

almost stupefied, and the dust choked us; besides, it was the first military march we had ever made. Marching in the ranks is very different to walking alone; sometimes the step is slackened and sometimes quickened, and then the dust which you must swallow parches your mouth.

Nevertheless, we were at Sarrebourg by eleven. Not one of their citizens had marched; they were surprised to see us. We halted for refreshment, and then marched on for Blamont, which we reached by seven in the evening.

On the march, Maitre Jean more than once regretted having put on his fine uniform instead of a blouse; and poor Jean Kat with his drum on his shoulder, panted as if he was dragging the truck of Father Soudeur. I got along very well. The sweat ran down my back, it is true, and I had taken off my gaiters to let the air get to my legs, but I stood it easily, and so did the other village lads.

The town youths were very glad when they happened to fall in with vehicles which were going to Blamont, and to have a lift for a few sours; and Jean Kat was very glad to hang his drum to the back of a cart.

At last we reached Blamont, where the commandant Gerard and Captain Luffrenz found quarters with the mayor, whose name was Volnon, Maitre Jean and Letumier with a municipal officer, and Jean Kat, Jacques Grillot, and I with a wine-merchant and good patriot, who gave us supper at his own table, and told us that their commandant, M. Fromental, had left two days before with the Blamont and Herbivillier volunteers; they were almost all without muskets, but they had been promised them when they arrived.

He gave us very good Toul wine, and as we had to get up next morning before light to profit by the coolness of the air, after supper he took us into a double-bedded room. Jean Kat and Grillot had the larger one; I had the other to myself, and I slept so soundly that they had to shake me to rouse me. Jean Kat was beating the rassel in the Rue Noire. It might be about three. At four we began our march, for when the sun rose behind us, from the colour of the sky we could see we should be in an oven, as it were, till we got to Luneville.

We arrived there about nine. We were obliged to fall in, carrying arms and drums beating, to enter the town. There every one was pleased to see us. The cries of "Vive la nation!" began again. Children ran after us in crowds, and women looked and laughed at us from the windows. These Luneville people were always patriotic. That was a consequence of the garrison being there.

I recollect we halted on a small square place, ornamented by clumps of trees, and after having piled arms, Maitre Jean, Letumier, and I went into a good inn at the corner of this place. We had an hour's halt, which pleased us much.

"Well," cried Maitre Jean, "we are getting on."

"Yes, but it is all against the collar now, as far as Nancy," replied Letumier.

"Bah! we have done the worst of it," said Maitre Jean. "The chief thing is now to get to Nancy as soon as possible, to put in a word."

The square and streets in the neighbourhood were crowded with people. Citizens, soldiers, and all sorts of men and women were going and coming; some of them stopped to look at us. I never saw such a throng; the people crowded into the inn. Great red-coated carbiniers were smoking, drinking, and stretching their long legs under the tables; people were laughing, and just then we heard that peace was made, that Mestres-de-Champ, Château-Vieux, and the king's regiments had surrendered, that all was arranged, and the leaders of the mutiny would be punished. It appeared that good news had really come, for out of doors they were crying "Vive le roi!" The carbiniers, Alsatian giants, while they emptied their little pitchers of beer, laughed in their moustaches, and said—

"It is lucky they have come to terms."

The joy shown by every one was a proof how distasteful a war amongst ourselves would have been, and of course while we were drinking our wine and having a crust of bread, we were quite satisfied at not coming to blows.

The commandant Gerard had gone to see the mayor, M. Drouin; and as the news of peace gained credit, instead of hurrying we stayed till eleven. Then the mayor and corporation came to see us on the place while the rassel was beaten, and we fell in. The commandant mounted his horse, saluted these gentlemen, and we marched, quite happy to feel that we should reach Nancy with a prospect, not of fighting, but of peace.

Towards four we began to distinguish on the horizon high grey towers and some old buildings. I thought to myself—"Can that be Nancy?" but I could not believe it. It was Saint-Nicolas. We continued to get near slowly in the dust, when two dull reports were heard at a distance on our right in the plain. Our company halted in surprise and listened; there was a dead silence. Some seconds, and a third and then a fourth report followed, and our commandant, standing up in his stirrups, cried—

"The cannon! The battle has begun! Forward!"

Notwithstanding our fatigue, and our disappointment at the good news of Luneville turning out false, we marched on again at the double; but as we advanced so did our line extend; three-fourths would not follow; and when we reached the nearest houses of Saint-Nicolas, looking back, we could see our stragglers all along the road. We were obliged to halt to wait for the nearest.

This is the consequence of beginning by forced marches. I have often seen it since then in Germany; all the conscripts remain behind, very lucky if the cavalry does not come to drive them on.

Our drummers having at last come up, we entered the old town of Saint Nicholas, full of weavers', drapers', and cap-makers' signs hang-

ing outside the houses, as you see at a fair. It is much changed since then; but at that time the golden arm of Saint Nicholas attracted numbers of pilgrims, and that lasted till the day the republic sent the arm to the mint at Metz to be melted, along with the holy vessels and the bells. We were exhausted.

As we marched up the principal street it swarmed with people; the shopkeepers were deserting their homes in a fright, women rushed about, holding their children by the hand. On the cathedral square we grounded arms, in the middle of a crowd of peasants, workmen, and disbanded National Guards, whom the municipality of Nancy had sent away before the attack, because they sided with the soldiers. Never was such confusion.

These men, in a rage, told us they had scarcely quitted the town before the Germans attacked the Porte Neuve. One of their captains, a dry old fellow, with a hooked nose, and very much marked by the small-pox, saluted our commandant, and said, with his hand on the horse's neck—

"Are you going to Nancy, commandant? Don't go. The military authorities and the municipality distrust the citizen guards—a set of vagabonds—you will fall into an ambush de l'!" He was foaming with rage.

"Captain," said the commandant, "my men and I know our duty."

"All right," said the old fellow; "I have warned you; do as you like."

(To be continued.)



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