

an armistice would have enabled France to develop her resources, complete the organization of her troops, and, in the event of hostilities being resumed on the expiration of the truce, to oppose to us forces capable of making resistance, which at present are not in existence. Notwithstanding these considerations His Majesty allowed himself to be influenced by his wish to receive the French propositions in a friendly spirit, and to promote the restoration of peace.

"I was authorized to meet M. Thiers half way, and to offer him at once an armistice of 25, or, as he afterwards wished, 28 days, on the basis of the military *status quo*. I proposed that a line of demarcation should be drawn between the positions held by the contending forces on the day of the conclusion of the armistice, that hostilities should be suspended for four weeks, and a representative assembly elected and opened in the interval. To the French the only military consequence of such an armistice would have been to deprive them of an opportunity of making small and unsuccessful sorties, and of throwing away their artillery ammunition in a manner which is as useless as it is incomprehensible. With regard to the elections in Alsace, I was in a position to declare that we should not insist upon any stipulation incompatible with the possession by France of her German departments until the conclusion of peace, and that we should hold no inhabitant of these departments responsible for representing his countrymen in a French National Assembly.

"I was astonished at the French negotiator rejecting propositions so exclusively advantageous to him, and declaring that he would admit of no armistice unless it involved an extensive provisioning of Paris. I replied, that to permit such a provisioning would be making a military concession so very much in excess of the *status quo* and of an equitable view of the case, that I must ask him whether he was empowered to offer some military equivalent, and if so—what? M. Thiers declared he had no authority to accord a military equivalent, and that he must insist upon the provisioning of Paris without offering anything in return, save the willingness of the Paris government to permit the French nation to elect representatives who would probably institute some authority with which we might enter into negotiations for peace.

"The transaction had reached this stage when it became my duty to submit the result to the King and his military advisers. His Majesty, justly surprised at such excessive military demands, was disappointed in the expectations he had cherished in regard to the negotiations with M. Thiers. The incredible demands that we should give up the advantages obtained by an effort of two months, and allow matters to be brought back to the time of our first investing Paris, was another proof that the Paris Government only wanted a pretext for denying the nation the benefit to be derived from electing representatives, and had no wish to create an opportunity for the safe and undisturbed performance of this act.

"In compliance with my wish that we should attempt an arrangement upon another basis before continuing hostilities, M. Thiers, on the 5th inst., met the members of the Paris Government, in front of our advanced lines, to propose to them either a shorter armistice on the basis of the *status quo*, or the holding the elections without any armistice, in which latter case I would engage to offer all facilities compatible with the requirements of our military security.

What passed at his interview with M. Favre and Trochu, M. Thiers was not communicated to me. He only told me that, having failed to obtain an armistice involving the provisioning of Paris, he had been directed to break off negotiations and leave Versailles.

"His departure for Tours followed on the morning of the 7th.

"These negotiations have convinced me that the present rulers of France never intended to allow the French nation to speak out through its elected representatives, and that they little wished to effect an armistice but put forward a condition which they must have known would be unacceptable, merely to avoid giving a direct refusal to the neutral Powers, on whose assistance they count.

"I authorise your Excellency to read the despatch to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and request you to comment upon it in accordance with the facts it contains.

"BISMARCK."

### THE BRITISH COMMANDERS.

#### BARON NAPIER OF MAGDALA

By a special telegraph to the *Herald* we learn that Lieutenant General Napier has been appointed to the chief command of the British forces. The name of this officer has been familiar to all Americans since the expedition to Abyssinia, the storming of Magdala and killing of Theodoros. He is a son of the late Major Charles Frederick Napier, by his wife Catharine, who was a native of Barbados. The subject of this sketch was born at Ceylon, on 6th December, 1810. In 1827 he entered the Bengal Engineers, and distinguished himself in the Sutlej campaign, at the siege of Moulton, at Goojerat, and at the capture of Lucknow in 1858, during which last named year he defeated the Sepoys at the battle of Pownee. For this last feat he was created Knight Commander of the Bath and tendered the thanks of Parliament. In 1861 he participated in the Chinese campaign, which resulted in the capture of Peking, and again received the thanks of Parliament. From 1861 to 1865 he was a member of the Council of India, and during the latter year was appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Bombay army, with the rank of General. While holding this position the troubles arose between Great Britain and the Emperor Theodoros, which ended in a brief war. General Napier was placed in command of the forces sent to Abyssinia, and the admirable manner in which he directed the campaign, the rapidity of his marches, and complete success of the movement against Magdala, form a brilliant page in the history of his military career. In reward for this service he was created a G.C.B., and on the 17th July, 1868 he was raised to the peerage as Lord Napier of Magdala. Fourteen days later Parliament passed an act granting an annuity of \$10,000 to him and to his next surviving male heir for the term of their natural lives. Lord Napier has been twice married, and has had ten children, all of whom are still living.

#### EARL OF LUCAN.

The commander of the cavalry is said to be Sir George Charles Bingham, Earl of Lucan. He is an old officer of the British army, having entered the service nearly 50 years ago. During the Turkish campaign of 1828 he served as a Volunteer in the Russian army, under General Diebitsch, and for his services was made a Knight Second Class of the Order of St. Ann of Russia. He represented the county Mayo in Parliament from 1825 to 1830 and was chosen one of the representative Peers for Ireland in 1840.

He commanded a division of cavalry in the Crimea, during the campaign of 1854 there and participated in the battles of Alma, Balaklava and Inkerman. The famous charge of the Light Brigade, which belonged to his command, will be remembered so long as the history of the battle of Balaklava remains extant. Lord Lucan was Colonel of the 5th Hussars till February, 1865, when he became Colonel of the first regiment of Life Guards. He is a Lieutenant General in the army, a K.C.B., a Commander of the Legion of Honor, Knight of the Medjidie, &c., &c.

Frank Leslie says.—"Lady Young, wife of Sir John Young, Governor-General of Canada is one of the most beautiful and cultivated ladies in society. Her graceful and unaffected manners charm all who have the pleasure of meeting her. Since her sojourn in New York city, Lady Young has been handsomely entertained by many of our leading fashionables."

THE TRUTH DAWNING.—The *France* publishes the following cry of despair. We are no longer Frenchmen, for our soldiers accuse themselves to being made prisoners, our armies capitulate, our generals have forgotten how to conquer. We are no longer Frenchmen, for at Paris a regiment flies from the enemy without firing a shot. At Orleans our soldiers, who were considered to be the best in the world, ran away; only the Mobiles and the volunteers of the West show a good attitude, and set an example which is not followed. We are no longer Frenchmen, for our officers do not study war, and consequently, understand nothing about it. The great art of war, which our fathers had brought to such perfection, they have forgotten. Our military prestige is lost. We are only a people of chatterers, sybarites, and orators, who, making demonstrations in the theatre and in the public squares, resolve on changes in the Government, angrily finding fault with one another, and dividing us when the enemy puts the sword to our throats. We are no longer as the Greeks in Philip's time were Greeks, as the Romans in the time of the Goths were Romans. The modern Macedonians will treat us like Philip and Alexander treated the Greeks, or rather as Alaric treated the Romans, and as the Turks treated Constantinople. They will not only accomplish the unifications of Germany but bring Europe under their yoke, without us, in spite of us, and against us.

The London *Spectator* of Saturday says the armament at Malta and Gibraltar has been ordered to be hastened. The port and channel fleet is to go to the Levant at once.

BREAKFAST.—EPPS'S COCOA.—GRATEFUL AND COMFORTING.—The very agreeable character of this preparation has rendered it a general favorite. The *CIVIL SERVITOR GAZETTE* remarks:—"The singular success which Mr. Epps attained by his homœopathic preparation of cocoa has never been surpassed by any experimentalist. By a thorough knowledge of the natural laws which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition, and by a careful application of the fine properties of well selected cocoa, Mr. Epps has provided our breakfast tables with a delicately flavoured beverage which may save us many heavy doctors' bills." Made simply with boiling water or milk. Sold by the Trade only in 1lb., 1lb., and 1lb. tin-lined packets, labelled—JAMES EPPS & Co., Homœopathic Chemists, London, England.