

all was bustle and noise; all accused each other. There was no longer any leader, and there was no formed party. The former system of terror was declared at an end, and a new system of *moderatism* succeeded. This was carried to as great a height as the system of terror had formerly been; and all means were taken to render popular the fall of their late tyrant. The committees were organized anew, and their members ordered to be frequently changed. The correspondence between the affiliated Jacobin Clubs was prohibited, and at last the Jacobin Club itself was abolished. This last event was accomplished with ease; and that society, which had been the great engine of the Revolution, was itself, without resistance, overturned: 71 deputies of the Girondist party, who had been imprisoned since the 31st of May 1793, were set at liberty.

THE HISTORY

OF

THE MAN

WITH

THE IRON MASK;

TOGETHER WITH

THE LIFE

OF THE

BLOODY ROBESPIERRE.

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THE LIFE

OF

THE BLOODY ROBESPIERRE.

THE very name of ROBESPIERRE excites a variety of disagreeable sensations,—wonder, rage, horror, and revenge, occupy the bosom by turns. Of his countrymen, some claim a murdered parent, others their mangled sons and daughters; the husband his bleeding wife; the wife her decollated husband. France, converted into a charnel-house under his administration, beheld more than an hundred thousand of her children proscribed, starved, expatriated, assassinated, and cut off, either with or without the forms of law! The patriot and the perfidious citizen, the republican and the royalist, the anarchist and the lover of order,—all equally experienced his hatred, and perished by his deadly enmity. Never did Liberty suffer more than by his hypocritical attachment; never did despotism receive so much consolation as arose from his cruelties. Tyranny brandished her whips, and shook her chains, from Moscow to Algiers; and boasted, with a perfidious triumph, her milder empire!

Maximilian Robespierre was born, in 1759, within the walls of the city of Arras, the capital of the *ci-devant* province of Artois. The royalists, as if fiction had been necessary to render his memory more detestable, pretend

that he was the nephew of that Damiens who assassinated Louis XV. It is but justice, on the contrary, to state, that his family was both ancient and respectable; for his progenitors had occupied some of the higher departments of the magistracy, and appertained to that class formerly termed, by way of eminence, *la noblesse de la robe*. His father was an advocate of great knowledge and purity; but, as economy was not among his virtues, his two sons and a daughter inherited nothing from him but his poverty. His unsullied reputation, however, proved serviceable to his family; for a relation undertook the maintenance of the female, and the two boys had the good fortune to be protected, or rather adopted, by the Bishop of Arras.

Maximilian, the elder brother, was, accordingly, educated under the immediate inspection of this prelate, who, doubtless, instilled excellent principles into his mind; but malice, always active and always uncharitable, has traced to this very source that consummate hypocrisy which distinguished his pupil through life, and which, it is pretended, he could have only acquired under the tuition of a priest!

At a proper age, young Robespierre was sent to the college of Louis le Grand, a famous seminary, formerly under the direction of the Jesuits. There he distinguished himself by his assiduity and talents, and bore away the annual prizes from all competitors of his own class.

This—and it must be allowed to have been a very honourable one—was the only distinguishing characteristic of his youth; for it is allowed that he did not develope even the germ of those passions which influenced his bosom in his more advanced years, and rendered him not only the

governor himself placed his dishes on the table, retiring immediately after, and locking the door behind him. He *tu-to'-yoit* (*thee'd* and *thou'd*) the governor; who, on the other hand, behaved to him in the most respectful manner, and never wore his hat before him, nor ever sat down in his presence without being desired. The Marquis of Louvois, who went to see him at St Marguerite, spoke to him standing, and with that kind of attention which denotes high respect. During his residence here, he attempted twice, in an indirect manner, to make himself known. One day, he wrote something with his knife on a plate, and threw it out of his window towards a boat that was drawn on shore near the foot of the tower. A fisherman picked it up, and carried it to the governor. M. de St Mars was alarmed at the sight; and asked the man, with great anxiety, whether he could read, and whether any one else had seen the plate? The man answered that he could not read; that he had but just found the plate; and that no one else had seen it. He was, however, confined till the governor was well assured of the truth of his assertions. Another attempt to discover himself proved equally unsuccessful. A young man, who lived in the isle, one day perceived something floating under the prisoner's window; and on picking it up, he discovered it to be a very fine shirt written all over. He carried it immediately to the governor; who, having looked at some parts of the writing, asked the lad, with some appearance of anxiety, if he had not had the curiosity to read it? He protested repeatedly that he had not; but two days afterwards he was found dead in his bed. The *Mask de*

system of the Brissotines. The result of a long debate was, that Robespierre was apparently victorious, and his speech was ordered to be printed. But, on the 27th, the Convention appeared ripe for a change: St Just, a member of the Committee of Public Safety, in attempting to defend Robespierre, was repeatedly interrupted; and Billaud Varennes enumerated the crimes, and proclaimed the tyranny, of Robespierre. The speech was received with bursts of applause. Robespierre in vain attempted to defend himself; he was silenced by shouts of execration from every part of the hall. Tallien seconded the former speaker in his accusation. The sitting was declared permanent, and a decree of arrest was passed against Robespierre and his younger brother, along with St Just, Couthon, and Lebas. These men left the Convention, and found security in the hall of the Commune of Paris; where the municipal officers agreed to protect and stand by them. The tocsin was sounded; the armed force was under their command; an insurrection was therefore attempted against the Convention: but the sections of Paris refused their support. Very few of the troops could be collected, and these were not firm; the late tyranny had become odious. The hall of the Commune was therefore speedily surrendered; and about three o'clock A.M. of the 28th, Robespierre and his associates were made prisoners. They had been outlawed by the Convention, on account of their resistance.

On the morning of the 10th Thermidor, (July 28, 1794,) he was led to execution, amidst the execrations of the people, with one eye hanging out of the socket, and his lower jaw attached

sacrifice to that system of terror which they had contributed to erect. Even the Jacobins themselves, though neither timid nor cautious in the shedding of blood, began to murmur when they saw that awful privilege confined within a few hands, or rather monopolized by an individual.

In this state, things remained for some time ; and it appeared how possible it is for an individual to govern a great nation even while the whole of that nation is hostile to his power. One circumstance tended much to accelerate the fall of Robespierre. He had procured a decree to be passed, authorizing the Committee of Public Safety to imprison at its pleasure, and bring to trial, any member of the Convention. All the individuals of that body found themselves placed by this decree in the power of a man whose severe and suspicious temper they well knew. Still, however, they were so much surrounded by spies, that it was difficult to form a party or plan of operations ; even the majority of the Committee of Public Safety were among the number of the discontented, but they dared not to withstand their chief. At last, on the 25th of July 1795, the Convention began to exhibit signs of agitation. It was understood, that, in the course of a few days, Robespierre would sacrifice a number of the members to his suspicions

On the 26th, the sitting of the Convention was still more tempestuous. In a long speech, Robespierre defended his own conduct against those who accused him of aspiring to the dictatorship. He attacked the party styled *Moderates*, as wishing to overturn the revolutionary government, and to restore the feeble

Fer, or Man with the Iron Mask, remained in this isle till 1698, when M. de St Mars, being promoted to the government of the Bastille, conducted his prisoner to that fortress. In his way thither, he stopt with him at his estate near Palteau. The Mask arrived there in a litter, surrounded by a numerous guard on horseback. M. de St Mars eat at the same table with him all the time they resided at Palteau ; but the latter was always placed with his back towards the windows ; and the peasants, who came to pay their compliments to their master, and whom curiosity kept constantly on the watch, observed that M. de St Mars always sat opposite to him, with two pistols by the side of his plate. They were waited on by one servant only, who brought in and carried out the dishes, always carefully shutting the door both in going out and returning. The prisoner was always masked, even when he passed through the court ; but the people saw his teeth and lips, and observed that his hair was grey. The governor slept in the same room with him, in a second bed that was placed in it on that occasion. In the course of their journey, the Mask was one day heard to ask his keeper whether the king had any design on his life ? “ No, prince,” he replied ; “ provided that you quietly allow yourself to be conducted, your life is perfectly secure.” The stranger was accommodated as well as it was possible to be in the Bastille. An apartment had been prepared for him by order of the governor before his arrival, fitted up in the most convenient style ; and everything he expressed a desire for was instantly procured him. His table was the best that could be provided ; and

first Legislature; and was considered as a passionate, hot-headed young man, whose chief merit consisted in his being warmly and sincerely attached to the cause of liberty. It was he who first brought the term Aristocrat into common use. This occurred on Thursday, Nov. 19, 1790; when a deputation from a corporation in the Cambresis having complained at the bar of some abuses, the deputy for Arras ascended the tribune, and exclaimed, that the petitioners deserved no favour, being themselves (*un corps aristocratique*) an aristocratical body. The Assembly burst into a fit of laughter on the mention of this word: it, however, soon produced far different sensations!

It was about this time that he became the editor of a journal entitled *L'Union, ou Journal de la Liberte*. The royalists, who accuse him of gross ignorance, enumerate, with exultation, the geographical, political, and even grammatical blunders daily exhibited in this newspaper. It is allowed by every one that it was conducted with extreme violence, and displayed but little taste or genius. Indeed, the exaggerating disposition of the editor had brought him into some degree of contempt; and it was at that time customary to remark, with a kind of satirical eulogium—*que Mirabeau etoit le flambeau de la Provence, and Robespierre la chandelle d'Arras!*—that Mirabeau was the flambeau of Provence, and Robespierre the candle of Arras! This much is certain, that he never was elected into any of the committees, or honoured with the president's chair in the first Assembly.

To the Society of the Jacobins, Robespierre is indebted for all his celebrity and all his power. He became their chief; and it was the

in which it is asserted that "the birth of the prisoner happened in the evening of the 5th September 1638, in presence of the chancellor, the bishop of Meaux, the author of the MS., a midwife named Peronete, and a sieur Honorat. This circumstance greatly disturbed the king's mind: he observed, that the Salique law had made no provision for such a case. By the advice of Cardinal Richlieu, it was therefore resolved to conceal his birth, but to preserve his life, in case, by the death of his brother, it should be necessary to avow him. A declaration was drawn up, and signed and sworn to by all present, in which every circumstance was mentioned, and several marks on his body described. This document, being sealed by the chancellor with the royal seal, was delivered to the king; and all took an oath never to speak on the subject, not even in private and among themselves. The child was delivered to the care of Madame Peronete, to be under the direction of Cardinal Richlieu, at whose death the charge devolved to Cardinal Mazarin. Mazarin appointed the author of the MS. his governor, and intrusted to him the care of his education. But as the prisoner was extremely attached to Madame Peronete, and she equally so to him, she remained with him till her death. His governor carried him to his house in Burgundy, where he paid the greatest attention to his education. As the prisoner grew up, he became impatient to discover his birth, and often importuned his governor on that subject. His curiosity had been roused by observing that messengers from the court frequently arrived at the house; and a box, containing letters from the queen and the cardinal, having

is said to have been the Duke of Buckingham, who came to France, in May 1625, to conduct the Princess Henrietta, wife of Charles I., to England. The private letters and memoirs of those times speak very suspiciously of the queen and Buckingham: his behaviour at Amiens, whither the queen and queen-mother accompanied the princess in her way to Boulogne, occasioned much whispering; and it appears that the king, on this occasion, was extremely offended at her, and that it required all the influence and address of the queen-mother to effect a reconciliation. It is said that this child was privately brought up in the country; that when Mazarin became a favourite, he was intrusted with the care of him; and that Louis XIV., having discovered the secret on the death of the cardinal, thought it necessary to confine him in the manner above related. 2. The second, and the most probable opinion, is, that he was the twin-brother of Louis XIV., born some hours after him. This first appeared in a short anonymous work published without date, or name of place, or printer. It is therein said,—“Louis XIV. was born at St Germain en Laye on the 5th September 1638, about noon; and the illustrious prisoner, known by the appellation of the *Iron Mask*, was born the same day, while Louis XIII. was at supper. The king and the cardinal, fearing that the pretensions of a twin-brother might one day be employed to renew those civil wars with which France had been so often afflicted, cautiously concealed his birth, and sent him away to be brought up privately.” This opinion was confirmed in a work called *Memoires de Marechal Duc de Richlieu*, written by the Abbe Soulayie;

members of this body who first propagated the idea, “that the Assembly had ruined France, and Robespierre could alone save it!”

It is but candid here to confess that his conduct in the Legislative Body was pure and unspotted; that he stedfastly opposed the interested revision of the constitution, and withstood every temptation arising from the corruption so prodigally administered by the court. Alas! this very circumstance, in the end, rendered him more dangerous to Liberty, and the surname of Incorruptible enabled him to sacrifice all his real or supposed enemies to his vengeance.

Robespierre did not refuse to fill subordinate offices, as has been asserted: he, however, did not retain them any considerable time. He was first nominated President of the Tribunal of the district of Versailles; and was, consequently, empowered to decide both in civil and criminal affairs, as the juries had not been then organized. Having resigned this employment, he next obtained that of Accusateur-Public to the Criminal Tribunal of the department of Paris, which he also held but for a short period. His conduct in the exercise of these functions stands unimpeached: no one instance of cruelty or injustice has been adduced by the bitterest of his enemies; and had the court but proved faithful to that constitution, from which it could not recede without the foulest perjury, Robespierre would never have been elevated to the dictatorship!

It was during the National Convention that this man attained the summit of his ambition. In the first Legislature he had joined the patriots, in the second he declared for the re-

he was supplied with as rich clothes as he desired; but his chief taste in this last particular was for lace, and for linen remarkably fine. He was allowed the use of such books as he desired, and he spent much of his time in reading. He also amused himself with playing upon the guitar. He had the liberty of going to mass; but was then strictly forbid to speak or uncover his face: orders were even given to the soldiers to fire upon him if he attempted to do either; and their pieces were always pointed towards him as he passed through the court. When he had occasion to see a surgeon or a physician, he was obliged, under pain of death, constantly to wear his mask. An old physician of the Bastille, who had often attended him when he was indisposed, said, that he never saw his face, though he had frequently examined his tongue and different parts of his body; and that he never complained of his confinement, nor let fall any hint by which it might be guessed who he was. He often passed the night in walking up and down his room. This unfortunate prince died on the 19th November 1793, after a short illness; and was interred next day in the burying-place of the parish of St Paul. The expense of his funeral amounted only to 40 livres. The name given him was *Marchiali*: and even his age, as well as his real name, it seemed of importance to conceal; for, in the register made of his funeral, it was mentioned that he was about 40 years old; though he had told his apothecary, some time before his death, that he thought he must be 60. Immediately after his death, his apparel, linen, clothes, mattresses, and, in short, every thing that had been used by him,

ciliary visits awakened the sleeping victims of persecution to misery and destruction; while revolutionary tribunals condemned them by scores, unpitied, and even unheard. The laws were no longer maintained; the idea of a constitution became intolerable; all power was concentrated, as among the eastern nations; the government degenerated into a Turkish Divan: it was the *Committee of Public Safety* that regulated every thing, that absolved or tried, that spoiled or enriched, that murdered or saved; and this committee was entirely regulated by the will of Robespierre, who governed it by the means of his creatures, St Just and Couthon.

He reserved for himself, however, the immediate superintendence of the *revolutionary tribunals*, and was accustomed, at night, to mark down the victims who were to perish before the setting of the morrow's sun.

The execution of four or five a-day did not satiate his vengeance; the murder of thirty or forty was demanded, and obtained: the streets became deluged with blood; canals were necessary to convey it to the Seine; and experiments were actually made at the Bicetre with an instrument for cutting off half a score heads at a single motion!

Amidst this accumulation, however, of seemingly irresistible authority, Robespierre was on the brink of ruin. The whole of the old Girondist party was indeed subdued and silent; but many members of the Convention still remained attached to it. The party of the Mountain, by means of whom Robespierre had risen to power, found themselves not only disregarded, but ready at every instant to fall a

publicans: in both, his party had proved victorious. It was in the third that he himself was doomed to triumph, not only over his rivals, but his country.

The *Commune* of Paris, the Jacobin Society, and even the Assembly itself, were filled with his creatures, and became obedient to his commands. In short, the nation looked up to him as to a saviour.

No sooner, however, had he attained the giddy eminence of power, than his nature seems to have experienced a total change; and Robespierre, like many others, here affords a memorable instance of the effects of sudden elevation in debasing the human mind, by making it ferocious. Rendered cruel by habit and suspicion, both royalists and republicans equally experienced his vengeance; a number of the first were cruelly butchered in prison; and of the latter, Brissot, Vergniaux, Gensonne, Valaze, &c. &c., fell by the guillotine; while the ex-minister Roland, and the celebrated ex-secretary Condorcet, were reduced to the melancholy necessity of putting themselves to death. In the *Girondists* perished nearly all that was great and amiable in France; in Madame Roland fell the first female genius of her age; in the person of her husband, virtue itself was outraged; while, in the executions of Condorcet, Lavoisier, and Bailly, science received a mortal and irrecoverable stab.

The proscriptions of Sylla and Marius were once more renewed in the most polished country of modern Europe, and in an age, too, boastful of its studied refinements. Suspected persons, or, in other words, every one either dreaded or hated by those in power, were arrested: *domi-*

were burnt; the walls of his room were scraped; the floor taken up, evidently from the apprehension that he might have found means of writing any thing that would have discovered who he was. Nay, such was the fear of his having left a letter, or any mark which might lead to a discovery, that his plate was melted down; the glass was taken out of the window of his room and pounded to dust; the window-frame and doors burnt; and the ceiling of the room, and the plaster of the inside of the chimney, taken down. Several persons have affirmed that the body was buried without a head; and M. de St Foix informs us in his *Essais Historiques*, that "a gentleman, having bribed the sexton, had the body taken up in the night, and found a stone instead of the head." The natural inference from these extraordinary accounts, is, that the Iron Mask was not only a person of high birth, but must have been of great consequence; and that his being concealed was of the utmost importance to the king and ministry. Among the various conjectures that have been formed concerning the real name and condition of this remarkable personage, none appear to have any probability except the following. That he was a son of Anne of Austria, queen to Louis XIII., and, consequently, that he was a brother of Louis XIV.; but whether a bastard brother, a brother-german, or a half-brother, is a question that has given rise to three several opinions, viz., 1. That the queen proved with child at a time when it was evident it could not have been by her husband, who, for some months before, had never been with her in private. The supposed father of this child

one day been inadvertently left out, he opened it, and saw enough to guess at the secret. From that time he became thoughtful and melancholy, 'which (says the author) I could not then account for. He shortly after asked me to get him a portrait of the late and present king; but I put him off by saying that I could not procure any that were good. He then desired me to let him go to Dijon; which I have known since was with an intention of seeing a portrait of the king there, and of going secretly to St John de Lus, where the court then was on occasion of the marriage with the Infanta. He was beautiful; and love helped him to accomplish his wishes. He had captivated the affections of a young house-keeper, who procured him a portrait of the king. It might have served for either of the brothers; and the discovery put him into so violent a passion, that he immediately came to me with the portrait in his hand, saying, *Voila mon frere, et voila qui je suis*, shewing me, at the same time, a letter of the Cardinal de Mazarin, that he had taken out of the box.' Upon this discovery, his governor immediately sent an express to court to communicate what had happened, and to desire new instructions; the consequence of which was, that the governor and the young prince under his care were arrested and confined." The author of this memoir concludes,—“I have suffered with him in our common prison: I am now summoned to appear before my Judge on high; and for the peace of my soul I cannot but make this declaration, which may point out to him the means of freeing himself from his present ignominious situation, in case the king, his brother,

provincial pleaders, had not an uncommon occurrence of circumstances elevated him to a situation in which the eyes of all Europe were fixed upon him. He, however, made himself known as an author, if not as an advocate; for he published two treatises about this time, in one of which he explained the principles of Electricity, and removed the vulgar prejudices that prevailed respecting *conductors*, the erection of which was opposed by the ignorant, under the pretence that they were impious, and better calculated to produce destruction than ensure safety.

The other was on Death considered as a punishment. In this, all the modern governments were justly reproached for the sanguinary laws still prevalent in their criminal codes, and doubts were hinted as to the right claimed by society of cutting off the life of an individual.

No sooner had the letters of convocation to the States-General been issued, than Robespierre determined to become a candidate. He proved successful in his endeavours; and was, accordingly, nominated one of the representatives of his native province. He is said to have drawn up the cahiers, or instructions; by means of which the electors were accustomed to regulate the conduct of their deputies.

In the National Assembly, he sat and voted with the *cote gauche*, or patriotic side; and was sometimes confounded with the Orleanists, and sometimes with the Constitutionals. The former wished to place Philip on the throne of Louis; the latter were zealous for the adoption of the English constitution. It is no less true than singular, however, that Robespierre remained in the greatest obscurity during the

scourge of his country, but of mankind. Paschal, amidst the silence of his prison, meditated on Euclid; and Voltaire chalked the first lines of his *Henriade* on the walls of his dungeon; but Robespierre did not discover his future destiny by anticipation; and it was the opinion of the professors, that his reputation would never extend beyond the walls of the college in which he had been educated.

At the age of seventeen, it was determined that he should be bred to the bar; and his friends, judging from his early success, already imagined that he would dispute the palm of eloquence with the first lawyers of France. He was, accordingly, committed to the care of a M. Ferrieres, nephew to an advocate of the same name, who had distinguished himself by an excellent Treatise on Jurisprudence.

It is asserted, however, that, notwithstanding the repeated admonitions of that gentleman, Maximilian could never be prevailed upon to pay any degree of attention to his professional studies. Incapable of application, disgusted with the slightest difficulties, he is said to have acquired an antipathy to knowledge, and to have sworn a deadly enmity both to learning and learned men!

It was at first determined that he should practise before the Parliament of Paris; but this scheme was never carried into execution; for he returned to his native province, and was admitted an advocate in the Superior Council of Artois.

We do not find that he distinguished himself there by his eloquence; and have every reason to suppose that he would never have risen above mediocrity, nor been noticed in the crowd of

should die without children. Can an extorted oath compel me to observe secrecy on a thing so incredible, but which ought to be left on record to posterity?" 3. The third opinion is, that he was a son of the queen by Cardinal Mazarin, born about a year after the death of her husband, Louis XIII.; that he was brought up secretly; and that, soon after the death of the cardinal on the 9th March 1661, he was sent to Pignerol. To this account, Father Griffet justly objects, "that it was needless to mask a face that was unknown; and, therefore, that this opinion does not merit discussion." Indeed, it seems totally unaccountable that so much care should have been taken to conceal a child of the queen by the cardinal, who, whether they were privately married or not, could never have had the most distant claim to the crown of France. The conjectures advanced by other authors, that he was the Duke of Monmouth, the Count of Vermandois, or the Duke of Beaufort, &c., are still more improbable.

Maximilian Robespierre was born in 1750, within the walls of the city of Arras, the capital of the ancient province of Artois. The royalists, as if fiction had been necessary to render his memory more detestable, pretend

that of the Basilisk would, perhaps, have been more appropriate.

He affected to be called a Sans-Culotte; but his clothes were always chosen with taste; and his hair was constantly dressed and powdered, with a precision that bordered on foppery. He was but an indifferent orator; for his person, voice, and provincial accent, militated against the grand characteristics of eloquence. He was generally deficient, also, in point of composition: his speech, however, on the trial of Louis XVI. is an exception. That on the recognition of the Supreme Being is said to have been written by a member of one of the ci-devant academies.

It was the idea of his virtue, and confidence in his principles, that procured him the unbounded esteem of a corrupt age. Until intoxicated with power, his conduct and morals must be allowed to have been unimpeachable. While a private man, he exhibited virtues that seemed to render him worthy of command; and it was not till he was vested with supreme authority, that, like the deified Cæsars of ancient times, he threw off the character of humanity, and became a demon. He was never a republican; for the idea of a commonwealth supposes a restraint on governors, as well as on the governed; and, if we are to believe the assertion of an illustrious woman, (Madame Roland,) who was basely murdered by him, he was accustomed to sneer on the mention of the term, and ask what it meant.

After the fall of Robespierre, the Convention exhibited no small change of appearance. Instead of that silence which formerly prevailed,

to the upper by means of a handkerchief. It had been separated by a musket-ball.

Thus perished Maximilian Robespierre, in the thirty-fifth year of his age. His character does not possess the least resemblance to any of the illustrious ruffians of antiquity, who have been rendered memorable either by their crimes or their exploits. Sylla and Marius, bred up to arms, and inured to warfare, were both brave to excess. Julius, before he crossed the Rubicon, and became the tyrant of his country, had displayed uncommon personal courage on many occasions. Even the luxurious Antony, and the vile Augustus—the latter of whom it has been too long the fashion to praise—were at times capable of exhibiting instances of intrepidity. Cataline, in the very hour of his death, was terrible; for his mutilated corpse was surrounded by heaps that had perished by his own hand. But Robespierre was a base coward, who, on all occasions, was solicitous for his own safety, and trembled like a woman at the very idea of danger. He was bold only in words and gestures.

On the 10th of August he hid himself as usual, and only came out of his lurking hole to claim the triumphs of that memorable day. Even on the 1st, 2d, and 3d of September, he is said to have been concealed, until he could safely reap all the advantages of the barbarous murders committed by his partizans.

The person of Robespierre was below the middle size; the temperament of his body was nervous and irritable; and he had something hideous in his aspect, which was greatly increased by means of a pair of green spectacles. This acquired him the appellation of *the Dragon*:

THE
MAN WITH THE IRON MASK.

This remarkable person existed as a state prisoner in France during the latter part of the 17th century. The circumstances of this person form a historical ænigma, which has occasioned much inquiry and many conjectures. The authenticated particulars concerning the *Iron Mask* are as follows:—A few months after the death of Cardinal Mazarin, there arrived at the isle of Sainte Marguerite, in the sea of Provence, a young prisoner, whose appearance was peculiarly attracting: his person was above the middle size, and elegantly formed; his mien and deportment were noble, and his manners graceful; and even the sound of his voice had in it something uncommonly interesting. On the road, he constantly wore a mask made with iron springs, to enable him to eat without taking it off. It was at first believed that this mask was made entirely of iron; whence he acquired the title of *the Man with the Iron Mask*. His attendants had received orders to dispatch him if he attempted to take off his mask, or discover himself. He had been first confined at Pignerol, under the care of the governor M. de St Mars; and upon being sent thence to St Marguerite, he was accompanied thither by the same person, who continued to have the charge of him. He was always treated with the utmost respect: he was served constantly in plate; and the