

regular groups, with their caps off and their sabres broken, crying, sobbing, and weeping like children. "Oh, poor Metz! once the proudest of cities! What a misfortune! What an unheard of catastrophe! We have been sold. All is lost. It is all up with France," and so on. The civil functionaries asked each other across the streets. "Who will be our master? Who will govern us? Where shall we go so that we may not see the ruin that has come upon the nation?" The entire army besieging Metz voluntarily gave up their rations yesterday to feed their captives. This greatly relieved the fear of the people. At noon, a Prussian railway inspector made the journey from Ars to the Union Station, situated one mile south of Metz by rail, and to-day perfect railway communication exists between Saarbruck, Metz, and Nancy. The road was little injured. Only a few German prisoners were found in Metz. The French had not kept those they took when able to return. On leaving Metz last night I noticed on the faces of all the German soldiers an unmistakable look of quiet satisfaction, nothing more. Of the French officers and soldiers who swarmed all over the place, not one, even when intoxicated—which was surprisingly rare—bore any other expression than that of the deepest sadness and of proud defiance. The latter expression was rare, and was seen chiefly in the younger officers. I am informed that the French loss in killed in the various affairs since August 18th, added to the deaths from sickness in town, was 42,000. Bazaine himself declined the generous proposal of the Prince to let all the troops lay down their arms outside the works in view of their victors, instead of laying them down in the arsenal. He could not guarantee their behaviour in such case. The Imperial Guard alone had preserved their discipline well enough to be deemed worthy of the trust of passing in armed review. At four yesterday afternoon, Bazaine passed through Ars on his way to Wilhelmshöhe, in a close carriage marked with his name, and escorted by several officers of his staff on horseback. The women of the village had heard of his arrival, and awaited him with exclamations of "Traitor!" "coward!" "sneak!" "thief!" &c. "Where are our husbands whom you betrayed? Give us back our children whom you have sold?" They even attacked the carriage, and broke the windows with their fists, and would have lynched him but for the interference of the Prussian gendarmes.

PROCLAMATION OF GEN. TROCHU.

The following proclamation, dated Paris, Nov. 1, has been addressed to the national guards of the Seine:—

"Your firm attitude has saved the republic from a great political humiliation, perhaps from a great social peril, certainly from the ruin of our efforts for the defence. The disaster of Metz, foreseen, but still deeply sorrowful, very legitimately disturbed people's minds and redoubled public anguish, and in this circumstance the injurious supposition was raised that the Government of the National Defence was aware of and concealed the news from the population of Paris, whereas I assert that the first information of it reached it only on the evening of the 30th. It is true a rumour in reference to this had been spread for two days by the Prussian advanced posts. But the enemy has made us accustomed to so many false reports that we refused to believe it. The painful accident caused at Le Bourget by the fact that a troop which, after having

taken the enemy by surprise, absolutely failed in vigilance, and in its turn suffered itself to be surprised, vividly affected public opinion. Lastly the proposal for an armistice unexpectedly presented by the neutral powers was against all truth and all justice, interpreted as a prelude to a capitulation, while it was a homage paid to the attitude of Paris and to the tenacity of her defence. This proposal was honorable for us. The Government themselves laid down the conditions of it in such language as seemed to them firm and dignified. It stipulated a duration of at least 25 days, the revictualling of Paris during that period, the right of voting for the elections of the National Assembly to be left open to the citizens of all the French departments. This went far beyond the conditions for an armistice previously laid down by the enemy—namely, an actual duration of 48 hours, and a few much restricted communications with the provinces for the elections, no revictualling, a fortress as a security, and prohibiting the citizens of Alsace and Lorraine from participating in the vote for the national representation.

"With the armistice as now proposed other advantages are connected which Paris can easily understand, and which therefore there is no need to mention here. Nevertheless the Government of the National Defence are reproached as if it was a weakness on their part and perhaps a treason. An insignificant minority, who cannot pretend to represent the feelings of the Parisian population, took advantage of the public excitement and tried violently to substitute themselves in lieu of the Government. The Government are conscious that they have preserved interests which no Government has yet been called upon to reconcile—namely, the interests of a besieged city of 2,000,000 souls, and the interests of an unlimited freedom. You associated yourselves with them in their task, and the support which you gave them will henceforward be their strength against the enemies within as well as against the enemies without.

"The President of the Government, Governor of Paris.

(Signed) "GENERAL TROCHU."

"OUR COLONIAL EMPIRE."

The issue of the *Colonial Statistical Abstract* presented to Parliament by the Board of Trade, shews us, year by year, the vastness and the progress of our Empire beyond the seas. The little annual blue book has now come down to 1868. Beginning with British India, we find the area under British administration returned as 910,853 square miles, with a population of 153,348,000 souls; there are also under British protection native States, governed by native chiefs, occupying an area estimated at 646,147 square miles, with a population (so far as can be ascertained) of 46,245,883 souls. The Straits Settlements, now transferred to the Colonial Office, have their 1,225 square miles, with a population (in 1862) of 232,841. Ceylon contributes 24,454 square miles, with 2,081,395 inhabitants, and we may enumerate here Labuan, with its 45 square miles, and (in 1861) 2,393 people, Mauritius, with its 708 square miles and 324,502 of population, and Hong Kong, with its 32 square miles and (in 1861) 119,321 inhabitants.

We pass next to young, but vigorous Aus-

tralia; and, including New Zealand, we have an area of 2,582,055 square miles, and 1,786,055 souls in 1868—a number now fast approaching two millions. Crossing the Pacific, we reach British North America, Canada, Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, and British Columbia, an area of 632,418 square miles, had in 1868 a population of 4,114,150; but that is only a fraction of the whole British territory in North America, cultivated and wild, settled and awaiting settlement. Coming to the Atlantic we pass Bermuda with its 24 square miles, and 11,881 population; and then we come to our West India Islands, with their 12,683 square miles, and 934,196 of population in 1861, now more than a million. On the American continent there is Honduras, with its 13,500 square miles, and its 30,000 people; and British Guiana with 76,000 square miles and 146,026 of population in 1864.

Passing the Falkland Islands, with their 7000 square miles and 653 people, and St. Helena, with its 47 square miles and 6,800 inhabitants, we reach Africa. The colony at the Cape of Good Hope has 200,610 square miles, and (in 1865) 556,156 souls; Natal, 16 145 square miles and 274,828 people; Sierra Leone and other African settlements, 6,480 square miles and 204,789 people. Gibraltar and Malta close the list. The area of the United Kingdom and its possessions abroad is therefore 4,600,000 square miles, without reckoning our great territory yet unsurveyed in North America, and the population over which Queen Victoria reigns is nearly 200,000,000, or at least one-seventh of the population of the world.

CIRCULAR OF COUNT BISMARCK.

[From the London Times' Correspondence.]

BERLIN, Nov. 11; Midnight.

The following Circular Note has been sent to the Ambassadors and Envoys of the North German Confederacy:—

VERSAILLES, Nov. 8.

"Your Excellency is aware that M. Thiers asked for permission to visit headquarters for the negotiations which he wished to open after consulting the various members of the Government of National defence. By order of the King I consented to receive him. On the 30th of last month, before our interview, M. Thiers was allowed to go to Paris, whence he returned to headquarters on the 31st. The fact of a statesman of M. Thiers' standing and experience accepting a commission from the Paris Government made me hope for propositions possible of acceptance, and likely to promote the restoration of peace.

"I received M. Thiers with the respectful courtesy to which, independent of our former relations, he is so fully entitled by his distinguished antecedents. M. Thiers declared that at the wish of the neutral Powers, France was ready to enter into an armistice. After duly considering this proposal, His Majesty arrived at the conclusion that any armistice would be fraught with those injuries to Germany which must result from the prolongation of war to an army whose provisions have to be brought from a great distance. An armistice would, moreover, oblige us to arrest the progress of the large body of troops set free by the capitulation of Metz, and to forego the occupation of the vast territory which now may be taken possession of without striking a blow, or after overcoming but slight resistance. Again, the German armies are not likely to receive any very considerable reinforcements during the next few weeks, whereas