

THE 21st JULY

The *salons* were filled with flowers and all day there was a constant stream of visitors at the Legation, signing the book, leaving cards and all sorts of little souvenirs expressing felicitation and reconnaissance. Our flag was on many a breast with the ivy-leaf. It was strange that there, away across the sea, the vibrations of that wild, free music of '76 should be felt; yet not, after all, perhaps, so strange, for the principles of our revolution are loved in Belgium, whose own principles are precisely like them, and they were loved passionately then because they were denied and scorned and crushed down in an epoch when everybody in our western world so fondly imagined that political liberty had been won for mankind.

Burgomaster Lemonnier and the *échevins* had called, and M. Lemonnier had made a little speech, very moving, presenting to my wife a souvenir from the city of Brussels. And we had the young men of the C.R.B. at Ravenstein for luncheon, with Villalobar and van Vollenhoven, and speeches on the lawn afterwards.

When their own national holiday dawned on the twenty-first of July the Belgians could not celebrate it as they had in other years—in that gaiety, that happy spirit of careless freedom which I had seen in graceful play on every hand the year before, when we had all gone to Ste.-Gudule for the *Te Deum*; indeed they were forbidden

Transmis cite. A l'occasion
votre fête nationale vous ex-
primons ainsi qu'au gouvernement
américain vives félicitations et
sincère gratitude nation belge.—

DAVIGNON.

Transmitted, quote: On the
occasion of your national holi-
day permit us to express to you
and thus to the American Gov-
ernment the lively felicitations
and sincere gratitude of the Bel-
gian nation.