

MEMOIRS
OF
AN EX-MINISTER.

AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY.

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MEMOIRS OF AN EX-MINISTER.

D I A R Y.

1852.

Mr. Disraeli to Lord M.

Hughenden: Jan. 2, 1852.

My dear Lord,—I have arrived at the same conclusion with respect to Lord John's *coup d'état*, and am gratified that my view is sanctioned by one of your acumen and knowledge of circumstances and persons. The fact is, the Government have entirely changed their foreign policy; under ordinary circumstances, instead of making a victim of the Secretary of State, they should have resigned. I assume, therefore, from Lord John's conduct, that, after our self-confessed incapacity of last February, he and the Court no longer recognise us as a practical power in the State.

I return you Lonsdale's letter. When he objects to the prominence given by my motions in the House of Commons to the subject of local taxation, he forgets those motions last year gave us the government of the country. Whether abstract Protection will be as successful is a problem not yet solved.

Yours very truly,

D.

January 3rd.—Louis Napoleon has been elected President for ten years by 7,600,000 votes. Ceremony at Notre Dame on January 1 seems to have been splendid. He was received with immense enthusiasm, and a great many cries of “Vive l’Empereur!” He has restored the eagle on the standard and the Legion of Honour. Receptions to be at the Tuileries. It is said that the Queen received Lady Palmerston very coldly some time ago, before Lord Palmerston’s dismissal, when she went to present the Portuguese Minister’s wife and other ladies. The Queen asked them all to stay, but did not invite her, so she had to return alone to London. Lord Palmerston’s speech about Kossuth has done him great harm at Court and everywhere.

January 4th.—Our Ambassador at Paris, Lord Normanby, insinuated to M. Turgot, French Foreign Minister, that our Government did not approve of the *coup d’état*. Turgot replied, he could hardly believe that, as Count Walewski,* the French Ambassador in London, had written to say that Lord Palmerston told him he cordially approved of it. Lord Normanby then wrote, it is supposed, to Lord John Russell, informing him of this; and this I believe is the real cause, or

* I first knew Count Walewski during the Polish Rebellion of 1831, when he came to London, sent by the Revolutionary Committee, to negotiate with our Government for assistance. He was then only twenty-one, and a very handsome and pleasing young man, being a softened likeness of his father, the Emperor Napoleon. He was very well received in society, and elected at our fashionable clubs. He soon afterwards married Lord Sandwich’s daughter, who died. His second wife was a Florentine, a beautiful woman, who did the honours of their embassy to perfection. He died quite suddenly, and comparatively young, at an hotel at Strasburg in 1869.

rather pretence, for Lord Palmerston's dismissal. Count de Flahault gave me the official return of the killed and wounded in Paris on December 4, from which it appears that, beside the soldiers, 215 persons were killed; of these, 137 fell at the barricades, and 88 have since died of their wounds; 115 were wounded as well. Some were hidden from fear of prosecution. Only ten *curieux* were killed.

Lord Derby to Lord M.

Knowsley: Jan. 7, 1852.

Dear Malmesbury,—I only write a line (for I have had much to write, and my wrist is not so long-enduring as it used to be), to thank you for your letter of the 5th, and the current reports of the day. I have had accounts from many quarters of the cause and mode of Palmerston's "resignation," and they all agree so nearly, with some variation in the minor details, that it is not difficult to make out a complete history of the transaction, nor, consequently, to estimate the frame of mind in which it has left the ex-Foreign Secretary. I think Wodehouse's appointment not unlikely, and, as far as it goes, not an unfit one; but it would give them no strength in the Commons, where they want it. I do not think they will apply to Graham, nor that he will join them if they do. On the whole, their prospects are gloomy enough; but whether any Government can be formed, and stand, out of the heterogeneous materials to be dealt with, is a very different question. The same post which brought me your letter brought me one also from Disraeli; but so far from being "mopy," I never knew him write or speak in a more sanguine tone. I expect to find him quite up to the mark when I go up to town, which I propose to do on the 29th, leaving this place on the 27th, and taking Burghley and Hatfield on my way. I have probably got your letter about Louis Napoleon, and if so, can put my hand on it at once