

sation against him, but his friends still found means to postpone the discussion, and to adjourn the decision. Latterly, the petitions contained a double object, that of the deposition of the King, joined to the impeachment of La Fayette, and they became daily more numerous and more forcible. The King, alarmed at the one which he knew was to be presented in the name of the City of Paris, seized the pretext of the ridiculously insolent manifesto of the Duke of Brunswick, to write to the Assembly with fresh protestations of his zeal and attachment to the constitution. But the manifesto of the Duke, and the letter of the King were treated by the public with equal contempt. He had now totally forfeited the confidence of the people, and repentance, even if sincere, was now too late.

Immediately after the reading of his letter to the Assembly, Petion appeared at the bar, and presented a strong and energetic petition in the name of the *Commune* (the City) of Paris, which had been adopted by 47 out of the 48 sections of Paris, and in most part of them, unanimously. After tracing the repeated treasons of the chief of the executive powers, and the too great indulgence of the nation, they solicited the deposition of the King, and the convocation of the Primary Assemblies to establish a national convention which should regulate the future form of government. These they considered as the only measures capable of saving the country. Their petition was seconded by equally strong ones from the Federates, in the name of their brethren of the Departments, and from the *Sans Culottes*, in their own names, who, moreover demanded the abolition of the unjust distinctions of active and passive citizens. Still the tottering Monarch continued daily to insult the nation with some new act of treachery. The Federates who were appointed to form the camp of Soissons, had found it unprovided with necessaries, and no officers appointed to instruct them. Several of the petty German Princes, of whose friendship the King had before assured the Assembly, now openly shewed their hostile intentions.—The Assembly had ordered the Minister at War to remove from Paris the two battallions of the Regiment of Swiss Guards, which were in garrison there, and were known to be devoted to the service of the court: The Art. v. section 1, chapter 3, of the Constitution declares expressly, that the executive power cannot retain any troops
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