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THE CRISIS. THE MILITARY SITUATION.

Napoleon Concentrating his Troops at Metz-The Prussians Preparing to Besiege the

In the perilous position of affairs on the frontier, not less than in Paris, the beginning of the end is seen. The Prussians have occupied Carreguemines as well as Forbach. This place is a town of about 6000 inhabitants, on the left bank of the Saar, which here just touches the border line, nine miles south of Saarbruck, and about fifteen miles W. N. W. of Bitche. The occupation is also announced of Hagenau, the French fortress, sixteen miles north of Strasburg, at the point where the uncompleted railroad running towards Bitche and Sarreguemines branches off from the main line from Strasburg to Manheim. It was just north of Hagenau that the battle of last Saturday between the Crown Prince and Marshal MacMahon was

The Slege of Strasburg.

A cable telegram from Carlsruhe announces that 60,000 troops, mostly from South Germany. have surrounded Strasburg, and the surrender of that fortress is anticipated, as it is garrisoned by but 7000 men. The fortifications of Strasburg, however, are of a very formidable character, and strong enough to enable a comparatively small force to hold an enemy at bay. The works were greatly improved under the supervision of Vauban, and in later times, and further improvements were in progress at the outbreak of the war. The fortified city is of triangular form, enclosed by bastioned ramparts, strengthened by numerous outworks, and entered by seven gates. At its eastern extremity is a strong pentagonal citadel, built by Vauban. The city stands upon level ground, and is nearly six miles in circuit. Nume 20us outworks and detached forts, large and small, finished and unfinished, add to its strength, and in connection with the citadel on the eastern side contribute so much support to the main works as to render the fortress almost equal to that of Metz. The bastioned wall is surrounded by a moat filled with water, and by means of numerous sluices the whole surrounding country may be overflowed. The defenses of the city, however, depend greatly on these aqueous appliances, and less than three weeks ago the water was so low as to materially weaken their strength. Strasburg is situated on the river Ill, about a mile from the west bank of the Rhine, and 250 miles east by south from Paris. It has a population of about 90,000.

The Prussian Advance on Mulhausen. A rumor comes from London that the Prussians are in Mulhausen, but the report lacks confirmation. Mulhausen, or Mulhouse, as the French call it, is situated on the river Ill, which flows into the Rhine at Strasburg, and is 61 miles S. S. W. of that place, on the railroad running from Strasburg to Basle, in Switzerland. It is about twelve miles from the Baden frontier. It is divided into the old and new town, former of which is built on an island in the river, and is reached by four bridges. The new town, to the southeast of the old town, extends from the right bank of the Ill to the Rhone and Rhine Canal, which has a capacious basin at this point. Mulhausen ranks as one of the most important towns of France. It was for many centuries the capital of a small republic of the Swiss Consederation, but in 1798 it became incorporated with France. The population in 1852 was about

The Siege of Metz. Advices from Metz state that Marshal Bazaine, whose appointment to the command in chief is confirmed, has 130,000 or 150,000 men under him, including Frossard's corps, at that place, while MacMahon has but 50,000 at Saverne, on the railroad from Strasburg to Nancy, and that Canrobert is at the latter place with 50,000 more. Another despatch from Metz states that the Prussians are concentrating in large force in front of that city. This indicates that they are about to attempt the siege of that stronghold, a formidable task which will tax their powers to the utmost. It may be, however, that the object of the Prussian commanders is merely to engage the attention of the French by threatening Metz, while more serious movements are in progress at other points.

France, is situated at the confluence of the Moselle and the Seille, at the head of a branch of the railway from Paris to Strasburg, 170 miles east of the former. It has a population at present of about 65,000, and is one of the strongest fortresses on the continent. Work on its defenses has not ceased since it passed under French dominion, in 1552, and so elaborate and formidable have they been rendered that an army of at least 120,000, with an extraordinary amount of war material, would be needed to undertake its siege. Of the fortifications of the sixteenth century there remain only the intrenchments of Guise, the Serpenoise tower, the gate of the Germans, and the tower D'EnIer. The gate of the Germans seems to have been preserved to give an idea of all those which formerly existed, and which have been demolished as useless since the adoption of the new system of fortifications. They were but strong castles with four towers surmounted with batteries, and having each a castellan. There are noticeable on the walls of the tower D'Enfer traces of Spanish cannon balls, and there is shown therein the dungeon where, during six months, the monks were shut up who plotted to deliver the place to the Imperial troops. The approaches to the town are defended by two forts, six lunettes, and one earth-work. These two forts were built by Cormontaigne, that of Belle-Croix, with the lunette of Cheneau, presents a development of galleries of mines of about 10,000 metres, crowns on the east the heights from which one can leap into the city. The mines are connected with the arsenal, so that they can be blown up in case the fort falls into the hands of an enemy. The other, called Fort or the "Double Crown," is situated toward the north. Its works, consisting of ditches and flanking fortifications, render it very difficult of attack by the cannon of an enemy. The ditches are very deep, and are filled up with bayonets, swords, shells, grenades, etc., which are covered with the ground so carefully that the most practiced eye is scarcely able to detect them. All the buildings outside the place are wooden framework, so that they can be destroyed at a moment's warning. Built in 1737, the redoubt, called the "Redoubt of Pate," occupies the position of the ancient Naumachie, and forms, when they raise the waters of the Seille, an island, which one approaches by a subterranean gallery. In case of a siege, the waters of the Moselle and the Seille can be raised sufficiently to inundate the low ground to the south and southwest of the town. The outworks once in the possession of an enemy, a formidable wall, pierced by nine gates furnished with drawbridges, and surrounded by numerous bastions, would be encountered. Metz prides itself upon never having opened its gates to an enemy, and the Prussians will be the first to enter it only after a desperate struggle. The Passes of the Vosges.

A despatch from Metz, dated August 8, evening, states that the army was then concentrating to march to the Vosges Mountains for the defense of its passages. This purpose has doubtless been changed by the appearance of a Prussian army in front of the city. The Vosges Mountains run parallel with the Rhine, forming an additional barrier for the French frontier. They extend from the Jura Mountains on the south, and, penetrating Belgium connect on the northwest with the Ardennes. Their average height is 4000 feet, and general width twenty-five miles, the summits being covered with vast forests. Like the mountains of the Black Forest across the Rhine, they are highest and broadest in their southern part. All the practicable passes have been fortified according to their importance. The most northern road is commanded by the fortress at Bitche, which in 1793 and 1815 withstood several spirited attempts on the part of the Prussians to capture it. Reports of the capture of this place by the Prussians have been received, but they are too indefinite to be reliable. As the Prussians hold both Sarreguemines and Forbach, a few miles on either side, it is not likely that it can be retained by the French, even if it has not already been abandoned.

The great central passage through the Vosges is by way of Saverne, twenty miles northwest of Strasburg, where Marshal MacMahon has concentrated the army put to rout by the Crown Prince on the 7th at Woerth. Pfalzburg, a third class fortification, about five miles northwest of Saverne, guards this passage. It was built by Vanban, and, although not very strong at present, successfully resisted all the assaults made upon it in the tremendous straggles against the Allies in 1814-15.

Between Saverne and Belfort are only two practicable passes-by way of St. Die, and by way of Remirement-and these are strongly guarded by the fortresses in the plain, and by Belfort. The latter stands in the middle of the opening between the Jura and Vosges Mountains, and is an important junction for all kinds of land communications, being in the direct road between Basle and Paris. It has been modernized and strengthened, and is probably quite equal to the demand upon it, considering that the pass is so far south, and that Belfort is supported by several other forts along the Doubs. Belfort is about one hundred miles 8. S. W. of Strasburg, and almost directly west of

The Peril of Paris.

The situation in the capital has been rendered even more perilous by the excited scene in the Corps Legislatif yesterday, which culminated in the resignation of the whole Ollivier Ministry. The most strenuous exertions are being made to place the city in a position to resist the assaults of the enemy, if they should break past the line of Metz and Nancy.

The fortifications are being strengthened by 33,000 workmen, assisted by 20,000 sailors from the fleet. The entire work is in charge of Inspector-General Alpland, at whose disposal, if we may believe the Paris telegrams, the most considerable contractors of the city have placed their fortunes, their personal service, their material, and their experience." As an indication of the temper of the people of the capital, the shouts of "On to the frontier!" which greeted the regular troops yesterday at the assembling of the Corps Legislatif are noticeable. But there is no doubt that Paris, at the present moment, is not less inimical to the Napoleonic regime than it was at the last elections, and that the greatest danger to be apprehended by the Government is from the disaffected population in whose hands arms are now being placed for the defense of the country.

Metz, which is now the centre of the hopes of | Frenchmen have queer notions of patriotism, and are not backward about putting them in force when they have the chance.

In this connection the following extracts from a letter from a Paris correspondent, writing in the last days of July, are important:-

"I am reliably informed that the fortifications of Paris are to be placed in a state of defense with the utmost despatch. Most of your readers have seen them. You know that Paris is surrounded first by a chain of detached forts, and next by a continuous series of bastions with ditch and glacis. Some of the forts are already in a state of defense, but the enciente continue is not. What has to be done is this: the parapet has to be protected by gabions and fasoines; embrasures have to be cut, platforms con-structed, and ordnance mounted. Marshal Niel wanted to have this done in 1867, but he was overwanted to have this done in 1867, but he was overruled. Next the ditch, which is interrupted by the road at every gate of the city, has to be cut across it; draw-bridges will have to be provided, and probably a tambour, i. e., a kind of field-work, built in front. The announcement that this was to be done forthwith has caused no small excitement. It is, however, no harm that the Parisians should be made to know that there are realities in war beyond mere shouting on the Boulevards. The National Guard will have to take its turn of duty on the fortifications, be put through the drill, etc. The works are to be carried on, I believe I have already told you, under carried on, I believe I have already told you, under the superintendence of General Count de Chabaud Latour, of the Engineers. The arming of the fortifi-cations will be a gigantic undertaking. I cannot imagine its being done under a year's time. The enciente continue iaid out in a straight line would be eighteen miles in length."

THE POLITICAL SITUATION.

The Crisis in the Corps Legislatif-Resigna-tion of the Ollivier Ministry-Count Palikao,

Yesterday afternoon the Corps Legislatif and the Senate were reassembled, by command of the Empress Regent. In the former body everything was ready for an explosion, and M. Ollivier gave the signal for it by stating that the Government had waited to call the deputies together "until the situation was compromised."

"This is too audacious," exclaimed M. Jules Favre on the instant, and after a scene of terrible confusion and sharp recriminations, M. Ollivier endeavored to make a stand by opposing the demand for the order of the day, which was adopted in spite of his opposition; whereupon, after a short consultation, the resignation of the ministry was announced, and its acceptance by the Empress Regent.

In making this announcement, and pledging the support of the old ministry to the new one and the country, M. Ollivier stated that the Count de Palikao had been charged by the Empress Regent with the formation of a new ministry. No further business was transacted in either Chamber after the resignation of Ollivier and his colleagues was announced, and the probable course of the new Premier is yet a matter of doubt.

We append a sketch of

Count de Palikao, the New Premier. Bis full name is Chas, Gaillaume Marie Cousin de Montaukan, Count dePalikao, and he was born on the 24th of June, 1796. He was employed at an early age in Algiers, and distinguished himself there as a cavalry officer. On September 4, 1836, he was made chief of a squadron of horse; on the 7th May, 1843, lieutenant-colonel; and on 2d of August, 1845 colonel of the 2d Chasseurs. He became general of brigade on the 21st of September, 1851, and commanded the division of Tiemcen; general of division after 28th September, 1855, he commanded the Division of Constantine, Recalled to France he was put at the head of the 21st Military Division during the siege of Limoges. The year 1860 was marked in the life of General Consin-Montauban by one of the most extraordinary events of modern history. Invested with the chief command of the French expedition into China, he had the honor of accomplishing that almost fabulous invasion which brought the arms and banners of the French and English even to the capital of this vast and distant empire. The capture of the forts of Takou at the mouth of the Peiho on the 20th of August, the great victory of Palikao over General Sang-ko-hio-sin, on the 21st of September, the destruction of the royal palace, the entry into Pekin on the 12th of October, forced the Chinese to accept the treaties imposed by the allies, and assured, at least temporarily, the respect of European interests in the extreme East. The General left there at the end of the same year and returned by way of Japan, many of whose principal cities he visited, and re-entered France in the month of July, 1861. In recompense for these great successes, the Emperor had already elevated him to the dignity of the grand cross of the Legion of Honor on the 26th of December, 1860, and had, made him Senator on the 4th of March, 1861. On the 22d of January, 1862, he conferred on him the title of Count de Palikao, and submitted to the Corps Legislatif a project of pensioning him, which excited a lively opposition there. The General demanded its withdrawal; the Emperor opposed this, and the project was accepted by the Chamber with a modification. On the 22d of June, 1865, he was made, in place of Marshal Canrobert, who was called to Paris, commander of the 4th Army Corps, of which the headquarters are at Lyons, and of the 8th Military Division. He was made commander of the Legion of Honor on the 23d December, 1848, and Grand Officer 28th December, 1859. In 1860, when he was given the grand cross, he could count forty-two years of effective service, twenty-eight campaigns, and one wound. At the outbreak of the present war it was rumored that Count Palikao was to be put in command of the 2d Army Corps, but this command was subsequently given to the unfortunate Frossard, and the new Premier has not thus far figured prominently in

WAR NEWS BY MAIL. GERMANY.

The Strength of King William's Army-The South German Forces.

The Frankfort Zeitung, in an elaborate article on the military forces of the North German

Confederation, says: The North German Confederation comprises 23 States, including Hesse, the northern part of which alone belongs to the Confederation. Prussia has military conventions with the Kingdom of Saxony, with several Thuringian States, with Hesse, Mecklenburg Schwerin, and Strelitz, with Older burg, &c., whereby the armies of all these States are closely bound up by the Prus-

The forces of the North German Confederation are as follows:

FIELD ARMY (FELD-ARMEE). Infantry......394,310 men. Cavalry...... 53,528 men. Artillery 1,212 pieces. RESERVE (ERSATZTRUPPEN). Cavalry..... 18,991 men. Artillery 234 pleces. GARRISON TROOPS (BESATZUNSTRUPPEN). Cavalry...... 10,208 men. Even were we to deduct many thousands from these figures, which may seem to many readers high, but which, nevertheless, are based on official returns, we should still have a total which considerably exceeds the strength of the French

army. In the above computation are not

States, which now follow:-BAVARIA. 16 regiments of infantry, of S battalions each, 10 battalions of chasseurs,

reckoned the armies of the allied South German

10 regiments of cavalry, 2 brigades of artillery, which gives 69,064 men in field troops, 25,757 men reserve, and 22,614 garrison troops—making in all 117,435 men and 240 guns.

WURTEMBERG.

8 regiments infantry, of 2 battalions each, 2 battalions of chasseurs, 4 regiments of cavalry, 2 regiments of artillery, which give, in field troops, 22,076 men: reserve, 6540; garrison troops, 6064-making in all 34,680 men and 66 guns.

BADEN. 6 regiments infantry, of 3 battalions each. 3 regiments cavalry 3 field divisions of artillery,

giving 16,656 field troops, 3995 reserve, and 9640 garrison troops, making in all 30,291 men and 64 guns. Thus the auxiliary troops which the three South German States would bring to the aid of the North German Confederation amount to the

respectable figure of 169,802 men and 370 guns. These numbers exactly correspond to those given in an article on the conflicting powers, published in the May number of the Revue Militaire Francaise. The computation in question must therefore have been made in April, in manifest anticipation of war. Another proof this, that on the other side of the Rhine they have long been looking forward to this conflict.

It was a great mistake of the Austrians in 1859 to underrate the strength of their opponent, an error smartly alluded to in the opening sentence of a pamphlet published in 1860:—"The late war of Austria in Italy betrayed the insufficiency of the Austrian army in every particular, except in the numbers as they appeared on paper."

We have no wish to fall into any such error.

We have, therefore, rigerously examined the statistical returns on which the above figures are based, and can guarantee them to be generally accurate. In the year 1866, 413,500 Prussians crossed the frontier, while 193,000 men remained at home. What Prussia-at that time comparatively small-was then able to do in the way of sending men into the field, the North German Confederation will, of a surety, be able to do now. For our own part, we have no doubt that France cannot command 400,000 fighting men. Even the Revue Militaire Française, in the above article, limits the French field army to 300,000 men. Here we have a weighty argument

in favor of the ultimate victory of Germany.

The Neue Freie Presse, taking for granted that the chief object of the French is to make a division between North and South Germany, maintains that it is the intention of the enemy to push into the district of the Lower Maine. It asserts that the district belonging to Hesse-Darmstadt, on both sides of the Rhine, has been chosen as the scene of the principal offensive operations of France, and Frankfort is said to have been chosen by preference—Mayence being outflanked—as the chief seat of occupation. "The French know," says the writer, "that Frankfort, the keystone of the Prussian military railway-transport system, will be the first place to be defended by Prussia. Frankfort is from nineteen to twenty miles (? German miles) distant from the French frontier, whence the threat, constantly repeated by French officers, of taking possession of the seat of the quondam German Federal Government with 150,000 men is, unfortunately, not to be classed among the impossibilities.

The Pretensions of Prussia The Paris correspondent of the New York Times, writing on July 27, says:--An extract of a correspondence apparently

semi-official in its origin, from Berlin, to the Gazette d'Augsbourg, will give some ideas of the pretensions of Bismarck and William IV, in case of the victory of their arms.

"France not having as yet made known the limits of its pretensions, it does not become us to make known, just yet, what will be the exactions of Germany; what is certain is that the question of nationalities will not be resolved until the French have been driven beyond the Vosges. The hour is not less solemn than when, in 486 and 496, after the battles of Boissons and Tolbiac, Clovis destroyed on one side the Roman dominions in Gaul, and on the other brought into subjection the Alamans of the Rhenish Palatinate. Since this epoch, few combats have been of so great moment either in France or in Ger-many. It is true that Leipsic decided the fate of the Emperor of the French who considered himself the successor of Charlemagne, but the question, inasmuch as it concerns the two people, remained un-resolved, for France, vanquished, retained her fron-tiers more extended than in 1795, and this, without protestation on the part of Austria. The hour for resolving this question has struck."

FRANCE.

Napoleon's Army, and How It is Formed. Previous to the great Revolution of 1789, which shook the foundations of nearly all timehonored and long-established institutions, the standing armies of France were formed by levies, but the extensive and murderous wars which followed this eventful catastrophe having soon absorbed all that could be made available to fill the ranks of the regiments, levying was abandoned and conscription resorted to. This system has since prevailed up to the present

The present French army is most decidedly a creation of Napoleon III. He understood best how to avail himself of the opinions of the most eminent military men of his own nation, and, far from despising or undervaluing the ideas which had originated reforms in other countries, his quick perception could not fail to convince bim that, while the French army had formerly been looked upon as superior to all in armament, effective strength, and adaptability for great and lasting contests, a formidable rival had sprung into existence during the last five years, bidding fair to distance all others in modern military improvements and army organization. Up to the year 1868, the active army was the only available force in France, and while it furnished all the troops necessary for field operations in time of war, it likewise defended the frontier, garrisoned the fortresses, and disciplined recruits. In this manner, the numerical strength of the standing army, while not at all too great in itself, became curtailed to a very alarming degree, as was only too clearly shown during the Italian campaign of 1859. aggregate of the troops sent across the Alps to battle against Austria did not comprise more than one-fourth of the standing army, yet so great was the requisition for various purposes that the formation of an imposing division to check the suspected movements of Prussia and of the German Confederation was only effected through the greatest exertions and under enormous difficulties.

In order to provide against the recurrence of such a contingency, the formation of the National Garde Mobile, on the plan of the Prussian Landwehr, was decided upon. They have to perform the entire military duty required in the interior of the country during the war, so as to leave the whole of the active army available for the battle-field. The French military force is in three distinct parts—the active army, the reserve, and the National Garde Mobile.

Every able-bodied adult is liable to service in the active army unless he can procure a substi-tute. The number of recruits for the army varies according to momentary requirements. During 1868 and 1869 100,000 men were drawn year, while for 1870 the Minister of War demanded 90,000 men. The number of young men coming of age amounts to about 320,000 annually, of whom 16,000 may be considered fit for service. They draw lots to decide who has to enter the active army, while the re-mainder are assigned to service in the National Guards. From the 100,000 recruits usually designated for active service we must deduct: 9000

volunteered before getting of age or who are exempt by special law, and 20,000 men who procure substitutes, and while not liable to enter the active army, have still to serve in the Na-tional Garde Mobile, making a total of 4000 men, which leaves only 56,000 men of the entire annual conscription to be disposed of for the

army proper.

These 56,000 men are again divided into two classes. The first class, comprising about 43,000 men, have to serve five years in the active army. after which they are assigned for service in the reserve for four years. The second class, of about 13,000 men, have to undergo annually five months' military training during the first five years, and may be called upon to serve in the regular army, and also have to serve the remaining four years in the reserve. ing four years in the reserve.

The Two Great French Iron-clads. The Cherbourg correspondent of the London

Daily News writes as follows on July 23:-The Rochambeau is the famous Dunderberg, which was purchased from the United States two years ago, at the same time as the Onondaga, which Prussia was also anxious to have. Everybody recollects that singular vessel, which consists merely of a floating turret, and is so constructed that projectiles could not strike it at right angles. Although the Rochambeau is inferior to some other plated vessels in the thickness of its plates, this is compensated for by the weight of its armament, which has been entirely replaced, and now consists of 15 guns of 24 and 27 centimetres, carrying to a distance of 4000 metres balls charged with 216 kilogrammes of powder. This vessel carries the most fermidable

armament of the squadron. The Taureau, which is a ram, has but one gun in its turret. This is 24 centimetres, and takes 24 kilogrammes of powder. It discharges three different kinds of balls of different shapes—some solid and flat, some solid and pointed, and others pointed and explosive. The attack is made with the first of these projectiles, in order to shatter the plates of the enemy's vessel, and that the second description of projectile may the more easily penetrate. This strange vessel has two engines of 240-horse power and two screws, in order that it may be turned rapidly, and also powerful pumping machinery.

HOHENZOLLERN.

Von Werther's Interview with the Duke de Gramont-The Outrageous Demands of France-Napoleon Would Never Have Permitted the Enthronement of Prince Leopold. Among the documents the publication of which has been called forth by the North German Diet, is an interesting despatch from Baron von Werther, giving an account of his interview with the Duke de Gramont and Ollivier, when he arrived in Paris after leaving Ems. It is dated the 12th of July, and is as follows:—

"Our interview was chieffy in reference to the point raised by Count Benedetti that your Royal Majesty, through the authorization given to the Hohenzollern candidateship for the throne, without having previously in any way informed the Imperial French Government, was not aware of having injured France. He asked me if that was really the case. I then explained to him that your Royal Majesty as a matter of form could not refuse this authorization after the Prince of Hohenzollern had authorization after the Prince of Hohenzollern had felt himself called to accept the throne offered to him, and that your Royal Majesty could by no means believe, on account of the relationship of the Prince to the Emperor, that this candidateship would cause offense to be taken in France. The Duke de Gramont hereupon cited the example of the Duke de Nemours for the Belgian throne and Prince Alfred for the Grecian throne, where such an authorization was refused. I contested the analogue authorization was refused. I contested the analogy with the present case. Duke de Gramont then de clared that it greatly concerned France, as the next neighbor of Spain, to take a great interest in the accession to the throne of that country. The zotiations could only give offense here, and so much the more as the Imperial Court in all political ques-tions had always shown the greatest regard for our Government. This proceeding had given great offense throughout France, and found ex-pression in the Chamber, which, he regretted to say, was united in making the question more difficult. The Duke de Gramont added that he regarded the rennuciation of the Spanish throne by the Prince of Hohenzollern as a secondary consideration, for the French Government would never have per-mitted his occupation of the throne; but he feared that a permanent disagreement between the two countries would take place on account of our proceed-ing. The germ must be rooted out, and he regarded ing. The germ must be rooted out, and he regarded it from the point of view that we in our proceeding had observed no friendly course towards France, as was acknowledged, as he knew, by all the great powers. He would candidly say he wished no war, but friendly and good relations with Prussia, and he knew of me that I was working to the same end; we must, therefore, consider together whether there were no means to consider together whether there were no means to exercise a pacifying influence, and he proposed for my consideration whether a letter from the King to the Emperor was not the proper way out. He thereby appealed to the chivairous heart of your Royal Majesty, which would undoubtedly make the right

inspiration.
"Thereby could only be said that your Royal Majesty, after having authorized Prince Leopold of Hohenzollern to accept the throne of Spain, could not have thought of approaching too near to the interests or dignity of the French nation; the King might unite in the renunctation of the Prince of Hohenzollern, and with the wish and in the hope that every ground of dissension between our two governments would thereby disappear. Such and similar words, which in general, through publicity, would tend to appease the popular disposition might be contained in this letter; still he would preously request that nothing should be said about the relationship with the Emperor. This argument was

"I semarked to the Duke de Gramont that such step would be rendered much more difficult by his declaration given in the Chamber of Deputies on the have been deeply insulting to your Royal Majesty. He wanted to contest that, said that Prussia was not named at all, and that his speech was at that time absolutely necessary to quiet the excited Chamber. In the meantime the Minister of Justice, M. Ollivier, came to our conference, which the Duke de Gramont brought to his knowledge. M. Ollivier was earnest in recommending the healing and, in the interest of peace, necessary induence, and begged me to express myself instantly in favor of such a letter to your Royal Ma-jesty. Both said that, if I did not think I could undertake it, they would consider themselves obliged both of them saying that for their Ministerial potion they required such a compromise to quiet the excited minds, they added that such a letter would authorize them to appear as defenders of your Roya Majesty in case attacks were not discontinued Both remarked to me, in conclusion, that they could not conceal from me that our proceeding in the Ho henzollern-Spanish affair has excited the French nation much more than it has occupied the Em "In our conversation the Duke de Gramont

dropped the remark that he believed that the Prince of Hohenzollern renounced at the instance of your loyal Majesty; but I contested this, and designated the renunciation as certainly resting upon the initiative of the Prince of Hohenzollern himself. The two ministers, in their great urgency, wished that I would make the case known by telegraph; but I

To this despatch Count Bismarck intimated to Baron von Werther that he was very much astonished that he could ever quietly listen to such a proposition of a letter of apology from the King to the Emperor, and that if the French Government had such communications to make, they should be left to make them in writing to be transmitted to Berlin. As they saw that nothing more was to be accomplished in this way, they sent instructions to Benedetti, who at Ems proposed them to the King with the result already known.

BELGIUM.

A Belgian Demonstration—The Armament of Antwerp.

The Brussels correspondent of the Pall Mall Gazette, writing on the 25th of July, says:—The armaments of Antwerp are all but completed. The Grand Duke Wladimir, son of the Emperor of Russia, is here at present. In spite of the war and a general election, the Brussels kermess is progressing. Yesterday we had great fun as the cavalcade went out for the first time. It was unspeakably ludicrous to see the big figures men for the navy, 15,000 men who either have | Janucken and Micke, moved by men hidden

underneath, dancing before the cavalcade and looking in at the first floor windows. The popular enthusiasm and perspiration were tremendous. All Belgian celebrities, past and present, were represented in the cavalcade, from Lambert Balderie, Count of Louvain, and his wife Ode, who made Brussels a city in 1046, downlito the Prince de Ligne. The eight groups of which the cavalcade consisted were:—1. The town of Brussels, represented by a young girl on a car, surrounded by the industries and arts; 2. Brussels in 1046; 3. The Alliance of the Town of Brabant in 1372; 4. Belgium under the House of Burgundy; 5. In spite of the Duc de Gramont, Charles V, with all his Princes and Princesses, and all the nations of Belgium, and Princesses, and all the nations of Belgium, as in his times the trades of the different town-ships were called; 6. The Belgian nobility of the sixteenth century, with, of course, Egmont and Horn; 7. The renaissance of industry and arts; and 8. Modern Belgium represented by a bust of the King, surrounded by representations of the four constitutional liberties. A number of bands and choral societies, each playing and singing tunes of its own, accompanied the cavalcade.

A correspondent of La Patrie, writing from Antwerp, gives his opinion of the value of that great stronghold of national independence. First noticing the disposition of the inhabitants, which he describes as being very friendly and sympa-thetic towards France, which is ever remembered as the chief agent in the creation of the Belgian as the chief agent in the creation of the Belgian kingdom, the correspondent adverts to the fortifications which have been lately completed. Of the immense northern citadel, constructed since 1859, and intended to receive an army of 40,000 men, he simply says it is now uninhabitable. The action of the tide of the Scheldt apon the sandy soil upon which the citidal is formed is ruinous to the works, and even when a tolerable dry position is for a time obtained it is only by the constant action of pumping machines. This northern citadel has therefore, says the correspondent, been judged to be useless, and Antwerp is assailable from the Polders. That fact is so far recognized that efforts are now directed to the arming of the southern citadel, created by the Duke of Alba in 1578, and which is now teeming with troops. The whole of the works surrounding Antwerp are ill-constructed, and, notwithstanding their apparent excellent workmanship, the writer has no doubt that in less than ten years time they will all crumble away, and if before then they should be exposed to the fire of modern artillery they would be immediately destroyed.

WAR MISCELLANY.

The Two Contending Nations.

The conflict between France and Prussia makes it interesting to compare the relative resources of the two countries. France is considerably larger than the Confederation, not only in territory but in population, for the last census gave the numbers as \$8,000,000 Frenchmen against 26,000,000 Prussians. In France, however, the normal rate of increase in popula-tion is very slow, 160 years being the time oc-cupied in doubling the number, while Prussia takes but forty-two years. In financial matters the advantage is on the side of Prussia, whose budget has never been very heavy. The incidence of taxation in Prussia may be put down as about one pound a head, while in France it is nearly two pounds. The national debt of Prussia is beaely two pounds a head, while France has to pay interest on fifteen pounds a head. In one case the interest is £2,000,000; in the other it is no less than £24,000,000. France excels Prussia in her economic position. The commerce of France is greater than than that of Prussia, and it has been computed that while the annual income of

States, as far as education is concerned. Russia's Endeavors to Avert the War. The official journal of Petersburg of the 24th pult. contains the following:—"The Imperial Russian Government has made all possible endeavors to avert the outbreak of war. Unfortunately the rapidity with which the warlike resolutions were taken rendered our efforts for the maintenance of peace abortive. The Emperor is resolved to observe neutrality so long as Russia's interests are not affected by the eventualities of the campaign. The Russian Government undertakes to support every endeavor to circumscribe the operations and

each Prussian is £23 per head, that of the Frenchman is £27. Prussia, however, is in ad-

vance of France, and in fact of all the European

diminish the duration of the war. The French Buying Horces in Ireland. The London Daily News of July 24 says:—A large number of very fine and hardy horses are daily reaching Liverpool from several of the Irish ports, and from their excellent condition as regards bone, sinew, and wind, it is quite evident that the French horse-buyers in Ireland are not bad judges of animals suitable for hard work. A good number look as if they were intended for the artillery service; but the majority, among which were a few splendid high-bred horses, are no doubt required for cavalry purposes. The people in charge of the horses were somewhat "doubtful" as to which port the horses would embark for France. A Southampton despatch says a large number of horses have left

the docks there for French ports. Disaffection in Austria. To appeals made by Viennese journals to the Bohemians to forget their rancor, and in the present emergency to remember only that they are Austrians, the Czech papers return a very cool reply. The Pokrok, for instance, asks if 'the dog is to kiss the stick that beat it?" and the Narodni declares that the "Czechs remember what Austria has done for them, and will act accordingly." At such times as these smothered

FEMALE CLERKS EXCITED.

animosities blaze out with a vengeance.

How Napoleon Died in the Treasury Depart-The commotion in the Treasury Department

to-day was indescribable when it was breezed through the building that the Secretary had re-ceived a despatch from New York that Napoleon was dead. It flew like wildfire. Not the tortu-ous passages nor the winding stairways were a barrier to its progress. Not even were the peremptory rules, posted here and there on the walls, powerful enough to forbid the rush to and fro of those who were more greedy than others to communicate the news. The men talked philosophically about it. One said:-"Well, he is old enough to die anyhow!" Another said:—
"What would Eugenie do?" And one more
jovial than all wondered "if it would increase his pay any." Down the hall you could 'so much for fooling with shoot beer kegs." But that shoot beer kegs." But when the females got hold of it, of course it was good-bye secrecy. Talk about Prince Arthur's walk through the Treasury; it wasn't a circumstance. Never did the girls slap those the circumstance of the course of tantalizing veils over their heads with such hasty eagerness to tell another "something between you and me." Neither "Prince Arthur's visit" nor "Morse's crawling to Georgetown beat them to quarters so quickly. They walked the passages and talked as it it were a holiday or a lunch time, and, if the latter, they were well supplied. One said, "Oh! did you hear It?"
"Yes indeed, isn't it awful?" "He died of—" "Yes indeed, isn't it awful?" "He died of—"
"Oh hush! aint you ashamed?" "I'm so sorry
for poor Eugenie." "Oh! pshaw! she'll get
another man." "And the little Prince Imperial,
"I wish he'd come over here." "Yes, he must
be a dear little fellow." "Just to think, his be a dear little fellow." "Just to think, his mother will have to depend on him for support." "Why, no, he'll be Emperor of France." "How can he if they banish him?" "Well, if he comes here he can stay at the White House." "Then he can come over to the Treasury sometimes, can't he?" "Yes," said a little one with light curley hair, "but what does he amount to, four-teen years old?"—Washington Star, last even-