

being disturbed or called to account, either as to the situations they hold or may have held, or as to their conduct or political opinions." (Article 12.) To make sure that there should be no weak links in this chain of protection, Article 15 adds: "If difficulties arise in the execution of any one of the articles of the present convention, the interpretation of it shall be made in favor of the French army and the city of Paris."

Nothing, it would seem, could be clearer; yet the Duke of Wellington positively refused to save Ney's life, or at least refused to save it openly, stoutly maintaining that the convention was "exclusively military, that it touched nothing political, and that it was not intended to bind, and could not bind, the hands of the King of France."

Ney had prudently retired, after the capitulation, to a chateau in the mountains of Auvergne. He was discovered, arrested, and taken to Paris. He pleaded the terms of the capitulation, but every objection to his trial was overruled. The most that he could get was a trial by his peers (he was a peer of France); and the members of the court adjudged him guilty, though many of them felt that he was entitled to share in the general amnesty. They were induced to give their votes against him, by the suggestion that he would be pardoned after he had been soundly disciplined by the fear of his apparently impending execution. They very soon learned that the cruelty and vindictiveness of cowardice can override all considerations of honor.

The king indulged in a good deal of sentimental twaddle. "I pity Ney," said the merciful monarch; "I have no hatred against him. I would gladly preserve a father to his children, a hero to France;" yet he doggedly refused to change the sentence of the court. A cabinet council was summoned, at which it was unanimously resolved to petition the king for a commutation of the penalty. Many of the peers had openly declared that they did not desire the marshal's death, that they had voted for it in obedience to the royal wish, but under the tacit condition of a commutation of the penalty by the government. They therefore "conjured the prime minister to solicit from the king *exile to America* for the condemned, instead of the scaffold."

The Duke of Richelieu hastened to the royal apartments, and anxiously pleaded for mercy. Others, not a few of them, came to speak for the life of the great marshal; but when they arrived at the palace, his gracious majesty was going to bed, and would not