with the Secretary of Legation and the First Attaché left yesterday evening, and Count di Barral, the Italian Ambassador, this morning, for the headquarters of the Prussian army in Bohemia.

Both Ambassadors, previous to their departure, had a *long conference* at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS.

The English View—The Prussian Stipulations Satisfactory—Italian Difficulties and no Formal Ratification—Danger in the Future of Germany.

[From the London Times, July 10.]

It is understood that the King of Prussia *accepts* the offer of mediation by the Emperor of the French between the belligerents in Bohemia and Lombardy. The general terms upon which the parties agree on a suspension of hostilities are substantially admitted. The Prussians are to retain possession of their present positions, and their troops to be supported at the expense of the country they occupy. They are, besides, to be allowed the free use of the railway lines in the northeast of Bohemia, radiating from Pardubitz. It seems that Austria has been induced *to give over to Prussia the three Bohemian fortresses of Josephstadt, Koniggratz, and Theresienstadt*; but she is reluctant to bind herself to the condition that she is to send no reinforcements to her army in Bohemia or to those of her federal allies. Italy stipulates for the immediate cession of two of the fortresses of the Quadrilateral, of which one must be Peschiera. Possibly *some difficulty has arisen as to the particulars of the agreement, and the armistice has not yet been actually signed*, for the movements of the armies continue. The Prussians are advancing far beyond Pardubitz, and are within a few days' march of Vienna. South of the Alps Cialdini had crossed the Po on Sunday, and a large Austrian force was moving to meet him. It is to be hoped, however, that the negotiations for the armistice may be concluded before the combatants have time to proceed to extremities.

Were this temporary settlement happily brought about, the really arduous task of the Emperor Napoleon might be said to begin. Very little uneasiness would arise on the score of Italy. The cession of Venetia made by Austria *was unconditional*, and by no means dependent on the final upshot of the mediation. Were the French Emperor ready to take the ceded province off the owner's hands, or could he obtain the King of Italy's consent to a separate and immediate peace, Austria would only be too glad to evacuate the Quadrilateral and Venice without further delay, as she would thus be enabled to convey all her southern troops to Bohemia, thus bettering her condition there against all contingencies of war or peace. Indeed, large forces, it is said, have already been removed from Venetia. Their destination was unknown there, but it is natural to presume that they were sent across the Alps. As to the Italians themselves, *the acquisition of Venetia ought to afford them full satisfaction*, and incline them to close the bargain as soon as their engagements to Prussia will allow it. No doubt, the cession of Venetia is made under circumstances *peculiarly mortifying to their pride*. The battle of Custozza, as the King assured his people, "was not lost," but neither was it won; and in almost all other encounters the Italians seem to have fought with more valor than good fortune. Garibaldi was repulsed and wounded at Monte Suello near the Lake of Idro, on Tuesday last. New attempts were made by his volunteers, both in the same locality, on Thursday and Friday, and at Vezza, on the road to the Tonale, on the latter day—in all of which, if we believe Austrian accounts, the Italians were driven back with heavy loss. An attack upon the *tête de pont* at Borgo Forte, on the right bank of the Po, by a corps under General Nunziante, had to be abandoned after an apparently harmless cannonade on either side. Little blame can fall on the Italians if they make no impression on those strong positions. It is difficult to see what any other army could have achieved under similar circumstances. Had the fortune of war been as propitious as it was adverse, the Italians must be aware that Venetia was not to be taken by force of arms. It is doubtful whether even Napoleon could have done it for them, and he certainly seemed to shrink from the attempt after Solferino. Nor are the repeated checks of the Garibaldians on the Alps at all disparaging to their reputation. Those natural mountain fastnesses are so formidable that whoever occupies them can easily hold his own against all odds. Unfortunately, Garibaldi, who had been beforehand with his enemies and secured those positions, had to abandon them in obedience to La Marmora's orders, to cover the left wing of the army after the disaster of Custozza; and while the volunteer battalions were inactive at Lonato and Desenzano the summits of the passes were occupied by the Tyrolese Jägers, whom no effort could afterwards dislodge. To whatever causes it may be owing *the Italians have not been victorious*, and they must not be too downcast if it was the Prussians who won Venetia for them. Nor ought they to feel any qualms about receiving the boon at the hands of France. The Emperor Francis Joseph acted on this occasion as he did seven years ago with respect to Lombardy; but he was now probably actuated by the consideration that the Italians, bound as they were by the terms of their Prussian convention, could not be treated with directly, and the straits to which he was reduced admitted of no delay.

The arrangement of the German question will *not be equally smooth work*. The Emperor of the French ought to feel with respect to it all the difference that exists between what is international and what is simply national. It is possible that Prussia may, out of deference to the neutral powers, forego all the advantages she has won by war, and renounce all idea of territorial aggrandizement. But she ought not, and she probably will not, give up her scheme of a national Parliament. What the results of the convocation of such an assembly may be it is not easy to foresee; but, if it ended by establishing the supremacy of Prussia, the all but absolute mediatization of the minor princes, the great diminution of Austrian ascendancy, and, in one word, the "unification" of Germany as a great State in all matters concerning its military organization and the management of its external affairs—if this, we say, were the upshot of an appeal to the vote of the German people, it would certainly be unwise for the neutrals to interfere with it. It is only by the greatest moderation and self-denial, not only on the part of the combatants, *but also of the mediators*, that we may prevent the extension of the war far beyond its present limits. *Whoever touches Prussia now will have to deal with the whole of Germany, with the Germany of 1813.* Talk of compensation for the sake of the balance of power, and the cry "*Sie sollen es nicht haben*" will rise irrepressible from the Rhine to the Vistula.

Will the Emperor of the French have any desire or any interest in interfering with the legitimate aspirations of German nationality? Will he depart from the line he has always followed as the promoter and champion of national principles? He has, indeed, always been more partial to confederacies than to united nations. We all remember how he objected on principle to the union of Italy in a single kingdom, and recommended a confederacy of five, three, or, at least, two States; but when the Italians proved that they could aspire to unity, the Emperor hesitated to undo the work of Cavour and Garibaldi. It is greatly to be desired that with respect to German, no less than Italian, affairs he should allow himself to be influenced by what he calls "*La logique des faits.*"

The Peace Feeling in France—Napoleon "Harassed and Vexed."

[Paris (July 10) correspondence of London Times.]

The public have, it is now seen, been somewhat hasty in concluding that the cession of Venetia to the Emperor Napoleon implied the immediate cessation of hostilities and the restoration of peace. Every morning the *Moniteur* is most anxiously looked at for the news which is still to complete the memorable note of Thursday last. The delay is borne *with impatience* by the public, who long for the war to cease in Germany, and who are painfully *apprehensive lest France may somehow or other be dragged into it*; and the responsibility is thrown upon Italy. It is true that the offer of mediation and the armistice has not been accepted unconditionally by the King of Prussia; but the King of Prussia lost no time in replying to the Emperor. For his part, he said, he should accept, provided the conditions of the armistice did not interfere with the supplies of his army and the maintenance of the positions which its military successes had given it; but before anything was done he was obliged to concert with his ally the King of Italy. The answer of the King of Italy *was much colder and still more reserved*; before giving his assent he must consult his Ministers. *Hence the murmurs of impatience, complaints of ingratitude, and even words of anger.*

On the other hand, the over zealous friends of Italy here are against Italy accepting Venetia from the hands of France. An article in the new journal *La Liberté*, said to be "inspired" by Prince Napoleon himself, if it has not actually proceeded from his pen, contends that Prussia and Italy cannot accept the tardy proposition of Austria. Had France been a third belligerent she indeed might, as she did at Villafranca, impose her will, but as she has preferred the position of a neutral she has *no right to dictate* to either Prussia or Italy. The appeal of the Emperor of Austria to the Emperor of the French is nothing more than a cry of distress, which should pass unheeded. If Italy accepted with gratitude Lombardy from France, it was because Italy owed her acquisition to the Emperor Napoleon, who was a belligerent. The case is far otherwise in 1866; and she cannot, either with gratitude or with honor, accept Venetia from one who is not a victorious belligerent, though he may be a generous neutral. *It is not to France that Italy is now indebted, but to Prussia. She is not free to accept a gift from France.* Prussia is her ally, and it is to her she owes it that the defeat of Custozza has been avenged by the victory of Sadowa; and if she accept what is thus offered her she could not do so without dishonor.

The Emperor *is harassed and vexed* by all these difficulties, which he had not anticipated from Prussia and Italy. Prussia shows no signs of abating her pretensions. Elated by her victories, she seems *to care little for the anger of France*, of whom she no longer stands in awe, and is not disposed to spare her prostrate enemy a single humiliation. On one point especially she is said to be inexorable—the exclusion of Austria from the confederation, and this is precisely the point in which France refuses to yield. A bitter disappointment also is that which comes from Italy, for we cannot credit the rumors that the passage of the Po by Cialdini, just announced by telegraph, *has been either with the approval or the cognisance* of the Emperor. Venetia, since its cession, belongs to France, and the Italians must have unbounded confidence in their new strength or in the power of their new ally *to invade French territory*. It is said that a French Commissioner has been sent to Venice, and even a French division is spoken of to occupy it in the name of the Emperor. *The passage of the Po is equivalent to the rejection of the armistice, and is likely to be the forerunner of fresh and serious complications.*

What the Italians Say.

[Milan (July 6) correspondence of the London Times.]

A monster shell falling from the sky and exploding in the Piazza del Duomo would not have caused more consternation, and scarcely could have occasioned greater consternation, than did the extract from the *Moniteur* published here yesterday afternoon. At first there was a tendency to incredulity; persons who were told of it thought they were hoaxed, and demanded to see the news in print. I was in Milan in 1859 when the news of the treaty of Villafranca came, and certainly the surprise and shock were by no means so great as on the present occasion. *The predominant sentiment is one of profound discontent.* In the numerous groups that yesterday formed in the streets and squares so soon as the intelligence transpired, on 'Change in the afternoon, at night in the cafés and in the crowds that assembled outside them, discussing the event, not a single pleased or contented countenance was to be seen. Gloom overspread every face; *all looked either angry or dejected.*

Italy has gone to war not only for Venetia, but for the military reputation that has hitherto been denied her, and for a high place among nations. It was her pride to stand alone, at least on this side of the Alps, against the armies of Austria, and she was confident of emerging from the strife not only as an aggrandized State, but as a great Power. Venetia was not to be bought or ceded. Italy owed it to herself to assert her right on the battle field, and to wrest by the force of her unaided arms her last province from the usurper. To this effect wrote the Florence *Nazione* yesterday morning, and, as that paper is believed to be Ricasoli's special organ, the words were much quoted last night—quoted hopefully, as if there was a chance of this government's rejecting the proposed armistice. "Are we always to be indebted to Paris?" ask some. "Is Italy never to be allowed to *far da se*?" inquire others. "What is to be got for the transfer to us of the province which Austria gives up to him?" But in answer to this last question it is generally declared that whatever Napoleon *is to take for his brokerage must be taken elsewhere than in Italy. Cession here would mean revolution.* The government will have enough to do as it is *to keep things quiet if the war is to be considered as really at an end. The moment is an unfortunate one at which to leave off.*

While making the best they can of it, and lauding the valor and tenacity displayed by their troops, the Italians still cannot help feeling that the battle of the 24th of June was a defeat—an honorable one if you please, but still a defeat—in consequence of which the army recrossed the frontier and retired several miles beyond it. No amount of special pleading can rid us of these hard facts. And, then, only two days ago, not forty-eight hours before the pacific, but humiliating settlement of the conflict is proposed, Garibaldi and the corps of red shirts must needs fight and get beaten. You will easily understand that it goes grievously against the grain with so susceptible a people as the Italians to sheathe the sword under these circumstances. And accordingly every one is for carrying on the war. Hopes are built on Baron Ricasoli, who hurried off to camp the night before last, and returned to Florence yesterday. People express confidence in his patriotism and independent spirit. He is the last man to truckle to France or to suffer a blemish on the honor of Italy. At the same time, if Prussia accepts the armistice, what can Italy do? But what if Prussia, elated by her triumphs, confident in the tremendous weapons that mow down battalions at a time and leave no chance of victory even to the most valiant enemy, and bent upon completing his adversary's humiliation by occupying his capital, were to reject the armistice? The case is unlikely, but were it to occur, every flag that yesterday was furled and taken in, and thousands more besides, would flaunt from Milan's windows, and the city would witness an explosion of joy, enthusiasm and bellicose ardor such as even the declaration of war was insufficient to produce.

No man ever stood a better chance of being hated for his benefits than Napoleon III. does in Italy. I am glad that I have chanced to find myself in Milan at this moment, for nowhere better than in this great and flourishing city, the second in Italy for population, the first for industry, spirit and progress, could the pulse of the country be felt and the tendency of public opinion detected.

No one here admits that the proposed armistice can be accepted without stipulations more advantageous to Italy than the only one at present announced. The direct transfer of Venetia from Austria to Italy is demanded, the Italian Tyrol to be included, all claim to indemnity to be renounced by Austria—except, perhaps, the transfer of the part of the Austrian debt corresponding to Venetia. Such bases agreed to, the armistice could not be refused. Worse terms may have to be accepted if Prussia agrees to the armistice. Something depends on the terms of the treaty or agreement existing between Italy and Prussia. If the latter power desires to win hearts here she will decline the French proposal.

Letters from Florence show that there, as here, *yesterday's news is most unwelcome*. After a victory, it is said, the proposal would have been acceptable, but it is looked upon as a mere snare and delusion at the moment when Italy is proposing to revenge an unfortunate battle. The *Perseveranza* says:—"Every one feels that in this war Italy had two ends in view, the one territorial and political, the other moral. The attainment of the first does not compensate the failure of the other." This is certainly the general feeling here as well as at Florence, and doubtless we soon shall hear of its existing throughout Italy. It is perhaps with the view of pacifying the popular irritation that the government this morning published Bulletin No. 8, which says:—"Considering it advisable to deprive the Austrians of the advantage of the *tête-de-pont* at Borgo Forte, on the right of the Po, operations of attack were to-day commenced." To-day, meaning the 5th inst. This is but a small sop for an angry nation. "Operations of attack" is a very vague expression. It may mean that guns are being brought up or that the engineers are breaking ground for batteries; we have not heard of any fighting having taken place.

A Prussian View.

Berlin (July 8) correspondence of London Times.

In her hurry to sue for peace, Austria quite forgot that the war she is carrying on *is not her own war, but one which has been declared, and, accordingly, can be suspended only by the Bund*. In consequence of her unauthorized application to France, the minor potentates who have cast in their lot with the Kaiser, find themselves suddenly deserted by their powerful ally, and it is to be feared at the mercy of the Prussians. Naturally the apprehensions awakened by this untoward event cripple the operations of the Federal generals. On the latest Bohemian advices reaching Frankfort, the Federal troops were at once withdrawn from their advanced position at Giessen and moved back to Butzbach and Friedeberg, a few miles north of the river Maine. They will be soon obliged to continue their retreat, a Prussian corps under the command of General Falkenstein having left Eisenach in a western direction to operate against their flank in the valley of the Fulda.

Added to their other misfortunes, dissension is rife in the Southern League. Baden is afraid of being coveted by Würtemberg, while Würtemberg has good reason to doubt the sincerity of Bavaria in taking up arms in the cause of the Kaiser. The Cassel force, which, very much against its will, was transported to the Federal camp, has had to be sent to garrison Mayence, as it cannot be trusted in the open field against the Prussians; and the Weimar battalions, who, finding themselves at Frankfort, when war was declared against this government, were not allowed to return home, have so little in common with the Bund that they will cheer Bismarck in the streets of the Federal cities. The other day a number of Weimars had to be disarmed for so *mal à propos* an ebullition of feeling. Turning our eyes from the west to the centre of Germany we find the same sorry spectacle of weakness overawed by power and resolve.

If the Bavarians ever had any plan of operation at all the battle of Königgrätz sadly interfered with its execution. Directly the disastrous intelligence was known at Meiningen their troops were concentrated and directed to move homewards. On their way thither their rear was attacked by the Prussians, when another scene of useless and wanton bloodshed occurred. The fight, which took place at Dermbach, northwest of Salzungen, cost either side two hundred men. Though the Prussians, who were considerably fewer in numbers, met with a repulse, the Bavarians did not follow up their advantage, but continued their retreat.

The Feeling in Austria.

[Vienna (July 6) correspondence of the London Times.]

The *Abend-Post* of last night contains the following official article, which would hardly have been written had not the French *Moniteur* on the 4th inst. made known to the world that "Venetia has been ceded to France, who has undertaken to mediate between the belligerent Powers:"—In this part of the *Abend-Post* it was yesterday said that the imperial goverment had taken measures of high political importance, and we now state that before the battle of the 3d inst. was fought his Majesty the Emperor of the French was requested to mediate between Austria and the government of King Victor Emanuel, in order that an armistice might be concluded, and the imperial royal forces now in Venetia sent to reinforce the northern army. The Emperor of the French readily acceded to the request of the Austrian government, and being actuated by a wish to restore peace to Europe, *he went a step further, and without either directly or indirectly having been asked to do so, he offered to mediate between Prussia and Austria, and if possible to bring about an armistice.* This loyal offer of the Emperor of the French, which *was not made at the instigation of Austria*, has been accepted.

About an hour ago the assurance was given me that a three days' truce had been agreed on, but while writing these lines I am told that the conditions proposed by the Prussians were so very onerous that they were peremptorily rejected. There is a great political ferment in this city, and the state of public feeling is such that it would be somewhat dangerous to make any great concessions to Prussia. "Give up Venetia if you will," is the general cry, "but do not conclude peace with Prussia except on reasonable terms."

The English Opinion.

[From the London Times, July 11.]

We have never read *sadder words* than those which the Emperor of Austria addresses to his people. The reverses of his army, the occupation of one of his kingdoms, the danger of his capital, have almost bowed down that proud and confident spirit. Knowing what manner of man Francis Joseph is by nature, we may judge of the humiliation he must have felt in doing what he has done, and saying what he has said. A month ago he commanded a splendid army, the largest ever brought together under the standards of the empire. He was the undisputed leader of the German governments, while his adversary stood reprobated and threatened by all the most important of them. He had given orders to his representative in the Diet to move a resolution which it was supposed would force Prussia to succumb. It was known that the governments of four-fifths of the German people would support him and range themselves against the Prussian aggressor. The most experienced and celebrated general of the empire was in command of the Austrian army, and his confidence had extended itself to all ranks and classes of the Austrian people. Benedek believed in himself, and the Emperor and all his subjects believed in Benedek. The world in general could not escape something of this false confidence. People knew that one of the largest and best organized armies in Europe occupied Bohemia, and it was certain that in a few hours it could take possession of Saxony, and be ready to execute its threat of settling the question of the Elbe Duchies by a march on Berlin. In short, the reputation of the Austrian empire stood higher one short month ago than at any time since the present Emperor had ascended the throne. How changed is all now! Moralizing is unprofitable work, but there are times when the faithlessness of fortune and the instability of human greatness display themselves so clearly in events that the oldest and tritest sentiments become fresh and vivid. Never has a State been struck by a greater and more sudden calamity; the supremacy of Austria over Germany is gone; the projected conquest of Berlin is turned into fears for the safety of Vienna. *All is lost, unless the intervention of a foreign* ... *of the invaders.* Yet in this misfortune the Emperor does not lose his dignity, and the address he has just issued will move the hearts of all who read it.

The chances of war and the position he has accepted with regard to France forbid the Emperor to use a defiant tone, but he tells his subjects, and no doubt with all sincerity, that he will not sanction a treaty of peace by which the essential conditions of Austria's position as a great Power would be shaken. "Sooner than this should be the case," declares the Emperor, "I am resolved to carry on the war to the utmost extremity, and in this I am sure of my people's approval." There is nothing in the history of Austria which should give us reason to believe that this is a vain boast. War has ever been for Austria a series of trials and reverses, relieved by a few gleams of victory. Yet she has always been a formidable enemy. She was the chief Power *in coalition after coalition against the first Napoleon*, and at last her weight thrown into the scale *was the cause of his downfall*. Prussia, crushed in a twenty days' campaign, never rose again until 1813; but Austria fought during twenty years whenever she had an opportunity, and the army with which she took the field in the last years of the war was better than any that preceded it. We must, therefore, believe that Austria will not surrender entirely at discretion. Undoubtedly she must yield much. *What she has been in Germany she can never be again.* Her influence over the minor States, if these are to retain a separate existence, is almost as much a thing of the past as her power in Italy. Not all the good offices, *not even the direct interference of France can restore the empire to the influence it has lost*, for that influence was based on reputation. Austria had the first place among German Powers, because it was believed that her military strength was greater than that of her neighbors. If she and Prussia were to meet in any future Diet, the weight of the latter would so preponderate as to be a perpetual cause of mortification to the Imperial House. Austria must make up her mind, then, to become less of a German Power, and to leave the leadership of the Fatherland to her rival. If Prussia retains all she has conquered, *she is really Germany*, and no other Power can withstand her in German affairs, and, if even the minor princes return to their lately abandoned thrones, they can be little more than civil administrators, yielding the military power of the country to King William and his successors. "To maintain Austria's position as a great Power" is undoubtedly the first duty of the Emperor; but this will be done rather by strengthening and consolidating the hereditary possessions of the Austrian crown than by seeking to exercise an unprofitable influence over a multitude of petty States which can never again be made either to trust or to fear the Austrian Power.

We have no doubt that if those hereditary possessions were threatened by Prussia—if it were announced that the King demanded the permanent cession of Bohemia, the old obstinate spirit of the Austrian Cæsars would show itself as of yore, and that neither inefficient generals nor inferior arms would prevent Austria from trying the chances of another campaign. The conscription is a powerful machine for filling the gaps of armies, and the population of the Austrian empire is nearly double that of the enemy. The Emperor tells his subjects that all available troops are being concentrated, that the conscription is filling the ranks, and that there are large enrolments of volunteers. We do not, therefore, expect to see the empire submit to the last indignities of conquest. We rather trust that the moderation of the victors and the prudence of the vanquished will lead them to agree on terms which, while giving the Prussians the benefit of their enormous successes, shall not too far humiliate their opponents.

The Prussian generals, indeed, *will not listen to the proposals for an armistice which come from the opposite camp*. General Gablenz has twice sought an interview, and twice returned unsuccessful. The Prussians naturally desire to take advantage of their series of victories, knowing that the more they hold when actual negotiation begins the better will be their position. A Power which is master of Dresden, of Prague and of Brünn, and which threatens Vienna, can hold a high tone in a Conference or a Congress. On the other side, Italy is distrustful and exacting. The Italians do not understand *why Austria should cede Venetia to a neutral, and fear that they may hereafter be compelled to pay a heavy price for what they might win less dearly now.* Their government is said to fear that Austria *may delay the abandonment of Rome by the French*, and to stipulate that the question of the district of Trent shall be recognized as one to be discussed. Believing that military success and the actual occupation of hostile territory are the best bases for negotiation, General Cialdini has crossed the Po. But these movements are far from excluding the hope of an armistice. They only show that both the assailants of Austria are true to their alliance, and are determined to make the most of their opportunity. The more they gain, the more, as they believe, will Austria be forced to concede. But there will, we trust, be sufficient prudence and moderation in the counsils of Prussia to prevent her attempting to humble her rival beyond endurance. If Prussia and Italy take all they can rightly claim, they may yet remember that Austria must always be their neighbor, and that it will be best to treat her as one that may some day become a friend and ally.

The Needle Gun—An Immediate Supply for the French Army—History of the Weapon.

[Paris (July 10) correspondence of London Times.]

On Friday last, after a conversation with the Minister of War and a superior officer of artillery, the Emperor gave orders that the fabrication of muskets of the present model should immediately stop, and that 200,000 needle guns of an improved kind, that I believe of M. Chassapet, should be manufactured forthwith. There is only one battalion at the Camp de Chalons armed with breech-loaders. The Cent Gardes have been armed with them for some time past.

Several Paris papers having attributed to M. Louis Descoutures the invention of the Prussian needle gun, he has published the following letter disclaiming it:—This weapon, of which I am not the inventor, has been in use in the Prussian army for more than ten years. If it has several disadvantages, it gives, on the other hand, so many advantages that even the spirit of routine which rejected the use of it can now no longer call them in question. We knew for a long time past other arms which are, perhaps, preferable to it, and, without naming them all, I may place in the number that of Mr. Lancaster, of which the English Volunteers make quite as much, and even more, than the Prussians do of their needle gun. I speak of them from having seen them; but down to the present the movable breech-loader has been considered by scientific officers as defective, and practically without serious advantage. It is true, as has been stated, that at the express desire of his Majesty the Emperor I made, four years ago, a musket which I tried at Bas-Meudon, and General Favre had been ordered to make the experiment. On that occasion I fired one hundred and twenty-eight cartridges at the rate of seven per minute, and the weapon, though burning hot, was in perfect condition. The inside of the barrel was as clean as after one discharge. It was also fired by another officer who was present, Captain Resy. I remained ignorant for a long time of the report of General Favre, and I obtained permission last year to again examine the arm. It had been left, involuntarily, no doubt, in a state unfit for use, and I did not present it to the Minister of War, because all those on whom depended the solution of the question invariably answered, "The French soldier fires too quickly." The object of this letter does not allow of details which do not concern myself. Permit me to add, however, that my arm has no other analogy with the Prussian than the movable breech, and that practical men—French, Russian, English, Prussian and Spanish officers—who make use of it place it far above the Prussian arm, and above all others in use at the present day.

THE BATTLE OF SADOWA.

English Report of the Great Engagement and Austrian Defeat.

[Höritz (July 3) special military correspondence of the London Times.]

HALT OF THE FIRST PRUSSIAN ARMY.

On Monday, the 2d of July, Prince Frederick Charles halted with the First army at Kommenitz, in order to allow the Crown Prince time to come up to Miletin, a town five miles east of the village of Kommenitz, and to get information of the movements of the Austrians.

RECONNOITRING.

That afternoon he sent out two officers to reconnoitre beyond Höritz; both fell in with Austrian troops, and had to fight and ride hard to bring their information home safely. Major von Ungar, who went in the direction of Königgrätz, escorted by a few dragoons, came upon a large force of Austrian cavalry and Jägers before he got to the little river Bistritz, over which the road from Höritz to Königgrätz crosses, about half way between those two towns. A squadron of cavalry made an immediate dash to catch him, and he and his dragoons had to ride for their lives; the Austrians pursued, and those best mounted came up to the Prussians, but not in sufficient numbers to stop them, and after a running skirmish, in which Von Ungar received a lance thrust in the side which carried away most of his coat, but hardly the skin, this reconnoitring party safely gained the outposts of their own army. More on the Prussian right the other reconnoitring officer also found the Austrians in force, and was obliged to retire rapidly.

THE ADVANCE.

From the reports of these officers and from other information Prince Frederick Charles determined to attack, so last night he issued orders for the immediate advance of his own army beyond Höritz, and sent Lieutenant von Normand with a letter to the Crown Prince asking him to push forward in the morning from Miletin and attack the right flank of the Austrians while he himself engaged them in front. There was some fear that the Austrian cavalry patrols and detachments which were prowling about would intercept the aid-de-camp and stop the letter, but Von Normand succeeded in avoiding them, and got safely to the Crown Prince's headquarters at one o'clock this morning, and rejoined Prince Frederick Charles at four to report the success of his mission, and to bring to the leader of the First army an assurance of the co-operation of the Second. Had this aid-de-camp been taken prisoner or killed on his way to Miletin his loss would have probably influenced the whole campaign, for on that letter depended in a great measure the issue of to-day's battle.

NIGHT SCENE NEAR THE FIELD.

Long before midnight the troops were all in motion, and at half-past one in the morning the general staff left Kommenitz. The moon occasionally shone out brightly, but was generally hidden behind clouds, and then could be distinctly seen the decaying bivouac fires in the places which had been occupied by the troops along the road. These fires looked like large will-o'-the-wisps as their flames flickered about in the wind, and stretched for many a mile, for there are 150,000 soldiers with the First army alone, and the bivouacs of so great a force spread over a wide extent of country. Day gradually began to dawn, but with the first symptoms of sunrise a drizzling rain came on, which lasted until late in the afternoon. The wind increased and blew coldly upon the soldiers, for they were short of both sleep and food.

THE PRUSSIAN POSITION.

At daybreak the troops had taken up their positions to attack the Austrians.

The main body of the army was at Milowitz, a village on the road from Höritz to Königgrätz; the Seventh division, under General Fransky, was at Cerekwitz, on the left, and the Fourth and Fifth divisions at the villages of Bristan and Psauch, on the right, while General Von Bitterfeld, with the Eighth and part of the Seventh corps d'armée, was sent to the town of Nechanitz, on the extreme right, ten miles from Milowitz. About four o'clock the army began to advance and marched slowly up the gentle hill which leads from Milowitz to the village of Dub, five miles nearer Königgrätz.

THE FIELD.

The corn lay heavy and tangled from the rain upon the ground; the skirmishers pushed through it nimbly, but the battalions which followed behind in crowded columns toiled heavily through the down-beaten crops and the artillery horses had to strain hard on their traces to get the wheels of the gun carriages through the sticky soil. At six the whole army was close up to Dub, but it was not allowed to go upon the summit of the slope, for the ridge which Dub stands had hidden all its motions and the Austrians could see nothing of the troops collected behind the crest, and perhaps thought that no Prussians were near them, except ordinary advanced posts; for the cavalry vedettes which had been pushed forward thus far over night remained on the top of the ridge, as if nothing were going on behind them.

From the top of the slight elevation on which the village of Dub stands, the ground slopes gently down to the river Bistritz, at which the road crosses at the village of Sadowa, a mile and a quarter from Dub. From Sadowa the ground again rises beyond the Bistritz, and to the little village of Lissa, conspicuous by its church tower standing at the top of a gentle hill, a mile and a half from Sadowa. A person standing this morning on the top of the ridge saw Sadowa below him, built of wooden cottages, surrounded by orchards, and could distinguish among its houses several water-mills, but these were not at work, for all the inhabitants of the village had been sent away, and a white coat here and there among the cottages was not a peasant's blouse, but was the uniform of an Austrian soldier; three-quarters of a mile down the Bistritz a big red brick house, with a high brick chimney near it, looked like a manufactory, and some large wooden buildings alongside it were unmistakably warehouses; close to these a few wooden cottages, propably meant for the workmen employed at the manufactory, completed the village of Dohilnitz.

A little more than a mile still further down the Bistritz stood the village of Mokrowens, like most Bohemian country villages, built of pine-wood cottages enclustered in orchard trees. The chateau of Dohali ha stands midway between Dohilnitz and Mokrowens as a knoll overhanging the river.

Behind Dohilnitz and between that village and the high road which runs through Sadowa, their lies a large thick wood; many of the trees had been cut down about ten feet above the ground, and the cut down branches had been twisted together between the standing trunks of the trees which were nearest to the river to make an entrance into the wood from the front extremely difficult. On the open slope between Dohilnitz and Dobalicha along the ground there seemed to run a dark dotted line of stumpy bushes, but the telescope showed that these were guns, and that this battery alone contained twelve pieces. Looking to the left, up the course of the Bistritz, the ground was open between the orchards of Sadowa and the trees which grow round Benatek, a little village about two miles above Sadowa, which marked the right of the Austrian position, except where, midway between these villages, a broad belt of fir-wood runs for three-quarters of a mile.

Above and beyond these villages and woods in the course of the river, the spire of Lissa was seen, below it a few houses, gardens and patches of fir-wood, and a little to the left, rather down the hill, were seen the cottages of the hamlet of Cisliwes. The air was thick and hazy, the rain came down steadily, and the wind blew bitterly cold, while the infantry and artillery were waiting behind the brow of the hill near Dub.

DRAWING FIRE.

At seven o'clock Prince Frederick Charles pushed forward his cavalry and horse artillery. They moved down the slope, towards the Bistritz, at a gentle trot, slipping about on the greasy ground, but keeping most beautiful lines, the lance flags of the Uhlans, wet with the rain, flapping heavily against the staves. At the bottom of the hill the trumpets sounded, and in making their movements to gain the bridge the squadrons began wheeling and hovering about the side of the river, as if they courted the fire of the enemy.

THE AUSTRIAN REPLY AND FIGHT.

Then the Austrian guns opened upon them from a battery placed in a field near the village at which the main road crosses the Bistritz, and the battle of Sadowa began. The first shot was fired about half-past seven.

The Prussian horse artillery, close down to the river, replied to the Austrian guns, but neither side fired heavily, and for half an hour the cannonade consisted of but little more than single shots. At a quarter before eight the King of Prussia arrived on the field, and very soon after the horse artillery were reinforced by other field batteries, and the Prussian gunners began firing their shells quickly into the Austrian position.

But as soon as the Prussian fire actively commenced Austrian guns seemed to appear, as if by magic, in every point of the position; from every road, from every village, from the orchard of Mokrowens, on the Prussian right, to the orchard of Benatek, on their left, came flashes of fire and whizzing rifle shells, which, bursting with a sharp crack, sent their splinters rattling among the guns, gunners, carriages and horses, often killing a man or horse, sometimes dismounting a gun, but always ploughing up the earth and scattering the mud in the men's faces. But the Austrians did not confine themselves to firing on the artillery alone, for they threw their shells up the slope opposite to them towards Dub, and one shell came slap into a squadron of Uhlans, who were close beside the King; burying itself with a heavy thud in the ground, it blew up columns of mud some twenty feet in the air, and, bursting a moment after, reduced the squadron by four files.

GRAND ARTILLERY DUEL.

As soon as the cannodade in front became serious, the guns of the Seventh division began to bombard the village of Benatek, on the Austrian right. The Austrians returned shot for shot, and neither side either gained or lost ground. In the centre, too, the battle was very even; the Prussians pushed battery after battery into the action, and kept up a tremendous fire on the Austrian guns, but these returned it and sometimes with interest, for the Austrian artillery officers knew their ground, and every shot fell true; many officers and men fell, and many horses were killed or wounded. More Krankenträgers were sent down to the batteries, and always returned carrying on strechers men whose wounds had been hastily bound-up under fire, but who seemed to be too much stunned to suffer much from pain.

Gradually the Prussian cannonade appeared to get stronger, and the Austrian batteries between Dohelnitz and Dohalicha retired higher up the hill, but the guns at Mokrowens still stood fast, and the Prussians had not yet crossed the Bistriz; but many guns were now turned on Mokrowens, and at ten o'clock the battery there was also obliged to retire a little.

THE PRUSSIAN INFANTRY UP.

While this cannoade had been going on, some of the infantry had been moved down toward the river, where they took shelter from the fire under a convenient undulation of ground. The Eighth division came down on the left hand side of the causeway, and, under the cover of the rising in the ground, formed its columns for the attack on the village of Sadowa; while the Third and Fourth divisions, on the right hand side of the road, prepared to storm Dohelnitz and Mokrowens.

ENCOUNTER IN A BLAZING VILLAGE.

But a little before their preparations were complete the village of Benatek, on the Austrians' right, caught fire, and the Seventh division made a dash to secure it, but the Austrians were not driven out by the flames, and here for the first time in the battle was there hand to hand fighting.

The Twenty-seventh regiment led the attack, and rushed into the orchards of the village, the burning houses separated the combatants, they poured volley after valley at each other through the flames; but the Prussians found means to get round the burning houses, and, taking the defenders in reverse, forced them to retire with the loss of many prisoners.

THE GENERAL ASSAULT.

It was ten o'clock when Prince Frederick Charles sent General Stubnapl to order the attack on Sadowa, Dohelnitz, and Mokrowens. The columns advanced covered by skirmishers, and reached the river bank without much loss, but from there they had to fight every inch of their way. The Austrian infantry held the bridges and villages in force, and fired fast upon them as they approached. The Prussians could advance but slowly along the narrow ways and against the defences of the houses, and the volleys sweeping through the ranks seemed to tear the soldiers down.

The Prussians fired much more quickly than their opponents, but they could not see to take their aim; the houses, trees and smoke from the Austrian discharges shrouded the villages.

Sheltered by this the Austrian Jägers fired blindly where they could tell by hearing that the attacking columns were, and the shots told tremendously on the Prussians in their close formations; but the latter improved their positions, although slowly, and by dint of sheer courage and perseverance, for they lost men at every yard of their advance, and in some places almost paved the way with wounded. Then, to help the infantry, the Prussian artillery turned its fire, regardless of the enemy's batteries, on the villages and made tremendous havoc among the houses. Mokrowens and Dohelnitz both caught fire, and the shells fell quickly and with fearful effect among the defenders of the flaming hamlets. The Austrian guns also played upon the attacking infantry, but at this time these were sheltered from their fire by the houses and trees between.

FALLING BACK.

In and around the villages the fighting continued for nearly an hour; then the Austrian infantry, who had been there, driven out by a rush of the Prussians, retired, but only a little way up the slope into a line with their batteries. The wood above Sadowa was strongly held, and that between Sadowa and Benatek, teeming with riflemen, stood to bar the way of the Seventh division. But General Fransky, who commands this division, was not to be easily stopped, and he sent his infantry at the wood, and turned his artillery on the Austrian batteries. The Seventh division began firing into the trees, but found they could not make any impression, for the defenders were concealed, and musketry fire was useless against them.

TERRIBLE BAYONET DASH.

Then Fransky let them go and they dashed in with the bayonet. The Austrians would not retire, but waited for the struggle, and in the wood above Benatek was fought out one of the fiercest combats which the war has seen.

The Twenty-seventh Prussian regiment went in nearly three thousand strong, with ninety officers, *and came out on the further side with only two officers and between three hundred and four hundred men standing; all the rest were killed or wounded.* The other regiments of the division also suffered much, but not in the same proportion; but the wood was carried.

The Austrian line was now driven in on both flanks, but its commander formed a new line of battle a little higher up the hill, round Lissa, still holding the wood which lies above Sadowa.

BOMBARDING A NEW POSITION.

Then the Prussian artillery was sent across the Bistritz, and began to fire upon the new Austrian position. At the same time the smoke of General Herwarth's advance was gradually seen moving towards the Austrian left; for he had at Nechanitz, a village about seven miles lower down the Bistritz than Sadowa, found a brigade of Saxon troops, with some Austrian cavalry, and was driving them towards the position at Lissa, himself following in such a direction that it appeared he would turn the Austrian left flank. But the Austrian commander seemed determined to hold his position, and heavy masses of infantry and cavalry could be seen on the upper part of the slope.

SHELTERED FROM THE NEEDLE GUN.

The Prussian infantry, which had taken the villages of Sadowa and Dobelnitz, was now sent against the wood, which, above these places, runs along the side of the Sadowa and Lipa road. They advanced against it, but did not at first make much impression; for, the Austrians being here again concealed, the fire of the needle gun did not tell, and a whole battery, placed at the far end of the wood, fired through the trees, and told on the Prussian ranks with awful effect. But the assailants fought on, at last broke down the obstacles at the entrance, and then dashed in.

The fighting continued from tree to tree, and the Austrians made many a rush to recover the lost position of the wood; but in this close fighting their boyish troops went down like ninepins before the strong men of the Eighth division; but when the defenders drew back a little, and their artillery played into the trees, the Prussians suffered fearfully, and about half-way up in the wood the fight became stationary.

THE AUSTRIAN ARTILLERY FIRE.

At this time the Austrian artillery were making splendid practice, and about one o'clock the whole battle line of the Prussians could gain no more ground, and was obliged to fight hard to retain the position it had won. At one time it seemed as if it would be lost, for guns had been dismounted by the Austrian fire, and in the wooded ground the needle gun had no fair field, and the infantry fight was very equal.

PRUSSIAN REINFORCEMENTS.

Then Prince Frederick Charles sent the Fifth and Sixth divisions forward. They laid down their helmets and knapsacks on the ground, and advanced to the river. The king was now near to Bistritz, and the troops cheered him loudly as they marched into the battle. They went over the Sadowa bridge, disappeared into the wood, and soon the increased noise of musketry told they had begun to fight; but the Austrian gunners sent salvo after salvo among them, and they did not push the battle forwards more than a few hundred yards, for they fell back themselves, and they could not reach the enemy.

Not only did the fragments of the shells fly about among them, scattering death and awful gashes among their ranks, but the portions of the trees, torn by the artillery fire, flew thickly about, huge, ragged splinters, that caused even more frightful wounds.

A CRITICAL MOMENT.

Herwarth, too, seemed checked upon the right. The smoke of his musketry and artillery, which had hitherto been pushing forward steadily, stood still for a time.

Fransky's men, cut to pieces, could not be sent forward to attack the Sadowa wood, for they would have exposed themselves to be taken in rear by the artillery on the right of the Austrian line formed in front of Lippa. All the artillery was engaged except eight batteries, and these had to be retained in case of a reverse, for at one time the firing in the Sadowa wood, and of the Prussian artillery on the slope, seemed almost as if drawing back towards Bistritz.

The First army corps was certainly checked in its advance, if not actually being pushed back.

Then the Prussian commanders began to look anxiously to the left for the coming of the Crown Prince.

Some Austrian guns near Lipa were seen to be firing towards the Prussian left, and it was hoped they might be directed against the advanced guard of the Second army, but at three o'clock there were no signs of Prussian columns advancing against Lipa. The generals became manifestly uneasy, and they drew the infantry out of the battle; cavalry was also formed up, so that it would be available either for the pursuit of the Austrians, or for retarding their pursuit, and General von Rhetz himself went off to look for the Second army. But he soon returned and brought the intelligence that the Crown Prince was forming his attack on Lipa, and that the guns on the Austrian right had been firing against his troops.

Then the First army took heart again. The Sadowa wood was carried, and the battery beyond it was stormed by the Jägers.

At half-past three the Crown Prince's columns were seen moving across the slope against Lipa, for his artillery had silenced the Austrian guns, and Herwarth was again pressing forward against the Austrian left. In a quarter of an hour the Crown Prince's infantry was engaged at Lipa, and their quick volleys of musketry, rapidly advancing, told that the Austrians were in full retreat. The First army pushed forward at once, the artillery limbered up, and galloped up the slope, coming into action on every opportunity to send its shells against the retreating battalions, the infantry, emerging from the woods, formed and pressed at the double. Prince Frederick Charles put himself at the head of his regiment, and dashed over the Sadowa bridge and up the road, followed by all his light cavalry.

THE AUSTRIAN RETREAT.

On gaining the top of the Lipa slopes the retreating battalions of the Austrians were seen running across a hollow in the ground which lies between Lipa and the village of Streselitz, which lies about two miles further south. The Prussian artillery halted on the summit of the Lipa hill and fired shells rapidly, which burst with terrible precision over the heads of the fugitives.

IN PURSUIT.

The cavalry flew forward in pursuit; but the Prince, after leading a short way, had to go to superintend the general movement, for the Austrian batteries had taken post in the Streselitz ridge, and were firing heavily against the pursuing Prussians. Then the cavalry got out of hand, and by small detachments rushed on the Austrian battalions; but these, though retreating fast, were not routed, and in many instances beat off the cavalry, who also suffered much from the Austrian artillery, for the shells burst repeatedly among the squadrons, and killed many men and horses. But the Austrian guns were driven off their ridge by the heavier fire of the more numerous Prussian batteries, and then the pursuit was renewed.

Some of the retreating Austrians made for the fortress of Königgrätz, others for Pardubitz, and troops were sent in pursuit along both roads.

THE WOUNDED.

The wounded who were lying on the ground shrieked with fear when they saw the cavalry galloping down towards them; but Prince Frederick Charles took care that they should be avoided, and at one time checked the pursuit, in order to move his squadrons around, and not go through a patch of standing corn, where several wounded Austrians had taken refuge. These, when they saw the Lancers coming, thought they were going to be massacred, and cried piteously, waving white handkerchief as a sign of truce; but they had no cause to fear.

These lay in immense numbers in the field; the dead, too, lay thick; but all that they require will be done to-morrow. Every cottage in the neighborhood that has not been burned is full of wounded. Austrians and Prussians lie side by side, but the Krankenträger are still out, and all will not be collected till late to-morrow morning.

Conspicuous in the hospitals, working diligently in their voluntary labor, are the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem. This order of Knighthood, renewed lately for the succor of the weak and suffering, has sent here a large hospital establishment, under the direction of Count Theodore Stolberg. From the voluntary contributions of the Knights, hospitals are maintained in the nearest towns and in the field, all necessary hospital stores are carried by the Order, and means of transport accompany the army, hospital nurses are provided, and by their aid many wounded are carefully attended who could not be looked after by the ordinary arrangements.

HALT IN TRIUMPH.

Large numbers of prisoners were taken, for the pursuit was continued to the Elbe, and it was not till nine o'clock that all firing had ceased; but the main body of the army halted about seven. As the Princes returned the battalions cheered them for their victory; but they left the pursuit of their enemies and the cheers of their own victorious troops to look after the hospital accommodation provided for the wounded.

The battle of Sadowa has been a great victory for the Prussian army; the troops fought with the most determined courage, they stood for hours under a terrible fire, for there are supposed to have been nearly fifteen hundred guns in action, of which seven hundred and fifty were Prussian. The immediate cause of the victory was the Crown Prince's attack on the Austrian left flank, which turned the position, but the attack in front had a great effect on the issue, as unless it had been steadily maintained, the Austrians might have repulsed the attack in flank.

It is the opinion of the Prussian Generals that the Austrian retreat was most skilful, and that their artillery was excellently handled.

THE NUMBERS ENGAGED.

The number of troops engaged on the Prussian side was about two hundred and fifty thousand.

The Austrians are supposed to have had almost an equal number.

No details have yet been received of the number of killed, wounded or prisoners.

WITH THE AUSTRIANS.

[Hohenmauth (July 4) correspondence of London Times.]

THE BATTLE SOUND AT HEADQUARTERS.

I was awakened a little before six o'clock yesterday morning by a heavy, rushing noise, like the march of men in a cornfield. On looking out I saw the strange effect was caused by a regular waterspout—a downpour worthy of the monsoon, which lasted only for a few minutes and then was followed for half an hour by a thick rain. The rain finally subsided into a gentle drizzle, which cleared off before eight o'clock, but was frequently renewed. The morning was gray and cheerless, and as we sat at breakfast (your military correspondent and myself)—a very humble meal—we spoke of the probability of the Prussians attacking speedily, because they knew their needle guns would be less injured than the Austrian muzzle-loaders, and that nearly all the Austrian army was lying out in the fields, while many of their own men were sheltered in villages. As we were actually speaking, there came through the fog of the morning the dull thudding sound which really issues only from the throat of cannon, but which when first heard leaves one in doubt whether it may not be from the rumbling of carts, the rolling of a harmless barrel, or the kicking of a horse on a wooden floor near at hand. We listened. In a few seconds there could be no question as to the real nature of that tumult.

"There they are; they are at it." The sound, a low, prolonged rumble as if under ground, came from northwards. My companion's horse was soon saddled, and he rode off to seek General Benedek's staff, with whom he witnessed the battle, and the events he will recount to you. I had not only no horse, but had not yet received a pass to enable me to go beyond the limits of the Haupt Quartier, where my badge was recognized. All was commotion outside the fortress, although the city itself was almost silent and deserted, except by the soldiery of the garrison. In the dilemma a sudden thought struck me—perhaps it was a very happy one. I acted on it at once.

GRAND VIEW FOR A CORRESPONDENT.

On the previous day I had been looking over the country from a lofty tower commanding the Prague gateway, whence Josephstadt on the north and ... of the positions of the armies were displayed as if on a raised map, but I had little idea, indeed, that it was to serve me in such good stead, and that I was to behold from it one of the most obstinate and decisive battles of the world. Nothing but a delicate, and yet bold, panorama on a gigantic scale could give a notion of the extent of the view and the variety of landscape visible from this tower, and no panorama could convey any idea of such a scene, filled with half a million of men moving over its surface like the waves of the sea or as a fast driving cloud in a gale—a scene in which every village was vomiting forth fire and smoke, every knoll the scene of murderous conflict, every valley the indiscriminate grave of thousands of men, every cornfield covered with the full harvest of death, and trodden under foot by furious legions before day was done, while the church spire, rising aloft from its bloodstained base and the flames of the little hamlet, seemed to bear witness to heaven against the wickedness of man.

BENEDEK'S CHOICE OF POSITION.

Lying nearly due north of Königgrätz is Josephstadt, but there was nothing going on in that direction at eight o'clock. From the neighborhood of Josephstadt a continuous line of low, undulating hills, with plateau-like tops or of rolling fields, extends from the right till it slopes away on the left into the meadows watered by the Elbe. Beyond this line again, and running nearly parallel with the first, about half way where it recedes towards the west and north, is a similar ridge, appearing to be of greater elevation. Further back still is the picturesque broken country formed by the projecting spires and lower ranges of the Riesengebirge. This must be taken as a general description of the appearance of the landscape from the spot where I stood. There are many cross valleys permeating both ridges towards the Elbe, and on both there are hills or hillocks, some almost like tumuli, on which villages and their little churches nestle in the woods.

In the valley between the first and second ridge runs the Bistritz rivulet, on which Sadowa and Nechanitz are situated. It is traversed nearly at right angles by the main road from Jicin to Königgrätz. In the valley between the first ridge and the rolling ground which lies towards the Elbe runs a road from Smiritz, or Smiric, to Königgrätz, coming out on the Jicin road; and more to the west is another road, branching from the Jicin road, and running by Nechanitz to the main road between Prague and Königgrätz. There are numerous other small roads connecting the nests of villages which are to be seen in all directions. Immediately below the city of Königgrätz the land is level and marshy, but toward Smiritz, which is nearly half way to Josephstadt, there is a projecting spur, approaching the river, which is one outshoot of the first line of hills, and thence, in front of us from left to right, a gradual elevation from the river takes place, in a series of irregular terraces. On the top of this first ridge there is a village named Smiralitz. This is near the right of the scene of the battle. Then the ridge runs southwestward (to the left) without any more remarkable object on the sky line than a very large tree, which stands quite alone.

There are several villages on the inner side of the slope between Königgratz and the river. From the big tree the line continues to the left hand till about the centre, where its undulating contour is broken by a wooded knoll or hill rising rather steeply, on which is placed the church and village of Klum, or Chlum, embowered in thick trees and gardens. Thence to the left the line of the ridge is depressed and carried towards the village of Nechanitz, and gets lost in broken hills among which are villages unknown to our geographers, now heaps of cinders and ashes, surrounded by dead and dying—the very centre of the tremendous battle.

THE AUSTRIAN ARMY.

The army which General Benedek had to defend his position consisted of at least 225,000 men, but a large deduction must be made for the baggage guards, the various escorts, the garrisons of Josephstadt and Königgrätz, the sick and those tired by marching, and the killed, wounded and prisoners in recent actions—so that, probably, he had not more than 190,000 or 195,000 actually in hand.

The ground he had to cover from right to left was about nine miles in length. On his extreme left in his first line, near the rear of Nechanitz, and towards the Prague road, he put the Saxons. Then the Tenth army corps, under Field Marshal Lieutenant Gablenz; the Third *corps d'armée*, under Field Marshal Lieutenant Count Thun; the Fourth army corps, under Field Marshal Lieutenant Count Festetics (who was wounded early in the day), and the Second army corps, under Field Marshal Lieutenant Archduke Ernest, were placed from left to right on the slope of the second range or ridge.

His second line and his reserves consisted of the Eighth *corps d'armée*, under Field Marshal Lieutenant the Archduke Leopold; the First army corps was under cavalry General Count Clam-Gallas, and the Sixth army corps under Field Marshal Lieutenant Ramming.

He had at his disposal a *grand army of cavalry*. It was composed of the First light cavalry division, under General Major Edelsheim; the Second light cavalry division, under Count Taxis; the First heavy cavalry division, under the Prince of Holstein; the Second heavy cavalry division, under General Major Faltseck, and the Third heavy cavalry division, under General Major Count Coudenhove. His artillery consisted of about 540 guns. The horse, under Feldzougmeister Benedek's orders, *seemed to me the very finest cavalry by many degrees that I ever saw*, as it certainly was in point of numbers the largest displayed on one battle field in recent days. I cannot think that the Austrian Commander-in-Chief had much less than 20,000 sabres under his command yesterday.

IN POSITION.

The centre in front of Klum and of Lipa was strongly held by the Third and Fourth corps somewhat thrown back, with the First corps in reserve, and the Sixth corps were in reserve on the right, towards Smiralitz. The Saxons also held a considerable portion of their force in reserve, in addition to the Eighth corps, on the left. It was not possible for any one but the General himself to describe the exact situation and position of the whole of his host at the outset of the battle, nor could the very best glass command the whole of the field, though its extremities were not more than four miles from my actual point of observation. Once the engagement had fairly begun, and the troops had begun to change their positions, even General Benedek himself could not tell where they were, and his staff were, of course, still more ignorant. Notwithstanding the violent wind which prevailed the artillery and musketry fire clung in the valleys and undulations, and mingling with the fogs and rain clouds at times quite obscured the field. The Austrians have an excellent system of field telegraphs; but it could not be adapted to the exigencies of the battle, and, like most human appliances and inventions, it was found wanting at the critical moment. I can only describe what I saw, and as that was necessarily not all, there may be many mistakes and errors in the account which better information will rectify. The general formation of the Austrian line was in having masses of columns checkerwise, flanked by powerful divisions of artillery, and his cavalry was kept in the low grounds near the Prague road and behind Klum, in rear of his centre, where it was disposed to act against the enemy as soon as he showed symptoms of unsteadiness.

The Austrians seemed, for the most part, to be posted on high ground. The only disadvantage to which they were exposed, so far as I could see, was that the Prussians were covered on their proper left by a good deal of wood. The course of the roads ran rather in their favor. Here and there the Prussians may have got some bit of good fortune in a knoll, a hillock, or village, but on the whole, in my judgment, such as it is, they had to assault an enemy better placed for defence than they were for attack. At the time when I reached the tower the firing was not very heavy, and it was principally carried on by three Austrian batteries posted in front of the solitary tree I have mentioned towards the right. There were several Austrian officers in the tower, and they were of opinion that the Prussians had only been making a demonstration to try our right, and finding it too strong would probably retire.

RECEIVING THE SHOCK.

It looked as if the Prussians had attacked the position almost simultaneously from left to right, for no sooner had the action developed itself on the centre than it rolled back from Nechanitz, on the left, and before half-past nine the whole range of hills and valleys and slopes for nine miles and more was as if the earth had been turned into snow wreaths, agitated in a wintry gale. Before ten o'clock a thicker and darker cloud rose from the trees and the village on the right. "My God, Imilovitz is in flames!" exclaimed the guardian of the tower. The officers said "*Ja so!*" and "*Hem!*" and uttered various other sounds of varied import, possibly, smoked their cigars and looked on. Imilovitz, indeed, blazed up furiously after a time, and in about a quarter of an hour more the Austrian batteries which had gone down the slope toiled up again, unlimbered and fired from the brow, and then other batteries came up near the big tree, and I could see men dotting the slope of the hill, coming towards the railway, amid those who could never move of their own accord again. These increased in number.

Puffs of smoke high in the air, or rising from the ground, showed where the Prussian fire was plying the Austrians on the right; but their guns replied vigorously, and all through that day, though sometimes ill-placed, the Austrian artillery behaved most gallantly. It was difficult to ascertain why the Austrian corps off the right were so unsteady, and why so many men were leaving the ranks of regiments still invisible; but after a time another sponge-like raincloud wiped away everything and left it all like a clean slate, from behind which there issued a rolling fire of cannon as close as the volleys of a *feu de joie*. When the shower passed away the cannonade on the right near the tree had sensibly diminished, and the Austrians seemed to have the advantage all along the front, judging by the advance of their guns and infantry, except near the left centre and right of their line.

SADOWA IN FLAMES.

On the extreme left another black cloud now rose up, licked by flames at the base. "*Gott in Himmel!*" exclaimed the guardian of the tower, "Sadowa burns now!" And so it was. The pleasant little village, snug church, hospitable mill—all were burning. It was with surer divination of the coming woe than we had that the poor people had fled in tears, or remained in hopeless sorrow in their homes. The heat of this great battle burned up whatever it touched and sent forth the lava which destroyed as it flowed on all sindes. Between the big tree and Klum, in the centre and far away toward the second ridge, the fight was raging with extraordinary fury from ten o'clock till half-past ten, and that half hour seemed an age. But still the Austrians advanced. One gray mass of men followed another into the smoke and was lost there. Towards Sadowa and Nechanitz on the left they were also gaining ground, and before eleven o'clock their columns had gone out of sight into the valley or undulations, and the Prussians could be seen by their fire to have fallen back on the opposing slopes of the second range of hills.

FINAL SCENES ON THE FIELD.

Count Festetics, commander of the Fourth corps, had been wounded early in the action, and his second in command, upon whom devolved the honorable task of supplying his place, anxious to lose nothing for want of energy, or thinking that the moment had arrived for a telling stroke, advanced his men; and the Second corps, both to the left behind, proceeded to support him. Now, there seems little doubt that the principal Prussian attack was intended to be delivered against our left, and this had been strengthened by the addition of the Eighth corps as a support to the Saxons. The Prussian left must then have been comparatively weak, and the General may be excused for exceeding his instructions, if, indeed, no [illegible] has occurred in the information given [illegible] from a most trustworthy source. However that may be, Klum, a village on the height to the right rear of [illegible] it is said ought not to have been left [illegible] the post unoccupied, that a Prussian possession of the place, set fire to a house as a signal to their comrades to advance in force, and commenced against the few troops left near them that rapid fire of needle-guns which effectually conceals the weakness of a small force.

At fifty-five minutes past two o'clock P. M. Benedek was informed that there were Prussians behind him, and with his usual impetuosity immediately galloped to the spot to see them dislodged. Followed by his whole staff he dashed in between Klum and the troops, who, at about four hundred or five hundred yards from the enclosure, were wondering what was to be done. [illegible] quickly than I can write the words Prince Esterhazy was down, his horse shot under him; Count Grunne [illegible] wounded, it is said, mortally; Baron Henikstein [illegible] among the more severely wounded and many casualties among the men.

I saw young Prince Esterhazy, his handsome face covered with mud, stagger to his feet, and taking a horse from a dragoon, who was instantly supplied with another, ride, as did all the staff, to seek a safer position; not, however, before they had rallied the men, who were startled by the suddenness of the attack ...