

publicans of the South were eager to march against the rebels. A decree ordered the formation of eighty companies of pioneers for burning the copses and thickets of the Bocage. It was an unheard-of crisis. The war only ceased on one footing to begin on another. "No mercy! no prisoners!" was the cry of both parties. The history of that time is black with awful shadows.

During the month of August, La Tourgue was besieged. One evening, just as the stars were rising amid the calm twilight of the dog-days, when not a leaf stirred in the forest, not a blade of grass trembled on the plain, across the stillness of the night, swept the sound of a horn. This horn was blown from the top of the tower.

The peal was answered by the voice of a clarion from below. On the summit of the tower stood an armed man; at the foot, a camp spread out in the shadow.

In the obscurity about the tower Gauvain could be distinguished a moving mass of black shapes. It was a bivouac. A few fires began to blaze beneath the trees of the forest and among the heaths of the plateau, pricking the darkness here and there with luminous points, as if the earth were studding itself with stars at the same instant as the sky; but they were the sinister stars of war! On the side toward the plateau, the bivouac stretched out to the plains, and on the forest side extended into the thicket. La Tourgue was invested.

The outstretch on the besiegers' bivouac indicated a numerous force. The camp tightly clasped the fortress, coming close up to the rock on the side toward the tower, and close to the ravine on the bridge-side.

There was a second sound of the horn, followed by another peal from the clarion.

This time the horn questioned and the trumpet replied. It was the demand of the tower to the camp. "Can we speak to you?" The clarion was the answer from the camp, "Yes."

At this period the Vendéans, not being considered belligerents by the Convention, and a decree having forbidden the exchange of flags of truce with "the brigands," the armies supplemented as they could the means of communication which the law of nations authorizes in ordinary war and interdicts in civil strife. Hence on occasion a certain understanding between the peasant's horn and the military trumpet. The first call was only to attract attention; the second put the question "Will you listen?" If on the second summons the clarion kept silent it was a refusal; if the clarion replied it was a consent. It signified, "Truce for a few moments."

The clarion having answered this second appeal, the man on the top of the tower spoke, and these words could be heard:

"Men who listen to me, I am Gouge-le-Bruant, surnamed Brise-bleu (Crush-the-Blues), because I have exterminated many of yours; surnamed also Imâus, because I mean to kill still more than I have already done. My finger was cut off by a blow from a sabre on the barrel of my gun in the attack at Grâville; at Laval you guillotined my father, my mother, and my sister Jacqueline, aged eighteen. This is who I am."

"I speak to you in the name of my lord Marquis Gauvain de Lantenac, Viscount de Fontenay, Breton prince, lord of the Seven Forests—my master."

"Learn first that Monseigneur the Marquis, before shutting himself in this tower where you hold him blockaded, distributed the command among six chiefs, his lieutenants. He gave to Delière the district between the route of Brest and the route of Ernée; to Tréton the district between Roë and Laval; to Jaquet, called Taillefer, the border of the Haut-Maine; to Gaulier, named Grand Pierre, Château Gonthier; to Lecomte, Craon; Fougères to Dubois Guy, and all Mayenne to De Rochambeau. So the taking of this fortress will not end matters for you; and even if Monseigneur the Marquis should die the Vendée of God and the king will still live."

"That which I say—know this—is to warn you. Monseigneur is here by my side. I am the mouth through which his words pass. You who are besieging us keep silence."

"This is what it is important for you to hear:

"Do not forget that the war you are making against us is without justice. We are men inhaling our own country, and we fight honestly; we are simple and pure, beneath the will of God, as the grass is beneath the dew. It is the Republic that has attacked us; she comes to trouble us in our fields; she has burned our houses, our harvests, and ruined our farms, while our women and children were forced to wander with naked feet among the woods while the winter robin was still singing."

"You who are down there and hear me, you have enclosed us in the forest and surrounded us in this tower; you have killed or dispersed those who joined us; you have cannon; you have added to your troop the garrison and posts of Mortain, of Barenton, of Teilleul, of Landivy, of Evran, of Tinténac, and of Vitré, by which means you are four thousand five hundred soldiers who attack us, and we—we are nineteen men who defend ourselves."

"You have provisions and munitions."

"You have succeeded in mining and blowing up a corner of our rock and a bit of our wall."

"That has made a gap at the foot of the tower, and this gap is a breach by which you can enter, although it is not open to the sky; and the tower, still upright and strong, makes an arch over it."

"Now, you are preparing the assault."

"And we—first, Monseigneur the Marquis, who is a prince of Brittany, and secular prior of the Abbey of Saint Marie de Lantenac, where a daily mass was established by Queen Jeanne; and, next to him, the other defenders of the tower, who are: the Abbé Turmeau, whose military name is Grand Francœur; my comrade, Guinoisau, who is captain of Camp Vert; my comrade, Chante-en-Hiver, who is captain of Camp Avoine; my comrade Musette, who is captain of Camp Fourmis; and I, peasant, born in the town of Daon, through which runs the brook Moriandre—we all, all have one thing to say to you."

"Men who are at the bottom of this tower, listen."

"We have in our hands three prisoners, who are three children. These children were adopted by one of your regiments, and they belong to you. We offer to surrender these three children to you."

"On one condition."

"It is, that we shall depart freely."

"If you refuse—listen well—you can only attack us in one of two ways: by the breach, on the side of the forest, or by the bridge, on the side of the plateau. The building on the bridge has three stories; in the lower story I, Imâus, I, who speak to you, have put six hogheads of tar and a hundred fascines of dried heath; in the top story there is straw; in the

middle story there are books and papers; the iron door which communicates between the bridge and the tower is closed, and Monseigneur carries the key; I have myself made a hole under the door, and through this hole passes a sulphur slow match, one end of which is in the tar and the other within reach of my hand, inside the tower. I can fire it when I choose. If you refuse to let us go out the three children will be placed in the second floor of the bridge, between the story where the sulphur-match touches the tar and the floor where the straw is, and the iron door will be shut on them. If you attack by the bridge, it will be you who set the building on fire; if you attack by the breach, it will be we; if you attack by the breach and the bridge at the same time, the fire will be kindled at the same instant by us both, and, in any case, the three children will perish."

"Now, accept or refuse."

"If you accept, we come out."

"If you refuse, the children die."

"I have spoken."

The man speaking from the top of the tower became silent.

A voice from below cried—

"We refuse."

This voice was abrupt and severe. Another voice, less harsh, though firm, added—

"We give you four-and-twenty hours to surrender at discretion."

There was a silence, then the same voice continued—"Tomorrow, at this hour, if you have not surrendered we commence the assault."

And the first voice resumed—"And then, no quarter!"

To this savage voice another replied from the top of the tower. Between the two battlements a lofty figure bent forward, and in the star-light the stern face of the Marquis de Lantenac could be distinguished; his sombre glance shot down into the obscurity, and seemed to look for some one; and he cried—

"Hold, it is thou, priest!"

"Yes, traitor, it is I," replied the stern voice from below.

XVII.—TERRIBLE AS THE ANTIQUE.

The implacable voice was, in truth, that of Cimourdain; the younger and less imperative that of Gauvain.

The Marquis de Lantenac did not deceive himself in fancying that he recognized Cimourdain.

As we know, a few weeks in this district, made bloody by civil war, had rendered Cimourdain famous; there was no notoriety more darkly sinister than his; people said: Marat at Paris, Châlier at Lyons, Cimourdain in Vendée. They stripped the Abbé Cimourdain of all the respect which he had formerly commanded; that is the consequence of a priest's unfrocking himself. Cimourdain inspired horror. The severe are unfortunate; those who note their acts condemn them, though perhaps, if their consciences could be seen, they would stand absolved. A Lycurgus misunderstood appears a Tiberius. Those two men, the Marquis de Lantenac and the Abbé Cimourdain, were equally poised in the balance of hatred. The maledictions of the Royalists against Cimourdain made a counterpoise to the execrations of the Republicans against Lantenac. Each of these men was a monster to the opposing camp; so far did this equality go that, while Prieur of the Marne was setting a price on the head of Lantenac, Charrette de Noirmoutiers set a price on the head of Cimourdain.

Let us add, these two men, the marquis and the priest, were up to a certain point the same man. The bronze mask of civil war has two profiles, the one turned toward the past, the other set toward the future, but both equally tragic. Lantenac was the first of these profiles, Cimourdain the second; only the bitter sneer of Lantenac was full of shadow and night, and on the fatal brow of Cimourdain shone a gleam from the morning.

And now the besieged of Tourgue had a respite.

Thanks to the intervention of Gauvain, a sort of truce for twenty-four hours had been agreed upon.

Imâus had, indeed, been well informed; through the requisitions of Cimourdain, Gauvain had now four thousand five hundred men under his command, part national guards, part troops of the line; with these he had surrounded Lantenac in Tourgue, and was able to level twelve cannon at the fortress, a masked battery of six pieces on the edge of the forest toward the tower, and an open battery of six on the plateau toward the bridge.

He had succeeded in springing the mine, and making a breach at the foot of the tower.

Thus, when the twenty-four hours' truce was ended, the attack would begin under these conditions:

On the plateau and in the forest were four thousand five hundred men.

In the tower nineteen!

History might find the names of those besieged nineteen in the list of outlaws. We shall perhaps encounter them.

As commander of these four thousand five hundred men, which made almost an army, Cimourdain had wished Gauvain to allow himself to be made adjutant-general. Gauvain refused, saying, "When Lantenac is taken we shall see. As yet I have merited nothing."

(To be continued.)

AT HOME AND ABROAD.

TUESDAY, Sept. 1.—Opposition to the conscription in Spain has caused rioting in the Province of Barcelona.

Russia has sent special agents to Spain to report on the military positions of the contending parties.

A treaty of friendship, commerce, and navigation has been concluded between the United States and Peru.

Rev. Antoine Racine, Curé of St. John's Church, Quebec, has received the Papal Bull appointing him Bishop of Sherbrooke.

The Carlists under Alvarez have defeated and driven off a column of General Lomo, who was attempting to throw provisions into Vittoria.

The announcement that the contract for the construction of the section of the Pacific Telegraph Line east of Fort Garry has been awarded, is premature.

The oil combination at London, C. W., have taken all the refineries under their control, the immediate consequences of which is that the article has gone up fifty per cent. in value.

The representatives of Atlantic steamship lines, at their final conference at Liverpool yesterday, agreed on minimum rates of freight, about fifty per cent. below the old rate.

The Black Hills expedition give most brilliant accounts of the valley of the Little Missouri, and it is generally believed that on account of the unlimited quantities of gold found at various points, it will be impossible to prevent parties from occupying the country.

The criminal action for libel brought by Hon. George Brown against the proprietors of the *National* newspaper, came up before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas to-day, at Osgoode Hall, Toronto. Hon. John Hillyard Cameron, on behalf of Brown, and Messrs. M. C. Cameron and R. A. Harrison for the defendants. The court reserved its decision.

WEDNESDAY, Sept. 2.—The Carlists have been again repulsed in their attacks on Puyoerda.

This day was observed throughout Germany as a holiday, being the anniversary of the surrender of Sedan.

At Mystic Park, Boston, to-day, "Goldsmith Maid" won a \$2,500 purse by beating her own time, trotting the mile in 2.14.

The civil guards over Bazaine, who were arrested at Ste. Marguerite on a charge of conniving at his escape, have been released.

The Marquis of Ripon has resigned the Grand Mastership of the Order of Freemasons, and will be temporarily succeeded by the Prince of Wales.

It is rumoured that Governor Dix in his decision, though he may censure some of the official acts of Mayor Havemeyer, will refuse to remove him from office.

The Imperial Government telegraph authorities are to lease a wire to the Direct Cable Company, to be operated by the company's own employees.

A meeting was held to-day at St. John, N.B., the object being to discuss important questions concerning the manufacturing industries of the Province, and to form an Association which will be to manufacturers what the Board of Trade is to merchants.

The Spanish minister at Berlin delivered his credentials to the Emperor William to-day. The newly-accredited ministers of Spain at London, Brussels, and the Hague will also present their credentials in a few days.

The eruption of Mount Etna shows no signs of abatement. Inhabitants are fleeing from the villages on the foot of the mountain, but it is thought no harm will be done. The direction taken by the lava streams is remote from the cultivated parts of the mountain.

It is reported that a large combination of capitalists, including bankers, grain dealers, and railroad men, has recently been formed for the transportation of grain from the West, for protecting sales of wheat in London on commission. The main office of the company is to be in New York, with branches in Chicago, St. Louis, and other western cities.

THURSDAY, Sept. 3.—Business of every description is almost at a standstill in Havana, owing to the extreme fluctuations of gold.

The Republican Convention held at Omaha to-day oppose the third term of the Presidency, and favour the election of President by direct vote.

A despatch from Fort Garry announces the election of Louis Riel for Provencher by acclamation. The nomination, in opposition, of Dr. Bown was rejected on account of some informality.

Official authority for the exposure and punishment of all promoters and participants in the Southern troubles has been transmitted to United States Marshals and Attorneys in the several States where the disturbances have taken place.

FRIDAY, Sept. 4.—Marshal Bazaine is reported to have gone to England.

The Carlists have at length abandoned the siege of Puyoerda.

Two thousand men are to be sent to Cuba to reinforce the Spanish troops there.

A Madrid despatch says the Carlists are entrenching themselves around Bilbao.

The probabilities of another secession war are openly discussed in the Southern States.

It is stated that L'Abbé Duhamel, of St. Eugène, has been appointed Bishop of Ottawa.

Marshal Zabala having resigned the leadership of the Spanish Government, Senor Sagasta has formed a new Cabinet.

The Dominion Government are about to re-arrange their emigration policy so that the Dominion and Provincial agents will be able to work more advantageously together.

A St. John, N. B., despatch says the Government have increased the stampage tax, in consequence of which the large operators have formed a ring to resist the imposition.

It is stated that the American Government have entered into negotiations with the Minister of Public Works to obtain measurements of our locks and canals with a view to enlarging the American canals to correspond with the size of the proposed Caughnawaga canal.

News has been received from a party of the Austrian Polar Expedition, who were supposed to have been lost. After abandoning their ship they travelled in sleighs for seven months, and passed two winters on the ice. Only two deaths occurred during the voyage.

The official report of the commission appointed to investigate the circumstances of Bazaine's escape is made public. It implicates the jailers, and states that they were instigated by Colonel Villette, Bazaine's aide-de-camp, to assist the prisoner's flight, but acquits the garrison of the port of complicity in the affair.

SATURDAY, Sept. 5.—There were serious disturbances at Mèze, in the Department of Herault, to-day. It was the anniversary of the establishment of the Republic.

The eruption of Mount Etna has ceased.

The Irish team of Rifemen left Queenstown to-day on the SS. "Scotia."

Gen. Dominique defeated the Carlists with great slaughter as they were retiring from Puyoerda.

About one hundred and forty witnesses have been subpoenaed for the London, Ont., contested election.

Orders have been issued from Washington for transferring the headquarters of the United States army to St. Louis.

A despatch from Shanghai reports that the difficulty between China and Japan with regard to Formosa has been settled.

A Rio Janeiro despatch says the Chamber of Deputies unanimously rejected an Ultramontane proposition for the impeachment of the Government for treason and conspiracy.

The *Times* says the Marquis of Ripon, who recently resigned the Grand Mastership of the Freemasons, has become Roman Catholic.

According to Carlist advices, desperate fighting has been going on for three days between Castillo and Puebla in Catalonia. The Republican losses are very heavy.

The German men-of-war "Nautilus" and "Albatross" returned to Santander this evening from San Sebastian. The Carlists fired on them from Goutane, ten miles west of San Sebastian. The Germans threw 24 shells into the town.

General Primo De Rivera has been appointed Captain-General of Madrid. Gen. Moriones will be appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Army, or Marshal Serrano will be styled Generalissimo, with power to appoint Generals. Zabala remains at Madrid. Don Carlos has gone to Alserana to meet the ex-Duke of Parma. The Carlists have picked up a sailor who probably deserted from the German man-of-war "Albatross." They sent him across the frontier to the authorities, by whom he was delivered to the German Consul at Bayonne.