

from all parts. They are perfectly armed and equipped. It is also said the Germans have summoned Paris to surrender, but the Government refused, saying they would fight to the last. The provisions, it is now said, will hold out until February.

A despatch from Bordeaux says that another sortie of greater proportions than the last had been made at Paris, and had met with unexpected success; but the Government had received no official information. The city was intensely excited, and people were flocking in from all quarters to hear the news of the great sortie which they believed had taken place. It was reported that an aide-de camp of General Trochu had arrived in Bordeaux.

The reports of the situation at Tours are various. One despatch states that the city is no longer menaced by the Prussians, who are retreating towards Versailles and Paris, and that the French under Chausey had gained substantial advantages. The bridge over the river had been blown up by Gambetta's orders to secure the French army, which was on the west side of the Loire.

Advices from Constantinople state that General Ignatieff, being questioned as to the recent armaments, said they were insignificant, and for defensive purposes. Russia was prepared to give better guarantees for the safety of the Porte than those of the Paris treaty.

The London correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* says it is stated on good authority that all the powers, excepting France, have accepted the proposal for a conference. The date is not yet fixed, but London will be the place of assembly. It is not improbable that Earl Granville will be requested to act as the President.

The reports of the military operations along the River Loire are of a somewhat contradictory character, both sides, as usual, claiming the advantage; but it is clear that the French are by no means so badly beaten as represented by the telegrams received through Prussian channels. On the contrary, they are evidently offering a determined resistance in their slow retreat before the enemy. The defence has been desperate, but the French have not been routed as represented some days ago. The situation is considered so good by Gambetta that he has decided to go to Bourges to inspire life and activity into the second army, and improve its organization.

D'Aurelles' army fought well in the engagements near Beaugency, holding their ground bravely for four hours, and at last retreating in good order. One correspondent says that for three days Prince Frederick Charles was repulsed; but in the end he gained the advantage.

The Parisians still manifest every disposition to hold out to the last. When Bismarck's overtures some time ago were received, there was a slight disposition on the part of M. Pichard to endeavour to effect a

peaceful arrangement, but General Trochu eloquently pointed out the conscious weakness of the Prussians, and insisted that there were excellent prospects for France if Paris would resist the invader. His advice prevailed. It is said the bombardment of Paris has been fixed positively for December 19th.

Phalsbourg, a fortress in the Vosges, has surrendered.

A St. Petersburg despatch, dated the 15th says that addresses continue to be received, congratulating the Czar upon his position with regard to the Black Sea. Winter has commenced, and the rivers at Cronstadt are frozen, it is impossible for ships of war to leave harbour this year for the Black Sea. Subscriptions for the construction of a Black Sea fleet are numerous. Russia remains firm in her determination to regard the treaty of Paris abrogated.

COMPLIMENTARY SUPPER.—Ensign Harrison, No. 1 Company, 49th Batt., having arrived home from a trip to Manitoba, was entertained at an oyster supper, on Saturday night last, at Hambly's, by Col. Brown and the officers of the 49th Batt. resident in Belleville. The Colonel occupied the chair, and Major Howell the Vice-Chair. In addition to the guest of the evening there were about twenty friends, principally officers of the 15th Battalion, present as the guests of the entertainers. The toast of the Evening was received with every manifestation of respect to Mr. Harrison, who replied in a speech of some length, in which he gave a lucid and clear account of the overland route from Thunder Bay to Fort Garry, and his views and impressions of the North-West and its people, which were highly entertaining and instructive. A very pleasant party broke up about half past 11 o'clock.—*Intelligencer*.

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.—Mr. Lyon complained of the action of the Government in respect to the sufferers by the Ottawa fire. He said he has called on the Attorney General, who told him that to lend \$15,000 would be unconstitutional, but who finally decided to lend \$10,000 for ten years at six per cent. These terms the people of the burnt district would not accept. He praised the liberality of the Quebec Government, which, although it had just expended 15,000 on the sufferers by the fire in the Saguenay district, nevertheless granted \$5,000 to the Ottawa people, the great majority of whom resided in Upper Canada. He criticised the city of Toronto, whose example was followed by other western cities, and which although it promised \$10,000 and private contributions, never advanced a penny in either shape. He did not see why there should be a sum of three millions in the Treasury and the people be allowed to starve. If the Government did not bring down in the estimates a sum for the relief of the Ottawa sufferers, he himself would move a vote of censure if the Opposition would not do so. The Government he was sure would be turned out on that vote, and if they appealed to the country they would be beaten. He was sorry the Attorney General was sick and not in his place to hear the remarks which he (Lyon), who was always a supporter of the Government, had been forced to make. Mr. Murray hoped that the Ottawa sufferers would

receive some attention. He hoped the Municipality loan funds would be distributed at an early period, for many municipalities wanted the assistance of the fund.

AMERICAN ITEMS.

A despatch from Washington on the 12th says that it now seems doubtful that Gen. Schenck will be prepared to assume the duties of Minister to England, which position has been tendered to and accepted by him before the close of the present Congress. His appointment is spoken of among the senators and members with the utmost favour, and all unite in pronouncing it the strongest yet made by the present Administration.

A despatch from Buffalo of the 12th says, at the National Board of Trade the following resolutions were adopted.—“Resolved, that this Board would respectfully urge upon the attention of the Postmaster-General the desirability of securing a convention between the Governments of the United States and Great Britain wherein it shall be provided that after the expiration of the mail contracts then in force no further subsidies shall be paid by either during a certain specified time to any United States line plying between the two countries; and wherein also it shall be stipulated what proportion of the postage earned by the steam vessels of the two flags respectively shall be paid to them as compensation for carrying the mails so that the policy of both Governments henceforward on this subject shall be definite, uniform and friendly. Resolved, that the speediest and most economical method for establishing steamship lines in our trade with Europe, under the American flag, would be to so modify our navigation laws as to permit, temporarily, at least, the registration of vessels built abroad, and that Congress be and is hereby respectfully urged to pass a law early in the present session, giving to our citizens the liberty already enjoyed by the people of every other commercial nation on the globe.”

The subject of inland water communication was referred to the Executive Council to report at the next annual meeting of the Board.

The question of investing the President with power to suspend the bonding regulations was referred to the Committee on commerce in the House of Representatives at Washington.

This is what a California paper says of the Legislature of that State:—“This mud volcano of ours, which gets in operation biennially and pollutes the whole atmosphere by its foul exhalations, throws up more laws at one eruption for the unhappy half million of people who reside within the limits of California than the British Parliament, which has to regulate the concerns of an Empire that contains rising one hundred and eighty millions souls.”

PRINCESS LOUISE'S BRIDESMAIDS.—At the marriage of the Princess Louise to the Marquis of Lorne there will be eight bridesmaids. Of these seven have already been chosen, viz. Lady Constance Seymour, daughter of the Marquis of Hertford; Lady Elizabeth Campbell, daughter of the Duke of Argyll; Lady Florence Lennox, daughter of the Duke of Richmond; Lady Florence Leveson Gower, daughter of the Duke of Sutherland; Lady Mary Butler, daughter of the Marquis of Ormonde; Lady Alice Fitzgerald, daughter of the Marquis of Kildare; and Lady Florence Montague, daughter of the Earl of Sandwich.