

THE IMPENDING WAR.

THE PROBABLE THEATER OF OPERATIONS. DEFENSES OF THE RHINE—THE FRENCH AND GERMAN FORTRESSES OF THE BORDER.

The map which we publish this morning shows the probable theater of operations in the war now threatened between France and Prussia, and indicates, at the same time, the territory whose conquest is Napoleon's real object in the campaign.

The Prussian frontier crosses the Rhine a few miles below Emmerich, and as long as Holland maintains a strict neutrality in all German and French complications, the topography of the Netherlands cannot belong to the subject of this paper.

WESSEL is the first Prussian stronghold on the Rhine, and lies on the right bank just below the mouth of the Lippe, commanding both rivers. The works were commenced by Napoleon and finished by Prussia.

COLOGNE has a beautiful stone bridge, for both steamers and carriages, beside a pontoon-bridge and a steam ferry, and is a great railroad center.

VERDUN is a Roman legion, it has grown to a city of 120,000 inhabitants. Its garrison, with that of Deutz, just across the river, amounts to 1,000 men.

Two small rivers flow northward between AIX LA CHAPELLE and Cologne—the Ertz, emptying a little above Düsseldorf into the Rhine, and the Roer, emptying at Roon into the Moselle.

The demand for an advanced post to hold the enemy in check while the army is mobilized and brought forward, or for a base of operations against Metz, Thionville, Verdun, and Paris. Very important and practicable roads lead from here to Metz, Treves, Mayence, Mannheim, and Landau.

The strongest defensive point on the Rhine is EREN, METZ, and COBLENTZ and the mouth of the Moselle. This is an elaborate fortress, laid upon, or built upon, a rocky bluff, which proudly lifts itself 270 feet above the right bank of the river, and overlooks a large landscape to the west and south.

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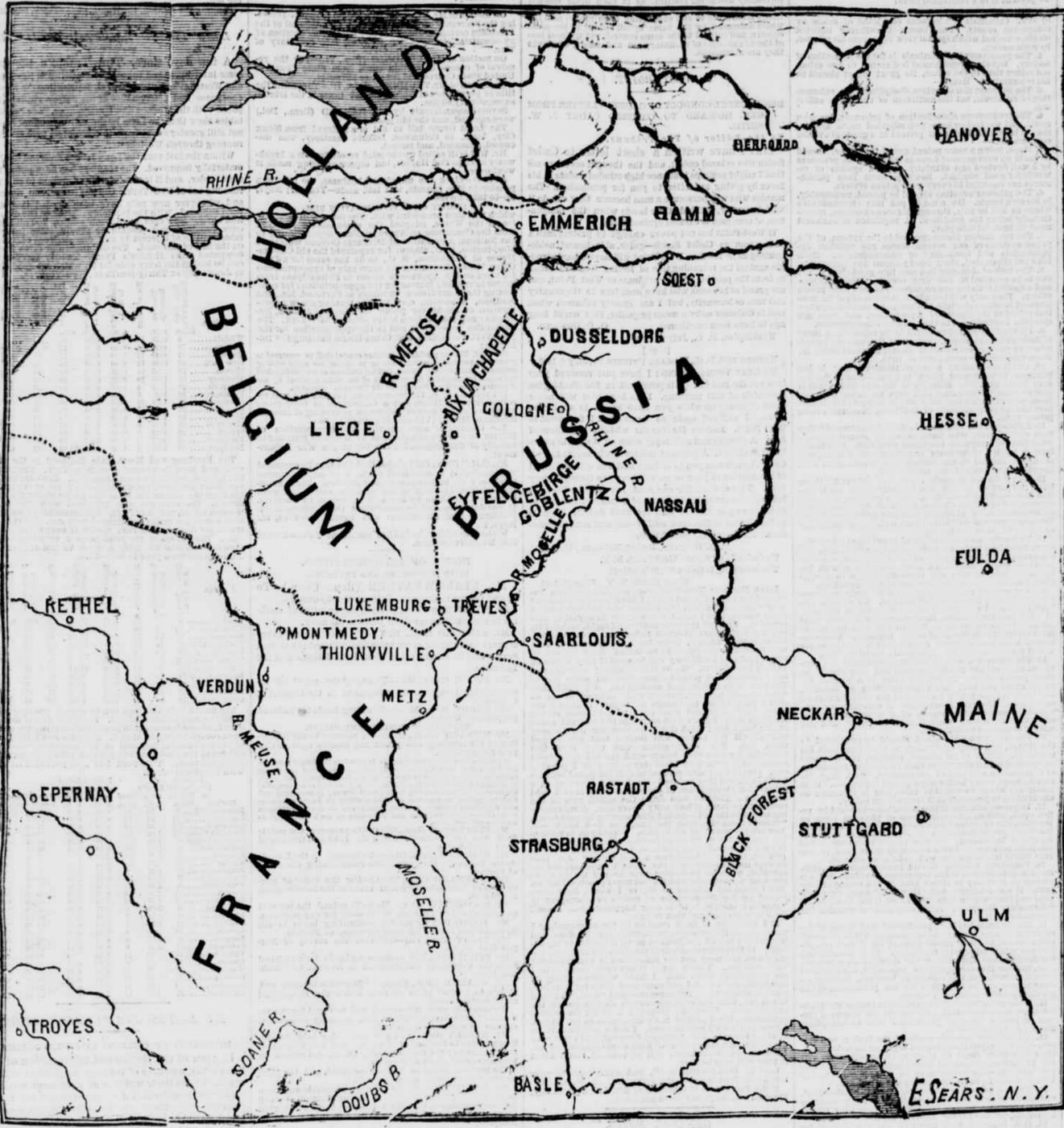
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THE FRANCO-GERMAN FRONTIER.



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THE SPANISH SITUATION.

AN EUROPEAN CONFLICT DEEMED INEVITABLE.

A STORMY SESSION OF THE CORPES LEGISLATIVAS—FRANCE STILL WAITING AN ANSWER TO HER DEMANDS—PRUSSIA CONSENTS TO PRINCE LEOPOLD'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE SPANISH THRONE—THE EMPEROR'S HORSES SENT TO THE FRONTIER—NAPOLEON TO COMMAND THE ARMY IN PERSON—NEWSPAPER COMMENTS.

PARIS, Monday, July 11, 1870. In the Corps Legislatif, to-day, the Duke de Gramont declared that the Government understood the impatience of the Chambers and the nation, but could not yet make known the result of negotiations.

It is asserted that France will not consent to a Congress of the Powers until Prussia has yielded on the question of Prince Leopold's candidacy. It is reported that a telegraphic dispatch was sent yesterday from Ems to the Emperor, by Count Benedetti. It was so altered by the Prussian telegraphers that little of it could be deciphered. The only part which could be understood was to the effect that Prince Leopold had received the consent of the King of Prussia to his acceptance of Gen. Prim's offer.

Proceedings in Parliament—England to use her influence in favor of peace—reports from Berlin—movements of Prussian iron-clads—tone of the English press.

LONDON, Monday, July 11, 1870. In the House of Lords this afternoon, Earl Granville in reply to a question of Lord Malmesbury said: France having announced her determination to resist the election of Prince Leopold, Her Majesty's Government in conjunction with other powers was using every means to preserve peace and restore an amicable understanding.

The Monitor de Paris announces that it will no longer give publicity to the movement of troops, and exhorts the other journals to adopt a similar rule. The Constitutionnel says: It is rumored to-day that the King of Prussia has approved the candidature of Prince Leopold.

The Figaro says that the King of Prussia is willing enough to aid in the affairs of Spain, but reticent enough as to the guarantee requested of him. The Journal says, in case of war, the Emperor will command in person, with the Prince Imperial at his staff.

The same decree degraded Haguenau, which never had served any very important purpose as a fortress, unless in guarding the imperial jewels of Frederick I.

The Vosges mountains run parallel with the Rhine, and form a second barrier for the French frontier. Like the mountains of the Black Forest across the Rhine, they are highest and broadest in their southern part, the Vosges attaining a height of four thousand feet, and a breadth of twenty-five miles.

The great plain of the Vosges is a broad and fertile plain, and is held by the fort at PALLISBURG, supported by STRASBURG on the Rhine, opposite. PALLISBURG is not very strong at present, but it has been proposed to strengthen it, and establish a fortified camp there.

Between Laverne and Dorn, are only two practicable passes—by way of St. D'is, and by way of Remiremont—and these seem to be sufficiently guarded by the fortresses in the plain, and by BULFORD. The latter stands in the middle of the opening between the Jura and Vosges mountains, and is an important junction for all kinds of land communications, being in the direct line between Basle and Paris.

It is still possible to look calmly at the future. The Ministers must seek to impress France with the extravagance of its pretensions and susceptibilities in the absence of real danger. Eventual war is only too probable; yet such jealousies have passed without collisions, as in 1850 and 1858.

The balance of power is undervalued a thought; the real issue is the possession of the left bank of the Rhine, and the contest would last until one or the other became exhausted. France is clearly in the wrong. Prussia denies the responsibility France ascribes to her. France refuses to accept the disclaimer. How can France object to an arrangement Spain considers within her own competence? Neutral Powers must act instantly, untidily, and firmly to prevent, if possible, a collision.

The same paper, in its money article, deprecates the damage inflicted on French credit by the long-continued excitement.

The Fall Mail Gazette thinks the case is complicated by the awkward consequences of Ollivier's declaration to the Corps Legislatif of what France would and would not endure in regard to the nomination of Prince Leopold. It is difficult now for Prussia to withdraw or modify her policy.

It is stated that at an interview on Saturday, the Regent Serrano told Baron Mercier that, as a rule, he never interfered with nominations for the throne, as he desired that it should not be said of him that he wished to retain the Regency; and he added that in the affairs of Prince Leopold he had acted as in all previous cases.

The Republican newspapers of Spain blame the Government for the present crisis, and think the immediate proclamation of a republic the best reply to France.

The Imperial insists that the French aim is to force Prince Alfonso upon the Spanish throne.

Excitement in Portugal—Ministerial Councils. LISBON, Monday, July 11, 1870. The candidature of Prince Hohenzollern and the greatest trouble that has grown out of it, causes the greatest excitement here. There have been several meetings of the Ministers, occasioned by the exciting telegrams from London and Paris.

A THRIFT FROM BERLIN—THE NORTH GERMAN PARLIAMENT TO GIVE FRANCE HER ANSWER. BERLIN, Monday, July 11, 1870. The North German Gazette says the words used by the Duke de Gramont in the Corps Legislatif last week were a provocation rather than the prudent language of a statesman. If this was the object of the Minister, he had better take care.

The North German Parliament has been summoned to give France her answer this morning. One of the semi-official journals this morning has an article stating that France persists in her insults.

See Eighth Page.