

This argument seemed to him to have more force than any other. I took my musket, and we went down into the street.

"Well!" said he, embracing me, "good-bye, Michel; a good journey." We embraced, both really affected. "Don't forget to tell the old people that I shall soon be sergeant."

"No."

"And I will come and see them when I get the stripes on my arm."

"All right, I will tell them all about it." I set off, thinking to myself, "That poor devil is not a bad fellow, but he would out everybody down for discipline's sake."

Just as I got to the Porte Saint-Nicolas the rappel was beaten.

"Well!" cried Maitre Jean, "have you see him?"

He saw by my face what I was thinking about, and from that time we never talked about him.

I had hardly time to go to the baker opposite, and buy a small loaf of bread and two sausages, for I had only had something to drink at the Porte Neuve, and then our detachment set out for Phalsbourg.

The march home increased our disgust, by the sight of those cowards who take the successful side, bawling out victory and putting on looks of delight to salute their master, and making speeches about order and justice, and devotion to the defenders of authority, and about severity necessary to support the laws, &c. All of which means—we are on your side because you are the stronger—we should have been the first to crush you had you been the weaker!

All along the road we saw this sort of people, with their cowardly faces, their great stomachs girded with sashes; fellows crying, "Vive le roi!" "Vive le Général Boulé!" "Vive Royal Allemand!" enough to burst themselves. They came to compliment us in one village, their mayor at their head; but the commandant Gerard, who saw them coming, cried out—"Out of the way! mille tonnerres! out of the way!" And we passed on while they saluted us, and we looked at them with contempt. What a pity such wretches are not always treated in like manner! Then they would learn what their speeches are really worth, and if they have no respect for themselves they would at least respect the grief of honest people.

At Luneville the authorities had been very firm, but, notwithstanding, there was a general uneasiness prevailing everywhere when we arrived about two. As the citizen guard of the town had not yet returned, we were stopped at every gate for news, especially by the women whose sons or husbands were at hand; we could hardly continue our march.

The crowd surrounded us on the place, and we could scarcely reply to the inquiries of everybody, when some one called out—

"What! there is Maitre Jean and Michel Bastien; The Baraquins are distinguishing themselves."

It was George Mouton, the son of our former échevin, the landlord of the Mouton d'Or, on the place at Phalsbourg—a tall, strong lad of twenty, who has since made his way in the world. We used to buy our white bread of his father, for he was a baker as well, and more than once in favourable years Maitre Jean had gone into Alsace with him; they bought their wine together at Rarr, and had it cheaper. We were very glad to see young Mouton, who took us away with him, saying—

"Let us go and dine at the Deux Carpes."

"What are you doing at Luneville, George?" said Maitre Jean.

"I am grocer's chopman, Maitre Jean," said he, laughing. "I sell sugar and cinnamon for some one else till I can buy a business for myself."

"A very good trade," said Maitre Jean; "your father is quite right to put you into it; people are always in want of pepper, and candles, and oil, and if you can buy well you can always sell well."

Mouton walked on before us, and we entered one of those little inns where you are served over the counter with wine, beer, or spirits; customers came in and went out; a few strangers were sitting at a table and eating fried fish. Mouton wanted to treat us to an omelette au lard and some Toul wine, which Maitre Jean, as his senior, could not allow; he paid all himself, and gave us some coffee as well.

(To be continued.)

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