

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

THE FRANCO-PRUSSIAN WAR.

A balloon letter from Paris of the 7th inst., says:—After the election on the 3rd inst., Jules Favre delivered a speech to the meeting, in which he said the Government, which had sworn not to cede an inch of French territory, will remain, whatever may happen, faithful to this engagement.

Everything appears gloomy in Paris; there exists but small hope for the French cause. The rejection of the armistice by Prussia is regarded as a call to arms by the French, and there no longer exists any chance of an early termination of the war, except by the advent of grim death to one of the belligerents. The fall of Toul, Strasbourg and Metz have freed the Prussian armies for service elsewhere. The besiegers have received their heavy guns, and General Moltke is eager to commence the bombardment. Notices have been posted in the butchers shops of Paris stating that the rations for three days have been reduced to a quarter of a pound of meat per head.

Tours, Nov. 10th.—Keraty, having organized the army of the West, is forming a camp in Brittany for another army of one hundred thousand strong.

Lyon is preparing for defence and Toulons is sending forward large numbers of troops fully armed and equipped. Order prevails on both sides and also at Marseilles whose internal dissensions have disappeared.

The news from Orleans is of the most cheering nature. Advice is just received of a series of engagements near there, in all of which the French were successful. The French were pressing forward toward the city, and as their movements tended to surround the enemy, the latter were obliged to evacuate the city. The Prussians lost considerably in killed, wounded and prisoners.

There was great difficulty in obtaining provisions, owing to the constant drain made by the repeated requisitions of the enemy on the people thereabout. The surrounding country is entirely ruined.

The World's special.—London, Nov. 10.—A private despatch received states that the French fleet are bombarding Hamburg.

A despatch from Berne says that Garibaldi had surrendered.

A correspondent writing from Tours 9th says that it is believed that Vonderlann's army consists only of 25,000 men, and that he is preparing to retreat towards Versailles.

The journals of Lille announce that Gen. Bourbaki, who has not resigned, has organized a large force.

LONDON, Nov. 10.—The capture of a German barque in the North Sea by a French iron-clad is reported.

A Prefect of War has levied on his department a war contribution of 2,000,000 francs as required by the committee of National Defence.

The Herald's correspondent sends from Cassel on 7th, an account of an interview with Bazaine, in the course of which the Marshal said he was content to leave the justification of his conduct to time. He scorned to answer "that babble" Gambetta. He denied having proclaimed the republic in Metz, and declared that the news of the Emperor's surrender and the flight of the Empress astounded him.

He added: I have sworn loyalty to the Emperor and the Constitution. The Emperor is a prisoner, but the Constitution is in force. Neither I nor my comrades will ever acknowledge any other Government until we previously obtain a discharge from our oath by the Emperor.

To-day's war despatches chronicle important French successes before Paris through the capture of several Prussian camps.

Garibaldi has been again victorious, having routed a force of Germans 5,000 strong.

The latest intelligence from the army of the Loire is that there has been three days continued fighting, without decisive results. The losses of the French are frightful, but the enemy have been driven back ten miles.

A Herald special, dated London, Nov. 10 says:—Our special correspondent telegraphs from Lille on the 9th six p.m.:—The headquarters of Gen. Bourbaki are a little agitated at the intelligence of the Prussian approach. There is continual excitement in the streets and cafes, and the people are all for resistance. Thousands from the country are entering the city in response to the Mayor's proclamation, with droves of cattle and poultry. The military movements are strictly concealed. The Prussians are reported fifty leagues from the city. Organization is proceeding rapidly, and the troops are said to be some of the finest now left in France, and number thirty thousand. Lille has been fortified like Strasbourg, and somewhat resembles that city. All the inhabitants have been ordered to provide themselves with provisions for three months or leave the city.

Rumors are circulating of serious combats yesterday east and west of Orleans, and it is reported fighting continued to-day.

Le Francais has an account of a brilliant affair at Coulmier, whence the Prussians were dislodged with loss.

The German forces which occupied Mont Belliard yesterday numbered six thousand.—The authorities of the town fled.

The blockade of Belfort has been vigorously maintained since the 6th.

The villages of Visclois, Chevremien and Louvenans have been fired to dislodge the Germans.

Tours, Nov. 11.—A despatch from Gen. D'Aurelles de Paladines, commander of the Army of the Loire, dated yesterday, says; we have taken possession of the city of Orleans, after a fight of two days. Our aggregate losses in killed and wounded do not reach 2,000, while those of the enemy are much larger. We have made 1,000 prisoners thus far, and are continually adding to them as we follow up the fleeing

enemy. Among the property captured are two cannon of Prussian model, twenty ambulance waggons, and a great number of vans and provision waggons. The hottest of the fight took place around Coulmier on Wednesday, the 9th. Notwithstanding the bad weather and other unavoidable circumstances, the *elan* displayed by the troops was remarkable. Gen. de Paladines, on occupying the city, issued the following order to the army: The action of yesterday was a glorious one for our army; every position of the enemy was vigorously carried, and the enemy are now retreating. I have informed the Government of your conduct, and am instructed to return to you their thanks for your victory amid the disasters in which France is plunged. Her eyes are upon you, and she counts upon your courage. Let us all make every effort, in order that this hope may not be mistaken.

LONDON, Nov. 11.—The following despatch was received to-night by the Standard:

"Tours, Nov. 10.—Orleans has been retaken after a severe fight. The Prussians lost five thousand men."

World's Cable.—LONDON, Nov. 11.—A special despatch from Brussels says that well-informed political circles are impressed with the belief that a new arrangement for arbitration has been effected by four neutral powers. The preliminaries for arranging conditions of peace acceptable alike to France and Prussia have been concluded. The initiative has already been taken by Russia for assembling a congress.

Herald's cable, London, Nov. 11, correspondent writes from Lille, Nov. 10:—In view of the anticipated bombardment military organization here is now complete. 10,000 workmen are now employed on the eastern and western fortifications; an ambulance corps has been organized under the direction of the city physicians; orders have been issued to provision the city for six months. The population consists of 132,000 inhabitants, 30,000 soldiers, and 20,000 persons from the country. The facilities for obtaining supplies is great from the plentifulness of the surrounding country. Six railways run into the city. The fortification are considered the finest inland works in Europe. The ramparts average 35 feet in height on the exterior casemates. The magazines and shell rooms are of solid masonry; there are 500 guns mounted.

BERLIN, Nov. 11.—Deserters from Paris say that Trochu, in order to regain his prestige, is preparing for another grand sortie.

A correspondent of the Times, writing from Berlin yesterday, says that a sharp reply has been returned to Austria in response to her vote offering her mediation, on the ground that Austria, having armed at the beginning of the war, is disqualified now to act as a neutral.

It is generally thought that Prussia will prefer annexation of the two provinces of Alsace and Lorraine to any guarantee that the neutral powers may see fit to make. Prussia's relations with Austria and Russia are not such as to render any guarantee of theirs acceptable.

There is great distress among the poorer classes of the French, owing to the Government having seized all the money in the savings-banks, together with the property of corporations and communes which, by the French law, were placed in the custody of the State.

LILLE, Nov. 11.—The City Council to-day unanimously passed a resolution that Marshal Bazaine, in telling the army which he traitorously surrendered to the enemy, that the city of Lille and all northern France craved peace at any cost, lied signally, and this body indignantly spurns the lie.

Tours, Nov. 11.—The journals report that the Prussians have lost over 10,000 killed and wounded and 8,000 prisoners in battles around Orleans, and are retreating towards Chartres and Etampes.

A large number of guns thrown away by the enemy have been picked up and distributed among the National Guard at Orleans.

A despatch from Chagny reports a large French force there, well supplied with artillery, and sufficient to resist the advance of the enemy.

Troops from Lyons are marching to meet the Prussians.

Italian volunteers continue to join Garibaldi's command in large numbers.

CUXHAVEN, Nov. 11.—The French fleet is said to have passed here going to the North Sea. The lights and buoys at the mouth of the Elbe have consequently been removed, and all pilots are forbidden to leave the ports.

THE SACK OF ST. DIZIER.—The Journal du Rouen gives the following account of the sacking of St. Dizier:—"The Prussians made a requisition for 500,000frs., and took as hostages to Bar-le-Duc five of the town councillors. The following day a delay of two hours was granted for the payment of the money, the alternative being the threatened destruction of the principal houses in the town. The money not being forthcoming, the pillage of the town commenced, and was continued for an hour and a half, when a tender of 150,000frs. was made and refused. Eventually this sum, subscribed by the chief persons in the town, was accepted; an organized pillage then recommenced, and was kept up from noon until six in the evening, during which time the troops laid their hands upon all valuables within their reach. A shoemaker was condemned and shot for firing upon the Prussian soldiers.

The siege of Paris necessarily proceeds slowly, and offers just now few points of interest. On account of the immense strength of her fortifications, and the extensive area to be occupied by the Prussians, it is altogether doubtful whether a regular siege, such as that of Strasbourg, will ever be attempted. As to the report that a bombardment will be commenced in a few days, that may or may not be true, according to the progress the Prussians have made in locating batteries within range. Thus far we have no news to that effect. General Trochu continues to make sorties in every direction with more or less success. The plan of King William and General von Moltke seems to be to starve

Paris into a capitulation, but, owing to the Army of the Loire, which is about ready for the offensive, this will most likely prove ineffectual.

Before the capitulation of Metz, Bazaine buried a *caisse d'armee*, containing 40,000,000 francs in gold and 10,000,000 in silver. The Germans had received information about the treasure and forced Bazaine to reveal where he buried it. At Sedan, on the eve of the capitulation, the French officers divided among themselves the contents of the army chest.

It appears to be true that three French gentlemen of note have been shot in Paris. One is said to have been the Vicomte de Castelbajac, who was a competitor at Hurlingham in the international pigeon match last June. M. Cartier, a member of the French Jockey Club, was, it is said, another, and the name of the third has not appeared. It is rumored that they were at the head of a small party which was in favor of surrender, and endeavored to communicate with the enemy by balloon. The scheme is said to have been discovered by General Trochu, who condemned the offenders.

Formidable engines of war are said to be in the course of manufacture at Lyons and experiments have been made with a steam mitrailleuse at 1,200 metres, which were, it is said, satisfactory. The inventors say that the range of the machine is 4,000 metres.

M. FAYRE'S CIRCULAR.—The text of M. Favre's recent circular to the representatives of France in foreign countries is published. He says:—"The Chancellor of the North German Confederation, in the course of our interview, mentioned that, in the event of the principle of cession of territory being admitted, the surrender by France of Strasbourg, or Alsace, Metz and a part of Lorraine would be demanded.—The Chancellor makes use of the observation that these conditions may be aggravated by the continuance of the war. This, in fact, he declared to me, and I thank him for mentioning it himself. It is well that France should know how far the ambition of Prussia goes.—She will not stay her course when she has conquered two of our provinces. She will pursue coldly the systematic work of annihilation.—After having solemnly announced to the world through the mouth of her King that the only objects of her ill-will were Napoleon and his soldiers, she abandons herself to the task of destroying the French people. She ravages the soil, burns the villages, and oppresses the inhabitants with requisitions, shoots them when they cannot satisfy her wants, and expends all the resources of science on a war of extermination. France has now no illusions left. The question for her now is, shall she or shall she not exist. In proposing to her peace at the price of those departments which are united to her by close affection she has been offered dishonor. This she has rejected. Death is to be her punishment. Behold her exact position. Vain to tell her that there is no shame in being conquered. Still vainer to say that she must submit to the conditions imposed by defeat.—Vain to add that Prussia has a right to take back the violent and unjust conquests of Louis XIV. Such objections are beside the question. France does not seek for impotent consolation in the too easy explanation of the causes which have brought about her defeat. The very day she regained the control of her own affairs she loyally offered reparation, with this reserve only, that the reparation cannot be in the form of a cession of territory. Why? Is it because of the loss itself? No but because it would be a violation of the justice and equity of which the Chancellor of the North German Confederation seems to hold such little account. She refers us back to the conquests of Louis the Fourteenth. Will he return to the *status quo* by which those were immediately preceded? Will he reduce his master to the dual crown that paid homage to the kings of Europe? If in the transformation which Europe has undergone Prussia has, from an insignificant State, become a powerful monarchy, is it not to conquest that she owes it? But with the two centuries which have favoured this transformation there has taken place a change still deeper and of a higher character than that. Human rights have come out from the abstract regions of philosophy. These rights are every day taking stronger hold on the world, and it is those Prussia tramples under foot when she tries to tear from us two provinces which, as she herself confesses, reject her rule.

DR. RUSSELL'S ESTIMATE OF THE STRENGTH OF PARIS.—In a letter, dated Headquarters, Versailles, October 12, Dr. Russell, the special correspondent of the Times, writes, regarding the difficulty of taking Paris:—"I give," he says, "my own opinion *quantum valet*, and that is—Paris is not to be battered or reduced by violent siege processes very readily. The ground is generally unfavourable to parallel and sap, and even to the erection of effective breaching batteries. As far as I know, there are only two violent processes of which regular fortresses can be taken—viz., annihilation by bombardment, which is difficult and tedious, and regular approaches, which, under certain conditions, are not more easy or rapid. Generally speaking, the site of the forts has been well selected. Some, indeed, are at present inaccessible, and some can never be effected except by the full of all the rest. It may be as well to state that there is no truth in the report that the redoubt of Genevilliers is in Prussian hands or that the French have given up the work near Villejuif, or been driven out of it. There are, in fact, several positions which promise to be of serious incident in the siege, not included in the original design of the fortifications. Take any ordinary contoured map and you can see how the ground lies, and how great a range will be required to reach the works, and long ranges in direct and horizontal fire means, *pro tanto*, loss of power: I dare not trust myself to speak of 'ameliorations and improvements' which have been introduced into war making. I do not believe in them. Admit that there is more national aid given to the wounded, and larger philanthropy at work out of the field—contrast

sacks and dragonnades with the present genteel practice of belligerency and see if, in comparison with the progress and enlightenment of the age, war is not still, when the tinsel is off a very homicidal, houseburning, pillaging sort of business, in which it is frightful to be at the wrong side of the ledger.

THE DECADENCE OF FRANCE.—The Spectator protests against the idea of the decadence of France. So far from thinking that France shows signs of martial decadence, we think she shows signs that her people have improved, that they are more ready to fight than they have ever been, much more ready than in 1713 or 1815. Then, as to civil capacity, look to the whole record instead of part of it. Natural leaders, of course, there are none, for senators, deputies, officials, generals, were all Imperialists, and the aristocracy has apparently ducked under, but where but in France could civil chiefs be so rapidly improvised, or so readily obeyed? Here is a Marseillaise lawyer, of Genoese extraction, who drops out of a balloon, remarks that he is going to save France if he can, and from Tours to Marseilles accumulates all authority into his hands. Who is "pronouncing" against Gambetta? The leader has not yet appeared—when did the Man of Destiny turn up in six weeks?—but what other country ever improvised a Government so well out of such materials, built a working machine by such a device as intrusting a dictatorship to the members for the capital? Just imagine the sort of obedience English counties would pay to self-elected Secretaries of States, representing London vestries, and supposed to be of dangerous, though uncertain political tendencies? We do not know all or much that this Government is doing, but we do know that it finds money to go on, that it has fortified Paris, that it has established two centres of government; that it is improvising armies, one of which—the Parisian one—impresses Barou Von Moltke—not a bad judge of such a thing—with evident respect; that it is creating an artillery; that it does somehow carry on the official life of France. How it does it we do not know, for no correspondent so much as alludes to such matters; but it does it somehow, and that in the teeth of gigantic difficulties—such, for example, as the "League of the Fifteen Departments," that is, of a virtual declaration of independence on the part of Southern France. That very declaration shows a power of local action which, badly managed as it is everywhere, is a sign of life, of political vigour and capacity we had scarcely expected in the provinces of France.

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Nov. 18, 1870.