



THE WAR-DEFENCE OF PARIS.—STUDENTS GOING TO MAN THE FORTIFICATIONS.

PREPARING TO MAN THE RAMPARTS.

The Parisians have had a strange experience since mid-summer. When July opened upon them there was not a dream of war; the city was gay; trade brisk; tourists from America, from Britain, from nearly all quarters of the world, were flocking in and making the hotels, the shops, and the places of public amusement hilarious with their presence. The plebiscite had, to all outward appearance, confirmed the perpetuity of the Napoleonic dynasty, and the Liberal Cabinet, with Ollivier at its head, was making at least a show of Constitutional Government. But there were disturbing elements at work. The Spanish Crown, so long a-begging, had been in-

formally offered to and informally accepted by a German Prince of the House of Hohenzollern, the Royal House of Prussia. France and United Europe protested; and the modest young Prince Leopold at once displayed his good sense by declining a position which, despite its many attractions, threatened to bring with it a counterbalancing number of difficulties. The restoration of good feeling among the nations did not follow, however. France, or the Emperor in the name of France, demanded fresh guarantees for the future to bar the throne of Spain from occupancy by a German Prince. Prussia refused; Bismarck contrived the scene at Ems; Benedetti was made, for the time being, the cause of offence; Napoleon thought a war was needed for the confirmation of his dynasty

by the "baptism of fire;" and the most reckless and least competent of ministers seconded his wishes by flaunting threats against Germany in the face of the whole world. How events have moved since the 18th July, when the declaration of war was posted from Paris to Berlin, need not be repeated. But three short months have yet passed, and the Paris which was gay, braggart and audacious, has become serious and constrained, hopeless, at times panic stricken, and almost everything but cowardly. Inside of six weeks from the declaration of war, the Emperor who had placed himself "at the head of his army," as he vauntingly said he would, was a prisoner in the hands of the victorious foe; and three days later the Empress Regent, a fugitive from the capital, fain to take a ride