

ently 100,000 strong. Soon after 10 o'clock sharp firing was opened by the Prussians from well directed batteries on the left of the French. It was replied to with spirit. Very soon a large force of German infantry, flanked by cavalry, advanced under cover of a heavy artillery fire, striking the right of General Jourequibery's position. The assaulting column was met by the artillery fire from many guns, including a number of mitrailleuse of a new pattern. The struggle now became exceedingly severe, and was well contested, but although the Germans suffered heavy loss, they finally succeeded in driving back the French, capturing two guns and holding the important positions near the river. General Chausey perceiving the danger which threatened his position, moved forward his reserves of artillery to the support of Jourequibery. These opened a terrific fire, which stopped for a while the further advance of the Germans in that direction. Two or three severe assaults were made by the Germans to secure further advantages, the object being to take the position held by the French at La Lillere. The French, however, were strongly posted and fought with great courage and determination. Each assault was repulsed with serious loss to the Germans, the French also losing heavily. Meantime an equally fierce attack was made on the French line covering the railroad to Chartres and Paris. After two hours desperate fighting the French centre was driven back and retreated, however, slowly and in good order for a short distance only, to a position in the rear of that first occupied, where rising ground afforded good facilities for artillery. Here a heavy force of guns was packed, which, manned by the marines, opened a severe and well directed fire upon the advancing enemy. This not only checked the Germans but compelled them to fall back in turn. Heavy counter fire soon followed from the German batteries, which during the engagement had advanced to a commanding position on the left of the railroad. The superiority of the German guns in firing soon became apparent. After an unequal duel the French slaked, the Germans causing great loss to the French lines. Still the French infantry maintained their position heroically and another attempt was made to dislodge the enemy, but signally failed. For some time the engagement had the character of an artillery duel, but when the German lines had taken the positions assigned them a more active attack commenced, evidently with the object of cutting between the army and Lemans, and of capturing a large number of prisoners. At four o'clock the tactics of the Germans seemed changed. Heavy massing of troops took place on the French right, under cover of the wood near the village of Brette, which was held by the French. The wood was on the extreme left of the Prussian position, stretching for miles on the south east of the plain between the road and villages, and

were commanded by the Prussian artillery, which was well posted on the left under cover of the wood. The sharp needle gun fire was opened on the French line, more than seven hundred yards distant. It soon became evident that it would be impossible for them to hold the position long unless the Germans were dislodged. The heavy fire of the artillery directed on the wood was apparently of but little effect. A large body of the French infantry advanced in good order across the plain, but was compelled to retire with heavy losses under the murderous fire of both artillery and musketry. The contest for the possession of Brette was kept up here until dark, when an order reached the French to fall back on Lemans.

The battle commenced about one o'clock, and reached its height on the left of the French. The day was not cold but the ground was covered with eight inches of snow, which was fast melting under the hot sun. At an early hour the streets of Lemans, which is not more than five miles from the field of battle, were filled with excited people, and crowded with waggons and ammunition supplies, all being ready to seek a place of safety in the rear in case of an unfavorable result of the fighting. Later in the evening an event occurred which made a change in the prospects of the French. After dark a strong force of Germans renewed the fight.

A most important French position, La Tailerie, was endeavoured to be broken by immense masses of infantry and a large force of cavalry, who advanced rapidly and scattered the French forces before them. The French, not expecting this attack, the most of the battalion fled in disorder, taking with them all the French force to the right bank of the river Huise, and were compelled to make a rapid retreat on Lemans. This unforeseen disaster completes the evacuation of the city, if not the entire break up of Chausey's army. A council of war is now in session at Lemans. Should the second army of the Loire be lost, all French hope is gone.

The German loss in the battle with Chausey is officially stated at 167 officers and 3,203 men, killed and wounded. The French lost besides the killed and wounded, 22,000 unwounded prisoners.

Despatches from Versailles state that Prince Frederick Charles announces that Chausey's army is broken up, disorganized and retreating in three directions. 20,000 prisoners have been taken. The battle was a decisive victory for the Prussians, and a crushing defeat for the French.

The *Herald's* London special, 17th, says: At the opening of the conference to-day there were present the Plenipotentiaries of Austria, Prussia, Russia, Turkey, Italy, and England. Although the conference assembled with a great show of formality, it is in reality a tame affair, owing to the fact that the persons present meet nearly daily. The meeting was strictly formal. Earl Granville

was called upon to preside. A communication relative to the French representative was read, but no action was taken in the matter. Although the proceedings are kept strictly secret, it may be confidentially stated that the action of the conference must be without prejudice to the abrogation of the neutrality of the Black Sea, which has already been accomplished by the act of the Russian Government. In regard to rumors of propositions of peace being made at the conference, Count Bernstorff is under strict orders from the Prussian Government to oppose any introduction of the subject, and to withdraw from the conference, unless the overtures proceed directly from France.

The bombardment of Paris proceeds slowly but steadily. The gunners systematically avoid firing on public buildings. A flag of truce was to-day sent into the city with news letters.

Sir A. T. GALT has been airing his independence again, this time at a missionary meeting. Some wag placed sulphur in and on the stove as a practical illustration of the favor with which the worthy knight's principles would be received by the people of Canada. The result was a break up of the meeting thoroughly disgusted.

CANADIAN ITEMS.

Toronto.—From the Hon. Mr. Carling's report we learn that in answer to his enquiries of different municipalities as to the number of labourers required, that the total number of immigrant laborers of all classes asked for in the returns from the municipalities for the year 1869 was—agricultural labourers, 15,125; mechanics, 1,448; female servants, 6,576. Total, 23,149. The number applied for during the past year has been—agricultural labourers 14,407; mechanics, 1,192; female servants, 7,203. Total, 22,801. In addition to the returns thus sent in, applications for hundreds of labourers of all classes were made direct to the several immigration agents, of which no account has been taken. The total number of immigrants that arrived in the Province during the year 1869, as reported by the several agents at Ottawa, Kingston, Toronto and Hamilton was 25,290. The number reported for the year ending the 31st December, 1870, is 34,592, showing an increase in favor of the past year, as compared with the year 1869, of 9,302 souls.

Kingston.—A large and enthusiastic meeting was held here this evening, to consider the subject of constructing a railroad from this city to the town of Pembroke. The meeting was addressed by a number of influential citizens, including R. J. Cartwright, M.P., and George A. Kirkpatrick, M.P. The gentlemen composing the delegation from Pembroke also addressed the meeting showing by statistics the advantages to be derived from the projected road. Resolutions were adopted, pledging the city to co-operate with other municipalities interested in the project, and expressing their opinion that Government should give a liberal grant of land in addition to such specific money grant per mile as it may be entitled to in common with other demands; that the city should vote a bonus of at least \$2000 per mile. A committee was appointed for taking such steps as they may consider best for facilitating the project and obtaining a charter.