At a Cabinet meeting, President Loubet hesitates over the signing of the pardon despite the Ministers' approval. He fears that the army will resent the Government's intervention in a military affair so soon after the verdict. Millerand offers his resignation, claiming that he has given Mathieu his word of honour. Galliffet and Waldeck-Rousseau follow his example. Mathieu is recalled from Rennes and in order to prevent a ministerial crisis absolves Millerand from his pledge.

**Sept 14**

Dr Pierre Delbert goes to Rennes to examine Dreyfus. He reports that if Dreyfus is not freed, his health will deteriorate further 'without hope of recovery'. The report is submitted to Loubet, who announces that the pardon will be signed at the next Cabinet meeting, scheduled for 19 September.

**Sept 19**

President Loubet signs the letter of pardon submitted to him by Galliffet. It reads:

...The highest function of Government is to ensure respect for the decisions of justice, without distinction and without reservation. In its resolve to fulfil this duty, it must also take into account the counsels of clemency and the public interest ... Information obtained reveals that the health of the prisoner has been seriously damaged and that he would be unable to endure a prolonged detention without the greatest danger to himself... Apart from these considerations of a nature to arouse concern, there are others of a more general nature which point to the same conclusion. A higher political interest and the need to recover all their powers have always directed governments after difficult crises, and with regard to certain sequence of events, measures of clemency or omission. The Government would respond poorly to the wishes of a country eager for the re-establishment of peace if, by the acts in its power to accomplish, whether on its own initiative or by a proposal to Parliament, it did not strive to efface all traces of a painful conflict.

Scheurer-Kestner dies of cancer after many months fighting the disease.

**Sept 20**

Léopold Viguié, head of the Sûreté, and a number of inspectors escort Dreyfus from Rennes to Nantes, where they meet Mathieu. Mathieu takes his brother to the family home in Carpentras, belonging to their brother-in-law Joseph Valabrègue.

**Sept 21**

Dreyfus meets his children, Pierre (now eight) and Jeanne (six), for the first time since his arrest in 1894.

Galliffet sends an order to the army:

*The incident is over. The military judges, surrounded by the respect of all, delivered their verdict in complete independence. Without any reservations, we bowed before their decision. And in the same way, we will also accept the act dictated to the President of the Republic by a sentiment of profound pity. There can no longer be any question of reprisals of any sort whatsoever. And so I repeat, the incident is over. I ask of you, and if it were necessary, I would...*