PARIS.

Details of the Recent Battle Before Metz.

Desperate Attempt of Bazaine to Cut His Way Through the German Line.

Repulse of His Army with Great Loss.

German Report of the French Defeat at Orleans.

The Army of the Loire Badly Beaten.

TEN THOUSAND PRISONERS TAKEN.

The Bombardment of Paris Momentarily Expected.

Cheering News for the French from the Capital.

Garibaldi Gone from Tours to the Front.

A Doubtful Story About Bourbaki's Mission.

THE MILITARY OPERATIONS.

THE LATE BATTLE BEFORE METZ.

TELEGRAM TO THE NEW YORK HERALD.

Details of the Battle of the 7th—Desperate Attempt of Bazaine to Cut Through the German Line—Advance of the French—Their Temporary Success—Arrival of the Prussian Reinforcements—Desperate Conflict—Bazaine's Army Repulsed and Driven Into their Works—Gallantry of the Germans—A Feigned Attack.

LONDON, Oct. 13, 1870.

A letter dated at Mezières-les-Metz on the 7th inst., from a correspondent, says:—

To-day's battle was the most important effort that Bazaine has made since the Prussians have thrown their belt of men, guns and earthworks around the fortress. He had at least fifty thousand men engaged. The Prussians were considerably more numerous.

THE CALM BEFORE THE STORM.

The morning was dull and misty, and as I reached the eminence at Foix I could barely see Mont St. Quentin above the fog in the valley, the sun rays striking upon its warm gray peak. It seems as if a general armistice had been declared, for even the forepost fire had dropped.

POSITIONS OF THE GERMANS.

In the bombardment of the two previous days the position occupied by the batteries of German heavy guns was at Frênecourt, near the commencement of the rise of the hills, at some distance to the southwest of Mezières. To speak more precisely, they were stationed in the low heights of Leboriment, on the rising ground, beyond which stands an observatory, which commands the whole plain. Maranage, the headquarters of the Prussian Third Army corps, is considerably in the rear of this position. These heavy guns, curiously enough, belong to the State of Hesse Darmstadt. But the Prussians pushed their batteries considerably beyond Frênecourt. They had six field batteries midway between it and Semecourt, and on the 6th they had passed forward a seventh battery as far as Semecourt itself.

THE FRENCH FORCED TO EVACUATE A VILLAGE.

From the several position the bombardment of Fort Steloy had been going forward, and also a shell fire into the village of Ladouchamps, some little distance nearer Metz than Stremy, on the line of railway. Till lately this village had been reckoned neutral territory, but on the 2d of October the French had seized it and established a battery in front of it. The village itself was burned the same night by Prussian shells; but still the French retained the position, and the Prussian fire for the last few days had been partly directed to the dislodgment of the enemy from a position which was important, as the occupation of it could enfilade the whole front across the valley. On the 6th nearly a thousand shells had been thrown into Ladouchamps and the neighborhood, and late in the evening the French had evacuated the shattered fragments of a once smiling village.

PRUSSIAN OCCUPATION OF THE POSITION.

The Prussians at once threw forward troops in its direction, establishing their reserve in the rear and sending forward sergeants' parties to occupy it and Grande and Petites Etapes, villages to which its possession was the key. Stremy, constituting its chief support, and here lay the Fifty-ninth regiment of the Landwehr. Maxe, close to the river and considerable in advance, was occupied by outposts sent forward from the Tenth Army corps. On the other side of the Moselle the two divisions of the landwehr stretched right athwart the valley, from the bridge at Argancy, where they touched the Tenth army corps, to near Maranage, where they met the Fifth, and to them was confided the duty of keeping the flat alluvial tract on the western bank of the Moselle. At Maxieur I found the headquarters of General Von Kummer, who commands the landwehr. The men, to a great extent, were located in temporary barracks, which they had themselves constructed, and which did great credit to their ingenuity.

THE FIRE OPENED.

About one o'clock I was sitting at lunch with two staff officers in an arbor in General Kummer's garden, when the guns of the Prussian batteries by Frenecourt began to give tongue. Only a few Frenchmen were loafing around at Ladonchamps. One of the officers said, "There will be nothing serious to-day; there is too much mist in the valley." Certainly, it seemed as if he must be right. When I was on the heights at Frenecourt I could not see the villages in the valley below, and the cathedral of Metz, our constant landmark next to St. Quentin, was utterly invisible. But the roar of the guns grew louder and louder, and then came first one great boom and then another from the big guns lying behind at Frenecourt. The officers fidgeted, but still would not own that anything was the matter. But their nonchalance gave way when an aide-de-camp came up at the gallop, spreading the alarm everywhere as he went and dashing on the General's quarters for instructions to guide the front. In five minutes more we were all in the saddle, and after a short gallop were looking out on the scene of action from the fringe of the wood, in front of the chateaux of Bryeux and Amelarge.

THE BATTLE GROUND.

To explain the tactics of Bazaine and the manner in which they were foiled, I give a brief description of the ground. From Metz to Mezieres there is a long trough with a flat bottom, the alluvial margin of the Moselle. This tract is about four English miles wide. On the west it is bounded by the heights I have already named, and nearer Metz by Noriva and Saulny. On the east it is bounded by a lower series of blums on which stand the villages of Olgy and Malroy. But between them runs the Moselle, intringing considerably on the flat expanse just opposite Olgy. Across the bottom, at the narrowest part thus formed, lies a series of villages—the two Tapes and Stremy, with Maxe and Ladonchamps, respectively, slightly to the east and west of the front, more or less. There were Prussian troops in all these places. The dispositions detailed to me by the staff officer had been substantially maintained.

BAZAINE'S PLAN OF ACTION.

Bazaine had laid his scheme with great art. Under cover of the dense fog he had made his dispositions with such adroitness that when it lifted, a little past one o'clock, they were already all but complete. In the first instances he directed a strong assault on Ladonchamps. The landwehr outposts held the place as if they were 10,000 instead of 100 men, and the French sent their infantry swarming into it with their artillery placed upon it. "Only an attempt to reoccupy Ladonchamps," quoth my friend of the staff, as he lit a fresh cigar, "The guns will teach them the folly of that." And as we came back to our arbor certainly it seemed that if any argument could be convincing the Prussian artillery must be so. The white spurts of smoke were visible all round the valley on the right front. The batteries at Frenecourt were hard at work, and also others nearer the town, while the great guns at Frenecourt were sending shells at a low range right over Ladonchamps in among the advancing French. Then, on our left, at Amelange, two other batteries were maintaining a semi-cross fire, and from the blums on the other side of the Moselle, between Olgy and Malroy, the Prussian field artillery were roaring.

THE FRENCH ADVANCE.

But my friend of the staff was not, for an hour or two at all events, to see the arbor. The attack on Ladonchamps was a diversion. Suddenly the villages of Grande and Petite Etapes, of Stremy and Maxe were overwhelmed by a cataract of Frenchmen. The Fifty-ninth landwehr in Stremy would not fall back, as it should have done in common prudence, but stood up there in the street until the French, having played upon it with their artillery, and rained Chassepot and mitrailleuse bullets, finally pushed backwards the shattered remnant on to the Chausee by dint of sheer numbers. The fusilier battalion of the Fifty-eighth occupied Grande Etapes and it occupies Grande Etapes now; but the occupation consists of the dead and wounded. The battalion would not give ground, and may be said to have been annihilated as it stood, the men being with their backs to the wall and their faces to the foe. The other battalions of the same regiment suffered terribly.

TEMPORARY SUCCESS OF THE FRENCH.

So far Bazaine had succeeded: he had occupied the chain of villages athwart the valley, and had got a few batteries of artillery out on their front to reply to the Prussian fire; but the *statu quo* he neither wished to nor could retain. The Prussian artillery, throwing their projectiles from three sides of the parallelogram, interfered with a comfortable realization of the latter conception. As regarded the former, it seemed clear that Bazaine would not have done what he had if he did not contemplate something more. That something, I have not the remotest doubt, was a sortie to establish connections with Thionville. His tactics were well conceived. From Stremy and the two Etapes he kept the Prussian line engaged with musketry and artillery. He sent forward from Grande Etapes great swarms of tirailleurs, who fared extremely ill at the hands of the landwehr men; but besides this he massed a great body of men, nearly 30,000 in all, on the bank of the Moselle, under cover of the houses of Maxes and sent them forward to cut through the Prussian environment where it was weakest, close to the river.

ARRIVAL OF GERMAN REINFORCEMENTS.

The moment was a critical one. The landwehr had all been sent forward against the villages, with the exception of one brigade that was in reserve. But the Tenth army corps had been crossing the pontoon bridges and massing between the river and Amelange. There General von Voight was in command of operations in the rear, and gave orders for several regiments to advance. It was a sight never to be forgotten. First came the fusileers, extending at a rapid run into skirmishing order, and covering the whole plain with their long, thin lines; then the dense columns of companies of the grenadiers, the bands playing and the colors unfurled. Unwonted sight! But all the work was not left for the infantry to do. The artillery entered the village alone and concentrated their fire on the French columns advancing along the Moselle.

THE MITRAILLEURS AT WORK.

Bazaine is singularly weak in field artillery, and the only reply came from the sullen sides of Mount St. Julian or from the ramparts of Fort St. Eloy. But the mitrailleurs venomously sounded their angry whir compelling the skirmishers to recoil as they crossed the line of fire and tearing the chasseurs in the front of the solid masses of which they were the forerunners. The artillery and the skirmishers were enough for the French. The dense columns staggered and then broke. Through my glass I could see a continuous *sauve qui peut* into the village of Maxe; but when they had once got stone and lime between them and the Prussians the fellows were obstinate and would go no further.

AN OBSTINATE STRUGGLE.

In vain the Prussian artillery fired on the village, advancing closer and closer in alternate order of batteries, with a precision and rapidity that could not have been exceeded on parade. That obstinate battery in front of Grande Etapes would not shut up, and the French tirailleurs still lined the chaussee in its front. By this time it was nearly four o'clock. A gallant captain of cavalry pulled up as he galloped past me to swear at the French for spoiling his dinner, which had been ordered for four. Ah! The captain will want no more dinners. He had not gone a hundred yards to my right when a shell from St. Julien lighted and burst right before him and blew himself and his horse into fragments. This same shell disturbed a hare, which bounded from its form and rushed across the battle field right in a line with the guns' fire. The landwehr men roused at the sight, and but for the restraint of the officers I believe that several would have quitted the shelter of the entrenchments to go in chase.

GENERAL ADVANCE OF THE PRUSSIANS.

As we stood in this suspense a staff officer galloped along the front line with orders for a general advance, to take the village by storm. The advance, he told me, was to consist of four brigades of the landwehr, with two brigades of the Tenth army corps supporting. In a few minutes more the command came sweeping along the line and the men sprung from their cover and went forward with that steady, quick step so characteristic of the Prussian marching. The shells from the battery in front of the Grande Etapes tore through the line, the mitrailleuse and Chassepot bullets poured against it their leaden hail; but still the landwehr, silent and stern, went steadily to the front. I have been under fire many times, but I never knew a more furious fire than that to which the centre of this line was exposed. General von Branderstein, commanding the third brigade of the landwehr, was shot down as he rode close to me, and several of his staff were wounded. At length the entrenchments were reached, behind which were lying the shattered remnants of the Fifty-ninth and Fifty-eighth landwehr. The fraternization consisted in the cry of "*Hurray, Preussen!*" and then, "*Vorwarts immer, Vorwarts!*" and the line threw itself to its front in a run. The gunners from the battery drove on, and, stubborn, had barely time to run round the corner before the landwehr were upon them.

A BLOODY CONTEST—DEFEAT OF THE FRENCH.

The guns they left per force. In the villages the French made a last stand, but it had been better for them had they run away at first. The landwehr, with less of the conventional warrior in them than the line, are not so much inclined to give quarter as are the professional soldiers. With many a Frenchman this afternoon the first shock consisted of a bayonet thrust. They fought like devils in the narrow ways of the villages and used the mitrailleuses with fair judgment and effect. But then there came the steady, inexorable stride forward of the landwehr with the bayonet, lent force from that huge thigh and back power which is the leading characteristic, in an athletic sense, of the Prussian physique, and the villages were cleared of all save the victors, the dead and the wounded. To the landwehr must be conceded the honor of the fray; they it was who checked the rush of the French advance by holding the villages till they had not a man who could stand and fire the needle gun. To them also was entrusted the grand final advance which swept the French out of the villages.

BRAVERY OF THE PRUSSIANS.

I have seen the Prussian line soldiers fight before to-day. I saw them clamber up the face of the Spicheren on their hands and knees; I saw them deploy in front of Colombey and Montoy, in the battle of the 14th of August; I saw them stand up against the mitrailleuses on the slopes of Gravelotte, and I saw them dash back the Frenchmen inside on the 12th of September. I have learned to believe the Prussian lineman can do aught that any soldier in the world can do, but it was not till yesterday that I gauged the calibre of the landwehr. Were I a general I should never wish to command better men, cool in the entrenchments, when they lay calmly in position, picking up the bullets that fell among them, resolute, indomnitable in their steady, quick march forward and then irresistible in the final bayonet rush with which they carried the villages. They are troops to delight the heart of a man with a soldierly instinct.

A FEIGNED ATTACK.

The Prussian artillery was still firing in the moonlight from the heights above. Olgy and St. Julien were sluggishly throwing projectiles on the tableland, seemingly to shut up their fire. All the ground in the rear of Charly and forward of Vany was pitted with shells that had fallen and burst during the day, a brisk musketry fire was still going on in front of Chicoulies and Lorme, so quiet when I rode through them in the morning. The French pouring down out of the Bois de Gumour, made a feigned attack in considerable force up this valley, and the old women and children in Chionville must have had their equanimity not a little disturbed. All I could hear was that in the front there were many dead and wounded, and I met a large ambulance train coming forward into the fire from out of the village of Vremy and Foix filled with men who had been killed during the day, but all was now quiet there. A little further on I came to the rear of Persigny and Noisseville, where I met my friends of the Fourth, who returned singing and triumphant. The French, from Metz and the slope in front of St. Julien, had thrown some battalions into Nolily, and thence had attempted to storm the Reple in front of Noisseville, but they had been repulsed with considerable loss, the Prussian artillery driving them out of Nolily into the woods.

A MOVEMENT OF THE ARTILLERY.

I was in time to accompany a tentative advance of the Prussian artillery along the Chaussée, right under the earth works of Little Bellecroix, which was chiefly remarkable from the circumstance that St. Julien made no effort to arrest the operation.

A BELGIAN REPORT—THE BATTLE RENEWED SATURDAY.—A FRENCH VICTORY.

Your special at Ostend contradicts formally the report that the Germans were victorious in the actions before Metz of Friday and Saturday. No German official account of those actions has yet been published, which is considered in Belgium to be decisive proof that the French won the advantages of the conflict on both days. The best information in Ostend gives the figures of the German losses on these days before Metz at 7,000 killed and wounded, besides great numbers of prisoners. Your correspondent also gives rumors from Namur of the intended retreat of the German forces at Metz upon the menaced main trunk of the German communications.

THE RINDERPEST IN METZ.

The cattle in and around Metz are dying by hundreds from the rinderpest. The bodies cannot be buried quick enough to prevent epidemics. Notwithstanding that hard frosts have occurred these diseases are spreading rapidly. The French fire from the fortifications of Metz continues incessantly.

GENERAL WAR NEWS.

TELEGRAMS TO THE NEW YORK HERALD.

The Bombardment of Paris Momentarily Expected—German Report of the Battle Near Orleans—Ten Thousand Prisoners Captured—Garibaldi Goes to the Front—Prussian Repulse at Bruyeres—Minor Operations at Various Points—The French Rushing to Arms—A Winter Campaign Expected—Miscellaneous War News.

LONDON, Oct. 13, 1870.

Nothing important has been received to-day from before Paris by way of Berlin.

BOMBARDMENT OF PARIS MOMENTARILY EXPECTED.

A telegram from Berlin dated yesterday evening says that the obstacles to the conveyance and planting of the Prussian siege guns have been so far overcome that the cannonade before Paris may be momentarily expected.

PARIS RESOLUTE AND CONFIDENT.

General Burnside reports Paris perfectly calm and quiet. The temper of the people is resolute, and the troops are in the best of spirits. A high officer of the government to whom he expressed some surprise at the fact that no action had yet been taken by the powerful force within against the enemy without the walls except in a desultory detached way, replied by saying that the garrison of Paris was the garrison of France. We are fighting, he said, not for the diplomatic satisfaction of other nations, but for the liberation of France and for the restoration of the tarnished honor of the French arms. We are not in so great a hurry to strike as it seems the Germans are to be struck. It is a rule in war not to do what your enemy obviously wants you to do, and as the Germans are very anxious to have the army of Paris march out upon them now you may perhaps infer that we have our own reason for choosing our own course.

PLENTY OF PROVISIONS.

There is no anxiety in Paris as to provisions, abundant supplies of all necessaries not having been yet so much as touched. The most striking facts in the situation before Paris to-day are the increasing confidence of the besieged and the diminished confidence of the besiegers.

EFFECTIVE FIRE FROM THE FORTS.

The fire from the fortresses of Mont Valerien, Montrouge, Issy and Vauvres daily inflicts heavy losses on the German camps and upon the soldiers engaged in erecting the German siege works. The French guns open upon the besiegers at all hours of the night, in the most irregular, exasperating way, the besiegers selecting their own time, and having great advantages from the superior range of their artillery. Sickness is spreading alarmingly in the camps at Versailles.

A correspondent, writing from the German side on the 9th inst., says the bombardment of Paris will positively commence on the 18th or 19th. He knows from best authority that such are the King's orders.

GERMAN REPORT OF THE BATTLE NEAR ORLEANS.

A telegram from Versailles, dated yesterday, and received here by way of Berlin, states that on Tuesday the French Army of the Loire were driven out of Orleans after a nine hours' fight. Orleans was subsequently stormed. The Prussians took upwards of 10,000 prisoners. Their loss was small. The Bavarians participated in this engagement.

The Prussians occupied Orleans yesterday. A French corps was encamped on the left bank of the river.

GARIBALDI GONE TO THE FRONT.

It is known that General Garibaldi has left Tours in company with Colonel Frapoli for the seat of war. The exact destination has not been divulged, but it is intimated he will take command at Orleans.

A COMBAT NEAR BRUYERES.

A despatch from a French source has just been received here, giving the following news:—

An engagement occurred on Monday, the 10th, near Bruyeres, between a body of franc-tireurs and the Prussians. After a short conflict the latter retired with a loss of thirty killed and wounded. The French loss is not stated.

MINOR OPERATIONS AT VARIOUS POINTS.

The Prussians are leaving Gournecy and marching to Gisors. Turning from St. Quentin, they threaten Amiens.

An engagement occurred at Mottegras yesterday between the uhlans and the huzzars. No result is given.

A force of 800 Prussians and 500 Saxons has already occupied Gisors.

The Germans have also appeared at Montdidier, where a small detachment of them was defeated by the franc-tireurs.

A telegram from Arlon, Belgium, dated last evening, says:—"Heavy cannonading has been heard today in the direction of Thionville. It is said the garrison of Montmedy has retreated to Stenay."

On Monday a Prussian cavalry division drove 4,000 Mobiles across the Eure near Cherisy. The losses of the latter were heavy.

The town of Ablis has been burned according to the threat of the Prussians. The people, not regular soldiers of France, had fired at the Prussians.

The Prussians occupy Breteuil.

The Germans are certainly advancing on Amiens.

An engagement took place on the 11th between the Prussians and French at Messangère. The latter were defeated and compelled to abandon the place.

A corps of franc-tireurs left Lyons yesterday for the seat of operations on the Loire.

It is reported that the garrison of Montmedy have made a sortie, which resulted in the recapture of Stenay.

THE FRENCH RUSHING TO ARMS.

The people in Tours and the vicinity are reported to be rushing to arms. It is expected that large masses of fresh troops called out by Minister Gambetta will take the field within ten days.

GERMAN ATROCITIES.

A correspondent at Boulogne sends from Tours dreadful accounts of the fury excited by the cruelty of the Prussian detachments. Villages have been burned, Franc-tireurs shot in cold blood, women outraged and murdered. At Menars-le-Chateau a small detachment of Bavarians, who had perpetrated great excesses in the neighborhood, having been surrounded and forced to surrender, the subaltern in command was flogged to death with sticks by the peasantry, and the rest of the men were hanged one by one from a great tree. The recruits flocking to the armies of Lyons and of the Loire are estimated at 1,000 a day in each section.

MOVEMENTS OF THE PRUSSIANS—CONFLICT OF AUTHORITY AMONG THE FRENCH.

A correspondent writing from Rouen on the 11th, states that the Germans not only occupy Gisors, but also Gournay, on the railway between Rouen and Amiens, the only line connecting Northern and Western France. Therefore the communication is threatened. At Gorges a deplorable disaccord continues to exist between the French civil and military authorities. General Gudin had sent a body of men and two pieces of artillery to Forges the other day, but they were met by counter orders from the Sub-Prefect and sent in different directions. He adds that if some General would assume the Dictatorship the whole country would bless and support him. There are between Rouen and Havre 13,000 French troops of all kinds, but under the orders of every one and nowhere exactly.

AMERICAN VOLUNTEERS FOR FRANCE.

A correspondent of the London *Post* reports that one hundred and fifty volunteers from the United States recently arrived at Tours, and met with an enthusiastic reception.

LEBEUF MISSING.

There is much curiosity to know what has become of Marshal Lebeuf, as nothing has been heard of him since the first series of battles around Metz.

A WINTER CAMPAIGN EXPECTED.

The Russian journals infer from the fact that the Germans are purchasing sheepskins that a winter campaign is certain.

PRUSSIANS EXAGGERATING THEIR SUCCESSES.

The correspondent of the *Standard* charges the Prussians with constant exaggeration. He writes that the number of men and the amount of material captured at Strasbourg should be reduced at least one-half from the Prussian figures.

ADMIRABLE CONDUCT OF THE UNITED STATES CONSUL AT STRASBOURG.

The generous and devoted conduct of Mr. Felix Petard, the United States Consul at Strasbourg, who was the only foreign representative retained in the city during the siege, is the theme of warm eulogium by the London journals to-day. He not only protected all foreign residents, but when his premises were burned down he took them to another, in the cellar of which they were sheltered from the enemy's fires, attended on them, with the aid of his admirable wife, through the dangers of the bombardment and of the smallpox, which broke out among the population, adding thus a new element to his anxieties. The approbation of his behavior by the President will be conveyed to this excellent couple.

SEVERAL WAR NOTES.

The franc-tireurs not being uniformed, the Prussians do not regard them as regular soldiers of France, and shoot them on sight.

The French fleet was still off Heligoland this morning.

A despatch from Brussels says that the French prisoners were removed from Beverloo because of a conspiracy to murder the guards and escape.

The rumored disorders in Rheims are denied. The rumor and the contradiction are equally untrustworthy.

It is reported that General Bourbaki has accepted a command in Tours.

Disbanding Ambulances—Cheering News from Paris—A Significant Message—Parisians Opposed to Peace—Anxiety to Hear from Orleans—A New Commander—French Civil Affairs.

TOURS, Oct. 13, 1870.

The French international ambulances have been disbanded, and those organized by the members of the French press soon will be.

LATER FROM PARIS—CHEERING NEWS.

A telegram from Lille, dated to-day, reports that a balloon from Paris descended at Tournay to-day. The navigator, M. Carjot, had much difficulty in alighting. The news from Paris is most cheering. The popular ardor is unbounded. The soldiers are anxiously awaiting the Prussian attack and have no doubt of their ability to withstand it. Perfect order reigns everywhere. The confidence in General Trochu seems to be limitless. Everybody is quiet, firm and courageous.

A SIGNIFICANT MESSAGE.

A late message from Paris has the following comprehensive statement:—"Materials for the workmen, coal and metals, food and good will are abundant here."

THE WORD "PEACE" TABOOED.

A Paris letter printed in the *Constitutionnel* today says the word "peace" is tabooed in Paris. Everybody is casting cannon, making mitrailleuses and constructing pontoons. Enough of the latter have been constructed to bridge the Atlantic Ocean.

ANXIETY TO HEAR FROM ORLEANS.

No news has yet been received from Orleans or Chateaudun, whither the reinforcements were sent last evening. Much anxiety is manifested, as it is known that the Germans were in heavy force in that neighborhood.

NEW COMMANDER OF THE ARMY OF THE LOIRE.

The official decree appointing General Aurelis de Paladines to the command of the Army of the Loire, in place of General La Motterouge, is published today.

SEIZURE OF FOREIGN ARMS IN FRANCE.

The government has decreed that all foreign arms reaching France may be seized by the authorities, and that the War Department will assess the value, take possession of the same and give an order for reimbursement.

FRENCH SUCCESS NEAR BRUYERS.

General Cambriels reports having gained a considerable advantage with his command over a force of 15,000 Prussians, near Bruyers.

FRENCH TELEGRAPH AND POSTAL DEPARTMENTS.

The French telegraph and postal departments of the nation have been united. François Frederick Steenackers has been appointed to the superintendency of the new department by the provisional government. M. Legoff will be chief secretary.

COAT OF ARMS OF THE REPUBLIC.

The new French coat of arms has made its appearance. It consists of a figure of Liberty, with the legend, "In the Name of the French People." On the reverse is a garland of mixed oak and olive, with a wheat ear in the centre. There is also the inscription:—"Republique Française Democratique, Une et Indivisible." Around the pheriphery are the words:—"Liberté, Egalité, Fraternité."

THE POLITICAL QUESTION.

TELEGRAM TO THE NEW YORK HERALD.

Bismarck and Burnside in Council—Propositions of Peace from France Must Come Speedily—A Doubtful Story About Bourbaki's Mission—Napoleon Anxious for His Personal Safety—The London Times Frightened—Fleury with Napoleon.

LONDON, Oct. 13, 1870.

General Burnside has frequent interviews with Count von Bismarck.

BISMARCK ON THE QUESTION OF PEACE.

The correspondent of the NEW YORK HERALD at Versailles writes that the weather has been lovely during the past three weeks, notwithstanding the prayers of the French for rain and frost. Since his arrival at Versailles Count Bismarck remarked to General Sheridan, in reply to a question regarding the probability of a new proposal of peace from France, that if it comes it must come speedily, or its voice will be drowned by the noise of the siege guns. This is an additional proof that the Prussians are resolved not to consent to a moment's delay in the work of pressing the siege.

A RIDICULOUS STORY ABOUT BOURBAKI'S MISSION.

A correspondent at Tours, on the 9th inst., says:—

A balloon despatch from Marshal Bazaine, not published, but which I know to be in the hands of the government here, reveals the secret of Bourbaki's appearance at Chesilhurst, which has so greatly puzzled the London press. The improbable explanations hitherto given were not the true ones. The ex-Empress, in connivance with the ex-Emperor and Bismarck, sent a messager to Metz saying that she desired to confer with a trusty general in an affair of capital importance. Marshal Bazaine, though not liking to part with a general whose mission he was not allowed to know, was so pressed by the messenger who gave undoubted proof of his being sent by the Empress, that he was persuaded to send Bourbaki. Canrobert, who was for a moment thought of, having been hurt in the leg, which prevented him from travelling. When Bourbaki, who, armed with Bismarck's pass, got through the Prussian lines without difficulty, arrived at Chesilhurst the Empress, so far from being surprised at seeing him, thanked him with effusion for coming, and proceeded to say that she wanted him to take charge of the Prince Imperial, conduct him to Metz and let him remain with Bazaine's army until the time came for the completing of the arrangements for peace on the basis of the cession of Alsace and Lorraine, the abdication of the Emperor and the restoration of the dynasty in the person of Napoleon the Fourth, with herself as Regent. Bourbaki was thunderstruck at this wild proposal. He expostulated mildly for some time, endeavoring in vain to make the Empress understand the reality of things; but when he found her illusion irrevocable he bluntly refused the mission she sought to impose on him and told her plainly that no French army would tolerate the presence of the son of Napoleon the Third. The Empress burst into tears. Bourbaki returned to Metz. Bazaine was highly indignant and sent a report of the strange story to the republican government at Tours. It is highly probable that the letter which the Empress some time since commissioned Lady Cowley to take to the Emperor at Wilhelmshohe, had reference to this previous affair. The intrigue originally failed and it is now completely exposed.

AN OPPOSITE BUT EQUALLY WILD STORY OF THE MISSION.

A correspondent at Boulogne sends from Tours the full explanation given by General Bourbaki of his apparent intrigue between Marshal Bazaine and the Emperor. Marshal Bazaine, not knowing precisely the political state of the country, and the German commander pressing him to capitulate, he finally said that if they wished him to act in that direction they must give him the means of forming a proper decision. Upon his proposition, therefore, the German commander before Metz was ordered to allow General Wambak to leave Metz and visit Wilhelmhoho and England. The Emperor's directions to Marshal Bazaine were to recognize the authority of the provisional government on the condition that the army of Paris should march to his relief, under the command of the Count of Palikao, and that General Bourbaki should take command of the other armies raising to expel the enemy from France. The Prussians once expelled, the question between the empire and the republic should be submitted to a vote of the people. On his return to Brussels General Bourbaki received direct information, through the Count of Flanders, from Prince Frederic Charles before Metz that he would not be allowed to re-enter Metz. He waited three days at Brussels, and then went to Wilhelmshohe to induce the Emperor to use his influence with the of Prussia to secure permission for him to return to the army of Marshal Bazaine, as it was understood he should be free to do when he first left Metz. The negotiations failed, and General Bourbaki is now on his way to Tours. His explanation is accepted as satisfactory by the government.

BISMARCK WILLING TO ACCEPT INTERVENTION.

A correspondent at Versailles sends word that Count von Bismarck has caused an intimation to be conveyed to London, St. Petersburg and Vienna that an intervention to secure peace would be acceptable now to Prussia. The conclusion reached by a council of war at the Prussian headquarters yesterday that Paris cannot be successfully attacked, but must be reduced by a siege of many months' duration; the increasing discontent of the troops, the approaching session of the German Parliament, in which the course of the government will surely be discussed with much bitterness and hostility, and, above all, the te spread of virulent pestilence through all the camps of the German armies, with the danger, hourly increasing, of the interruption of their lines of communication, have combined to bring about this grave resolution on the part of the German authorities. The steady advance of the army of Lyons in the east of France, an advance checked for a few days by the battle of Raon and Etape, but now resumed threatens the German army before Metz with disaster, and the raising of the siege of that city has already been announced by rumor in the camps at Versailles. The passes of the Vosges are literally swarming with Franc-tirours, and the general aspect of affairs in the east of France causes the profoundest anxiety, not to say alarm, both at Berlin and Versailles. The appeal of Count Bismarck has been met by Russia with a proposition through Prince Orloff for mediation by a congress of the great Powers, to be held at Brussels.

GERMANY ANXIOUS FOR PEACE.

Count Bismarck has received urgent representations from many quarters of Germany that every victory costs Germany as much as France, and that the people are intensely anxious for peace throughout the German States. He has authorized the Prussian Minister at Brussels to give the Powers to understand that Germany is willing to propose a settlement on the basis of a disarmament of the frontier provinces, the ratification of the frontier line of Rhenish Prussia and a small indemnity in money.

STORMY SESSION OF THE ENGLISH CABINET.

A stormy meeting of the British Cabinet was held to-day. The Marquis of Hartington denounced the government as weak and dangerous, and demanded a vigorous intervention in behalf of the integrity of the territory of France, the only faithful ally of Great Britain. There was much feeling exhibited by the various ministers, and the meeting is thought to foreshadow a serious ministerial crisis.

FRANCE WILL NOT TREAT FOR PEACE.

General Burnside returned from Paris to Versailles on the night of the 10th with a message from M. Jules Favre to Count von Bismarck, on the proposition of Count von Bismarck to permit the elections to be held freely, as the Departments of the Seine, Seine and Orse and Seine and Merne. A council of the Ministers present in Paris was held, and a reply agreed on to the effect that France would devote herself now to the duty of driving the enemy from her soil. That done she would attend to her own domestic politics.

NAPOLEON ANXIOUS FOR HIS PERSONAL SAFETY.

The *Echo* of Brussels doubts the story of Napoleon's complicity in any conspiracy. He is too eager to his personal safety to return to France.

THE LONDON TIMES FRIGHTENED AT THE SITUATION.

The *Times* has another leader this morning deprecating the protraction of the war by Prussia as unreasonable and unwise. It says the prospect of the Prussians with the winter before them is not cheerful. Even if harassing attacks of new levies may be despised, the difficulty of the emergency, it adds, cannot certainly be solved even by the capture of Paris. Why did not the "Thunderer" talk in this strain when he might be of use to stop this dreadful war? Simply because the upper class are becoming thoroughly frightened at the prospect of a European convulsion. The opinion is fast going round that the French, beaten like the North in the commencement of the war for secession, will end by whipping out the invaders and repaying the indifference of England to her misfortunes.

FLEURY WITH NAPOLEON.

General Fleury has been permitted to rejoin Napoleon at Wilhelmshohe.

FRENCH PATRIOTIC AID SOCIETY.

The members of this society held their weekly meeting last night at 21 West Houston street. Mr. Gerdy, the president, assumed the chair at eight o'clock, and began the evening's business by announcing the receipt of $2,000 additional subscriptions, and the sum of $742 from the treasurer of the picnic held in Williamsburg two weeks ago for a kindred patriotic purpose. In deference to the feelings of Mr. Salmon, who was reported to have been expelled from the committee during its last sitting, the vote was rescinded, and he is now eligible as member once more, after proper explanation to the society. The cause for which Mr. Salmon was superseded does not redect on his honor as a gentleman.

The laudable exertions of this charitable body of men become more vigorous as national disasters render the objects of their aid more numerous and helpless. Last night several new measures were adopted accessory to the interests of the society. It is intended that a brilliant bazaar shall be held about the middle of November by some American and French ladies, under the auspices and for the purposes of the society. There is also to be a dramatic entertainment in the French theatre, Fourteenth street, on the 26th inst., in the same cause. The moneys now in hand and those to be realized for some time are, by resolution of the society, to be placed in a trust company until a sufficiently large sum be collected to follow the $30,000 already sent on its charitable mission.

The sums sent hereafter are not to be confined to the wounded soldiers. The widows and orphans are now to receive aid.

OUR FOREIGN MAILS.

War Facts, Incidents, Anecdotes, Personalia.

It will be the fate of the Parisians again to drink Seine water. The artificial supplies of the city nav been all of them interrupted.

The Belgian police authorities have received orders to make out the lists for the recall of the militia recently sent home on furlough. The *Independance Belge* says the departure of the Russian Ambassador from Constantinople had created some sensation.

It is said that the inhabitants of Alsace are signing an address declaratory of their fidelity to France.

It is calculated that since the commencement of this war 35,000 foreigners have sought refuge in Brussels. The hotels in that city are crowded and lodgings can only be obtained with difficulty.

The *Main Zeitung* of Darmstadt complains of the defective commissariat arrangements of the Hessian troops:—"'For three days no bread,' 'three days without meat,' Hunger, wet and cold had had a terrible effect in our division. On the 17th alone there were 1,100 Hessians on the sick list."

Bismarck (if we may credit a German paper) has made a rather cruel joke at the cost of the illustrious prisoner of Prussia—"Napoleon is a most polite gentleman; he is supposed to have said he was anxious to return the King's visit of '67."

As an instance of the good relations existing between officers and men in the German service it is reported that among the officers killed at Sedan were two of the Eighth Battalion of Rifles, Captain Count Buttler and Lieutenant Dederlain. The men declared their resolution to bivouac on the spot where the bodies of their comrades lay, thus intending to demonstrate the esteem and affection they bore them. Having procured as many candles as they could get they formed a circle of lights around the two bodies and encamped beyond that circle.

IN METZ.

A Berlin telegram says that "from the statements of prisoners and the contents of intercepted letters it was been ascertained that the garrison of Metz is composed solely of Gardes Mobiles. The French army is encamped round Metz, and its meat rations during the past fortnight have consisted of nothing but horseflesh. They have no salt, but abundance of bread and vegetables. There is no forage, and the horses are fed upon barley and grass. The epidemics in Metz do not appear to have decreased. The proclamation of the republic has been posted up in the town, but the soldiers outside the walls believe the reports of the capitulation of Sedan and the change of government to be false.

A Prussian Protestant clergyman, who has been a prisoner in Metz for the last month, describes Metz as being in a state of the most perfect order and discipline. The hospitals are well regulated and carefully attended to, and the wounded are rapidly recovering. Sickness is, however, still in the ascendant, typhus, diarrhœa and dysentery being grievously frequent. As to provisions, horseflesh is the staple commodity in the shape of meat, but there is no lack of bread, biscuit, coffee, wine, &c. Each soldier is allowed one pound of meat and one-half pound of bread or biscuit per diem. The inhabitants pursue their daily avocations as usual, while all the large *cafés* and hotels are doing a good business at enormous prices. It is only the small cabarets that are closed. The general in command, Bazaine, has informed the officers and men that he is expecting a French army, which will sweep the Prussians out of France like chaff; that they must be patient and watchful, for that a million of French soldiers are arming for their relief.

A letter from the camp before Metz, written by the *Daily Telegraph* correspondent on the 22d, says:—

The French have been in the habit of coming out of Metz and of digging potatoes in the fields in the neighborhood of the villages which form the suburbs of Metz; to-day was the first time they had been prevented, for no sooner did they make their appearance than the Prussian outposts, who had been previously strengthened, opened fire. The French then withdrew, but only for a few moments, in half an hour's time the French, much to the astonishment of the Prussians, opened a smart fire from the earthwork of St. Privat. This work is situated about 3,000 yards from the suburb of Montigny, and 3,500 yards from the village of Augny, occupied by the Prussians. Into this work the French had brought some field artillery and they opened a heavy fire upon the village of Augny, the Prussian foreposts in that direction and also upon the village of Marly, to the left of Augny. While this was going on the enemy, evidently determined to have potatoes, made an advance, supported by cavalry, in the neighborhood of Mercy le Haut, driving back the Prussian outposts, and occupying that village and the village of Peltre, both under protection of the guns of Queuleu. They were, however, after some sharp skirmishing, driven out, and, having no doubt accomplished their object of foraging, they retired into Metz by way of Le Sablon. The cordon is now to be drawn tighter than ever, the best shots are to be supplied with French Chassepots and to do duty on the outposts close to the beleaguered city.

THE CAMP OF TOURS

is situated to the south of the town, at the end of the Grande Avenue de Grammont, at about the distance of a kilometre from the south end of the Rue Royale and the Place du Palais de