

founded, and that you recovered so soon. I am not going to preach against your acting so naturally:—but as you have some complaint on your breast, I must hope you will remember this accident, and be upon your guard against both sudden and rapid exertions, when you have not a tantamount call. I conclude the excessive heat we have had for twelve complete days contributed to overpower you.

It is much cooler today, yet still delicious; for be it known to you that I have enjoyed weather worthy of Africa, and yet without swallowing mouthfuls of mosquitoes, nor expecting to hear hyenas howl in the village, nor to find scorpions in my bed. Indeed, all the way I came home, I could but gaze at the felicity of my countrymen. The road was one string of stage-coaches loaded within and without with noisy jolly folks, and chaises and gigs that had been pleasuring in clouds of dust; every door and every window of every house was open, lights in every shop, every door with women sitting in the street, every inn crowded with jaded horses, and every ale-house full of drunken toppers; for you know the English always announce their sense of heat or cold by drinking.—Well! it was impossible not to enjoy such a scene of happiness and affluence in every village, and amongst the lowest of the people—and who are told by villainous scribblers that they are oppressed and miserable.—New streets, new towns are rising every day and everywhere; the earth is covered with gardens and crops of grain.

How bitter to turn from this Elysium to the Temple at Paris! The fiends there have now torn her son³ from the Queen! Can one believe that they are human beings, who 'midst all their confusions sit coolly meditating new tortures, new anguish for that poor, helpless, miserable woman, after four years of unexampled sufferings?⁴ Oh! if such crimes are not made a dreadful lesson, this world might become a theatre of cannibals!

I hope the checks in Bretagne are legends coined by miscreants at

3. Louis-Charles (27 March 1785–8 June 1795), Dauphin 1789–93; titular K. of France 1793–5 as Louis XVII (OSSORY iii. 80–1, n. 5; 185, n. 1). 'The National Convention having passed a decree, which directed that the Dauphin should be taken away from the Queen Mother, the Commissioners of the Guard about the Temple have reported, "that this order has been carried into execution, and that they have transferred the son

of Marie-Antoinette to the lodging assigned him." When the Queen heard of the decree, she cried bitterly. The Dauphin was removed from the Temple on the 4th [actually the 3d], and is placed under the guard of Citizen [Antoine] Simon' (*Times* 16 July, *sub* Paris 8 July; *London Chronicle* 13–16, 16–18 July, lxxiv. 56, 62).

4. She was guillotined 16 Oct. (OSSORY iii. 190, nn. 1–2).