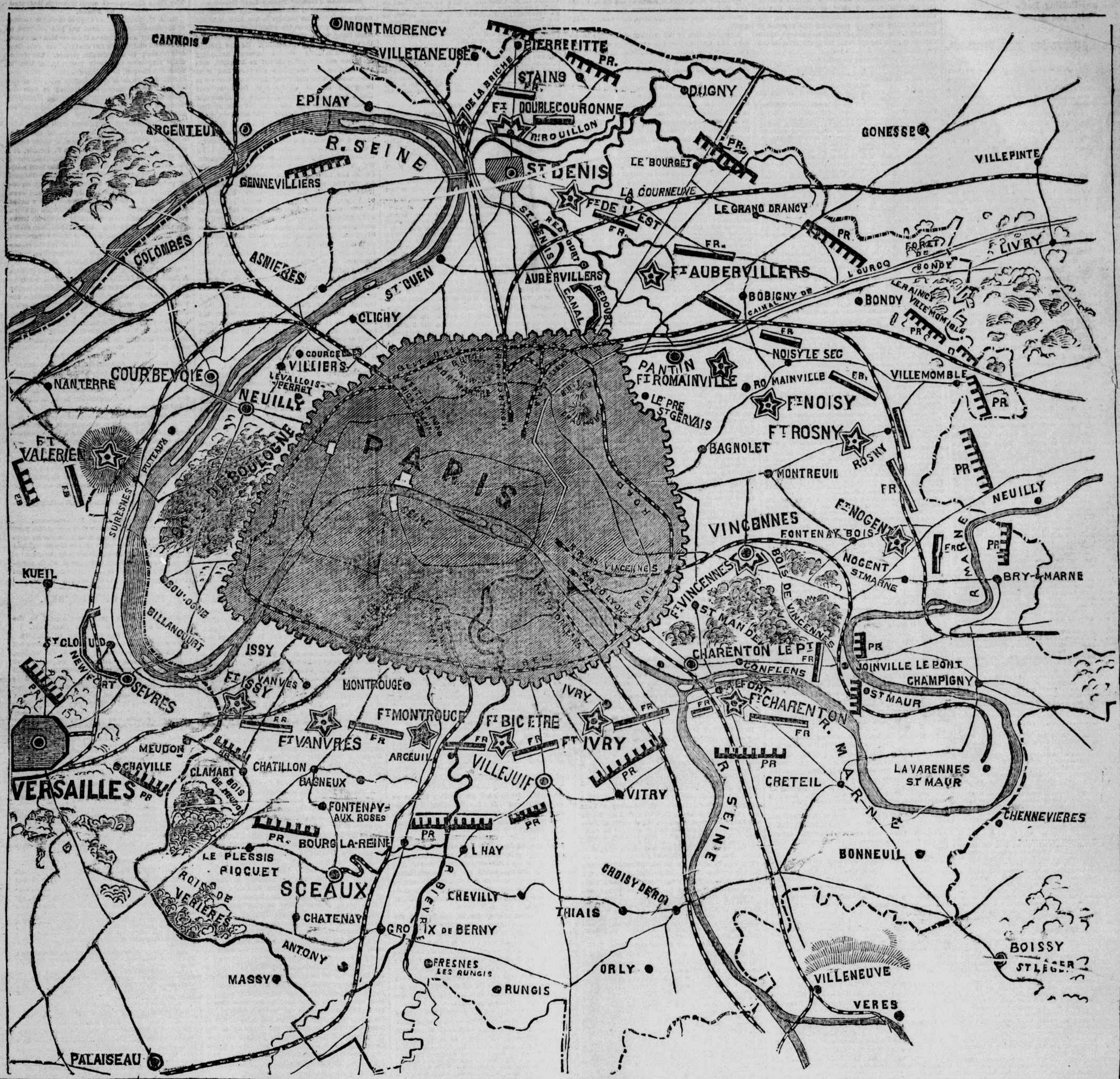
THE BELEAGUERED CITY AND ITS ENVIRONS.

Positions of the French and German Forces---Scene of the Sortie of the 12th---Line from Which the Prussians Have Been Driven.



OPERATIONS AROUND PARIS.

By examining the foregoing map the reader will be able to learn the importance of the news received from London and Tours relative to recent French operations before Paris. As will be seen, the Prussians occupied positions surrounding the city, covering on the south the town of Clamart, not more than four kilometres (two and a half miles) from the ramparts; Fontenay-aux-Roses and l'Hay, about the same distance; Villejuif, about one and a half miles from the ramparts, and Vitry, one and three-fourths miles. On the southeast they covered Creteil, some three kilometres (one and three-fourths miles) from Fort Charenton, and on the east their line extended from the bend of the river at Joinville le Pont, covering Bry-sur-Marne and running up to the woods of Bondy. From here it continued in a northwest direction to Dugny and Pierrefitte, thence to Villetaneuse, Epernay, Gennevilliers, Colombes, Nauterre, Chaton and Kneil on the west. From Kneil it ran in a southeast direction in front of Versailles to Meudon and the Bois de Meudon.

An examination of the distances shows that along their southern line the Prussians would have been able to throw shell into Paris had they succeeded in mounting their heavy guns. All the towns mentioned are small, Clamart having less than 3,500 inhabitants, Fontenay-aux-Roses, 2,500; Villejuif, 2,200; Vitry, 4,000; Meudon, 5,500, and so on, none of them exceeding 7,000, with the exception of St. Cloud. Nearly all of these places are covered by the guns of the forts, and as a consequence they must have suffered severely from the terrible fire which forced back the besieging line. By the success of the French the Prussians seem to have lost the most commanding points in the vicinity of Paris—the plateau of Clamart and Meudon and the range of hills running along to Villejuif and extending to the Seine river. Their loss of Creteil, Champigny and Joinville le Pont as effectually prevents their shelling the city from the southeast as their dislodgment from St. Cloud destroys their chance of bombarding from the southwest. Accepting the telegrams as containing the truth, the investment of Paris has been reduced to a mere blockade, the present distance of the Prussians from the ramparts rendering a bombardment impossible.

The map also shows the railroad line to Orleans, where the recent defeat of the French took place. It is quite probable that the weakening of the Prussian line before Paris for the purpose of making an offensive movement towards Tours was the cause of what appears to be an important success of General Trochu's forces.

PARIS.

Highly Important from the Besieged City.

Successful Offensive Movements by the French.

The Prussian Army Driven Back Along the Entire Line.

Clamart, Bois de Mendon, Villejuif, Creteil and Joinville Retaken by the French.

All Their Earthworks Destroyed by the Terrible Fire of the Forts.

Positions of the Prussians Prior to the Attack.

French Official Report of Their Defeat at Orleans.

THE MILITARY OPERATIONS.

TELEGRAM TO THE NEW YORK HERALD.

Proclamation of Gambetta Announcing a Victory Before Paris—The Prussians Driven Into Versailles—Their Investing Line Forced Back on All Sides—The Battle Fought on the 12th Inst.

TOURS, Oct. 14, 1870.

Minister Gambetta has issued the following proclamation:—

INHABITANTS OF TOURS:—I announce to you with inexpressible satisfaction that on the 12th instant the more than ever heroic people of Paris, growing impatient behind their ramparts, have determined to march forward against the enemy. Here is the bulletin of their first victory:—On the entire zone around the city the Prussians have been driven out of all the positions which they had been occupying since three weeks. Towards St. Denis they have been driven away beyond Stains, Pierrefitte and Dugny; on the east side Joinville, Creteil, Champigny and the plateau of Avron have been recaptured. They have been forced from the Bois de Mendon and St. Cloud and thrown back on Versailles. The enemy know now what a people will do who are determined to save their institutions and their honor. I invite the provinces to do their duty as Paris has done hers. Vive Paris! Vive la France! Vive la Republique!

Reported Raising of the Siege—Details of the French Success—Terrible Fire of the Forts—The Prussian Works Destroyed—Their Line Driven Back—Another Sortie Thursday—An Able Artillery General—Prussians Unable to Plant their Batteries—Position of their Army Before the Attack—Paris Full of Confidence—War to the Knife—Napoleon's Correspondence.

LONDON, Oct. 14, 1870.

A despatch from Versailles dated yesterday states that the French have shelled and wantonly fired the Palace of St. Cloud.

A WILD RUMOR.

Military movements of late in the Prussian camps and within the walls of Paris indicate that a great event is imminent.

The NEW YORK HERALD correspondent at Tours telegraphs under date of this morning that rumors are current in that city to the effect that the Prussian army before Paris has raised the siege and is retreating. Great enthusiasm was manifested by the army which left here *en route* for the front on receipt of the news, but nothing of a confirmatory character has been received.

DETAILS OF THE FRENCH SUCCESS.

The terrible artillery fire of Fort du Mont Valerien has literally swept the country roundabout.

For a circuit of six kilometres the Prussian works have been destroyed. All the batteries that the Prussians have sought to erect against Mont Valerien have been annihilated. The chateau of Meudon has also been destroyed. The Prussian engineers have been driven from Clamart, Meudon and Montretout. Villejuif and Cachan have both been recovered by the French. On the north the Prussians have been driven back as far as Deuil and Bonneuil. The entire peninsula around Gennevilliers has been freed from the Prussians by several strong cavalry reconnoissances, and is now in French hands again. On the east of Paris a lively cannonade has been maintained toward Bondy. The Prussians have also been driven from Champigny, more than three miles east of Vincennes. The Prussian circle around Paris is therefore expanding daily, instead of contracting, and the Parisians are greatly encouraged.

A SORTIE ON THURSDAY.

A despatch from Versailles, dated on Thursday, says:—Ten French battalions made a sortie from Paris to-day. They were easily repulsed by the Second Bavarian corps, which lost only nineteen men.

AN ABLE GENERAL OF ARTILLERY.

One of the gunners on the Paris fortifications has particularly distinguished himself by the great accuracy with which he points his guns. He has thus far frustrated all the efforts of the Prussians to construct offensive works within range of his guns. He is an Alsatian, named Christian.

PRUSSIANS UNABLE TO PLANT THEIR BATTERIES BEFORE PARIS.

The authority reporting this mentions that the Prussians have not yet been able to plant a single battery near enough to disturb any part of Paris. A steady fire has recently been maintained from forts Mont du Valerien and D'Issy. The Prussians have been compelled to retreat from the fire of these forts behind the plateaux of Meudon and St. Cloud. The *morale* of the French soldiers is excellent. They are drilling constantly.

POSITION OF THE GERMAN ARMY BEFORE THE ATTACK.

A correspondent telegraphs:—The Prussian army around Paris is composed as follows:—First corps, under the Crown Prince of Prussia, and Fifth corps, under General Kirchbach, who occupy, between Meudon and Sevres, immense earthworks. On the right, from Clamart to Choisy-le-Roi, there are two Bavarian corps, under Generals Von der Tann and Hartmann respectively, their left leaning on the redoubts of Moulins-la-Tour and their headquarters being at Sceaux. They occupy Clamart, Plassis, L'Hays, Chavilly, Thiais and Choisy. On the right of the line the Sixth corps, under General Zumpling, and again on the right the Eleventh Wurtemburg corps, under General O. Bomutz, extending from Chamoires to Conway. Then comes the Second army corps of the Prince Crown of Saxony, under Prince Georges of Saxony, extending from the Alame to the Canal de l'Ourcy, and occupying Gugny, Montformeil, Clichy and the Forest de Bondy. On the right the Royal Guard, under Prince Augustus of Wurtemburg, who occupy Dugny le Bourge and Grand Donney. On the west is the Fourth corps, under General Alvensleben, and on its right the Thirteenth corps, lately under command of the Duke of Mecklenburg. They occupy Epinay, Argenteuil and Bezons. Their forces number 270,000 men, besides the reserve and cavalry, comprising 80,000 more. The besiegers' intention is to make these positions permanent. If there is an attack made it will be from the western side.

THE "GARDEN SPOT."

The land around Fort Mont du Valerien was regarded as the "garden spot" of Paris. Before the investment of Paris the commander of the fort employed his men digging the potatoes and collecting the other crops, all of which were stored in the fortress.

PRUSSIAN HEADQUARTERS.

Prince Frederick Charles occupied the house of Prince Moskowa. The royal headquarters are at the west of the beleaguered city and those of the Crown Prince to the east.

LATE NEWS FROM THE CAPITAL.

A brief despatch from Paris to the NEW YORK HERALD says that there is nothing new to record. There are three ways to leave the city—by balloon, as a diplomat and by death. There are four ways of being a distinguished individual—by being an American, by giving good dinners, by making liberal payments and by speaking German. There are also four ways of being unpopular—by being

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