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### THE CAPITULATION OF METZ.

The correspondent of the *Daily News*, telegraphing from Metz on Sunday Oct. 30, gives the following particulars regarding the fall of the fortress.

On the evening of the 25th, the German Chief of the Staff had left Frescati very much discouraged, scarcely hoping for any agreement, as the French appeared intractable and obstinate. At noon, Bazaine sent the Prince an autograph letter, asking another conference, and accordingly two Germans sent General Stiche, Chief of the Staff of the Second Army, and Count Wartensleben, Chief of the Staff of the First Army, once more to Frescati. The interview, which took place in the afternoon, lasted three hours. It was at first stormy on the part of the French Commissioners, but resulted in their conversion to the main points of the German terms. The first difficulty was concerning the officers keeping their side arms, on which Marshal Bazaine insisted. The point was finally referred to the King, and conceded by His Majesty in a despatch received at 8 a.m. on the 27th. By agreement, the conference was resumed early the same morning, and lasted until eight o'clock at night, when the capitulation was signed for the absolute surrender of Metz, and all its fortifications, armaments, stores, and munitions, and for the surrender, on the same conditions as were arranged at Sedan, of all the garrison and the whole of Bazaine's army, consisting of three marshals of France, 66 generals, 6000 officers and 173,000 troops.

The Germans are astonished at this result—*an army and a fortress capitulating to an investing army larger than itself by only a small fraction.* The French Commissioners were Marshal Bazaine's Chief of the Staff, General Jarras, and Colonel Fay, and Major Samuele, on the part of the Commander of the fortress. On the 28th, Major Sandkuhl, Chief of the Engineers of the 2nd Corps, was to enter, by stipulation, at 10 a.m., to withdraw the mines from under the forts, preparatory to the safe entry of the 7th corps, which is to remain to guard the city and prisoners, while the remainder of the First Army will immediately depart for Paris and the south, where Prince Frederick Charles is to have Lyons for his headquarters. At one o'clock the French army were to lay down their arms. All this was postponed for twenty-four hours, because of the lack of wardens of the French, arising from internal disorders. At 10 o'clock a.m. yesterday, the forts were taken possession of by the artillery of the 7th Corps. At one o'clock

the third division, which is to depart south westward immediately after the 4th, was reviewed by the Prince—the display being a brilliant pageant—on the Nancy and Metz road, near Turtlebride. Thereupon the Imperial Guard, the *elite* of the French army, marched out of Metz with their arms, and laid them down at Frescati while passing in review before the Prince. This honor was accorded to the Imperial Guard alone, all the rest of the troops having deposited their arms in the Metz arsenals, and then marched into their cantonments outside the town to await their transfer to Germany. The Imperial Guard were received by the Prussian troops with respectful dignity, and not a jeering word was heard, not an indecently exulting look was seen, but previously, at the other review, the cheering was loud and persistent. At four o'clock in the afternoon, the French companies which still mounted guard at the various gates in the city, and at the depots and arsenals, were relieved by the Prussians, two regiments of infantry and one cavalry having entered into the town. The German military governor, General von Zastrow, commander of the 7th Corps, took possession of the government of the city and fortress, where he tells me he expects to find the portrait of one of his ancestors, who was at some early period also a military governor of Metz. The tragedy was completed, but its saddest side remains to be recorded. According to the statement of General von Zastrow, who held the Bois de Vaux on the morning of the 19th August, *Bazaine could then have avoided being shut up in Metz.* After he was there he could, according to Metz statements, have readily made a sortie and rejoined McMahon far more readily than McMahon could have rejoined him. After most of his cavalry and artillery horses had been eaten, this of course was more difficult. But still his movements are said to have lacked determination, and even to have been frivolous in the last two sorties. The facts are put down to the account of a "complot" with the Regency, according to which his army was to remain *in statu quo* until the conclusion of the war in western France, and then become available, with Prussian consent, for Bonapartist purposes. Bazaine himself expected in that case to be the Governor of the Imperial Prince and the virtual Regent. Nearly all the people of Metz seem to believe this, and many of the most influential have admitted so to me. During the whole of the investment, Bazaine has never been seen in the camp except on extraordinary occasions; never at all in the ambulances, which are partly constructed in numerous railway carriages, on the Place Royale, and

hardly ever seen in the city. The civil authorities had to find him at St. Martin. He would not once appear at the Mairie. He rarely said a word to encourage the troops. Canrobert cheered their patience a little, and then they would cry, "Vive Canrobert!" "A bas Bazaine!" Towards the last he dared not, it is said, for fear of assassination, show himself to his own men. And the terribly relaxed discipline was assuredly the cause of the hasty surrender when there was still another week's rations for everybody on hand. On the morning of the 29th five soldiers lay dead of starvation at Montigny, while the staff still indulged in luxurious meals, and four days' rations were given to the entire army that morning, while they had received none for two days previously. No beef or pork had been obtainable at any price for a week, but on that morning, before anything had arrived in the town, the shops had plenty. This is adduced as a proof of the charges current in the town that speculators had seized much food, and that a rational system of appointment, such as existed during the last ten days, if introduced at first, and combined with stringent requisitions, would have prevented much waste, and enabled the fortress to hold out a month longer. The staff used to feed their horses on bread at first. Recently prices had advanced to the following maximum.—Sugar, per pound, 30 francs, salt 15 francs; one ham, 300 francs; one potato, 45 centimes; one onion, 60 centimes. A little pig, caught near Gravelotte was sold, it is said, at 748 francs. When the surrender became known the people were furious. The National Guard refused to lay down their arms, and on the 29th, in the afternoon, a Dragoon captain appeared at the head of a body of troops, who swore they would sooner die than yield; while Albert Collignon, editor of an ultra-democratic daily paper, the *Journal de Metz*, rode about on a white horse firing a pistol, and exhorting them to sally out and seek death or victory, to escape the impending shame. He was followed by a mob singing the "Marseillaise," which produced terrible excitement. The doors of the Cathedral were burst open and the tocsin and funeral bell rung nearly all night. When General Coffinier appeared to pacify them, three pistol shots were fired at him. Finally, by the aid of two regiments he quietly dispersed the mob. But all night the sounds of grief, indignation, and terror, were kept up. Respectable women ran about the streets tearing their hair and flinging their bonnets and laces under their feet, wildly crying aloud, "What will become of our children?" Soldiers, drunk and sober, tumbled hither and thither in ir