

in Paris, the whole of the French Regalia disappeared, and with it the Pitt, now the Regent, which stood at the head of the list. The remarkable circumstances attending this famous robbery of the Garde-Meuble are thus related by M. Breton editor of the *Gazette des Tribunaux*:

'The inventory of the crown diamonds, made in 1791, in virtue of a decree of the Constituent Assembly, had scarcely been completed in the month of August, 1792, at the time of the last public exhibition, which took place on the first Tuesday of every month. After the sanguinary events of Aug. 10 to Sept. 2, this rich treasury was naturally closed to the public, and the Paris Commune, as representing the State property, put its seals on the cabinets in which had been placed the crown, the sceptre, and other ornaments of the coronation service. The golden bequeathed by Cardinal Richelieu to Louis VIII., with all the accompanying diamonds and rubies, and the famous golden vase, weighing 106 marks, besides a vast quantity of other vases in agate, amethyst, and rock crystal. On the morning of Sept. 17, Sergeant and the two other Commissioners of the Commune perceived that during the night robbers had made their way in by scaling the colonnade from the side of the Place Louis XV., and through a window looking in that direction, having thus got access to the vast halls of the Garde-Meuble, they had broken the seals without forcing the locks, carried off the priceless treasures contained in the cabinets, and disappeared without leaving any other traces of their presence. Several persons were arrested, but released after a protracted inquiry. An anonymous letter, addressed to the Commune, stated that some of the objects were in a ditch in the Allee des Veuves, Champs Elysees. Sergeant at once proceeded with his colleagues to the spot, which had been very carefully indicated. Here he found among other things, the famous Regent diamond and the no less famous agate-onyx cup, known by the name of the Abbe Suger's Chalice, which was afterwards placed in the cabinet of antiques in the National Library.

Notwithstanding the investigations made at the time and subsequently, it remained uncertain whether this robbery had a political object, or whether it was simply the act of ord-

inary criminals, undertaken at a time when the guardians of the public security were in a state of complete disorganization. Some said that the proceeds of these treasures were intended to maintain the army of the emigrants. Others, on the contrary, pretended that Pothion and Maunul had used them to obtain the evacuation of Champagne by giving up the whole to the King of Prussia. Some even went so far as to assert that the keepers themselves had broken open the cabinets, and Sergeant, of whom we have above spoken, was nick-named Agate in consequence of the mysterious way in which he had found the agate-onyx cup. But none of these more or less absurd surmises ever received any judicial confirmation.

Nevertheless, there was one circumstance of which I was witness, jointly with the others present at the sitting of the special criminal court of Paris, when Bourgeois and others, accused of having forged notes on the Bank of France, were put upon their trial in 1804. One of the accused, who had assumed the name of Baba, had at first denied all the charges brought against him, but during the proceedings he made a complete confession, and explained the ingenious devices employed by the forgers. "It is not the first time," he added "that my revelations have been useful to society, and if I am now condemned I will implore the Emperor's pardon. But for me Napoleon would never have mounted the throne; to me alone is due the success of the Marengo campaign. I was one of the robbers of the Garde-Meuble. I had assisted my associates to bury in the Allee des Veuves the Regent and the other easily recognized objects, by which they might have been betrayed. On the promise of a free pardon—a promise that was faithfully kept—I disclosed the hiding place. Here the Regent was recovered, and you are aware, gentlemen, that this magnificent diamond was pledged by the First Consul to the Dutch Government, in order to raise the money of which he stood in the greatest need after the eighteenth Brumaire.'

"The criminals were all condemned to the galleys except Bourgeois and Baba, who were sent to the prison of Bicetre, where they died. I do not know whether Baba made any further revelations beyond what I have reported,

and which may also be read in the *Journal de Paris* of that date.'

"Since its recovery and redemption from the Dutch Government, the Regent seems to have remained in the French Treasury to the present time. The first Emperor is known to have worn it in the pommel of his sword, and Barbot tells us expressly that it was publicly shown among the crown jewelry at the Paris exhibition in 1855. Still, it is remarkable that this brilliant does not figure in the inventory of the State jewels drawn up by order of Napoleon in 1810, not apparently in any of the subsequent official reports on the crown jewels. This circumstance, however it is to be explained, had doubtless lent some coloring to the many conflicting statements regarding its subsequent vicissitudes. Kluge asserts that after its recovery in 1792 it was pledged, not to the Dutch Government, but to Troskowsky, a merchant in Berlin. He also refers to the highly improbable report that after the battle of Waterloo, where the Prussians found it in the Emperor's State carriage, it was carried off to the Prussian Treasury. If it really was taken to Berlin on that occasion, it was subsequently restored to the French Government, for Ersch and Gruber, writing in 1833, distinctly state that at that time it was 'the first diamond in the French Treasury.' Barbot also justly regards it as the most conspicuous gem in the now disused crown of France. This crown, which also contains eight other diamonds, weighing from 19 to 28 karats, is thus by far the richest in the world.

"The form of the Regent is somewhat round, an inch broad, $1\frac{1}{2}$ of an inch long, and $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch thick. It was reduced in cutting from 410 to 186 $\frac{1}{2}$ karats, and has been estimated to be worth £480,000.

THE EUGENIE.

WORN IN A NECKLACE BY EUGENIE, IN A HAIRPIN BY CATHERINE.

"A perfect brilliant of 51 karats, of an oval shape, blunt at one end, and very beautifully cut, this diamond was set as the centre of a hair-pin belonging to the Empress Catherine II. of Russia. When Potemkin became her favorite, she made him a present of it as a proof of her esteem, and to reward him for the great services he had rendered to his country. This man unlike her other favorites, was