

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

After the battle of Dijon, the Prussians retreated towards Messigny, Nogres, and Savigny Le Sur. In the west also the Prussians appear to be falling back. Alençon has been evacuated by the enemy. They have cut the railway between Lyons and Besançon at Lyons.

A correspondent of the New York *Herald* writing from Paris on the 21st, says: I have been told that there was a great fight in front of Basauval to-day. It appears Gen. Belleme threw a large force into the forest of Basauval. They were permitted to approach within less than 200 yards of the looped wall, when from the top and slope there presently issued from the Prussian infantry a terrible and deadly fire, which in an incredibly short space covered the ground with dead and wounded. It is impossible to ascertain the exact loss of the French, but by common agreement it is admitted to have been the bloodiest day's fighting, so far as the French are concerned, they have experienced since the commencement of the siege. I am assured that 900 corpses lay on the ground in front of Basauval—often as many as six together. Wild rumors are afloat, and the names of prominent Reds are mentioned.

Gambetta has suddenly and opportunely appeared in the north of France, to stir up the patriotism and arouse the hope of the depressed people. The citizens of Lille were reported to have become discouraged by the defeat of the army of the North, and were preparing to retire beyond the reach of the invaders, when the wonderful magnetism and impassioned oratory of the French War Minister recalled them to their duties. Gambetta maintains that France prefers eternal war to the disgrace of surrendering an inch of territory. He eloquently calls for resistance to the bitter end, and denounces the cowardly cry for peace at any price. He expresses great confidence in General Faidherbe, who will rapidly reorganize the Army of the North and continue to battle with Von Goben; fresh levies are to be raised, and the brave and ever hopeful Minister prophecies the final triumph of the cause of France. His orations will undoubtedly have great effect, but fresh levies will not conquer the disciplined Prussians, and the experience of Faidherbe at St. Quentin is another instance of the generally admitted proposition. There it is reported that a division of fifteen thousand mobiles became panic-stricken, and fled in disorder, and it is said some brigades of the army had been cut off from the main body, or have wandered away, as their whereabouts is not known. The defeated troops, weary, worn, and dejected, have returned to Cambrai, at whose gates the Prussians, flushed with victory, and rejoicing over their ten thousand prisoners, as stated in their own reports, have already knocked for admission. Faidherbe and staff have, it is said, retired to Douai,

and another portion of the army is going to Lille.

General Faidherbe has announced his intention of again crossing swords with Von Goben as soon as his army has had a short rest; and as it is said the third attempt is successful, the results may be different the next time the Army of the North is under fire.

The sortie towards St. Cloud on the 19th was apparently of greater magnitude than might have been supposed from the first reports. The French had no less than a hundred thousand men engaged, and were at first successful, having surprised the besiegers; but the latter rapidly massed enormous bodies of infantry, and brought extensive parks of their famous artillery to bear upon the French, who were compelled to retire from the positions they had captured, to within the walls.

It is reported from two or three sources that there was a quarrel in the Provisional Government in Paris after the unsuccessful result of the sortie. General Trochu is said to have proposed that in the event of the failure of the Provincial armies to come to his relief, and the defeat of any sortie that might be made, it would be his duty to surrender the city before the central portions and the public buildings were destroyed by the Prussian bombardment. This proposal was scouted, and Trochu tendered his resignation, which was accepted, and a triumvirate was appointed. It was finally considered better that the plans for defence should not be changed, and Trochu was again placed in command.

The latest advices from Paris state that the Council of the National Defence, on the afternoon of the 21st accepted the resignation of General Trochu, and replaced him by Admiral Saisset and LaRocquiere. Trochu remains civil governor.

Longwy is making an obstinate defence and has repulsed the Prussians, dismounted their guns and forced their batteries to retire.

Judging from the different descriptions of the condition of Paris, and the temper of the citizens, with the usual allowance for the Prussian or French exaggeration, it is apparent that the fall of the proud capital is not far distant, and once more will foreign hosts march through the broad streets, and parade on the Champ de Mars. The Parisians are said to be determined to "fight to the bitter end," but they have the fatal disadvantage, of entertaining a strong feeling of distrust in the abilities of their leaders. There have already been dissensions in the governing councils, and the chief reason why the resignation of Trochu was not accepted is stated to have been the difficulty of selecting a better man as a successor. Trochu is regarded as a man of thought, a good military writer, but not a man of action, not one who would lead a sortie, or conquer a situation as desperate as that of Lodi.

Gambetta does not give up hope of relieving Paris, and has started for Laval to inspire the army of Chanzy to renewed feats of valour. Before leaving Lille a long council of war was held, and one of the results was the dismissal of General Robin, whose division was disgraced at the battle of St. Quentin. Gen. Faidherbe has prepared a careful report of his recent operations, and maintains that in the late battle, he lost no prisoners, except stragglers. The Army of the North has retired behind the walls of Douai, Lille and Arras, while the Prussians are thundering at Cambrai.

In the East victory has again briefly perched upon the banners of France. The Prussians have been driven out of Dijon, with considerable loss, by an army in which the Garibaldians appear to have formed a considerable portion. The tenure of Dijon by this force will depend largely, however upon the movements of Gen. Bourbaki, who has been in several engagements with varying success.

The New York *Herald's* special from London says: Terrible excitement is manifested in this city at the West End over the treaty for the capitulation of Paris. The French residents express general satisfaction. It is their opinion that the news of the capitulation is well founded, and they accept the fact of Trochu's resignation as a proof of its truth. Further information is eagerly sought after at the Foreign Office. At the Prussian Embassy nothing was known of the capitulation at half-past one.

Jules Favre, it is reported, is at Versailles discussing the terms of capitulation with Bismarck. The German demands are said to be as follows:—The forts are to be garrisoned by Germans. The Regulars and Gardes Mobiles are to be sent to Germany; the Province of Champagne is to be held as a hostage for the payment of war expenses; Alsace and Lorraine to be yielded and under the jurisdiction of Germany; Paris to receive no garrison for its protection. The city to be confided to the National Guards, who will not be disarmed. The Germans will then negotiate the terms of peace, and France will be left to reconstruct the Government. These propositions are combatted on the side of the French as too severe. It is unknown as yet what abatement may take place.

A semi official declaration has been received from Constantinople that henceforth Turkey will rely on herself for protection, and not on the interests and jealousies of European powers.

BRUSSELS, Jan. 25.—At an interview of Favre, with Bismarck, yesterday, the latter insisted the surrender should be signed by the whole Provisional Government. Favre replied it would be impossible to bind the Bordeaux Government, as the surrender was only a military one, Bismarck then said, if the Republic rejects the terms, and the Empire accepts, you must choose between acceptance and restoration of the Empress.