

place, he says Marshal Bazaine's despatch of the 19th, giving an account of the battle of St. Privat, and showing that he still intended taking a northerly direction, was communicated to him (Marshal) by M. Pietri. This despatch determined him to change his march upon Paris, and take the direction of Montmedy. He received no other despatch. With regard to Marshal Bazaine's message of the 20th August, stating that he was taking up a position near Metz, and would notify Marshal MacMahon of his march, the President of the Republic reiterates the statement contained in his previous deposition, that he does not remember having received it, adding that he does not believe that if it had been delivered to him the fact would have escaped his memory.

M. Amiot, inspector of the telegraphs, gave explanations with regard to the transmission of despatches to the Emperor. Only those that were not in cypher were delivered to the Emperor direct; cypher messages were not presented to His Majesty until they had been decyphered. The point at issue was the non receipt of Marshal Bazaine's despatches of the 21 of August by Marshal MacMahon, they were retransmitted from Longwy on the 22nd, and the question was—were they first sent to Paris and stopped there, or were they stopped at Châlons? M. Amiot, after having examined the documents, proved that the despatches were first communicated to Paris.

M. Rabasse, the next witness, narrated that he was sent by Colonel Stoffel to obtain information respecting Marshal Bazaine's army. On the 22nd of August he received four despatches from Massuroi, and proceeded at once with his colleague, Mies, to the telegraph office, whence they were forwarded by the clerks. On the morning of the 23rd they received orders to return, and they started with the original despatches by an indirect road. M. Rabasse added that they showed them on their arrival to an officer, who said he had known their contents two days ago. He instructed them to hand these despatches to Colonel Stoffel, which they did on the following morning, namely, on the 26th. In reply to a question M. Rabasse said he addressed all the despatches to Colonel Stoffel at Rheims. The Duc d'Aumale remarked in a slightly ironical tone that he must have acquired a fresh recollection, for he had mentioned to-day for the first time the circumstance that before delivering the original despatches to Colonel Stoffel he showed them to an officer, who said he had seen them two days previously.

The next witness, M. Mies, however, confirmed the evidence of the previous witness, and added that the officer to whom they first handed the despatches on the evening of the 25th was Colonel Dabzac, of Marshal MacMahon's staff. M. Rabasse and Mies considered the order to return as a confirmation of the fact that the despatches they sent had been received at the headquarters in Rheims.

Colonel Dabzac was then called, and denied having received the despatches alluded to by the two previous witnesses at Reims, on the evening of the 25th. He said his recollection upon this point was precise and positive, seeing that he was waiting the despatches with the utmost impatience. The Duc d'Aumale recalled M. Rabasse and Mies to confront them with Colonel Dabzac, and he asked Mies whether he persisted in his affirmation, warning him at the same time to be careful, as he was on his oath. M. Mies swore that he had spoken the truth,

and entered into further details upon the subject.

Much excitement was manifested in court when these witnesses were confronted, but the matter was not cleared up.

TWENTY-FOURTH DAY.—NOV. 3TH. EVIDENCE OF COLONEL STOFFEL.

Colonel Stoffel, having been called, stated that Marshal MacMahon attached him to his staff solely with the object of obtaining information respecting the movements of Prince Frederick Charles's army. The witness swore that he never opened the despatches addressed to Marshal MacMahon, which he only read after they had been perused by the marshal. He afterwards gave an account of the mission entrusted to M. Rabasse and Mies. He doubted whether the despatch ordering M. Rabasse and Mies to return had been sent by him, and expressed his belief that it must have been sent off under his name by another officer. He said he had no knowledge whatever of the telegraphic despatches sent by M. Rabasse and Mies, with the exceptions of one, in which they stated that they had not been able to obtain any information. He recollected vaguely the day when they returned to the camp, adding that he did not even examine the accounts they gave him on their arrival. This last declaration created a great impression in court.

Colonel Stoffel's written deposition, made before the Committee of Inquiry, was read at the request of the Government commissary, and the letter pointed out the contradictions between it and the evidence given by the colonel to-day. The witness replied in a general way that he had but a confused recollection of what occurred and remembered nothing for certain. As a proof that Rabasse and Mies brought him no information respecting Marshal Bazaine, he cited the fact that he gave them no remuneration. He added that they in no way drew his attention to the importance of the papers of which they were the bearers, and, indeed, made no observation respecting them. Colonel Stoffel then sought to justify himself against the imputations made upon him in General Riviere's report, but the president refused to hear him. On Colonel Stoffel persisting in speaking the Duc d'Aumale, in a stern voice, "Colonel, I order you to stop, go back to the witnesses' room."

M. Rabasse was recalled, and the president ordered the clerk of the court to read his written deposition and his report upon his mission to Longwy. The Duc d'Aumale then pointed out that these accounts were very minute and complete, and asked M. Rabasse how it was he had forgotten to mention a circumstance so important as that deposed to by him yesterday—namely, that before delivering the despatches to Colonel Stoffel he and Mies showed them to another colonel on the staff. He also drew the witness's attention to several contradictory circumstances, and expressed surprise at his having so suddenly recovered his memory upon an important point. M. Rabasse in reply, stated that he had consulted M. Mies on the subject, whereupon the president severely condemned his conduct in entering into a preliminary understanding with a fellow witness as to the evidence to be given, a proceeding which was most irregular. The Duc d'Aumale's close and searching argument upon this point produced a great impression. M. Rabasse affirmed that Colonel Stoffel took cognisance of the despatches when they were handed to him.

M. Mies was then recalled, and the president made observations to him similar to those which he had addressed to the previous witness. M. Mies replied that his report upon his mission to Longwy was simply an account of the way in which he had spent his time; he had expressly added that he would furnish other details. The Duc d'Aumale, with the same severity as before, pointed out the contradictions in the different depositions made by M. Mies.

According to this witness, Colonel Stoffel, on receiving the despatches, said, "This is what you have already telegraphed." M. Mies added that Colonel Stoffel conversed with him for a long time in the evening.

The court remained adjourned to-day for a longer period than usual. On the resumption of the sitting, Colonel Stoffel was recalled, and the Duc d'Aumale asked him whether he would retract words uttered by him at the conclusion of his evidence, when he said:—"With reference to General Riviere, I share the sentiments of the whole army, and have no other feeling towards him than that of contempt and disdain." As Colonel Stoffel refused to retract this expression, the president ordered a report of it to be drawn up. The counsel for the defence endeavoured to interfere in the matter, and urged Colonel Stoffel to retract, but he again refused to do so. The president, after having signed this report, announced that he should send it at the close of the sitting to the general in command of the military division, who, if he thought fit, would submit it to the authorities competent to take cognisance of the insult to the reporter who had been entrusted with the preliminary investigation of the present case. This incident created a great and prolonged sensation.

M. Amiot was examined with regard to the telegraphic despatches.

M. Mies was recalled, and affirmed that Colonel Stoffel took cognisance of the despatches delivered to him on the 26th August.

Colonel Stoffel again denied that he received the despatch of the 22nd, or that he read the above-mentioned despatches on the 26th. He contradicted the evidence of M. Rabasse and Mies on all points. On the conclusion of his examination, the Government commissary rose and read an argument demanding that an information should be filed against Colonel Stoffel for making away with the despatches. He reserved to himself the right of prosecuting. The counsel for the defence endeavoured to intervene at this point, but without success, and the sitting closed amid great excitement.

The court was more crowded to-day than on any previous occasion. M. Target, French minister at the Hague, several deputies, and many other personages were present.

(To be continued.)

A despatch from London, Nov. 21, states that despatches from Cape Coast Castle report that Col. Feeling, with 400 men, surprised an Ashantee camp, on the 27th of October, near Dunkwa. The savages, who at first took to the bush, subsequently attacked the troops, but after an engagement of three hours were driven off. Their loss in killed and wounded is believed to be large. Five English officers and fifty-two native auxiliaries were wounded. It is claimed that the Ashantees were in full retreat after the fight. A reinforcement of 200 regulars will soon embark for the African coast.