

PART II.

BOOK III.

FROM THE ELECTION OF THE GRAND-MASTER ROHAN (1775) TO THE PRESENT TIME.

CHAPTER I.

ROHAN elected grand-master. Raising of the Maltese regiment. A general chapter held. Reforms made in the public schools, and in the administration of justice. The observatory built; and afterwards destroyed by lightning. The possessions belonging to the order of St. Anthony added to those of Malta. Creation of a new language called the Anglo-Bavarian. The restoration of several commanderies situated in Poland. - - Page 1

CHAP. II.

An earthquake in Calabria and Sicily; relief sent thither by the order. Reception of the Maltese galleys at Reggio and Messina. Generous conduct of the knights; they distribute provisions among the poor, and assist the surgeons in dressing the wounded. Dreadful scenes which presented themselves on every side. The general and captains of the galleys bestow alms on the distressed sufferers. - - - - - 12

CHAP. III.

Decrees of the assemblies in France against the order of Malta. Account of the manner in which that order managed its possessions, one third of which was paid to government during M. Necker's administration. Five hundred thousand French livres sent to Lewis XVI. on his flight to Varennes. Services

rendered to the French trade. A petition from the commercial companies at Marseilles and Lyons sent to the national assembly in favour of the order, which is destroyed, and all its members cruelly persecuted. A justification of this injustice published, and Henry IV. represented as a more tyrannical monster than Charles IX. Encomiums on the conduct of persons who were concerned for the interests of the order. The grand-master's manifesto. He preserves a perfect neutrality. - - - - - 22

CHAP. IV.

The grand-master's paternal reception of the knights, who retire to Malta. His noble reply to an officer of his household on the occasion. The grand-priory of Russia created by the emperor Paul; it is united to the Anglo-Bavarian language. The Russian courier stopped by the French, and his dispatches made public. The death of Rohan. Hompesch elected grand-master. A plan formed to name the Prince of Peace to the grand-mastership. The order sends an ambassador to St. Petersburg; his reception. Paul named protector of the order. The emperor and the whole imperial family invested with the grand-cross of Malta. The congress of Rastadt. The order persecuted by the directory. A proposal made to incorporate it with the Teutonic order. - - - - - 36

CHAP. V.

The French arm a fleet at Toulon. The emperor of Russia makes preparations for sending assistance to Malta. Critical situation of the finances in that island; its different resources. Emissaries sent by the directory to Malta; their intrigues. Appearance of the French fleet, under the command of Brueys. Generous conduct of the grand-master. The French admiral fails in his enterprise. Topographical and military description of Malta. Enumeration and distribution of the forces of the order. Nature of the war declared against Malta. Appearance of part of the French fleet. The order makes preparations for defending the island. Arrival of Bonaparte, who demands free entrance into the port for the whole squadron; the grand-master and council refuse his request. Bonaparte declares his hostile intentions in a letter from the French consul. - - - - - 54

CHAP. VI.

The French land in Malta. The general terror on the occasion. Disorder and confusion reign throughout the island. The troops disregard all discipline. The order makes a sally by land and by sea. Bonaparte's harangue to the

CONTENTS.

French knights who were taken prisoners. Several knights killed, wounded, and ignominiously treated. The grand-master in a critical situation. Tumults of the people. The Greeks make an attempt, which fails. Deputation sent to the grand-master. A tumultuous body of people assail the palace. The council assembled. Ransijat delivered. The capitulation. 77

CHAP. VII.

Provisional government established in Malta. Conduct of the French in that island. The knights are ordered to depart. A general press takes place for both soldiers and sailors. The grand-master leaves Malta; the salary allowed him by the French; his arrival at Trieste. Dispersion and fate of the knights. Paul I. elected to the grand-mastership. Creation of a grand Russian priory for the members of the Greek church. Insurrection of the Maltese; unjust conduct of the French towards them. Scarcity of money in the French coffers. The ornaments of a church in the Old City taken away, and put up to auction. This event occasions the first tumults. - 98

CHAP. VIII.

Malta entirely blocked up by land and by sea. A plan for seizing on the storehouses for corn at Girgenti, given to the French. Vain attempts to bring back the inhabitants of the country to their former sentiments. The French make an unsuccessful sally. The knights not allowed to land in the island. Admiral Nelson summons the place to surrender. Scarcity of wood. A second sally equally unsuccessful as the first. The inhabitants of the city put into requisition. Sale of all effects placed in the Mont de Piété. An insurrection intended to take place in the city discovered. Several priests unjustly imprisoned. Churches shut up, and the ringing of bells forbidden. The English take the Maltese under their immediate protection. Three Maltese sent to demand a parley apprehended. Situation of the city La Valetta, after the first six months of the blockade. Price of provisions. Mortality in the hospitals. - - - - - 121

CHAP. IX.

Enumeration of vessels which entered the port of Malta in the first year of the blockade. Provisions they contained. Number of soldiers and inhabitants who died from September 1798 to September, 1799. Price of provisions in September 1799. The garrison reduced to half-pay. The salaries of dif-

ferent members of the administration suspended. The French soldiers make kitchen gardens in different places. Capture of transports with their convoy. Stoppage of the soldiers' pay. The officers receive a mere trifle for their subsistence. General Vaubois has an interview with the Portuguese admiral. Departure and capture of the Guillaume Tell. The ration of bread diminished. Wine, brandy, and vinegar, likewise curtailed. The houses in La Valetta visited by order of government, and an enumeration taken of the inhabitants, who take the oath of allegiance to the new consular constitution. Price of provisions at that time. Table of deaths from September 1799 to September 1800. Departure and capture of two frigates. Capitulation and surrender of Malta. - - - - - 141

CHAP. X.

The principal motives which induced the French to undertake the expedition to Egypt, and the taking of Malta. Contradictions which appear in the proclamations of the directory and the declarations of the French generals. The directory destroyed by Bonaparte. Deplorable situation of the Maltese under any other government than their ancient one. The Christian powers interested in preserving the order. Means of re-establishing the navy. Impossibility of destroying the Barbary pirates. The knights alone capable of keeping up a continual war against them. Exhortation to the knights to return to their original character of simple hospitallers, in the different countries where they may happen to take up their abode. - - - 157

APPENDIX - - - - - 173

INTRODUCTION