

distance of objects rather under than over what it really is.

"Let us, finally, add a last detail, which has its value, viz., that when aiming with the elevating handle, there is no longer a question as to smoke, whether coming from one's own guns or from those of the enemy, hindering the operations or not.

"The following objection may here be made, however, viz., that aiming by means of the elevating screw can never be so accurate as aiming in the regular manner by the tangent scale. It may, however, be met by this answer, that the errors which result from this method of proceeding will always be notably less than those which the captain will make in judging the distance of the object to be fired at by the eye. The use of the handle of the elevating screw can alone be depended on for regulating distances."

The foregoing is the method employed in the Prussian Artillery at the commencement of 1873. There is nothing to show that any other method has subsequently been adopted. "At this moment, perhaps," says the *Invalides Russes*, from which we have taken the foregoing information, "it is a question whether some new method may not have been found, for in the Prussian Army the motto is '*nunquam dormio*.' Every one is constantly occupied in busily searching for new methods of fighting, with a view to the battles of the future."

The *Invalides Russes* has lately published a second article, the author of which points out that this method of adjusting the elevation by means of the elevating screw alone is known in Russia. In an article inserted into the *Russian Journal of Artillery* (No. 1, 1873), it is proposed to alter the elevating screw of the cannons de 4, and to make divisions on the head of the exterior screw, so that one can see exactly what fraction of a turn the screw has made. The author of the article has calculated the relations existing between the exact amount of elevation or depression given by the turn of the screw, and the consequent difference in elevation or range.

## TRIAL OF MARSHAL BAZAINE

From Broad Arrow 11th Oct.

The long-expected trial of Marshal Bazaine was commenced in the Trianon at Versailles on Monday last, the 6th instant. The number of witnesses summoned to give evidence for the prosecution is 272, of whom 129 are military witnesses, and 143 civil; amongst them nine women. The military witnesses are composed of two marshals—Gonrobert and Leboucq, 47 generals, 12 colonels, 11 lieutenant colonels, 20 majors, 23 captains, 3 lieutenants, and 5 sub-lieutenants, a number of soldiers, &c. The most conspicuous amongst the civil witnesses are General Leflo, French ambassador at St. Petersburg, and four members of the National Assembly, viz., M. Jules Favre, M. Combar, and M. Rameau. The witnesses for the defence are expected to number 70 or 75. The *Journal de Paris* states that no less than 663 places were demanded by representatives of the French and foreign press, and that the building would not permit of accommodation being given to more than 80. It was therefore settled to confide the duty of reporting the proceedings to official shorthand writers, who would every two hours communicate an abridged report to those representatives of the press whom it would be impossible to admit into the hall. The marshal, whose fate is at length to be decided, was removed from his prison

in the Avenue de Picardie at Versailles to the Trianon on the 26th or 27th ultimo.

The court was opened at a quarter past twelve on Monday under the presidency of General the Duc d'Aumale. The marshal having been brought into court, the order for his trial and the names of the officers sitting as judges, were read. The marshal wore his uniform and the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour. He was seated in an armchair, having his council by his side, among whom are Maitre Lachaud, and his son, and to assist them in military details Colonel Villette, of the Staff.

At the request of the president, the accused stated his Christian and surnames, his profession, rank, &c. The names of the witnesses were then called over, of whom very few were absent. The names of Jules Favre, Regnier, and Forest Guard Scalabrino created some sensation among the public. After this the sitting was suspended for a short time. On resuming the president ordered that a statement of Marshal Bazaine's services since the beginning of his military career should be read, as well as the different distinctions conferred upon him, and the number of wounds he had received.

The report of the committee of inquiry into the capitulation of Metz, pursuant to which the marshal was ordered to appear before a court martial, was then read, but was very indistinctly heard in consequence of being delivered with a weak voice. This document, which has not been published by the *Journal Officiel* with the other reports relating to the same affair, is rendered nearly useless by the lengthy report of General Riviere, which concludes against the marshal. The accused listened attentively without betraying any emotion.

After the reading of the *acte d'accusation*, the clerk of the court read the order to institute proceedings against the marshal dated the 5th of May, 1872, and signed by General Cissey, the Minister of War. This order states that there are good grounds for taking proceedings against Marshal Bazaine for the capitulation of the army and the surrender of Metz.

The reading of General Riviere's report commenced at 3 p. m. It recalls the plans of campaign proposed with the object of carrying on the war against Germany, gives a sketch of the battle of Forbach on the 6th of August, laying especial stress upon the responsibility assumed by Marshal Bazaine in not having gone to the assistance of General Frossard, who was attacked by superior forces. The report, in continuation, points out the responsibility of the marshal in the events which followed his appointment to the chief command of the army of the Rhine on the 12th of August, and partially explains the errors committed by the marshal, who sought to escape from the control of the Emperor, though the latter still remained with the army. It also alludes to the mistakes made by the marshal up to the 16th of August, and maintains that he was never desirous of leaving Metz.

The sitting was then brought to an end.

### SECOND DAY.

On Tuesday the Duc d'Aumale, the president of the court martial, entered the hall at twenty minutes past twelve, followed by the other members of the court. He directed that Marshal Bazaine should be brought into court, and the marshal was accordingly ushered in. Several witnesses who belong to the annexed provinces, being absent, diplomatic measures are being taken to facili-

tate their attendance. These and several matters of form having been disposed of, the clerk resumed the reading of General Riviere's report, which now entered upon one of the most important points of the indictment, already mentioned in the portion read yesterday—viz., that Marshal Bazaine stopped his advance after the battle of Rezonville, fought on the 16th of August, alleging as a reason that he was short of ammunition and provisions. This matter is minutely examined by the report, and General Riviere summarises his opinion upon it as follows:—"On the evening of the 16th of August, the marshal had provisions sufficient for the 17th and 18th and part of the 19th of August. Besides, there were the rest of the provision trains at hand, which could have joined him on the morning of the 17th, and there were provisions in readiness at Verdun and along the route. It would be strange that, under such circumstances, the commander in chief should believe such a scarcity to exist as to compel him to retreat, and in fact he did not believe it. He admitted this in his examination, and attributed to clerical errors the assertions of his despatch on the subject of the insufficient supply of provisions. "In my idea," he said, "it was not that the provisions ran short, but that they should have been distributed, in such a manner as to make each man carry two or three days rations in his haversack, and thus relieve us of our immense train." "That," continues General Riviere, "the question simply concerns the difficulty of distributing the provisions, but this difficulty was not insurmountable. By giving orders on the evening of the 16th instant, the convoy assembled at Ban-Saint Martin could easily have made the twelve kilometres between Metz and the plateau, and the distribution could have been made on the morning of the 17th."

The report proceeds to examine the marshal's conduct at the battle of St. Privat, on the 18th of August. It describes the position of his army on that day, and lays stress on the capital importance of defending the ground occupied by his right wing near the village of St. Privat, to the rear of which is situated the counter-fort of St. Quentin. This position commanded the sole outlet towards the plateau of St. Quentin, and its possession was essential to enable the marshal to resume his march northwards. These strategical considerations must have been evident to an officer of the marshal's experience; and if nothing in his arrangements manifested the resolution to defend a *outrance* the position occupied by his right, how can his conduct be explained except by the conclusion, at which he had already arrived, not to leave Metz?

The report shows how the enemy's attacks, which commenced at eleven a. m., continued throughout the day, and increased in violence on the marshal's right.

Three German army corps, numbering altogether 90,000 men with 280 guns, were massed against the 6th Corps, which consisted only of 26,000 men with 78 guns insufficiently served with ammunition and utterly destitute of mitrailleuses, although the ground was particularly favourable for the employment of that arm.

Marshal Gonrobert's resistance was heroic, and would have been effectual had the guard and the reserve artillery been sent to his aid in time. But in order to seize the favourable moment, the commander-in-chief, who alone had the power to dispose of the reserve, should have been in a position to know how matters stood. And how could this be the case, when Marshal Bazaine only