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ROBESPIERRE

BY
VICTORIEN SARDOU

HENRY IRVING

MISS
ELLEN TERRY



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ARGUMENT.

ROBESPIERRE'S RISE.—The revolutionary spirit, which a long course of misgovernment had engendered, had fairly broken out, and from the Assembly of the States General a series of momentous events marks the ever-increasing violence of its onward progress. Chief among these may be mentioned the fall of the Bastille, 14th July; the abolition of privileges; the death of Mirabeau (1791); the flight of the King (2nd June, 1791); the taking of the Tuileries; the dethronement and imprisonment of the King, followed by the establishment of the Republic (1792), and the execution of the King in the following January. Two great parties are now rivals for the supreme power in the State, the Girondists or Moderate Republicans, called the Plain from their filling the body of the Chamber, and the Jacobins or Red Republicans, called the Mountain from the raised benches which they occupied. In the ensuing struggle the Jacobins proved victorious, and the leaders of the Girondists were executed, and June. Henceforth Marat, Danton and Robespierre were omnipotent, and inaugurate the Reign of Terror. But divisions and intrigues soon disintegrate the party. Danton is accused and condemned of reactionary designs at the instance of Robespierre, and at this point the action of M. Sardon's play commences. Robespierre, now virtually dictator and resolved to sweep all opposition from his path, passes his notorious Law of Prairial, which made possible the hideous judicial massacres of the Terror; whilst nearly concurrently and as a counter demonstration to the declared atheism of a handful of his adherents he obtains the sanction of the Convention to a religious festival at which he himself officiates as High Priest of the Supreme Being, whose existence is formally recognized. But jealousies and intrigues were slowly undermining his authority.

ROBESPIERRE'S FALL.—The functions of Government were at this time discharged by three distinct bodies, all of them equally responsible for the horrors of the Terror, and pledged to prolong its sanguinary rule. We have in the first place the Convention, a representative body corresponding in the main to our House of Commons; secondly, the Committee of Public Safety and General Security, elected by the Convention from their own body and forming a species of permanent Cabinet with unlimited powers; and thirdly, the Jacobin Club, Robespierre's stronghold, which was, in fact, an irresponsible association, but all-important as the focus and mouthpiece of the rabid radicalism of Paris. At the opening of the play Robespierre is still all-powerful, but the atrocities perpetrated under his dictatorship have started a reaction which grows apace, and the infection gradually reaches some of Robespierre's colleagues, who, perceiving the altered current of public opinion, determine to abandon their chief and compass his destruction. On the famous 10th Thermidor, the majority of the Mountain, including some whose hands were most deeply dyed in the blood shed during the Terror, triumphed, with the assistance of the Moderates in the Convention, over their whilom leader, and secured his overthrow and execution. But the alliance was fatal to their own ascendancy: the Convention henceforth resumed its powers it had surrendered; law regained its authority, and the Terrorists were finally crushed by the very instrument which they had called to their assistance.

EVERY EVENING AT 8

ROBESPIERRE

A DRAMA IN FIVE ACTS BY
VICTORIEN SARDOU

Rendered into English by LAURENCE IRVING

Maximilien Robespierre		HENRY IRVING
Clarisse de Maluçon		Miss ELLEN TERRY
Olivier (Son of Robespierre)		Mr. KYRLE BELLEW
Augustin Robespierre (younger Brother of Robespierre)		Mr. F. D. DAVISS
Benjamin Vaughan (of the House of Commons)		Mr. H. COOPER CLIFFE
Lebas (Member of the Convention)		Mr. FULLER MELLISH
Buonarrotti (a young Corsican)		Mr. LEONARD CALVERT
Coaton	(of the Committee of Public Safety)	Mr. LOCKE
St. Just	(of the Committee of Public Safety)	Mr. TAMWORTH
Old Duplay (a Carpenter—Robespierre's landlord)		Mr. BOWN
Simon Duplay (Secretary to Robespierre)		Mr. S. JOHNSON
Maurice Duplay (Son of Old Duplay)		Mr. F. HAYES
Didier	(Police Agents of Robespierre's)	Mr. C. H. KENNEY
Gerard	(Police Agents of Robespierre's)	Mr. W. GRAHAM
Dilland Varennes (of the Committee of Public Safety)		Mr. LOUIS CALVERT
Jagot		Mr. HATCH
Amar	(of the Committee of General Security)	Mr. SHARP
Voulland	(of the Committee of General Security)	Mr. BARTON
Ruh	(of the Committee of General Security)	Mr. F. M. PAGET
Vadier	(of the Committee of General Security)	Mr. JAMES CRAIG
Thuriot	(Members of the Convention)	Mr. W. GARSTIN
Tallen	(Members of the Convention)	Mr. LAURENCE IRVING
Fouché	(Members of the Convention)	Mr. C. DODSWORTH
Lecointre	(Members of the Convention)	Mr. FERGUSON
Legendre	(Members of the Convention)	Mr. MORRIS
Héron (a Police Officer of the Committee of Public Safety)		Mr. F. TYARS
Count Harday de Hauteville		Mr. JUNIUS BOOTH
De Bussey (a Prison Spy)		Mr. L. J. S. WOOD
The Recorder of the Revolutionary Tribunal		Mr. GILBERT YORKE
Haly (Head Jailor at Port-Libre)		Mr. R. P. TABB
Another Jailor		Mr. W. MARION
Collas (a Jailor at the Conciergerie)		Mr. J. ARCHER
Barassin		Mr. T. REYNOLDS
Urbain (a Servant)		Mr. ERIC BLIND
A Workman		Mr. JENNINGS
Imprisoned at Port-Libre:		
Maréchal de Mouchy	Mr. ELLIS	Charles Leguay
De Broglie	Mr. PERCY NASH	The elder Leguay
De Keraint	Mr. EARDLEY HOWARD	Gournay
De Pons	Mr. FRANK LACY	Lavergne
D'Armaillé	Mr. ALEC WEATHERLY	Mauclerc
Prévôt d'Arlicourt	Mr. SINCLAIR	Sourdval
Cottant	Mr. CHARLES VANE	Maleysse
Dossun	Mr. PARSONS	The young De Maillé (aged 15)
Miss WINIFRED FRASER		Miss MAY HOLLAND
Miss CROSSE		
Miss SUZANNE SHELDON		
Miss GEORGIE ESMOND		
Miss IDA YEOLAND		
Miss MAUD MILTON		
Miss EDITH CRAIG		
Miss CECILIA RADCLYFFE		
Miss MAUD ANSTEE		
Miss NELLIE HUNTLEY		
Miss WINIFRED KEAN		
Miss MARTIA LEONARD		
Miss E. F. DAVIS		
Miss GERTRUDE CLARIDGE		
Miss EMILY ARCHER		
Miss ADA MELLON		
Miss TARVIN		
Miss ROSITA TENNYSON		
Marie Thérèse (Niece of Clarisse de Maluçon)		
Madame Duplay (Wife of Old Duplay)		
Madame Lebas		
Cornélie	(her Daughters)	
Victoire	(her Daughters)	
Madame de Narbonne		
Madame de Lavergne		
Mademoiselle de Bethisy		
The Maréchale de Mouchy		
Madame Maleysse		
Charlotte Maleysse		
Claire Maleysse		
Madame d'Avaux		
Madame de Chosenil		
Mademoiselle Lucroix		
Madame Héré		
Madame de Narbonne's little Girl (Aged 5)		
Shade of Marie Antoinette		

Members of the Convention, of the Committees, Valets of the Convention; Gendarmes of the Convention, National Guards, Police Agents, Jailors, Townspeople, &c. &c.

ACT I.

Scene. A Nook in the Forest of Montmorency - HAWES CRAVEN

ACT II.

Scene 1. The Courtyard of the Prison of Port-Libre - JOSEPH HARKER
Scene 2. The Place de la Révolution (now de la Concorde) - MONSIEUR AMABLE

ACT III.

Scene. The Sitting-Room in Duplay's House - W. HARKFORD

ACT IV.

Scene 1. A Room in the Rue du Martroy - W. HARKFORD
Scene 2. A Hall in the Prison of the Conciergerie - HAWES CRAVEN

ACT V.

Scene 1. A Room of the Committee of Public Safety - W. HARKFORD
Scene 2. The Hall of the National Convention - MONSIEUR AMABLE

PERIOD OF PLAY—JULY, 1794.

Costumes designed by Monsieur MARCEL MÜTZER and executed by Messrs. L. and H. NATHAN, Miss LOUIE ELLIS, Mrs. NETTLESHIP and Miss EDITH CRAIG.

Grouping etc., superintended by Monsieur CARLO COPPI. Chorus Master, Mr. R. P. TABB

Machinist—Mr. PILLERY. Electric Effects—Mr. BIGGS. Pertuquer—Mr. FOX. Properties—Mr. T. ROBINSON and Mr. BRADSHAW. Furniture by JAMES S. LYON. Limelight—Mr. KERR.

Monsieur G. JACOBI has specially composed the Music of the ENTR'ACTES, the INCIDENTAL MUSIC and the SONG IN ACT III.; and has arranged the CHANT DU DEPART IN ACT II., by MÉHUL; the CANTATA (1794), by GOSSEC; and THE MARSEILLAISE, by R. DE L'ISLE.

The Orchestra, under the direction of Mr. MEREDITH BALL, will also play the OVERTURE TO "ROBESPIERRE," composed by HENRY LITTOLE.

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