

Cuirassiers and Carabiniers, with their shining breastplates and tall crested helmets; Spahis; the fine new regiments of Guides (Hussars), with their pretty uniforms; Chasseurs, with their red caps, and smart tufted plumes; and troops of Artillery, mounted and drawing their heavy cannons and mortars after them at a pace which made the ground tremble as they passed. The numbers of the troops which occupied the field on this day have been variously estimated from sixty to eighty thousand: and we can scarcely believe the larger number to be an exaggeration; for not only was the large field (about 1600 yards long by 400 wide) more than a quarter covered when they were standing *in close order*; but judging from the *time* they were in getting on the ground, the estimate cannot be too large—for where we stood, (the principal entrance it is true,) cavalry; were passing in, *twelve abreast*, i. e. *four regiments together in triple column*.) for upwards of an hour, and the greater part of the time *at a gallop*. The same sort of thing, though in less degree, was going on at the same time at the other entrances. Of the whole body assembled, about two fifths were cavalry: the rest was composed of battalions of light infantry and infantry of the line, in blue frock-coats, wide red trowsers and white gaiters, showing a very forest of bayonets; Marines, Gendarmerie, distinguishable by their white trowsers and red fronts; Zouaves, Engineers, and the dark masses of the CHASSEURS DE VINCENNES—those janissaries of power who were so formidable to the rebels in the recent conflicts.

In front of the Ecole Militaire, *tribunes* were erected for the high officers of state, the Senate, and the Foreign Ambassadors, and before them, but higher up the field, was a light open chapel, where the ceremony of blessing the Standards was to be performed by the Archbishop of Paris, assisted by several cardinals and bishops, and about eight hundred others of the clergy. Here also, at the central tribune, was to be the ceremony of *presenting* the colours to the various regiments.

Before twelve all the troops had taken up their respective positions—all the company had arrived—and punctually at twelve the first peal of artillery announced that Louis Napoleon had left the Tuilleries. Every one was now on the tiptoe of excitement, and after a short pause a salvo of artillery accompanied by loud acclamations and shouts of 'Vive Napoleon.' 'Vive l'Empereur!' announced his arrival. Placed in the foremost row, we had the best opportunity of seeing him. He rode on a splendid bay Arab charger, and was dressed in the uniform of a Lieutenant General (viz: a laced blue coat, white leather breeches, and high boots rising above the knee, and a laced cocked hat)—on his breast were the ribbon and grand cross of the Legion of Honor, and, we believe, some other orders. He is a fine martial looking fellow, and though his features are heavy, his expression shows great intelligence and daring—and he is most unlike the common portraits of him. The ex-King Jerome, Marshal of France, was on his right; General de St. Arnaud, Minister of