



**Condorcet.**

THE POPULAR  
HISTORY OF ENGLAND:

An Illustrated History

OF SOCIETY AND GOVERNMENT FROM THE EARLIEST  
PERIOD TO OUR OWN TIMES.

BY CHARLES KNIGHT.

---

“The harvest gathered in the fields of the Past is to be brought home for the use of  
the Present.”—DR. ARNOLD, *Lectures on Modern History*.

---

VOLUME VII.

FROM THE CLOSE OF THE AMERICAN WAR, 1788, TO THE RESTORATION OF  
THE BOURBONS, AND THE PEACE OF PARIS, 1814.

LONDON:  
BRADBURY AND EVANS, 11, BOUVERIE STREET.

1861.

[*The Right of Translation is reserved by the Author.*]

only propagated error, and would re-construct a new system of ideas and principles, with his own "Rights of Man" as its foundation.\* In the week of the flight of Louis, Paine wrote in English a proclamation to the French nation, which, being translated, was affixed to all the walls of Paris. It was an invitation to the people to profit by existing circumstances, and establish a Republic. Dumont perhaps ascribes too much to the influence of such a production, when he says that the audacious hand of Paine sowed the seed which germinated in many heads.† Many persons of condition, Condorcet amongst the number, were of opinion that the moment when the king had forfeited the confidence of the nation was favourable to the establishment of a republic. A majority of the Assembly were resolved that the disloyalty which had been increased so fearfully by the king's attempt to leave Paris, if not France, should not interfere with the establishment of the Constitution.



Condorcet.

This had now, after a long process, been elaborated into a complete digest of all the principles which were held to be necessary for the happy existence of a form of government so just and so harmonious, that it would command the obedience and admiration of all who were to administer it and of all who were to live under it. Dumont has described this constitution as in truth a monster:—"It had too much of a republic for a monarchy, and too much of a monarchy for a republic. The king was a *hors d'œuvre*"—a somewhat superfluous dish, such as the anchovy served between the soup and the meat. The populace did not comprehend these refinements; and so, as we have mentioned, on the 17th of July, the mobs of St. Antoine filled the Champ de Mars, signing petitions for the deposition of the king; and the once popular mayor hoisted the red flag, and dispersed them by sword and bullet. Bailly, La Fayette, and a majority of the Assembly, began to fear the Jacobins more than they feared the royalists. They began to see that, by the popular outrages, and the restraints which had been imposed upon the king, he had been driven to despair. They wished to retrace their steps; to make the sovereign a real power in the state, instead of a puppet. They found that it was easier

\* Dumont—"Souvenirs," p. 231.

† *Ibid.*, p. 226.