jourde does not belong to the International Association, and declares that that society placed a very small amount at his disposal. The mother society at London, he added, had only between 30,000 francs and 42,000 francs; he denied that he had received any money from abroad.