

It was the Queen, who not knowing to what saint she should devote herself, thought of sending for me, to consult on the occasion.

This event proved how little the Count d'Artois was generally liked, excepting by those who were more immediately about him, or rather his set : for little as the dutchess de Bourbon deserved the public esteem, the city and the court immediately ranged on her side. The women particularly cried out against the count d'Artois' want of courtesy ; he was not spared, and ere twice twenty-four hours had elapsed he found himself almost alone, while the *Hotel de Bourbon* was filled with people who came to compliment and condole with the dutchess, and make offers of service.

The prince de Condé and the duke de Bourbon, encouraged by these universal proofs of interest, became heated and loudly declared that if proper reparation of the insult was not made, they would avenge her by force of arms. Already before my arrival they had demanded an audience of the King, who had put them off to the next day wishing to consult me first.

This recital in which I have anticipated, for the public opinion did not manifest itself until some days later, caused me to make serious reflections. The King and Queen examined me fixedly, as if to divine my thoughts ; but it was unnecessary trouble, as I had no wish to conceal them : so after having meditated an instant, I said :

—I see but one method of arranging this affair : the Count d'Artois must go and make excuses to the Dutchess de Bourbon, and attribute his conduct to the fumes of the heady wine he had before taken.

—That cannot be, said the Queen, the Count d'Artois has said publicly that he knew it was the Dutchess before he attacked her ; moreover he will not make any submission whatever.

—In that case, it only remains for him to support his conduct sword in hand.

—My brother fight a duel ! said the King with a movement of terror.