Thursday, - . November 21, 1872.

A DASHING EXPLOIT.

When the revolution of 1830 set in, Alexandre Dumas, then a very young man, and seeing nothing in life but one series of tableaux, took his share in the most stirring scenes in the capacity of a skirmisher. He tells the whole stery in his memoirs, and his account seems an anticipation of the best portions of Rabagas. But his narrative of his expedition to Solssons to sieze some pow-der will be found one of the most stir-

ring bits of adventure in modern times. He had heard Lafayette say that if the king were to advance on Paris there would be no powder to meet him. Alexandre conceived a bold scheme and proposed to the General to set off for Soissons—a town he well knew—and seize on the magazine there. Lafayette laughed at the idea, but consented to give him a pass to General Gerard, to which Dumas coolly added, "and we recommend his scheme to you." From Gerard he, with some difficulty, obtained a requisition addressed to the authorties of the town for the powder. In this he ingeniously interpo'ated the words "minister of war"—a rank which no one but himself had conferred on the General. With this official document he returned to Lafayette, and persuaded the old patriot to write him a sort of letter of introduction to the citizens of Soissons, recommending them "Alexdre Dumas, one of our combatants," as a fit and proper person to whom they should hand over the powder. Then our here-for such he was on this occasion-prepared himself for as sp'rited and dramatic an adventure as can be

found in the books of romance. It was about 3 o'clock in the afternoon of the 30th of July, 1830. As he was hurrying away, he met a young painter by the name of Bard, who was only nineteen. He asked him to join. The other agreed with alacrity, and Alexandre sending him back for his double barre ed pistols and his horse, set off himself in a cabriolet for Le Bourget, then the first post on the road to Soissons, and which has since obtained such a disastrous notoriety. Arrived such a disastrous notoriety. Arrived there, he exhibited his Lafayette and Gerard letters to the Postmaster, and demanded a chaise and horses for his mission. The Postmaster was friendly and even empresse, and supplied him at once with what he asked. He went out to buy some pieces of cali-co-red, white and blue-which were sewn into a tricolor flag fixed to a broomstick, which latter was tied on to the chaise. With this ensign they started, in hopes of getting to Soissons about midnight. • The Postmaster shock his head, but, as he sagaciously remarked, "so many miracles had been performed during the last three days that it might be possible." As they hurried through the various villages, the flag caused the greatest excitement. His fellow traveler, delighted, declared that all was going on splendidly, "but they ought to have some sort of cry."
"Shout away, then," said Dumas,

'and while you are shouting I'll take some sleep."

The only difficulty was what was to be the cry, and with some hesitation the now well-worn and tattered Vive la Republique was decided on. According-

Republique was decided on. Accordingly, the young painter, his head out of the window and his flag waving, roared on. On the high road they met a chaise going to Paris, and a traveler of some fifty years old asked for news.

"The Louvre is taken; the Bourbons fled; Provisional Government established Vive la Republique!" the excited painter roared out. The gentleman fifty years old scratched his ear and continyears old scratched his ear and continyears old scratched his ear and contin-ued his journey. For the next stage they had an old postilion, who persisted in going at a steady trot, and at every remonstrance answered doggedly, "Leave it all to me; a man knows his own business best." Dumas at last, from the chaise window, laid on the backs of the horses with a stick ard made them gallop. In a rage the man pulled up, swore he would unyoke his beasts, and actually proceeded to do so. Dumas fired at him with blank cartridge and so scared him that he rolled on the ground in terror. Alexandre then put on the huge posting-boots, and, mounting, galloped on to the next post. They soon eached the old familiar Villers-Cotterets—the whole town, as may well be imagined, being thrown into intense Alexandre Dumas. Late as it was every house poured out its inhabitants, who rushed to the post-house. A thousand eager questions were put to him—what did it mean, this flag and the guns? He knew all the townspeople, and told the story of the past few day. It was insisted that he should stay a short time and have something to eat and he was car. test that he should stay a short time and have something to eat, and he was carried off to the house of an old friend, where a hasty supper was got ready. A number of old companions, who had been boys when he was in the little town, gathered round, listening eagerly as their old friend declaimed and recounted between every mouthful. As he dashed in for them, which he could do admirably, vito a ketches of these thrilling seene, the rustics is tested with declaimed and recounted between every mouthful. As he dashed in for them, which he could do admirably vito a ketches of these thrilling seene, the rustics is tested with declaimed and recounted between every mouthful. As he dashed in the object of his present excellation—when I announced that I neant to capture, single-handed, all the powder that was in a military town containing eight thousand inhabitants, and a garrison of eight hundred men"—they looked at him doubtfully, and thought he was crazed. This was, of course, welcome to Alexandre, who always deslighted to put himself in a theatrical attitude, and be the centre of a dramatic sensation. He turned to his companion Bard:

"Yen asked," was the reply, "was I inclined to get myself shot with you."

"And what do you say now."

"Yen asked," was the reply, "was I inclined to get him into Soissons, as he had a friend at the gates. Then Alexandre, always auticipating his D' Artagnon, raised his glass and drank to his own return to them on the next evening. "Have dinner ready," he called to the host, "for twenty people, and it is to be caten just the same, whether we are allyes or dead. Here are two hundred france." The other drawsers when the ready of the shot?"

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"It is bould be shot?" have something to eat, and he was carried off to the house of an old friend,

ed, he might pay on the morrow. "But if I should be shot?" "Then I shall pay." A shout arose, "Hurrah for Car-tier!" Dumas drank off his wine, and, we might add, the act-drop fell.

It was now about 11 o'clock. The horses were put to the chaise which was waiting, and the bold trio, Dumas, Bard and Huntin (who was to pass them through the gates) drove away on their daring expedition. By 1 o'clock they had reached the gates of Solssons, threy were allowed to pass, "the door-keeper little dreaming," says Alexandre the great, "that he was admitting the revolution."

To be continued.

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