

An *Intendant Général* writes :—

METZ, le 20 Juillet, 1870.

“ *Il n’y a à Metz ni sucre, ni café, ni riz, ni eau-de-vie, ni sel, peu de lard et de biscuit. Envoyez d’urgence au moins un million de rations sur Thionville.*”

The General commanding the 4th Corps at Thionville says :—

“ *Le 4me corps n’a encore ni cantines, ni ambulances, ni voitures d’équipage pour les corps et les états-majors.*”

“ *Tout est complètement dégarni.*”

There are many dispatches in the same strain. One leader alone was not troubled on this score. *Général Michel* writes :

“ *Suis arrivé à Belfort ; pas trouvé ma brigade ; pas trouvé général de division. Que dois-je faire ? Sais pas où sont mes régiments.*”

Such correspondence shows a state of fearful confusion as regards the supply of the army ; and in the fatal consequences that followed we can see the great importance of the subject.

Doubtless the Germans, so well informed on everything concerning the matter, were not ignorant of this state of French organization, or rather disorganization, and precipitated matters accordingly. History repeats itself ; what often happened before occurred in this case and will occur again—not to us let us hope ? Germany was ready ; France was not, and the latter was attacked and defeated in consequence.

So true still, though so little thought of here, is the saying of the wise old Roman—

“ *Si vis pacem, para bellum.*”

