

obtainable by the English) we determined not to trouble ourselves about ; and it was well we so determined, for it was a terribly crowded affair—more than ten thousand guests having received tickets. Crossing the Place de la Concorde about midnight, and as far as we could see each way, (this place being about a mile from the Ecole Militaire,) stretching up to the Madeleine, and away over the bridges, a double line of carriages conveying guests were crawling along at the slowest pace. Immense numbers we afterwards learned, did not get in until six o'clock in the morning, and many more after creeping on for two or three wearying hours gave up the ball and went home to bed. The returning guests came in at all sorts of sickly hours in the morning, most of them without their carriages, but happy ! oh yes—and pleased as possible with having been to the ball. Some who were there told me that the gorgeous magnificence of the rooms was inconceivable; and they especially dilated on the novelty and beauty of some of the decorations, composed of cannon, gilded and decorated like organ-pipes, forming columns round the rooms, their capitals formed of pistols and a balustrade of cavalry swords connecting them together; other cannons were loaded to the muzzle—with bouquets of flowers; and trophies of flags and armour pannelled the walls.

Wednesday too, so far as the fetes were concerned, was a *dies non*—the fireworks, at first fixed for the evening of that day having been deferred until Thursday, and accordingly on Thursday it was that we sallied out with the rest of Paris—old, middle-aged and young—to see the FEUX D'ARTIFICE. The presentation of the Eagles having gone off without any *coup*, there were still greater crowds out on this night than on Monday—immense numbers having come in from the *banlieue*; and women and children mixing with the throng of soldiers, blouses, and bourgeoisie, helped to swell the crowd. The fireworks were to be shewn on the Trocadero heights, and every bridge, bank, tree or parapet, which could command a view of them was occupied; seats were erected at Passy for the more timid or exclusive, and windows commanding a view were let for fabulous sums. But we together with the 'public in general,' betook ourselves to the Champ de Mars, where greater space was obtainable, and nothing intercepted the view.

We suppose no fireworks *can* be properly described in words—and to say that these were completely *indescribable* is to use a very weak expression. There was a curtain of light formed by ascending rockets, about two hundred yards long, and as high as a rocket could be thrown, and through and above this curtain scores of rockets were continually bursting and emitting balls of flame of the most brilliant colours, blue and red and yellow, green, purple, white, and deep ruby, with shades of all these; which fell in magnificent festoons or arched across each other in gorgeous lattice-work: while among them all and exceeding them all in beauty, were various shells which exploded in the form of magnificent wheat sheaves, and, as if the too-ripe corn were