

put to the most trying test. What did he want then to be a great Prince? Nothing but confidence in himself. Always afraid of doing wrong by following the dictates of his own mind, he yielded too easily to the advices of others, especially when coercive measures were in question. The fear of committing an injustice towards individuals prevented him to do justice to the public by the repression of public injuries, and we will see him ready even to descend from a throne, his just and lawful inheritance, rather than to oppose the will of a set of factious, because they called themselves *the Nation*. This excessive timidity, assuming the character of irresolution was represented by them as proceeding from weakness and served their purpose of rendering Royalty despicable by debasing the man invested with its insignia.

Far different were the weapons directed against his august Consort Mary Antoinette. They knew that this Princess had inherited with the blood the soul of that Maria Theresa, who single handed knew how to support the just rights of her son yet an infant, against the unjust pretensions of powerful neighbours. Here is the force of vindicating the character of an illustrious victim of the atrocious machinations of monsters in the shape of men, who have sought by the most diabolical aspersions to blast it.

It is a true and a well known aphorism that, "*il n'y a pas de héros pour son Valet de Chambre ?*" the hero vanishes before his nearest and constant attendants, and the man with all his human infirmities remains naked before them. It is no less generally acknowledged that the attendants on the Great are most of them as many spies, whose curiosity pries in their most secret thoughts and whose malignity and envy are always ready to divulge their errors or weaknesses.

In fact, the number of these attendants being proportioned to the exaltation in rank and riches, a queen has very little chance to escape the incessantly active vigilance of the numerous tribe that surrounds her. From these therefore we can only receive true information concerning the character, disposition and conduct, as well private as public of such exalted personages. It might be therefore sufficient for repelling all the calumnies and infamous aspersions so profusely published against that true heroine, to remark that, no one of these numerous witnesses or spies, has ever come forward to substantiate or corroborate by his testimony any one of the charges alledged against her; especially at a time when such witness might have expected the amplest reward for so doing. But so general a plea cannot satisfy the justice we owe to the most injured of all the most innocent beings against whom malignity has pointed the whole battery of its venomous weapons. Our personal knowledge of the Princess, and our intimate connexion with many of her attendants, enable us to come boldly in vindication of a personage, who in fact and reality, was the very reverse of the picture made of her.

*To be continued.*