

esne and castle. t writers, illus- court favorites, a, Maintenon et rous arose like, ards the *Grand* umes of flattery, vility. Was he ing the throne, at, c'est moi?" too, on viewing ay, "Versailles, ed Louis XIV. groups; those events compass- victories due to French devotion; onde, Turenne, by him—sur- to him as the y revolved, far es forgotten or ersailles of the y to be admit- reception or ne praise of the of the selfish, sailles. inspired Louis with the names, great men, who this evanescent the portraits of battles they had nks to Philippe Ary Scheffer, net, the *Musee* ed of selections public galleries famous writers ell as with the trimony of the g, La Feuillade, ville, d'Estrees, Biron, Villars, the Generals of Palace Chapel, 1699. The in- gorgeous old exterior is adorn- es of apostles e of the door is hich Jouvenot he *Holy Ghost*. o la Fosse, four ection, over the s of the altar king. ith the King's e, tells a little ho commanded the fashionable

and pretty *devotes* of the period. The *beau* *new* round the palace were in the habit of crowding the chapel seats on Sunday afternoons, bringing with them handsome little tapers to throw light on the text of their prayer books, as well as on their pretty faces, so that each might be recognized. It was easy to know whether the King would attend by the presence of the Guards, who preceded the entrance of Royalty. Brissac on one occasion. in order to test the point whether it was piety or vanity which brought the fair ones to church in such numbers, rose, and brandishing his *baton*, gave the word of command—"Guards, withdraw, the King won't be here to-day." This caused a murmur among the ladies; the tapers were extinguished and the owners left, all except some truly pious ones who remained in church. The seats being vacated, Brissac recalled the guards, on the entrance of Royalty. On leaving, Louis XIV. enquired from Brissac the reason why the chapel was so deserted that day, and being told the practical joke practised on his admirers, he joined the court in a hearty laugh; but Saint Simon adds, that Major Brissac, though an intrepid soldier, scarcely dared to face alone his fair enemies *craignant*, he adds, *d'être étrangle par elles*, lest they should strangle him.

The Palace itself comprises more than one hundred apartments;—had the Great Louis, like Pygmalion, feared secret poisoning, he could—like him have diversified *ad infinitum* his sleeping arrangements.

Striking battle scenes, naval engagements on canvases, life-size pictures of the French sovereigns, their great generals, admirals, men of science, letters,—fill the *salle des Croisades*,—*salle des Spectacles*,—*salle des Rois de France*,—*salle des Guerriers célèbres*,—*galeries des Batailles* and a hundred others. We took special interest in Marie Antoinette's boudoir, etc., with the old furniture still there; the secret staircase, through which she escaped from the mob is shown. Louis XIV.'s great dining table—still stands in the centre of the royal banquetting room, and a large marble wine cooler remains, near the wall, to tell the tale of other days.

"The town of Versailles, the capital of the Seine-et-Oise department, with 49,850 inhabitants, owes its origin to Louis XIV. The site was hardly favourable for a town, and still less so for a park, as the water for its ornamental ponds had to be conveyed to it from a great distance at a vast expense. The town was called by Voltaire, 'l'abîme des dépenses'—its palace and park having cost the treasury of Louis XIV. the enormous sum of 1,000 million francs. The accounts handed down to us regarding the erection of this

sumptuous palace and the laying out of its grounds almost bolder on the fabulous. Thus no fewer than 36,000 men and 6,000 horses are said to have been employed at one time in forming the terraces of the garden, levelling the park, and constructing a road to it from Paris and an aqueduct from Maintenon, a distance of thirty-one miles from Versailles. This aqueduct was intended to bring the water of the river Eure to Versailles, but was discontinued owing to the great mortality among the soldiers employed; and the breaking out of the war in 1688 prevented the resumption of the works. The water-works of Marly were afterwards constructed, and a further supply of water obtained from the ponds on the plateau between Versailles and Rambouillet. After 1682, Versailles became the permanent headquarters of the court, and is therefore intimately associated with the history of that period. It witnessed the zenith and the decadence of the prosperity of Louis XIV.; and under his successors the magnificent pile of the "grand monarque" became the scene of the disreputable Pompadour and Du Barry domination. It was at the meeting of the Estates held here in 1789 that the "Tiers Etat" took the memorable step,—the first on the way to the Revolution,—of forming itself into a separate body, the *Assemblée Nationale*. A few months later the unfortunate Louis XVI. saw the Palace of Versailles sacked by a Parisian mob, which included many thousand repulsive women, and since that period it has remained uninhabited. During the Revolution (1789) it narrowly escaped being sold. Napoleon neglected it owing to the great expense which its repair would have entailed, and the Bourbons on their restoration merely prevented it from falling to decay and erected the pavilion on the south side. Louis Philippe at length restored the building, and converted part of it into an historical picture gallery."

From 19th September, 1870, to 6th March, 1871, the palace was the headquarters of the King of Prussia, and a great part of the edifice was then used as a military hospital, the pictures having been carefully covered to protect them from injury. An impressive scene took place here on the 18th January, 1871, when the Prussian Monarch, with the unanimous consent of the German States, was saluted as Emperor of Germany. To describe minutely all the events which occurred at Versailles during the above period would be to write a history of the Franco-Prussian war. The house No. 1, Boulevard du Roi (which was pointed out to us) was the scene of the negotiations between Prince Bismarck and Jules Favre on the 23rd.