

AUTHORISED BY THE LYCEUM THEATRE.

# Rolespiere

“THE SEA-GREEN  
INCORRUPTIBLE.”



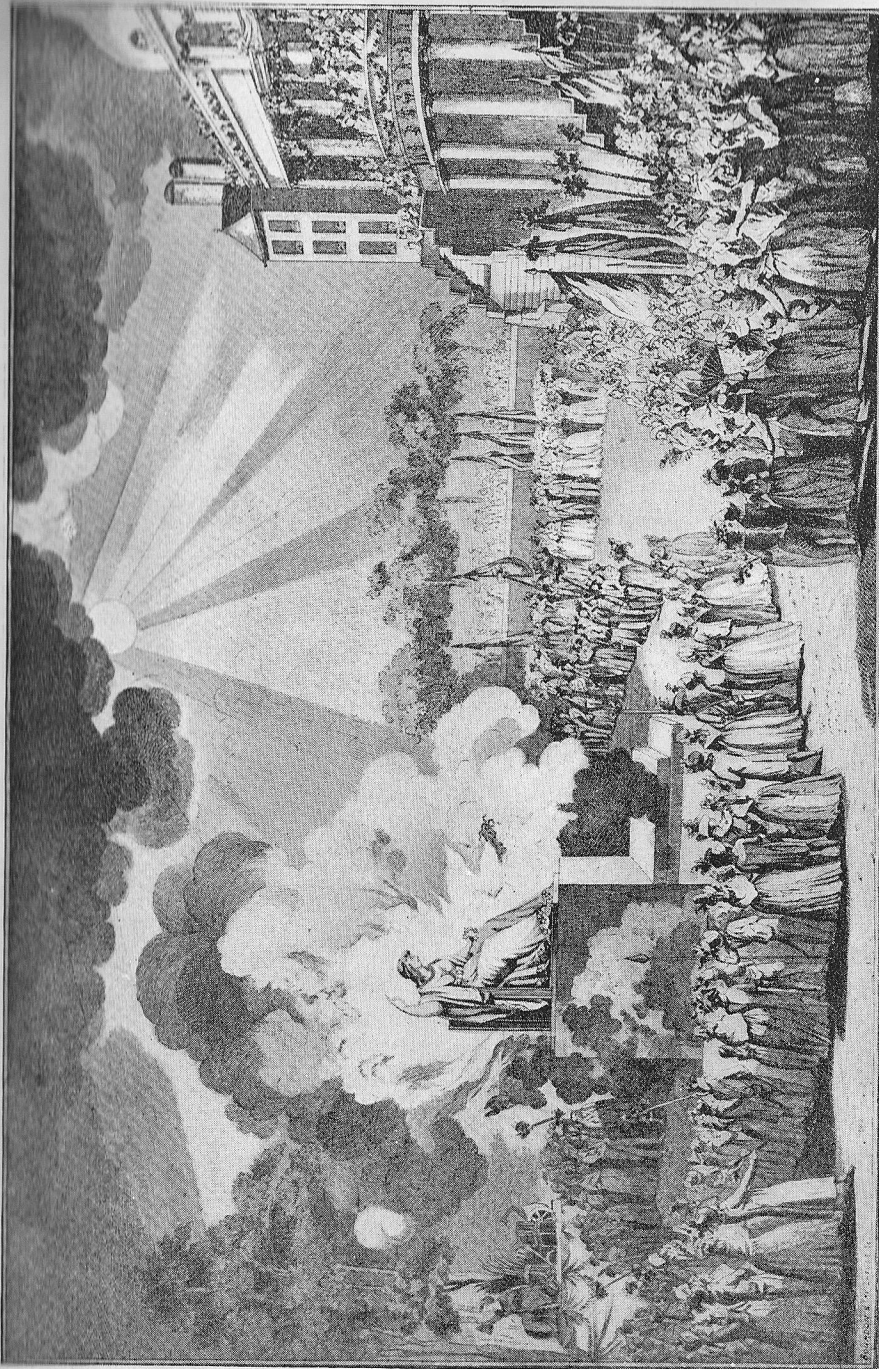
Profusely Illustrated  
by the  
STUDIO OF DESIGN.

1/- NETT.



LONDON:  
THE EFFINGHAM PUBLISHING CO.,  
EFFINGHAM HOUSE, ARUNDEL STREET,  
STRAND, W.C.

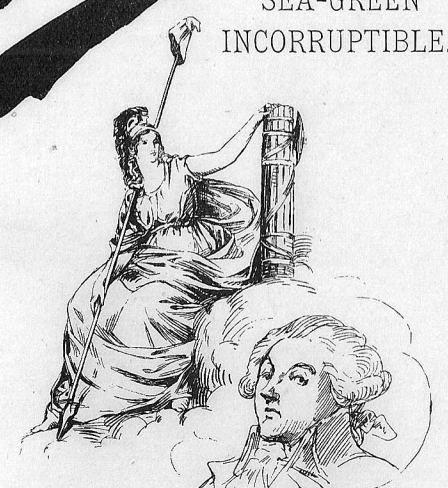




VIEW OF THE JARDIN NATIONAL (TUILERIES) ON THE DAY OF THE FÊTE OF THE SUPREME BEING, JUNE 8 1794.  
*From a Drawing by Monnet.*

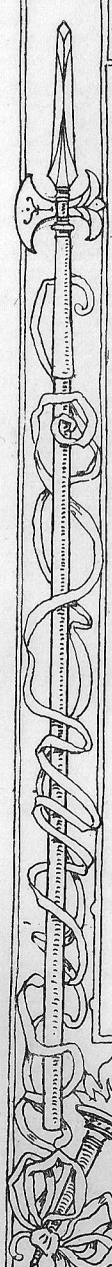
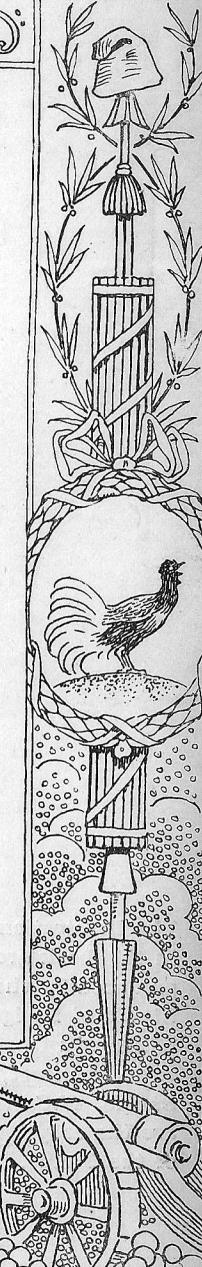
# Rolespierre

"THE  
SEA-GREEN  
INCORRUPTIBLE."



Illustrated by the Studio of Design.

LONDON:  
 THE EFFINGHAM PUBLISHING CO.,  
 EFFINGHAM HOUSE, ARUNDEL STREET,  
 STRAND, W.C.



The Illustrations  
in this book are  
produced by the  
Studio of Design,  
Effingham House,  
Arundel Street,  
Strand, W.C., and  
are the copyright  
of the Studio.



## Robespierre,

“THE SEA-GREEN  
INCORRUPTIBLE.”

PERHAPS the most notorious figure in the terrible drama of the French Revolution is that of Maximilien Marie Isidore Robespierre, the man who has been chosen by M. Sardou as the centre of the new play which he has written for Sir Henry Irving. Robespierre can hardly be

called a sympathetic character, but he is undoubtedly most dramatic, and as one of the centres of the most sombre tragedies of modern times, he gives plenty of opportunity to the playwright. In many ways Robespierre was an incarnation of the spirit of his time, and he it was who translated into action the theories of Jean Jacques Rousseau, his master and inspirer. And yet Robespierre was not really a man of action; he was a talker, a man of words, who was forced to act by circumstances, and he who began his public life by resigning the post of judge at Arras sooner than pass a death sentence, ended by being Dictator at the worst period of the Terror. As usual, circumstances proved too strong for





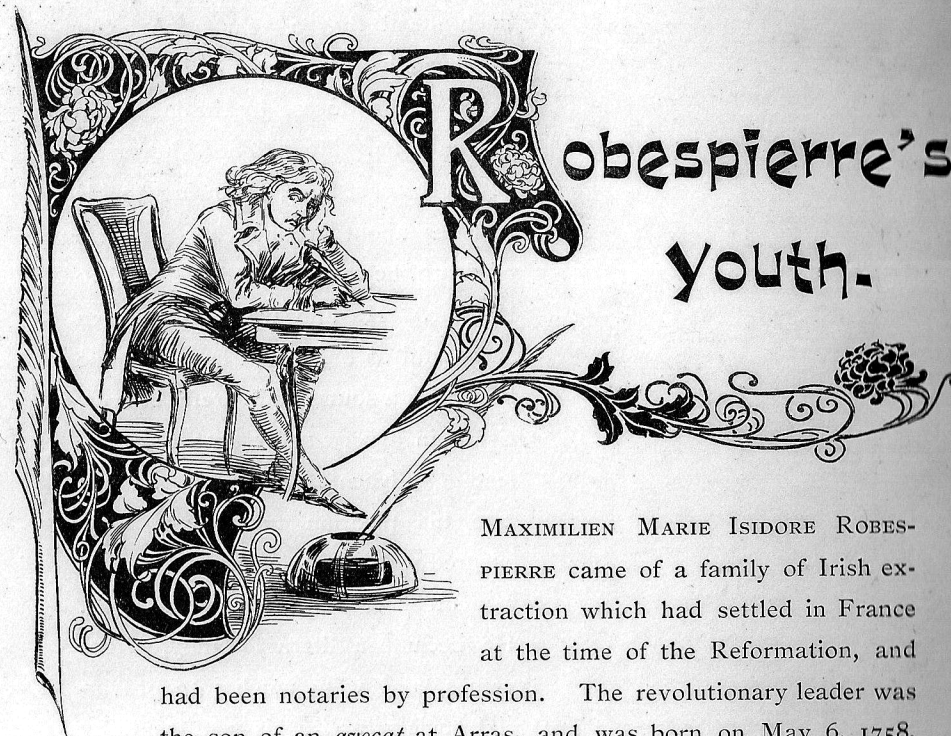


JEAN-JACQUES ROUSSEAU.

theories. Robespierre was led away by his surroundings, and became possessed by a thirst for blood which overmastered him, till he hesitated at no man's death if it would in any way advance the dawn of the time when his beloved theories would be the mainspring which should drive the world.



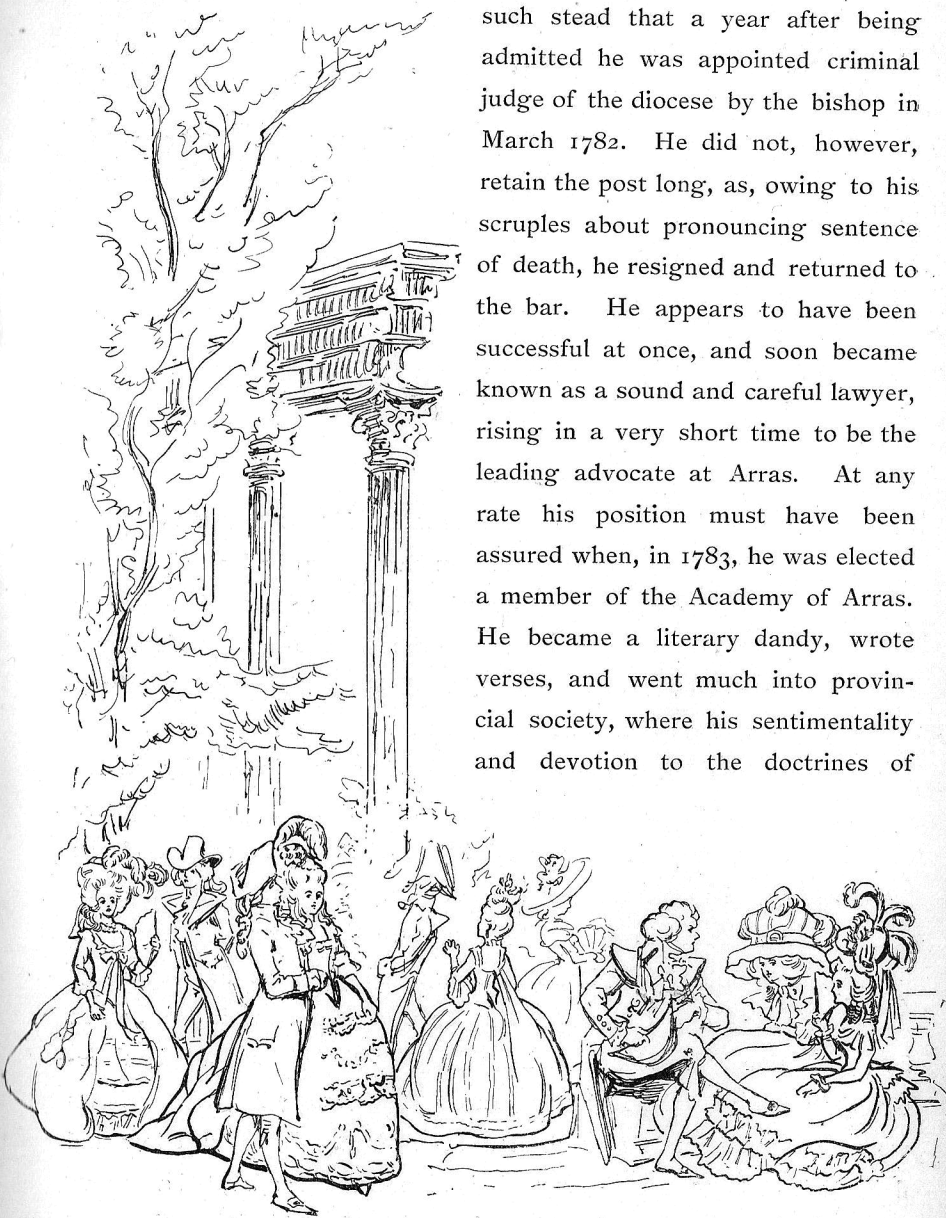
CAMILLE DESMOULINS AT THE PALAIS ROYAL, JULY 12, 1789.



MAXIMILIEN MARIE ISIDORE ROBESPIERRE came of a family of Irish extraction which had settled in France at the time of the Reformation, and had been notaries by profession. The revolutionary leader was the son of an *avocat* at Arras, and was born on May 6, 1758. His mother was the daughter of a wealthy brewer of that city named Carrant, and he was the eldest of four children. Madame Robespierre only lived ten years after her marriage, as she died in 1767, and the father wandered about Europe a broken-hearted man till he died two years later at Munich. The children were brought up by Madame Robespierre's father, and Maximilien was educated at the school at Arras. As he showed great promise, he was nominated in 1770, when he was twelve years old, to a Bursarship at the College of Louis-le-Grand in Paris by the Bishop of Arras, and among his schoolfellows were Camille Desmoulins and Stanislas Fréron. He studied law and finished his education with much distinction, and was admitted an *avocat* in 1781. He then returned to his native town, where his connections and



his College reputation stood him in such stead that a year after being admitted he was appointed criminal judge of the diocese by the bishop in March 1782. He did not, however, retain the post long, as, owing to his scruples about pronouncing sentence of death, he resigned and returned to the bar. He appears to have been successful at once, and soon became known as a sound and careful lawyer, rising in a very short time to be the leading advocate at Arras. At any rate his position must have been assured when, in 1783, he was elected a member of the Academy of Arras. He became a literary dandy, wrote verses, and went much into provincial society, where his sentimentality and devotion to the doctrines of



FASHIONS BEFORE THE REVOLUTION.



ROBESPIERRE AS A YOUNG MAN.

*From a Pastel formerly in the possession of Marat's sister.*

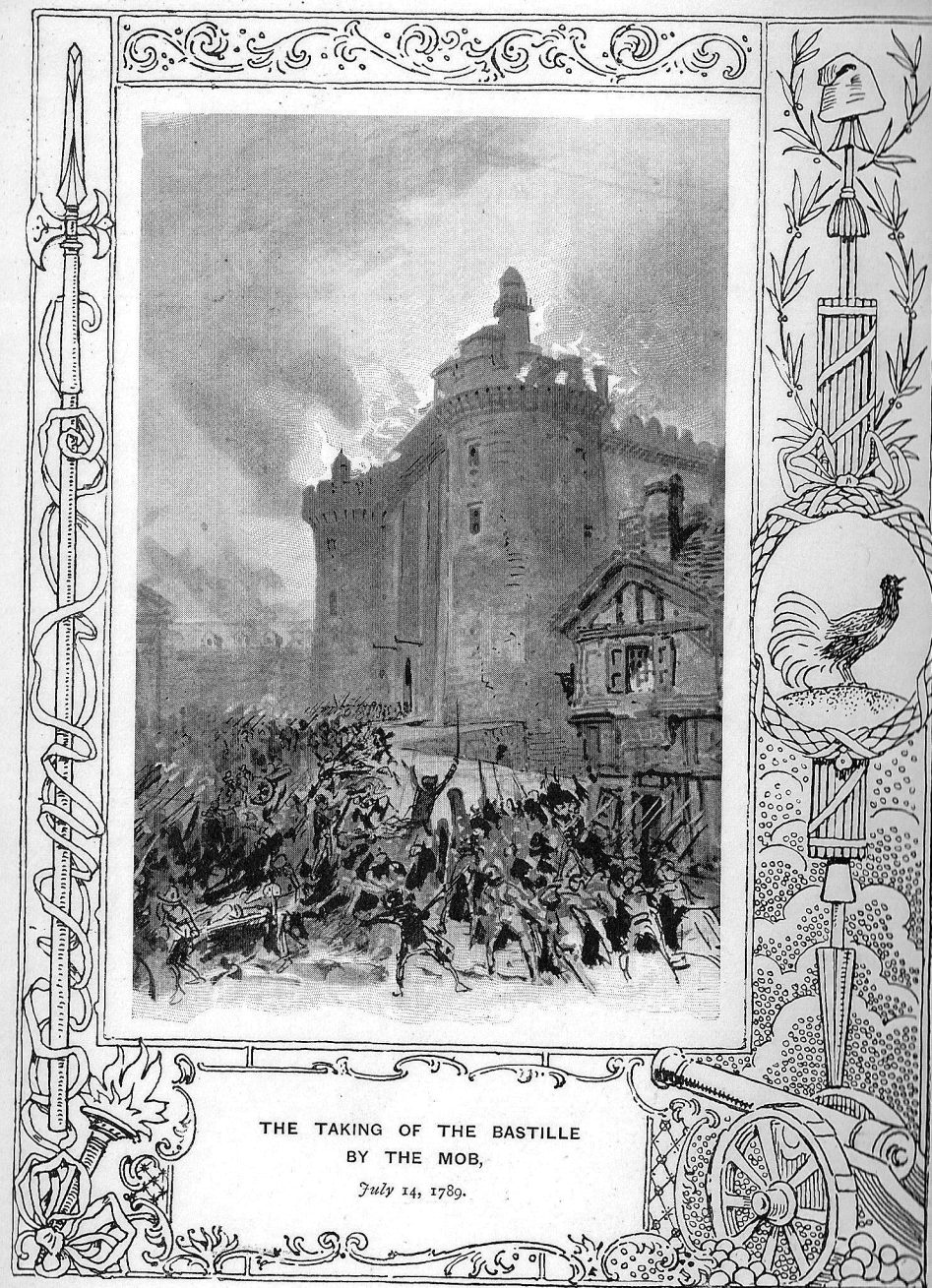


Rousseau made him very popular. In those days the provincial Academies of France offered medals and prizes for essays on various subjects, and Robespierre was a pretty constant competitor, but without success. In 1784 he competed for the prize offered by the Academy of Metz for an essay on "Should the Relatives of a Condemned Criminal also be punished?" and, in 1785, for the prize of the Amiens Academy, the subject for which was a Eulogy of Gresset, the author. On both occasions he was defeated, and had to content himself with being the favourite of Arras literary society, and with seasoning his practice at the local bar with verses, epigrams and flashes of wit. Even in those days it was remarked that the quality of his

voice was superior to the matter of his literary compositions, and that his speeches owed more to their delivery than to their intrinsic worth.



THE MARQUIS DE LAUNAY.  
THE LAST GOVERNOR OF THE BASTILLE.



THE TAKING OF THE BASTILLE  
BY THE MOB,  
*July 14, 1789.*





# Robespierre

AND THE

## States General.

It was not likely that a young lawyer of much ambition and some capacity would be always content to remain the ornament of a provincial circle, and so it was but

natural that he should take part in the discussion as to the way in which the States General were to be elected. He published an address in which he argued that if the States General were elected in the old fashion by the members of the provincial estates they would not represent the people of France, and this was the view generally adopted. It was arranged that the city of Arras should elect twenty-four members among the representatives of the assembly of the Bailliage of Artois, and Robespierre drew up the list of grievances for the Guild of Cobblers and took a leading part in the opposition to the claim for a preponderating influence in the elections which was put forward by the corporation of the city. Robespierre was elected one of the assembly himself, and when the Bailliage met to elect the deputies he was the fifth chosen for the Tiers Etat of Artois. The

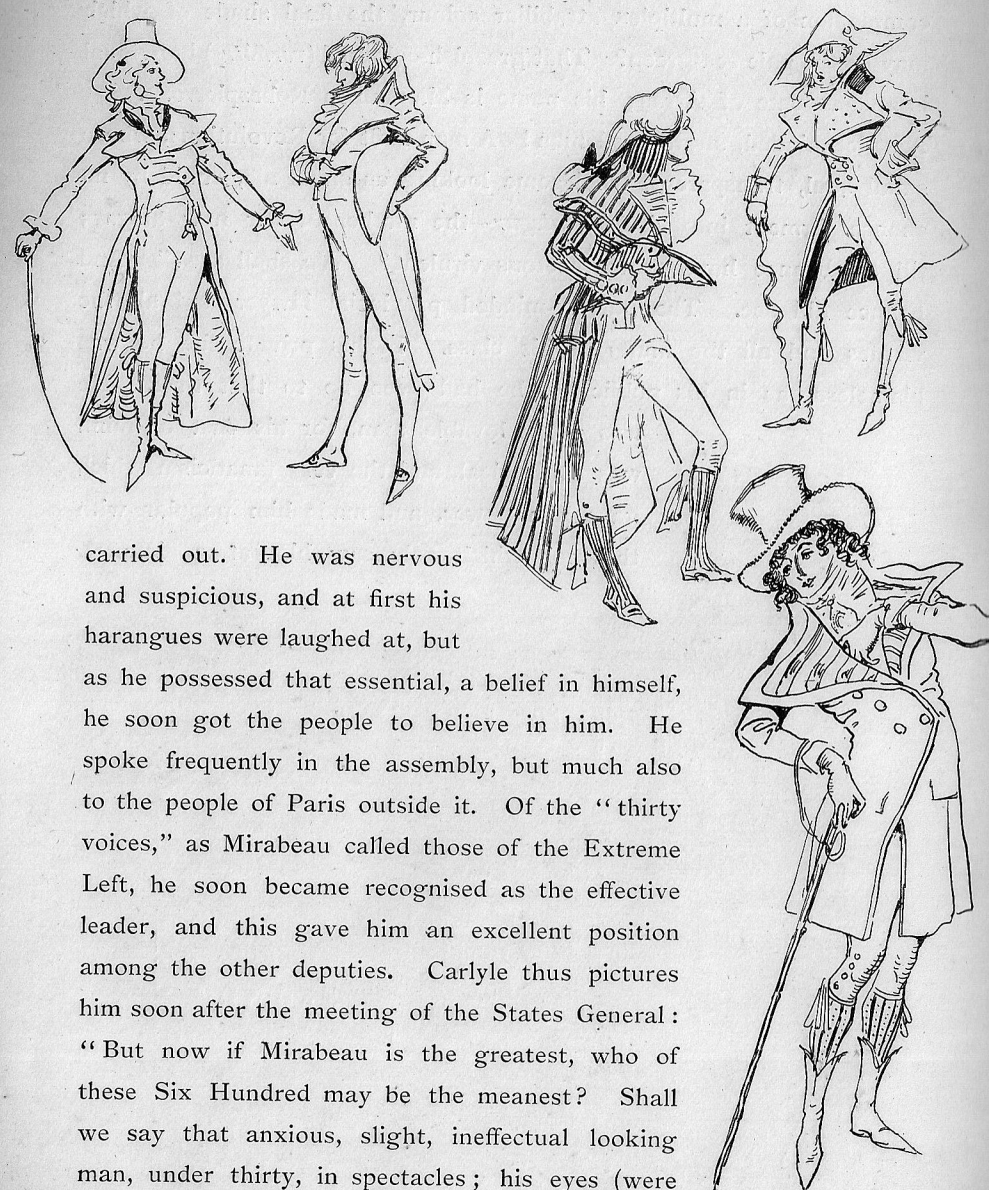




FASHIONS OF THE REVOLUTIONARY PERIOD.

the doctrines of Rousseau, and was sincerely anxious to see them

States General met at Versailles on May 5, 1789, the day before Robespierre's thirty-first birthday. He attached himself to the Extreme Left of the assembly and soon commanded attention, for, as Mirabeau said of him, "That young man believes what he says; he will go far." His provincial narrowness of mind and fanaticism proved greatly to his advantage. He really believed in



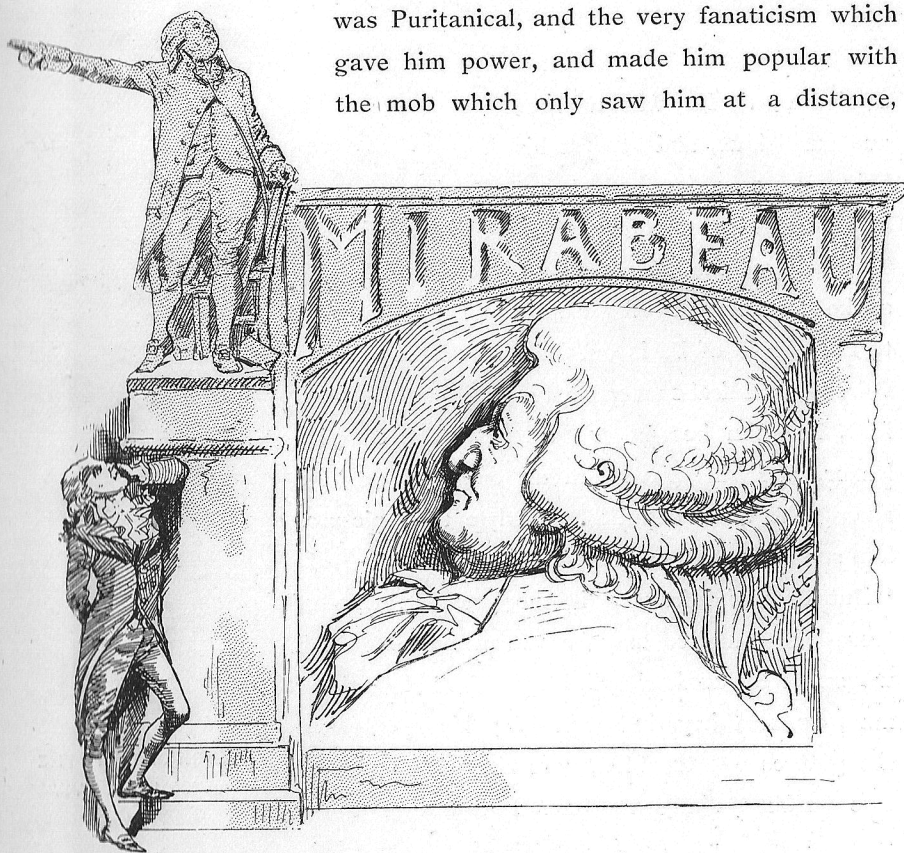
FASHIONS OF THE REVOLUTIONARY PERIOD.

carried out. He was nervous and suspicious, and at first his harangues were laughed at, but as he possessed that essential, a belief in himself, he soon got the people to believe in him. He spoke frequently in the assembly, but much also to the people of Paris outside it. Of the "thirty voices," as Mirabeau called those of the Extreme Left, he soon became recognised as the effective leader, and this gave him an excellent position among the other deputies. Carlyle thus pictures him soon after the meeting of the States General: "But now if Mirabeau is the greatest, who of these Six Hundred may be the meanest? Shall we say that anxious, slight, ineffectual looking man, under thirty, in spectacles; his eyes (were the glasses off) troubled, careful; with upturned face sniffing dimly the uncertain future time;



complexion of a multiplex atrabiliar colour, the final shade of which may be the pale sea-green? That greenish-coloured (*verdâtre*) individual is an advocate of Arras; his name is Maximilien Robespierre. . . . A strict-minded, strait-laced man! A man unfit for Revolutions, whose small soul, transparent, wholesome looking as small ale, could by no chance ferment into virulent *alegar*—the mother of our new *alegar*; till all France have grown acetous virulent? We shall see!" And France did see. The narrow-minded provincial lawyer had all the virtues and all the faults of his class. In his private life he was blameless, as in his public life he had been up to that time. He

was not a lovable man, for his cast of mind was Puritanical, and the very fanaticism which gave him power, and made him popular with the mob which only saw him at a distance,



ROBESPIERRE.

*From a Crayon Drawing in the Musée de Versailles.  
Probably by Eozé, Painter to the King.*



made his company distasteful to those who had to mix with him in the closer intercourse of political companionship. G. H. Lewes, in his *Life of Robespierre*, sums up the Sea-green Incorruptible in this masterly, but tolerant, fashion: "All that is great and estimable in fanaticism—its sincerity, its singleness of purpose, its exalted aims, its rigorous consistency, its disdain of worldly temptations—all may be found in Robespierre; and those who only contemplate that aspect of the man will venerate him. But there is another aspect of fanaticism presenting narrow-mindedness, want of feeling, of consideration, and of sympathy; unscrupulousness of means, pedantic wilfulness, relentless ferocity; and whoso contemplates this aspect also will look on Robespierre with strangely mingled feelings of admiration and abhorrence." Probably the abhorrence will largely predominate in all healthy minds.



HEAD-DRESSES OF THE REVOLUTIONARY PERIOD.



TYPES AND COSTUMES OF THE REVOLUTIONARY PERIOD.

*From a Drawing published at the time.*





# R

## obespierre

AND THE

## Jacobins.

MIRABEAU died in 1791, and his death opened the way for Robespierre in the Assembly. He was already a very powerful factor, owing to his position in the Jacobin Club,

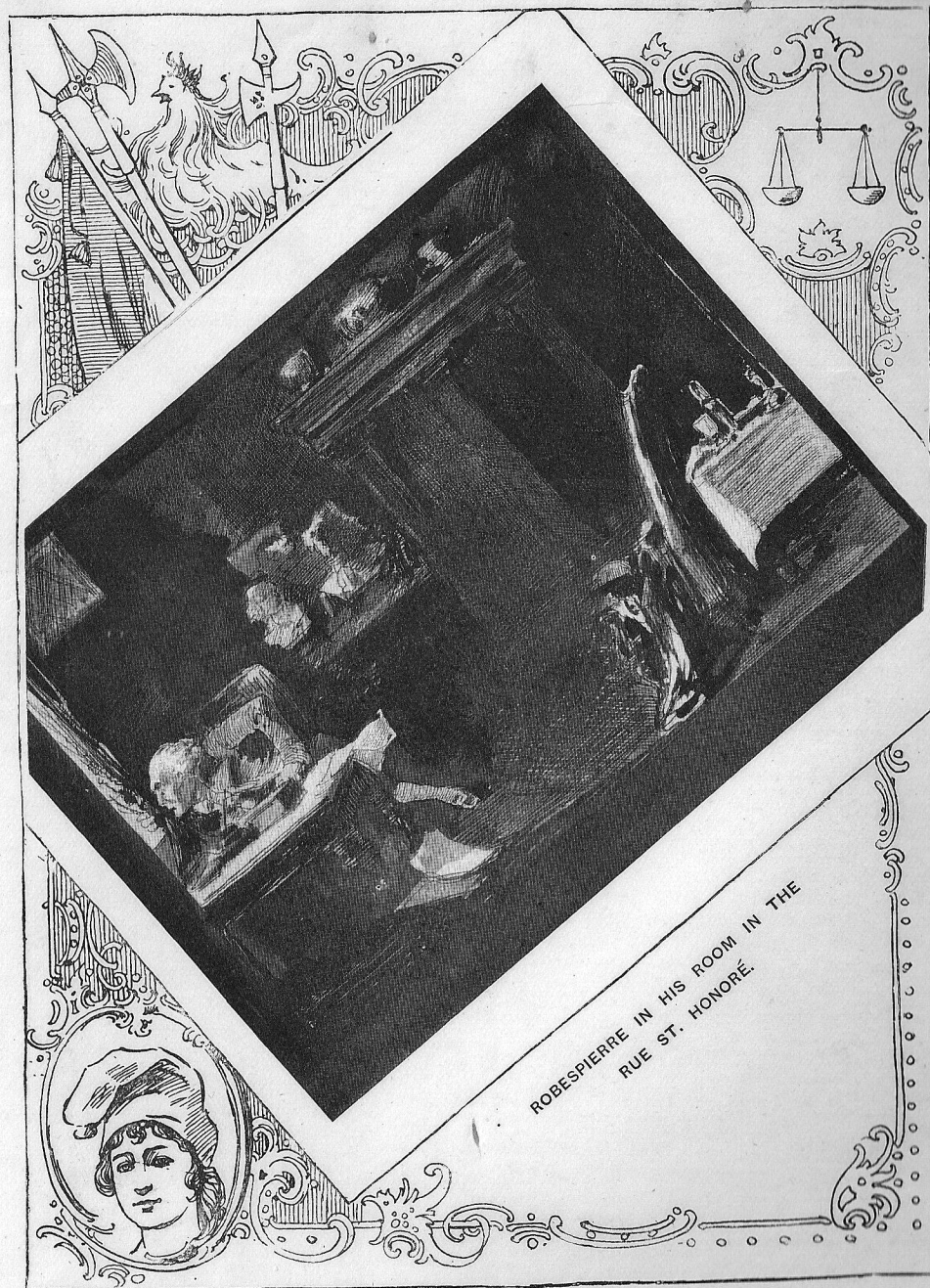
which he had joined soon after coming to Paris, as he instinctively felt that the peculiar form of fanaticism and cant which dominated him would have more power in the Club than in the Assembly. At the beginning the Jacobin Club consisted of the Breton deputies only, but gradually Parisian bourgeois and artisans were admitted, and among them Robespierre found the auditors he longed for. By 1791 the older members had left the Club, and Robespierre and his followers became masters of the association. The Arras lawyer was now one of the leading men of Paris, and events followed one another with great rapidity. In May 1791 he carried the unstatesmanlike proposal that the members of the Constituent Assembly should be unable to sit in the next. Then in June came the flight of the king and his arrest at Vincennes, which made Robespierre declare himself at the Jacobin Club to be neither monarchist nor republican. In July



La Fayette's energetic action in the Champ de Mars threw Robespierre into one of his abject terrors, and he took refuge in the house of Duplay, a carpenter, where he lived almost without intermission till his death. Robespierre was an exceedingly timid man, and, fancying himself a predestined victim, he appealed to the Jacobins, who took an oath to protect his life. On September 30, the day of the dissolution of the Constituent Assembly, he and Pétion were crowned with chaplets by the mob and hailed as the only two incorruptible patriots.

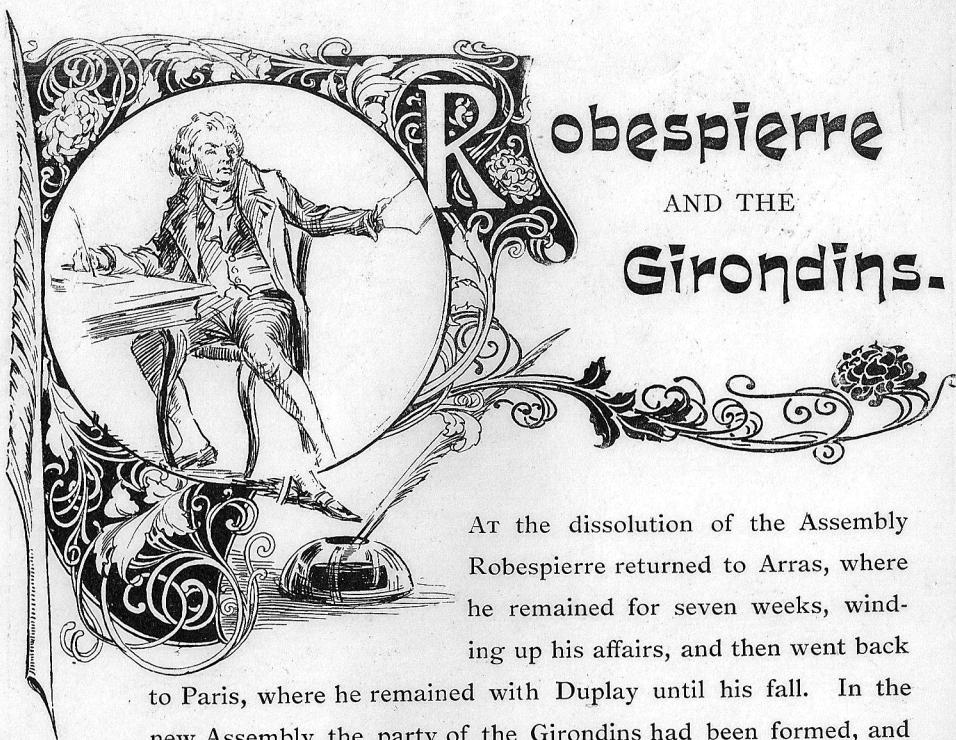


GENERAL THE MARQUIS DE LA FAYETTE  
COMMANDING THE PARIS NATIONAL GUARD.



ROBESPIERRE IN HIS ROOM IN THE  
RUE ST. HONORÉ.





At the dissolution of the Assembly Robespierre returned to Arras, where he remained for seven weeks, winding up his affairs, and then went back to Paris, where he remained with Duplay until his fall. In the new Assembly the party of the Girondins had been formed, and under Brissot it clamoured for war with Austria. Marat and Robespierre opposed the idea of war, the former because he was something of a statesman, the latter because he was a humanitarian of the school of Rousseau. The Girondins attacked Robespierre so violently that in 1792 he resigned his office of public prosecutor, and started a newspaper to defend his theories. Meanwhile the fate of the Bourbon dynasty was being sealed by Danton and his friends, and Robespierre joined the Paris Commune, the members of which did not believe in him, but preferred to have his influence and that of the Jacobins on their side. In August 1792 he presented to the Legislative Assembly the petition for a Revolutionary Tribunal and a new Convention, and in September was elected first deputy for Paris in the new Assembly.





The Girondins then renewed their attacks on him, but the trial of the king caused a truce in these quarrels. Robespierre on this question took up the position that the members of the Convention were not judges but statesmen, and that the king must die that the country



LADY OF FASHION AT THE BEGINNING OF THE REVOLUTIONARY PERIOD.

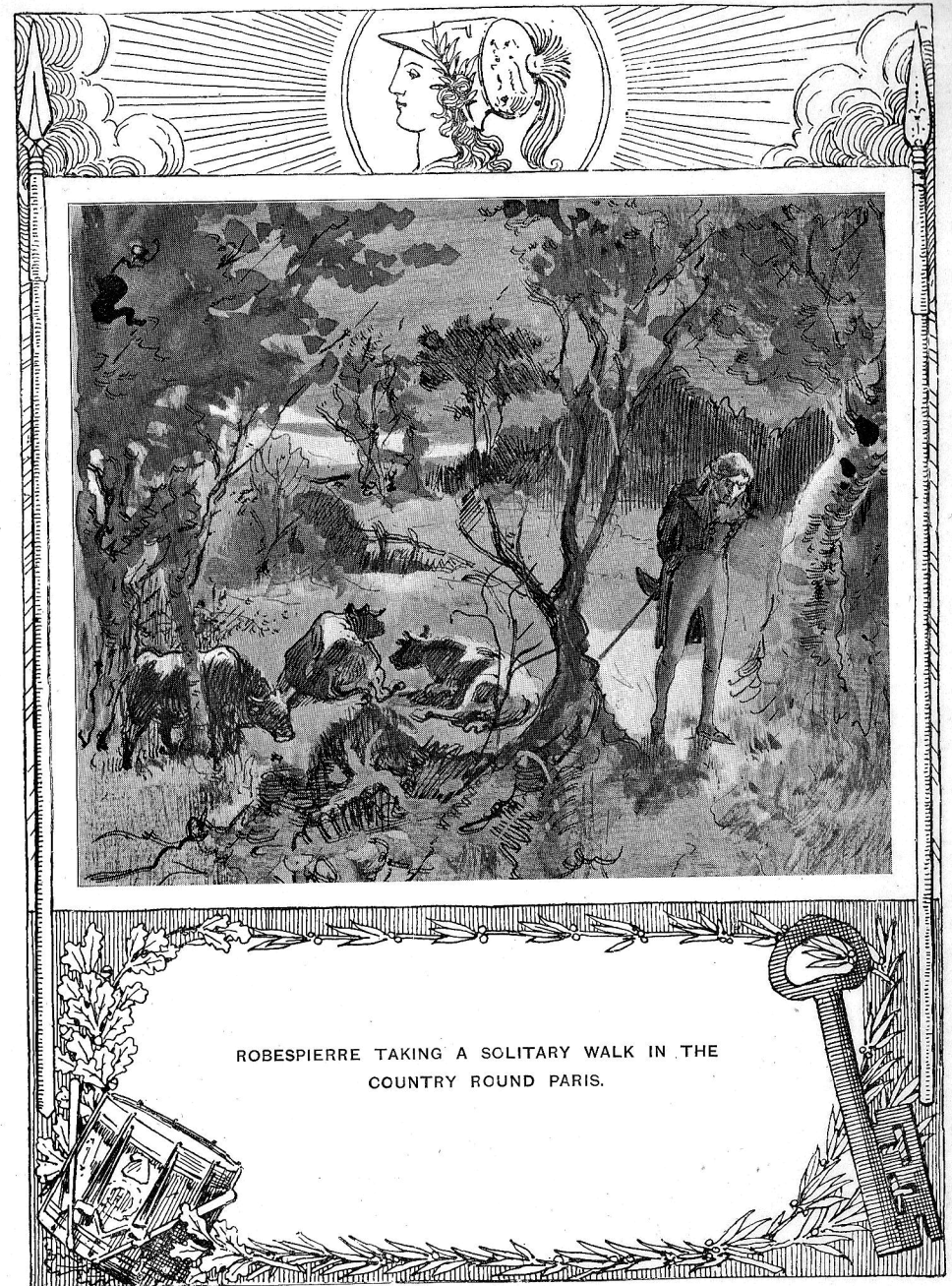


might live. After the king's death the struggle with the Girondins was renewed. The latter refused to have anything to do with Danton, who would have worked with them, but was thus forced to join Robespierre. Danton's one idea was to make France victorious in her struggle with Europe, but the Girondins by their want of statesmanship would have divided the country. Robespierre and Desmoulins spoke and wrote against the Girondins, and on May 31 and June 2 that party was destroyed by the Paris Commune, and the Jacobins triumphed. Robespierre was elected on the Committee of Public Safety on July 27, 1793, and so became one of the actual rulers of France, though he was despised rather than feared by most of his colleagues, who were men of action, and was always in a minority on the Committee.



ROBESPIERRE SQUEEZING AN ORANGE INTO A CUP.

*Robespierre was extremely fond of squeezing oranges and drinking the juice.*



ROBESPIERRE TAKING A SOLITARY WALK IN THE  
COUNTRY ROUND PARIS.





THE TOMB OF MARAT.

# Robespierre AND Danton.

WITH his election to the Committee of Public Safety comes a central point in the life of Robespierre. His great struggle with Danton and Hébert then began, and ended only with the executions of these two men and their supporters. The dis-

credit of the invention of the Terror falls to Danton, who resorted to it in order to realise his idea of keeping France so strong and united at home that she might face her enemies abroad. Robespierre had little to do with it at first, but it was worked by men like Carnot and Billaud-Varenne, who were not orators, and who had no adherents among the mob.

Robespierre was a useful man to have on the Committee, as he was always respectable and well dressed, was a popular orator, and had the fanatical Jacobins at his command. He was a sort of figure-head behind whom the stronger men worked, and his fiery speech and boasted incorruptibility led the mob to support the Terror in spite of the wholesale massacre which it carried on. His strength consisted in the Jacobin Club on the one hand and in his fanaticism on the other, for he was given to thinking and



speaking of his ideals rather than of his own private interest. Nevertheless, towards the end of his life, after the execution of Danton, Robespierre seems to have been affected with the thirst for blood, and he who refused to sign a death warrant as judge, and resigned his post rather than do so, saw crowds of innocent people go to the guillotine without a pang.

A common dislike of the Girondins had united Robespierre and Danton, and when the Girondins were crushed the two men naturally came into antagonism again. A period of intrigue followed, the result of which was to send Hébert, Danton and Camille Desmoulins to the scaffold. Hébert and his friends were Communists, who held that local Government in the Commune should be supreme save in the matters absolutely appertaining to a central Government. Robespierre and his colleagues looked on this as treason, for they held that France could only be saved if they retained absolute power.

Danton, having established a strong central Government by means of the guillotine, thought that everything was done and retired into the country, where, strange to say, he took to preaching moderation and a relaxation of the Terror. This, too, looked like treason against the party with which Robespierre was associated.

Things were approaching a crisis, and so Robespierre once more retired from active life for a few weeks, and no doubt spent the time in calculating what would be his best course of action. If Danton was a practical man who wanted to establish a powerful Government, Robespierre was a fanatic who hoped to make the ideals of Rousseau prevail, and the Terror seemed to him the best means of gaining his point. He therefore returned to the Convention, and the result was that Hébert and his friends were at once arrested and guillotined, while Danton and Camille Desmoulins followed them a few weeks afterwards.

Danton was a man of action, and so when he abandoned an





active part in Paris he really condemned himself to death. Once he gave up power he was lost, though he did not realise the fact until too late. That Robespierre was the real cause of his execution he saw plainly enough, and his words "Robespierre will follow me; I shall drag him down," were prophetic. Thus the two great opponents of the ruling party in the Convention—Hébert the Communist, and Danton the practical man—were got out of the way, perishing by the Terror which they had brought about, and by their death paving the way for the fall of Robespierre and the extinction of the Terror by its base instrument, the guillotine.



CARICATURE OF ROBESPIERRE.

*Published at the time of his execution.*

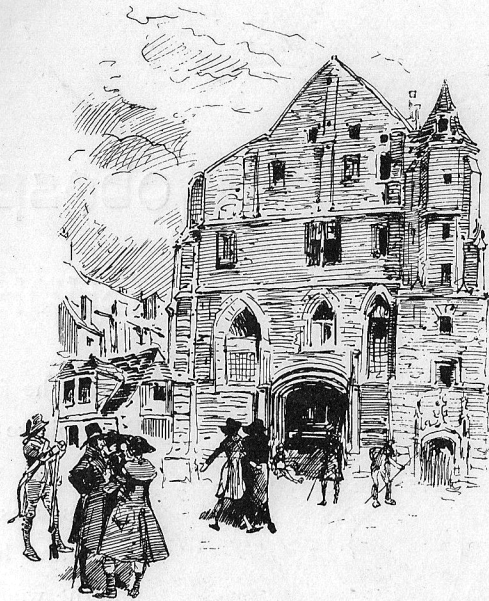


## Robespierre Supreme.

AFTER the fall of Danton, Robespierre reigned supreme for three months. His success turned his head, and he fancied that now he was really to succeed in enforcing his ideals. He fancied himself stronger than he was,

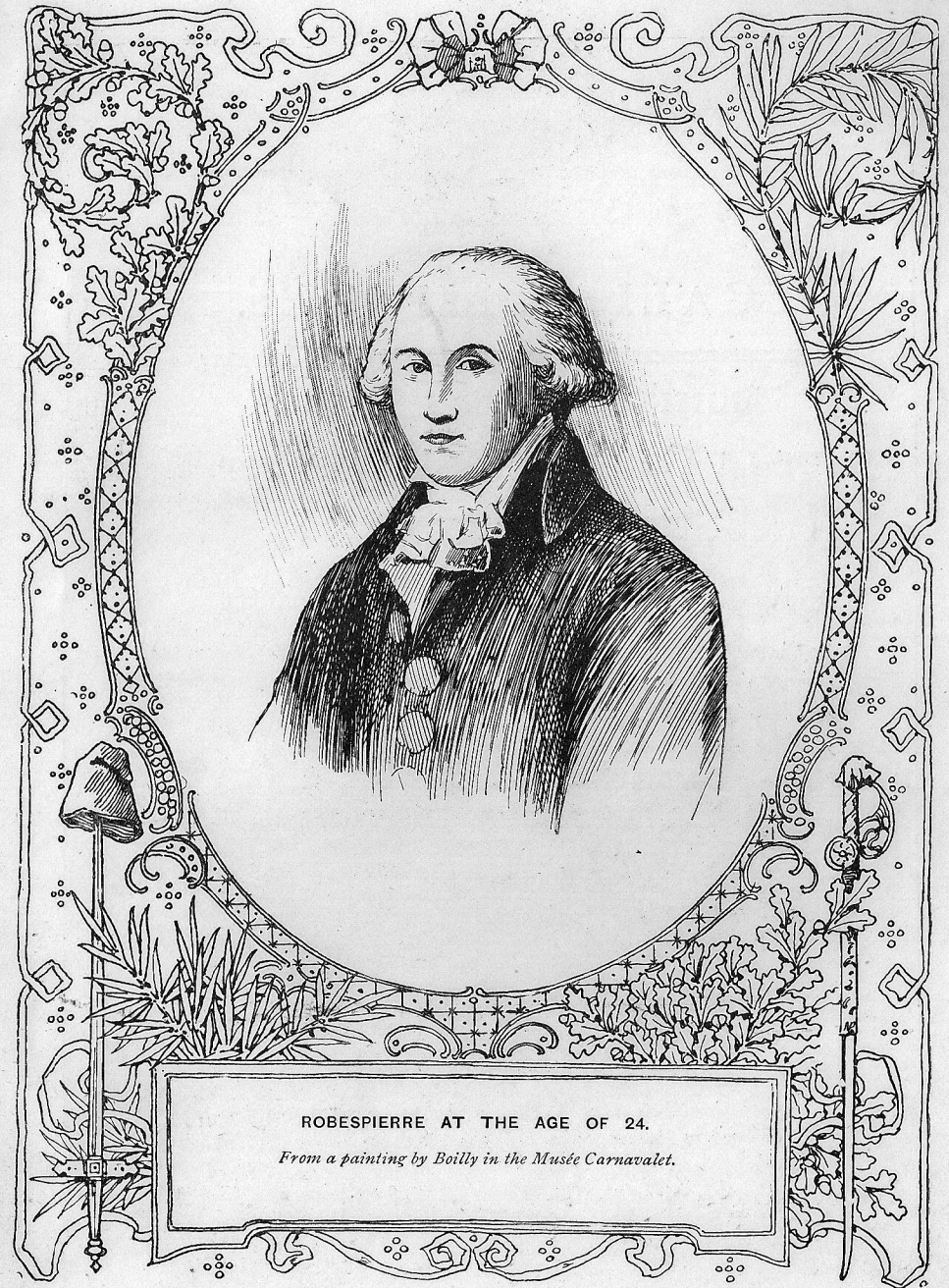
and set himself in opposition to his colleagues on the Convention, who found that instead of being satisfied to be the orator of the party and the respectable figure head behind whom the stronger men could work, he was actually aspiring to the supreme power himself, and presuming to dictate to men who, though they had not his facility of words, were men who dealt with the real rather than with the ideal, and looked to facts and not fancies. For three months the man of words and theories held his own, but then, as was inevitable, the men of deeds mastered him, and he went to the guillotine to which he himself had sent so many. But for the time being he was all-powerful. Relying on the Jacobin Club he filled all the Government posts with his followers, had two of his supporters nominated Mayor and Procureur of the Paris Commune, usurped the control over the





ONE OF THE MEETING PLACES OF THE JACOBIN CLUB.

armies by sending St. Just to the front on a special mission, and made himself the leading member of the Convention. Danton had fallen owing to his desire to moderate the Terror, but Robespierre determined to yield to no such weakness, and the man who had shrunk from blood at Arras became the most cruel of the Revolutionary tyrants. His worst act was the introduction on June 10, by means of his henchman Couthon, of a law which enacted that neither counsel nor witnesses need be heard before the Revolutionary Tribunal if the jury had otherwise come to their conclusion. This took away even the poor semblance of justice which the Tribunal then possessed, and made it simply a court for registering condemnations. The result was that in these last and worst days of the Terror some thirty people a day were guillotined without form of trial, so that even Paris began to sicken at the sight of blood. But Robespierre was not satisfied



ROBESPIERRE AT THE AGE OF 24.

*From a painting by Boilly in the Musée Carnavalet.*





ÉGALITÉ, LIBERTÉ.

COMITÉ DE SALUT PUBLIC  
DE LA CONVENTION NATIONALE.

Au nom de la République.

A tous les Corps administratifs & Officiers civils & militaires.

Laissez passer librement le Citoyen *Audre Loustaud 20, Courcel*  
*Charge de deux Députés pour les représentations près l'armée.*

*Indulgent et prompt à l'usage de l'Assemblée Département*  
*de Seine et Marne âgé de 33 Ans taille de 5 pieds 6 pouces*  
*cheveux et sourcils Grands front large nez grand yeux*  
*Grande bouche large, menton rond, visage*  
*allant de Paris à l'armée en Rhén*  
*à Strasbourg*

Le présent Passe-port valable pour *le temps de la Course*  
seulement

Fait au Comité de Salut Public, le *12* *Union* 1793, l'an second  
de la République Française. *Nous esquissons*

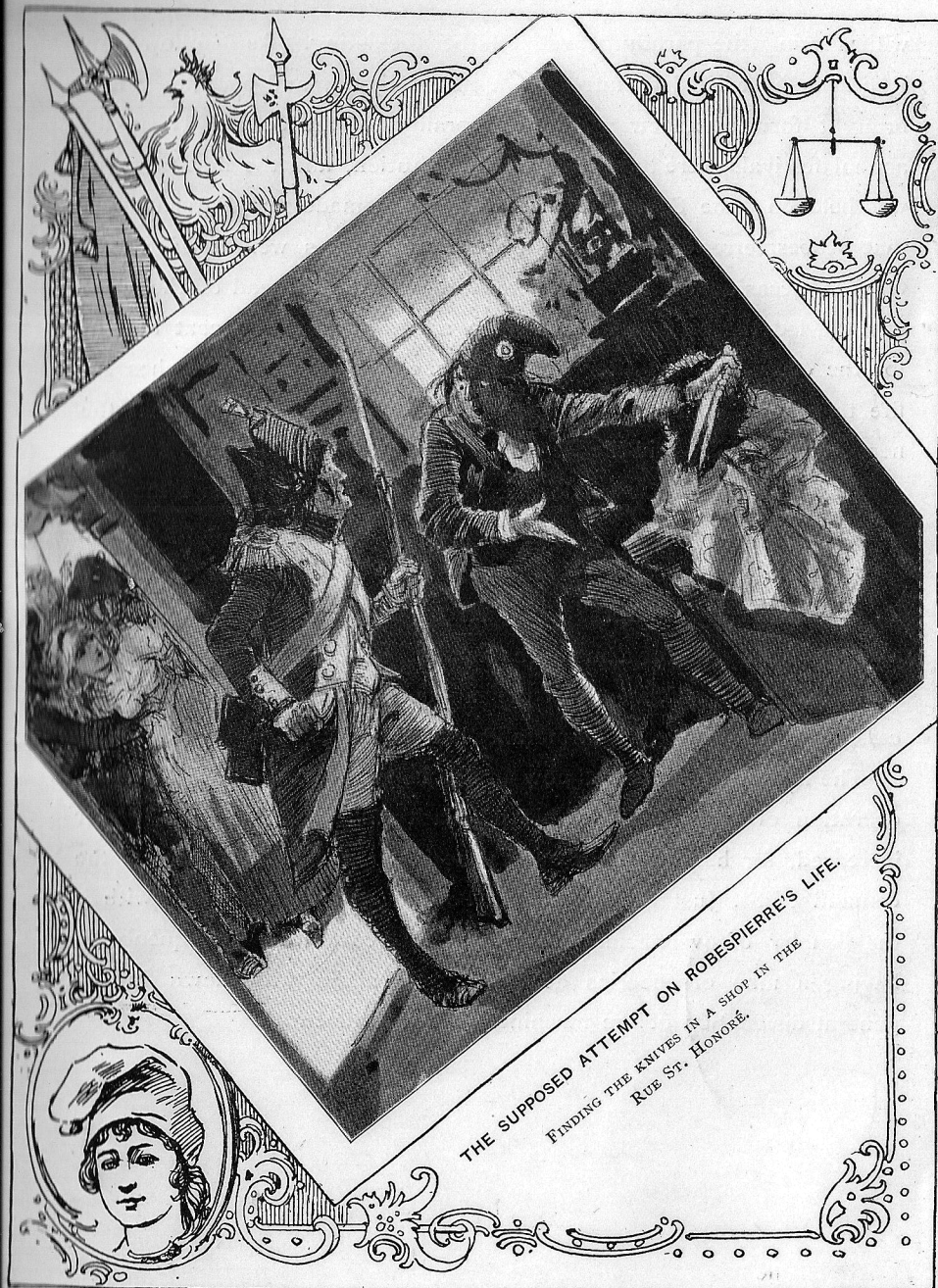
*Billard Varanne* *Carnot* *Hérault* *Robespierre*

with altering the parody of justice hitherto existing. As a follower of Rousseau he wished to introduce a new religion, and on May 7 had brought forward a new system of morality for the State. Thirty-six annual festivals were to celebrate the institution, and the first of them was held on June 8, in circumstances which made the Parisians see that Robespierre could be an object of ridicule as well as of terror. On the occasion of the great fête Robespierre, as head of the Convention, led the procession dressed in a new bright blue coat bought for the ceremony, and after delivering one of his canting speeches set fire to pasteboard figures which represented the crimes of which the new morality was to rid the Republic.

The absurdity of the whole thing turned the laugh against the man who now seemed at the height of his power, and the news that a girl of weak intellect had been found near his house armed with a knife, presumably with the intention of imitating Charlotte Corday, and the declaration of a mad woman that Robespierre was the divine Saviour of the world, increased the laughter and ridicule that the procession in honour of the new morality had begun.

The lawyer of Arras was now at the height of his power, but by the operation of a natural law his popularity diminished as his power increased, for he now stood out as the inspirer of the Terror, and the demand of St. Just that he should be made Dictator brought with it the penalty of overweening ambition. Moreover the consequence of having a man of theories at the head of affairs was shown in the general dislocation of the machinery of Government.





## Robespierre's Fall.

By coming out into the open instead of acting as the mouthpiece of the Convention, Robespierre committed one of the most foolish acts of his life. At once he made himself the object of hatred and suspicion to all men, both inside and outside the Convention. He was now the too lofty

poppy whose head must be struck off, and as he had not, like Bonaparte, the adoration of the soldiers and the genius of command, his appearance on the guillotine was only a question of weeks. In those closing days of his life he lost his head, in the figurative sense, not so much from personal vanity and ambition, as because of those pet theories of his which now at last, he fancied, were to rule mankind. No sooner were Danton and Camille Desmoulins out of the way than the plotters turned against Robespierre. The majority of the Convention had always been his enemies, but had been glad to make use of his popularity and oratorical powers as long as he was content to keep more or less in the background. He himself had only a small, if devoted, following, for the Dantonist deputies were bitterly incensed against him, and the more sober men resented his



# TRIBUNE.

6.

Séance du Lundi 21 Juin 1790.



Bon pour une personne.

*J. Robespierre*  
Secrétaire.



## CARTE DE TRIBUNE

Délivrée pour la séance du 21 juin, à l'Assemblée nationale. Cette carte est revêtue de la signature de Robespierre, alors secrétaire de l'Assemblée.

dictatorship and the augmentation of the Terror which he had inspired. On all sides it was recognised that matters had come to a crisis, and Robespierre's followers entreated him to strike a blow against his enemies at once, and so make himself master of the situation. Robespierre recognised that this was the only course open to him, but he could not at once throw off the man of theories and become the man of action. His hesitation was his ruin. Towards the end of June he again began one of his mysterious absences from the Convention, and retired to his lodging with Duplay, the carpenter, in the Rue St. Honoré, where he communed with himself and pondered over the situation. Strange as it seems at such a time in Paris, he lived quietly and unmolested for more than a month, only going out late to walk with Eleanor Duplay, his host's daughter, and his great Danish hound in the Champs Elysées in the long summer evenings, or through the almost deserted fields in the environs of Paris.



ROBESPIERRE.

*From a portrait by an unknown artist in the Musée Carnavalet.*

N<sup>o</sup> 135.

Les circonstances me forcent à publier ce  
avant d'avoir pu lui donner l'étendue ordinaire.  
+ me hâter de  
j'ai voulu prendre acte de ce que j'ai fait  
nation et de la portée, de l'effort que j'ai fait  
pour parvenir ~~à la fin de la révolution~~  
~~complète, sans déviation, pour les complaisances~~  
impies pour tromper la pitié et la confiance  
~~de la nation la liberté~~ un peuple guerrier  
et opprimé, et pour consacrer la ruine de la  
liberté ~~et de la patrie~~ un patrie et l'humanité que  
dans tous les temps j'ai fait tout ce qui était en  
moi, pour les dévants les maux qui les menaçaient.

40 dans cette  
situation critique  
on les perdus et  
la République nous  
ont conduits, à  
plus de mille autres  
longues

J. M. de Robespierre  
1777

Bleu aines

FACSIMILE OF ROBESPIERRE'S SIGNATURE.  
From the Collection of M. Georges Cain.

During this period he decided on the course he meant to pursue, and prepared the great speech which was to sway the Convention to his way of thinking. But meanwhile his enemies were not idle. They, too, saw that it was now or never, and set to work to gain an overwhelming majority in the Convention against the Dictator. That Robespierre was still feared and was still a power in Paris is shown by the fact that even in his retirement he was not molested, but led a tranquil existence in the short calm that preceded the final storm. At last, on July 26, Robespierre suddenly re-appeared in the Convention and delivered the great speech over which he had for so long been brooding. He declared that he had been accused of crimes unjustly, and, like Danton before his fall, asserted that the Terror ought to be ended. Here he made a mistake, and he erred again when he demanded that certain unnamed deputies who had exceeded their powers should be punished. Every deputy felt that he himself might be one of the men aimed at. No member felt his head safe on his shoulders, and the result of Robespierre's speech was to turn the waverers against himself. But the Convention was so carried away by Robespierre's eloquence that at first it accepted his proposals, but then common sense prevailed, and Cambon and others of his enemies spoke against him so vehemently that the unstable Convention reversed its action and referred Robespierre's proposals to committee. On the following day St. Just, Robespierre's greatest adherent, rose to support his chief's proposals, but in the interval the remnant of the Girondins had been won over by Tallien and his friends to oppose the Dictator. St. Just was not allowed to speak, and it was evident that the Convention was determined to hound Robespierre down. The Dictator himself rose to speak, but was met with cries of "Down with the tyrant!" He turned to the Right and appealed to them, but they made no answer. He cried out to the President, "I demand to be heard;" but the uproar still continued, and he faltered and broke down in his speech.



Garnier shouted out, "The blood of Danton is choking you!" The excitement then became indescribable and truly French, but the Convention was all inclined one way. Only St. Just, Couthon, Lebas, and Robespierre's younger brother Augustin stood by their leader; and late in the afternoon Couchet, a deputy whose only claim to notoriety was this one act, proposed that the Dictator should be arrested. The mere suggestion was sufficient, and a few words from an insignificant deputy sufficed to bring the edifice of Robespierre's power crashing about his ears. At first the three leading deputies only were arrested, but Lebas and Augustin Robespierre demanded to be included in the same category as their chief, and they too were placed under arrest.



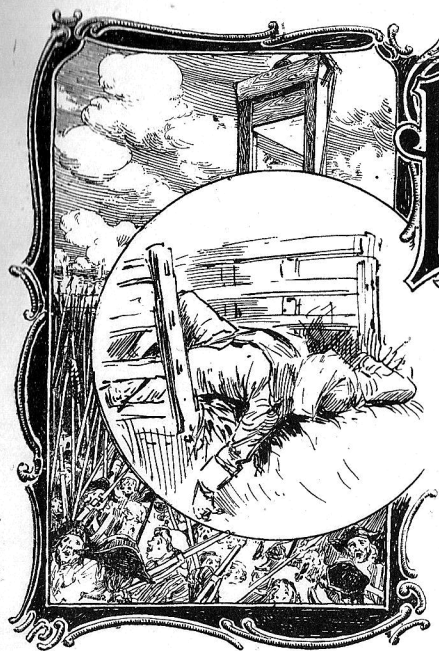
CAMILLE DESMOULINS

*Guillotined April 5, 1794.*



ROBESPIERRE.

*From a bronze medallion in the Cabinet des Médailles.*

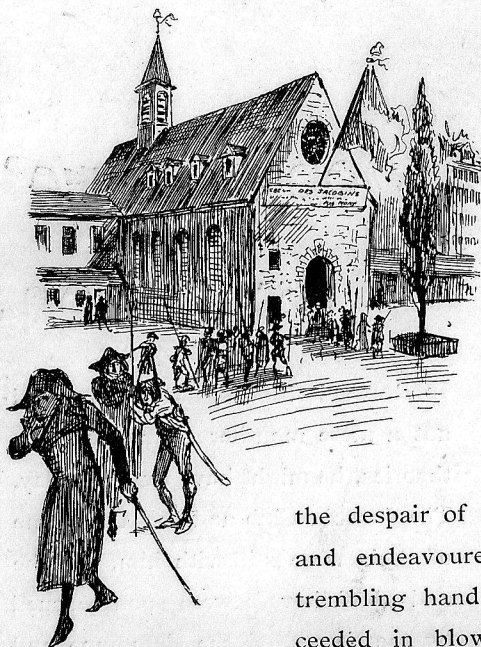


## Robespierre's Execution.

IF Robespierre had been a man and not a mere mouther of impracticable theories, he might have won the day. The Jacobin Club and the Commune of Paris were still with him, and he and his followers were soon rescued by the forces of the Commune and taken to the Hôtel de Ville. But the

strong men on the Convention meant to carry the thing through, and were no longer to be dictated to by the Commune. They met again at once and declared Robespierre and all who sided with him to be beyond the pale of the law, for they recognised that they had to conquer or die. They appointed Barras Commandant of their section of the National Guard, and sent messengers all over Paris to summon their adherents. Henriot got together all the forces which the Commune could command, but Robespierre was no longer a name to inspire the mob, and, odd as it sounds in such a carnival of lawlessness, the fact that the Convention had declared the Dictator to be outside the pale of the law rallied all waverers to the side of what semblance of legality there was. The troops in Paris refused to move, and the Parisians themselves looked on cynically at the fall of the man who had been their adored only a few months before. The





THE JACOBIN CLUB-HOUSE.

Afterwards a young National Guard named Méda laid claim to the credit of having shot the tyrant, but there is little doubt that he was attempting to glorify himself by false pretences, and that Robespierre really shot himself in a frenzy of despair. The liberated deputies and many members of the Commune were at once arrested, and Robespierre, with his face horribly shattered, was, with his supporters, hurried off to prison, fighting like a wild animal with his captors. Carlyle thus describes the scene of the arrest: "St. Just, they say, called on Lebas to kill him; who would not. Couthon crept under a table, attempting to kill himself; not doing it. On entering that Sanhedrim of Insurrection, we find all as good as extinct, undone, ready for seizure. Robespierre was sitting on a chair, with pistol-shot blown, not through his head, but his under-jaw; the suicidal hand had failed. With prompt zeal, not without trouble, we gather these wretched conspirators; fish up even Henriot and Augustin,

spell was broken and not a finger was raised to help the miserable Dictator who could no longer dictate. Barras and the National Guards marched with but little opposition to the Hôtel de Ville to arrest Robespierre and the deputies, and at once penetrated into the Chamber. Robespierre, seeing that all was lost, with

the despair of cowardice snatched up a pistol and endeavoured to commit suicide, but his trembling hand failed him, and he only succeeded in blowing his lower jaw to pieces.



GENDARME OF THE REVOLUTIONARY PERIOD

# CLOTURE DE LA SALLE DES JACOBINS

*Mcguffin' n° 28*

FORCE ARMÉE DE PARIS.

Du 6. août 1793, l'an 2.<sup>e</sup> de la République française.

ÉTAT-MAJOR-GÉNÉRAL.

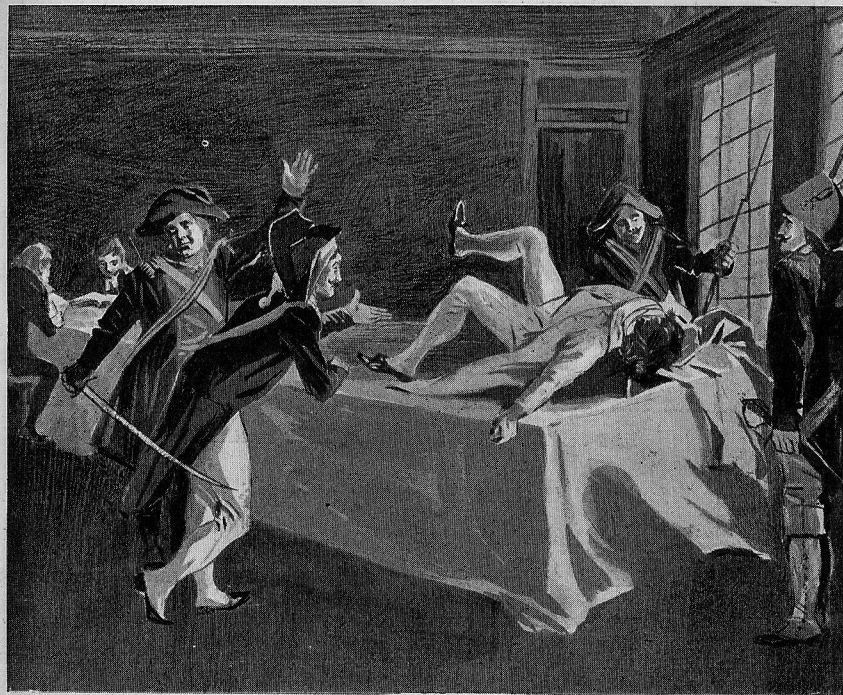
*Le Citoyen patrie Voudra bien, au reçu de la présente,  
donner ses ordres pour l'impresion la plus prompte de  
quatre mille feuilles de rapport des propriétés, qu'il aura  
de suite à l'état-major g. g.*

*Le Comd g. g. Bannier*

FAC-SIMILÉ D'UN AUTOGRAPHE D'HENRIOT

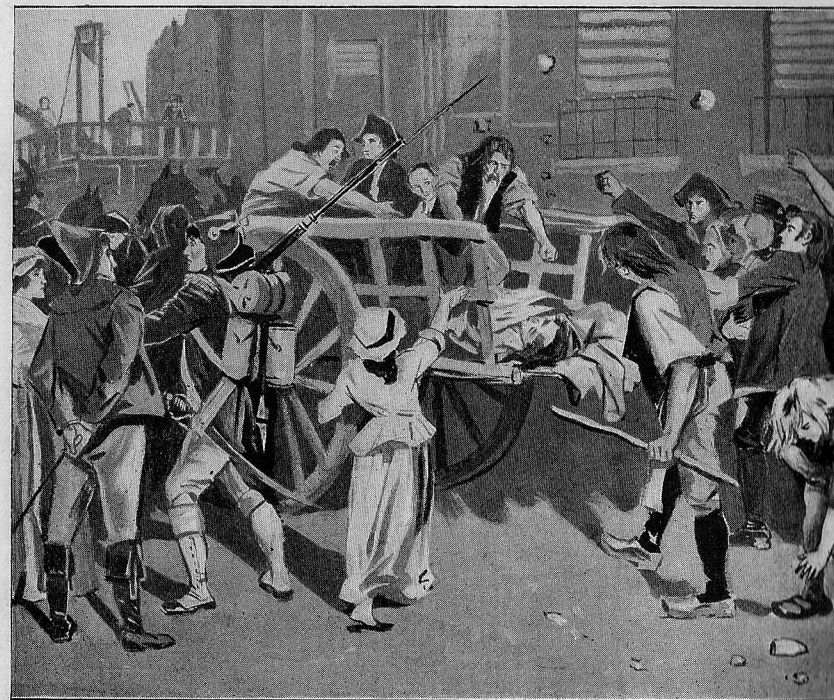
bleeding and foul; pack them all rudely enough into carts, and shall, before sunrise, have them safe under lock and key. Amid shoutings and embracings. Robespierre lay in an ante-room of the Convention Hall, while his prison escort was getting ready; the mangled jaw bound up rudely with bloody linen—a spectacle to men. He lies stretched on a table, a deal box his pillow; the sheath of the pistol is still clenched convulsively in his hand. Men bully him, insult him; his eyes still indicate intelligence; he speaks no word. 'He had on the sky-blue coat he had got made for the Feast of the Etre Suprême'—O Reader, can thy hard heart hold out against that? His trousers were nankeen, the stockings had fallen down over the ankles. He spake no word more in this world." He passed a night of agony, and the next day, July 28, was taken before the Tribunal, where he was recognised as the outlaw Robespierre; and, having been tried by his own process, which empowered the Tribunal to dispense with counsel and





# ROBESPIERRE AFTER HIS ARREST.

*Robespierre was taken wounded to the Antechamber of the Committee of Public Safety, and there laid on the table by the Guards.*



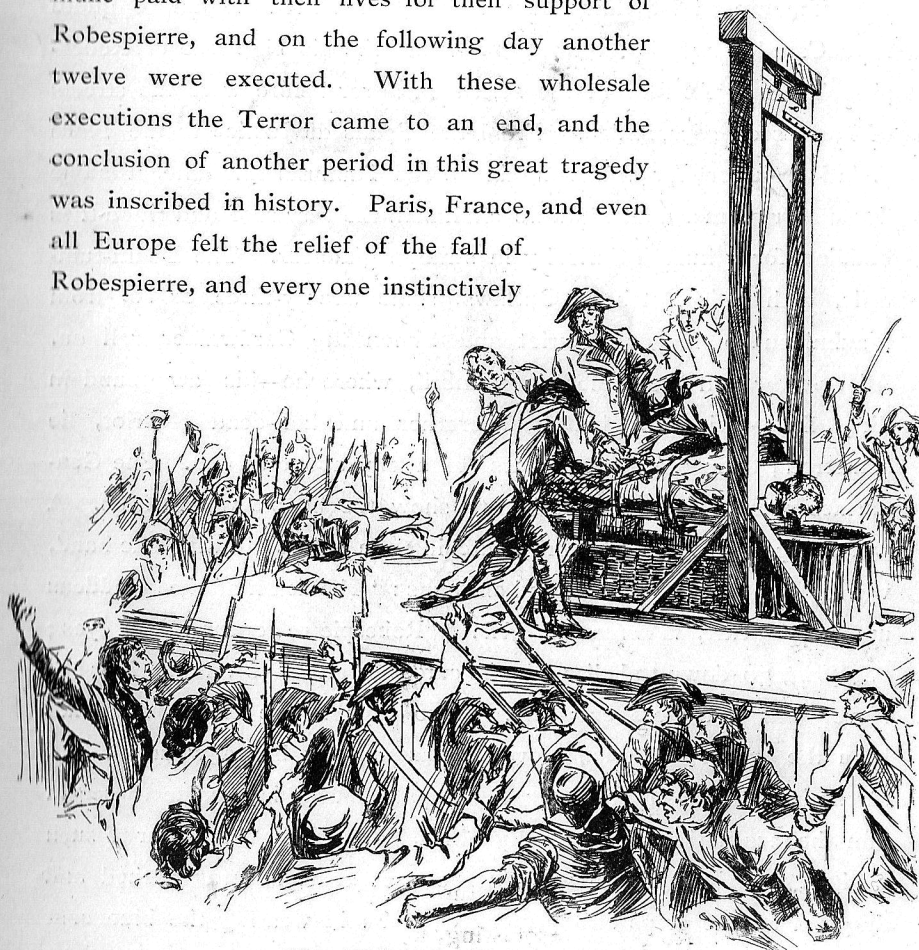
# ROBESPIERRE

*On his way to execution, jeered at and hooted by the mob.*

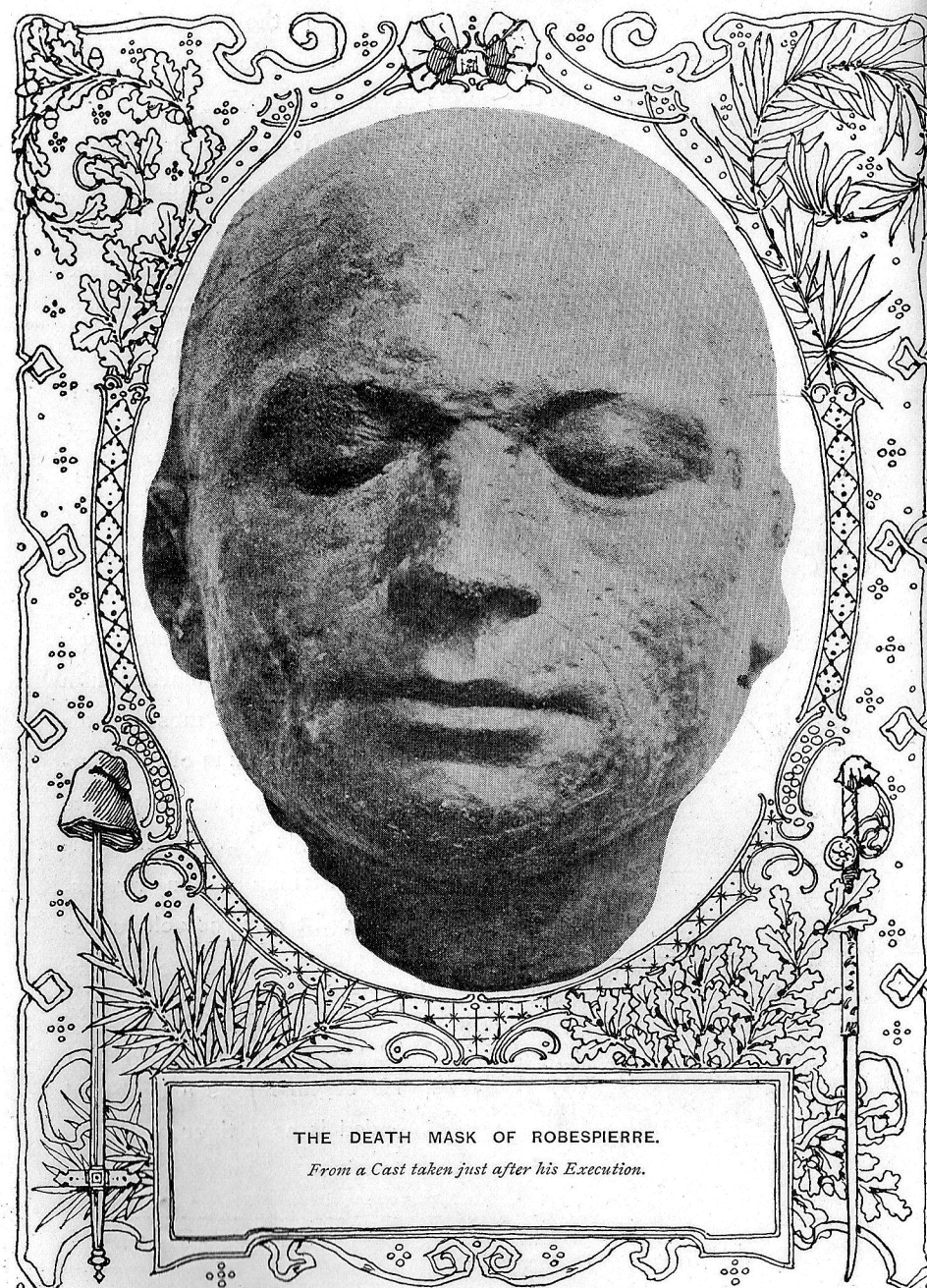
witnesses for the prisoners if the jury had already made up their minds, was hurried off to the Place de la Révolution, and guillotined with Couthon and St. Just and nineteen others. On his way to the scaffold he renewed his struggles and was tied down in the cart. His shattered jaw had to be tied up in a rag, as it had become unbound in his efforts to break away; and as he passed along the mob howled and jeered at him, and even his fellow prisoners in transit with him are said to have struck and kicked him. Again to quote from Carlyle's wonderful word picture of the closing scene of Robespierre's life: "At four in the afternoon never before were the streets of Paris seen so crowded. From the Palais de Justice to the Place de la Révolution, for *thither* again go the Tumbrils this time, it is one dense stirring mass, all windows crammed, the very roof and ridge-tiles budding forth human Curiosity in strange gladness. The Death-tumbrils, with their Batch of Outlaws, some twenty-three or so, from Maximilien to Mayor Fleuriot and Simon the Cordwainer, roll on. All eyes are on Robespierre's Tumbril, where he—his jaw bound in dirty linen—with his half-dead brother and half-dead Henriot, lie shattered; their 'seventeen hours' of agony about to end. The Gendarmes point their swords at him to show the people which is he. A woman springs on the Tumbril, clutching the side of it with one hand, waving the other Sibyl-like, and exclaims: 'The death of thee gladdens my very heart, *m'enivre de joie.*' Robespierre opened his eyes; '*Scélérat*, go down to hell, with the curses of all wives and mothers!'" Never was fall more complete. Two days before Robespierre had been the tyrant of Paris; now he was nothing but a wounded and screaming wretch, loathed by the populace who had come to see in him the incarnation of the cruelty which had brought the Terror to such a pitch. Arrived at the scaffold the wretched man was pushed and dragged up the steps still protesting, and still wearing the blue coat which was his badge all through his career. Sanson, who was the



executioner, tore his coat off him, and also the bandage which held his jaw together. An inarticulate cry of rage burst from the wounded wretch—his last cry on earth, for he was quickly bound to the plank. He was forced under the knife, and in another moment the guillotine had put an end to one of the worst of the many loathsome personalities in that great upheaval of crime and rascality known as the French Revolution. On July 29 seventy members of the Paris Commune paid with their lives for their support of Robespierre, and on the following day another twelve were executed. With these wholesale executions the Terror came to an end, and the conclusion of another period in this great tragedy was inscribed in history. Paris, France, and even all Europe felt the relief of the fall of Robespierre, and every one instinctively

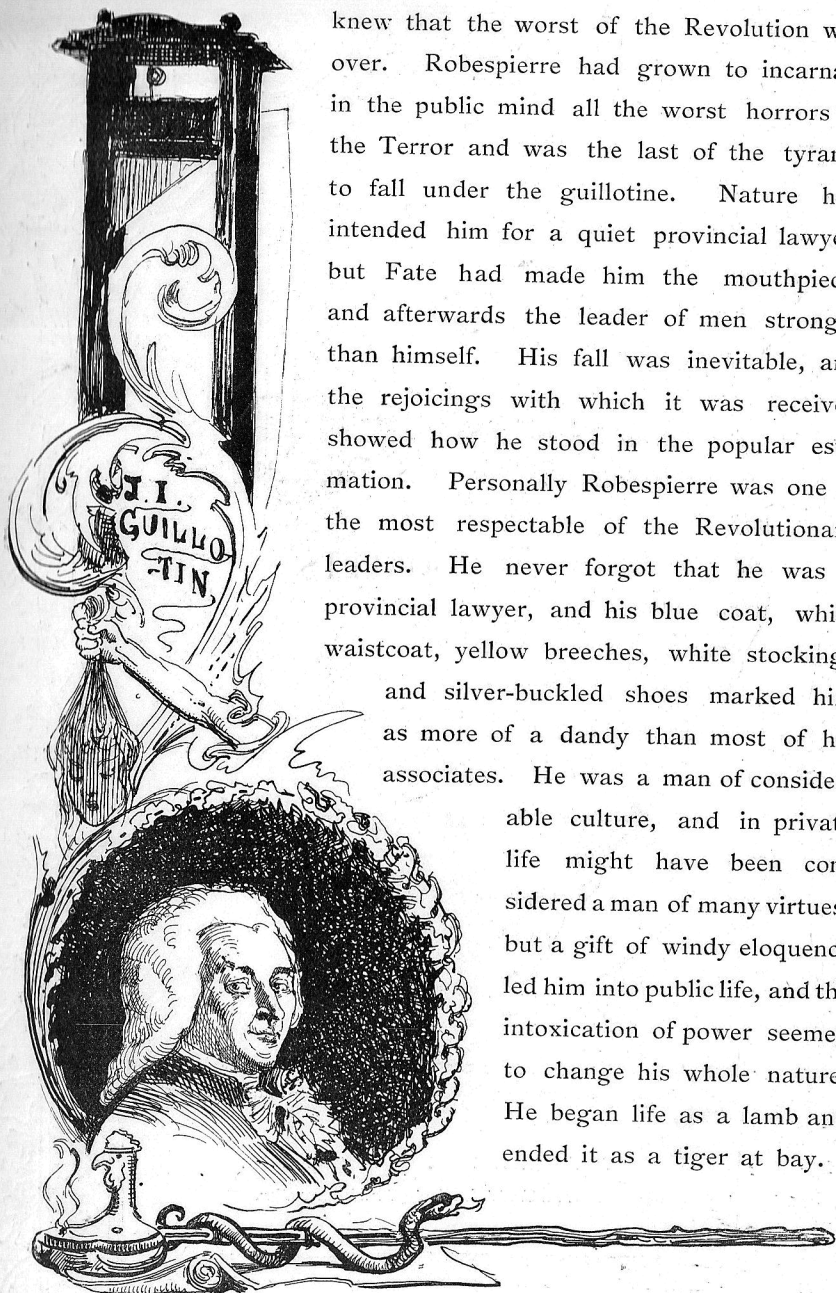


THE EXECUTION OF ROBESPIERRE.



THE DEATH MASK OF ROBESPIERRE.

*From a Cast taken just after his Execution.*



knew that the worst of the Revolution was over. Robespierre had grown to incarnate in the public mind all the worst horrors of the Terror and was the last of the tyrants to fall under the guillotine. Nature had intended him for a quiet provincial lawyer, but Fate had made him the mouthpiece, and afterwards the leader of men stronger than himself. His fall was inevitable, and the rejoicings with which it was received showed how he stood in the popular estimation. Personally Robespierre was one of the most respectable of the Revolutionary leaders. He never forgot that he was a provincial lawyer, and his blue coat, white waistcoat, yellow breeches, white stockings and silver-buckled shoes marked him as more of a dandy than most of his associates. He was a man of considerable culture, and in private life might have been considered a man of many virtues, but a gift of windy eloquence led him into public life, and the intoxication of power seemed to change his whole nature. He began life as a lamb and ended it as a tiger at bay.

The Illustrations in this  
Book are produced by the  
Studio of Design, Effingham  
House, Arundel Street,  
Strand, W.C.

---

The Studio of Design undertake the  
Illustration and Production of

**ARTISTIC BOOKLETS,**

**SOUVENIRS,**

and the Designing of

**POSTERS, ALMANACS,**

**INVITATIONS, CIRCULARS, &c.**

---

THE EFFINGHAM PUBLISHING CO.,  
EFFINGHAM HOUSE, ARUNDEL STREET,  
STRAND, W.C.

63



