

lieved in the protestations and in the oaths of princes, whom we left on their thrones. Now, however, leagued together, they assail the independence and the most sacred rights of France. They have commenced the most unjust of aggressions. Let us then march to meet them: are they and we no longer the same men?

Soldiers, at Jena against these same Prussians, now so arrogant, you were one to three, and at Montmirail one to six.

Let those among you who have been captives among the English describe the nature of their prison ships, and frightful miseries they have endured.

The Saxons, the Belgians, the Hanoverians. The soldiers of the Confederation of the Rhine, lament that they are compelled to use their arms in the cause of princes, the enemies of justice and of the rights of all nations. They know that this coalition is insatiable! After having devoured 12 millions of Poles, 12 millions of Italians, 1 million of Saxons, and 6 millions of Belgians, it wishes to devour the states of the second rank in Germany.

Madmen! One moment of prosperity has bewildered them.

The oppression and humiliation of the French people are beyond their power. If they enter France they will find their graves.

Soldiers, we have forced marches to make, battles to fight, dangers to encounter; but with firmness victory will be ours. The rights, the honour, and the happiness of the country will be regained.

To every Frenchman who has courage, the moment has now arrived to conquer or to die.

#### NAPOLEON.

Napoleon had undoubtedly concentrated his army on the very frontier opposite his point of attack, very secretly and skilfully, but it is altogether false that, as has so often been stated, Wellington and Blucher were unaware of his presence, though of course they could not know of his exact intentions. On the 13th and 14th it was well known at the allied headquarters that Napoleon was concentrating in the neighborhood of Maubeuge, and both Wellington and Blucher kept an ever vigilant watch on the frontier. They did not concentrate, however, because it was not yet apparent at which point Napoleon would actually strike first, but the allied armies were thoroughly on the alert and prepared for him.

In spite of his closest precautions, the watchful Prussian vedettes of Ziethen, before Charleroi, detected on the night of the 14th the reflected light in the sky of Napoleon's long line of bivouac fires, and the near presence of the French army was immediately notified to the Prussian headquarters.

The necessary orders were promptly issued, and before a single French soldier had advanced the whole Prussian army was in motion towards its point of concentration at Sombreffe. So passed the short summer's night that preceded Napoleon's last campaign; the French impatient for daylight in which to fall on their foes and to redeem the disasters of the past three years; the Prussians no less vigilant and full of vengeful thoughts, steadily preparing to meet the first shock; and the English, (save only Wellington and his confidential staff), unconscious of the gathering storm before them.

JUNE 15th.—At daylight the French army moved off in three columns, the left on Marchienne, the centre on Charleroi, and the right on Châtelet. Thus the front of the army which had originally been 18 miles, was now contracted to only six miles at the river. The Prussian outposts holding the river bridges were driven from them, and the heads of the French columns passed the river. Napoleon's main object was to seize the

cross roads of Quatre Bras and Sombreffe by nightfall, so as to separate the allies at the very outset. This road between Quatre Bras and Sombreffe was the main link connecting Wellington and Blucher, and if Napoleon had succeeded in seizing it their position would have been one of extreme danger. This was fully realized by Ziethen, who commanded the Prussian advanced posts, and he set himself with the greatest tenacity and skill to delay the French advance until the Prussian army could concentrate behind him at Sombreffe. So obstinately did he contest every inch of the ground, and so successful was he that, in spite of the fact that he had only 16,000 men, he prevented the French from advancing further than Fleurus by nightfall, or just eight miles beyond the river. This resistance, however, cost Ziethen nearly 2,000 men. The value of his skilful delaying action on this day would be hard to over-estimate, and certainly but for his success Napoleon would have been in between the two allied armies by nightfall, and half his scheme would have been effected.

During the advance in the morning, General Bourmont, commanding one of the leading French divisions, deserted to the enemy with his staff. He gave as his reason a desire to be revenged on Napoleon, and though his action may have had a bad moral effect on the French troops it was of no further military importance, as the French were already in full view of the Prussians before he went over to them.

At 4.30 on the afternoon of the 15th, and as Napoleon was nearing Fleurus, Ney arrived from Paris and was at once ordered to take command of the French left, with general verbal directions to push the advance along the Charleroi-Brussels road, and to drive back the enemy. It has been conclusively proved that he received no more definite orders than these. Ney then rode across to join his column which he did at Gosselies at about 6 p. m. He at once started to push forward and to ascertain what enemy was in front of him. It was the extreme left of Wellington's army, which was now hastening to concentrate on Quatre Bras. Owing, however, as before stated, to Ziethen's neglect to warn the English, Quatre Bras was but weakly held by a small Dutch force of 4,000 men under Prince Bernhard of Saxe-Weimer. This force had been moved to Quatre Bras on the prince's sole responsibility, as Wellington had issued no orders save for all his divisions to be in readiness to concentrate on Nivelles. For this prompt and clear-sighted action, which was undoubtedly the means of saving Quatre Bras, Prince Bernhard deserves the greatest credit.

The outposts of this small force advanced to Frasnes, and awaited the French advance there. Ney arrived opposite Frasnes just at sunset, and the head of his column was met by a spirited fire from the Dutch. He could not tell, owing to the darkness, the strength of the enemy before him (which for all he knew was the main English army), his troops had not all come up, and had been on the march for seventeen hours, and far away behind him to the right he heard the firing at Fleurus, which told him that Napoleon had not advanced beyond that point. It would have been useless and dangerous, therefore, to attempt to advance further that night, exposing his right flank to the Prussians, so he halted at Frasnes, and then rode back to consult with Napoleon. The latter, overcome with fatigue, had returned to Charleroi, leaving his troops bivouacked before Fleurus.

Meanwhile what had Wellington and Blucher been doing? The latter had been strenuously affecting his concentration on his previously chosen position of Ligny, and by daylight on the 16th all the Prussian corps, with the exceptions

of Thielemann and Bulow, were assembled close behind Ziethen at Sombreffe. Bulow, not realising the gravity of the situation, delayed his march from Liège till the next day, and was consequently lost to Blucher when most needed, in the battle of Ligny, on the 16th. During the whole of the 14th and 15th Wellington was inactive, and for this he has been most severely criticised, and with some justice. The fact is, however, that he did not realise at first that the French advance on Charleroi was a serious one, and he was fully persuaded, as before stated, that the real attack would be on his right. He therefore hesitated to move his troops towards his left at Quatre Bras, and preferred to wait further developments.

On the afternoon of the 15th Wellington at Brussels, heard that the Prussian outposts had been attacked at Charleroi, but knew nothing of a serious advance on the part of the French. With his accustomed deliberation therefore he issued orders for a general concentration on Nivelles, a good central point, and he then proceeded to the celebrated ball given that evening by the Duchess of Richmond at her residence in Brussels. The ball was at its height, about 10 p. m., when the news was brought to Wellington that Napoleon had advanced with his whole army and was already almost in between the allies. The excitement that this news caused amongst the brilliant assemblage was intense, but Wellington was neither disturbed nor alarmed. He rapidly issued orders for a general concentration of his army on its left, towards Quatre Bras, and by daylight the whole English army was in motion.

To sum up the events of the 15th, it seems established that though the allies had considered before hand the possibility of Napoleon advancing in the very direction that he did, they were partly surprised by the extreme suddenness of his advance, and that but for Ziethen's skilful action on the Prussian side, and Prince Bernhard's on the English side, Napoleon would have secured a position of immense strategic advantage by the evening of the 15th. And as it was Wellington still misapprehended the situation to a certain extent, and up to this point Napoleon must be conceded to have shown the better generalship and to have had the balance of advantage on his side.

*To be Continued.*

#### Table Talk.

When Turkey is carved up by the Powers, of course Italy will get the Pope's nose.—Town Topics.

#### Then He Wept Bitterly.

The Count—For some time I have felt that I could not live without you.

Miss Milyans—Yes, it is hard to have to earn your own living.

#### Returning Animation.

Wife—Heaven he praised, doctor, my husband is getting well.

Doctor—What makes you think so?

Wife—This morning he swore at me for the first time in ten days.

#### Odd, Yet Natural.

Smithkins—Odd, chap, Jenkins; always has been.

Biffkins—How do you make that out?

Smithkins—He was born one of triplets.

#### Better Still.

Bobby—My mamma has a different hat for every night in the week.

Willie—That's nothing. My papa has a different hat for every morning.

Fond Mother—If that young man comes to see you to-night you'll have to receive him in the dining-room. The parlor is being varnished. Dutiful Daughter—Is the dining-room prepared? Mother—Oh, yes. I had an armchair moved in.