

FIRST EDITION THE WAR IN EUROPE.

The Latest Situation.

The Battles Near Metz.

Great Prussian Victories.

The Advance on Besancon.

Its Vital Importance.

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Finances of the War.

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King William Leaving Berlin.

THE SITUATION.

The Battles near Metz—The Siege of Strasbourg—A Prussian Advance in the North...

Last night's despatches leave the situation in Europe in great uncertainty. Among the things that can be counted on as assured is the fact that the French have not abandoned Metz...

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through the city. Forty-five miles to the northeast of Besancon, and on the railroad named, is situated the fortress of Belfort, the southern point of the French front. The fortifications of this place are very formidable, 20,000 men scarcely sufficing to man them. As the country between Belfort and Paris is flat and open, and contains but one obstacle to the march of a hostile army on Paris by this route—the fortified town of Langres, situated near the source of the river Marne, about 65 miles W. N. W. of Belfort—the alleged movement of the Prussians upon Besancon is full of peril to the French. This very fact causes us to doubt the truth of the report that a considerable portion of the army has been permitted to advance to this point without encountering a French force. Belfort is almost directly west of Basel, and just to the southeast there is a projection in the Swiss frontier, bringing it within fifteen miles of the border, so that the alleged Prussian advance would have to pass within a few miles of Belfort, or pass to the north of that fortress through the southern spur of the Vosges. The same despatch which speaks of the advance on Mulhausen and Besancon, states that 100,000 of the Prussian Landwehr are crossing the frontier, but does not intimate whether or not this advance is being made in support of the movement to the south of Belfort. Among the practicable routes from Germany to Paris is this way of Belfort, and it was to guard against the advance of a hostile army in this direction that persistent efforts have been made to strengthen the fortifications of Belfort. After many changes in ownership during a period of six hundred years, the town was finally ceded to France by Austria by the treaty of Westphalia in 1681. The defenses were then taken in hand by Vauban, who enclosed the town and citadel within a fortified wall completely hiding the former from view. The works as they now exist were only finished about forty years ago, when two additional lines or circles of defence were added by General de Pellouet, by which it was thought Belfort had been made a position of equal strength with Metz and Strasbourg.

Turning to Prussia—or, as we should rather say, Germany—we can see no trace of inability to make at least an equal effort. The antagonist of France displays a curious equality with it in almost all financial conditions except one, in which it is strikingly superior to France. In population, to begin with, the North German Confederation is 240,000,000, and the other States allied with it number about the same as France. The Confederation itself includes 30,000,000; Baden, 1,450,000; Wurtemberg, 1,750,000; and Bavaria, 4,800,000. Total, 38,000,000. And the last census of France in 1866 gives exactly the same figure.

In economical advancement the two countries are, moreover, about the same; they are two-thirds agricultural, and though Germany has more ships, and more coal and manufactures, yet as French agriculture is naturally more productive, the two States may be considered very nearly balanced. The aggregate budgets of Germany, again, approach very closely that of France in bulk. The gross revenue of the Confederation is £40,000,000, and of the other States £12,000,000—total, £52,000,000; which, with the smaller debt of Germany—the one point where Germany is superior—leaves as much as in France for all the purposes of government. Oddly enough, the expenditure on the other two armies is about the same. France spends between thirteen and fourteen millions sterling, and Germany between twelve and thirteen millions, no very striking difference, though it should be noted that the French have lately had a great deal of expenditure on their frontiers. But even if Germany is not so rich as France, her resources are much less pledged. The total debt of the confederated North-German States is under £300,000,000, about one-third that of France, so that there is a margin of £400,000,000 to draw upon before they become as indebted as France now is. It cannot be thought, then, that Germany any more than France, is financially unfit for the struggle now about to begin.

Germany has a smaller revenue than France, because its people in proportion to their means are less burdened; and it needs a smaller revenue, because it has less debt, and is also more economical. Its margin will be so much the greater, and its resources are so much the more abundant. At the same time, the resources of France are such that long before financial exhaustion comes to it, both combatants will probably enough be weary of the strife.

THE SITUATION. Despatches from Berlin under our Second Edition head give some particulars of the second encounter near Metz, which took place late yesterday afternoon, and resulted in a decided Prussian victory. The 1st and 7th Corps of the Prussian army, which, at last accounts, were under the command respectively of Generals von Mantouffiel and Von Zastrow, after inflicting a loss of 4000 on the French, drove them inside their walls, and subsequently a grand reconnaissance, near King William in person, was maintained for some hours, within two lines of the French defenses, without an effort being made to dislodge the Prussians.

WAR NEWS BY MAIL. ADVICES TO AUGUST 6. By the arrival at New York of the steamship City of Brussels, we have advices by mail from Europe to the 6th of August.

THE SINEWS OF WAR. Financial Aspect of the Franco-Prussian Struggle. The London Spectator has the following remarks on the financial aspect of the war between France and Prussia:—

It is clear, we think, that the war for the time it lasts must be one of the most costly which has ever been waged. This is an inevitable consequence of the magnitude of the armies that are to fight. The Italian war of 1859 cost France at least £30,000,000, though it lasted only six weeks, and France made no such effort as she will now be called upon to make. Prussia in 1866 spent nearly as much on three weeks' actual campaigning, and in spite of requisitions on all her neighbors, recourse to borrowing was still necessary to make good the exhaustion of her treasury.

But France in 1866 was only half the power which France now enters the lists, and had no equal antagonist to cope with. It is plain that if these previous wars, short as they were, were so expensive, the cost to either combatant must now be vastly in excess. What it may amount to we almost fear to put in figures. The parliaments of each power have begun by voting credits for £25,000,000, or rather more, apiece, but even these large sums will be mere instalments.

The only parallel we can think of is that of the American civil war, when the North, which by itself was hardly so great a State as either France or Prussia, kept a million of men under arms at a cost of not less than £30,000,000 a year. Much of this expense was caused by high pay and bounties, a waste not likely to be so heavy under the better organization of the combatants now engaged; but if we say £100,000,000 a year to keep a million of men fighting in Europe, we could be far within the mark.

The normal army budget of either combatant is nearly £15,000,000, and war will at once triple and quadruple this by increasing the men under arms who have to be equipped and fed. On this account alone there will be an additional expense of £30,000,000 or £35,000,000 to each State by the change from a "peace" to a war footing, and it is not extravagant to estimate the wear and tear of a war—the ammunition spent, the gunpowder blown away, the loss of metals, and the cost of the extra expenditure for supplies in haste—to be at least double that amount.

That the war will cost each party from £50,000,000 to £100,000,000 a month, besides its ordinary war budget, is a very moderate calculation. No doubt each side has been preparing since 1866, accumulating stores and supplies, victualing fortresses, and otherwise anticipating the current expenses of a war. But the amount now anticipated would be a mere trifle in the large outlay of a few months' warfare. The war will not last many weeks before both combatants have spent about twenty millions apiece, and in a very few months the figure on each side may sum up to the hundred millions.

Beysant's estimate of the French revenue is even at the tremendous rate of expenditure involved. There is certainly no doubt about France, in spite of the chronic deficits and increasing debt which have been characteristic of the empire. French finance has been dreadfully mismanaged, and the people have heavy taxes to bear from which economy would have saved them; but when all is said, the hard fact remains that there still is capacity in France to bear a heavy additional load. The French revenue is elastic, and a few years' natural increase will provide for a good deal more interest. To put the annual growth at three quarters of a million only, which is under the mark, the progress of ten years would nearly cover the annual interest on the loans required for a war expenditure of £300,000,000.

Of course the French Government would not be able to borrow all that at four per cent., but the anticipation of another year or two's recovery of revenue would permit the offer of a higher rate. There is this further consideration, that a great war, such as is implied by an expo-

sition of £300,000,000 in a few months, would probably leave the combatants in such a state that economy in other expenditure would not be difficult. At present the cost of governing France, apart from the debt, and the departmental and local budgets, is something like £50,000,000 a year; and in England we spend less than £40,000,000, though all our salaries are on a higher scale. Clearly France need not be undone by an addition of eight or ten millions to the annual interest of its debt, when economy is so practicable and its revenue so elastic. It is true that after such a war, its debt, which is upwards of £500,000,000 now, would equal or surpass that of England; but France in 1870 is certainly a more powerful State than England was in 1815.

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NOTES OF THE WAR. The Report of Ammunition. The London Times declares that it is a matter perfectly within England's own competence to abstain from supplying warlike munitions to either side in the contest; and, whatever the practice hitherto observed, it cannot be desirable to adopt this course. It is a course of action, indeed, which can by no pretence be demanded as of right. Prussia would be the last power which could claim any abandonment of neutral rights in this respect, since throughout the Crimean war, and during the recent Franco-German war, she has shown a readiness to furnish every possible facility for the purchase and transit of warlike stores. There is nothing in international law to prohibit the manufacturers of Belgium being equally employed at this moment in supplying Prussia and France.

Russian Sympathies. A correspondent at Warsaw, writing on the 24th ult., says:—"War is now the universal talk here, and the Poles, sanguine as ever, in spite of their repeated disappointments, are again being urged to help the Russians, and to give themselves. As for the Russians, they are divided into two parties. The military want war, and sympathize with France; the Government seems for the present to have decided for neutrality, and the Emperor, it is said, has not yet decided. We have heard a report, on pretty good authority, that a number of Russian soldiers have been sent to Thorn to serve in the Prussian army, of course with the Prussian uniform and in Prussian pay. The sign of this is, there is none; and it is certain that the Emperor's party is very influential at Court, wishes Russia to be neutral."

The Scandinavian Powers. A correspondent of the Manchester Guardian writes:—"The Russian Government have been very urgent in dissuading King Christian from abandoning the attitude of neutrality he has hitherto been enabled to preserve. They have warned him distinctly that in the event of a sudden termination of the war there is imminent danger of his being held responsible for compensation for her losses by the annexation of the residue of the Danish territories; and that in that case the Czar would insist upon a corresponding cession on the opposite side of the Baltic. The King of Denmark knows this, and is in a great fright. The King of Denmark has allowed his brother, as hostage, to take service in the Prussian army; but the popular feeling, both in Denmark and Sweden, is becoming uncontrollable, and the Governments will be ere long swept into the vortex."

England's Neutrality. The London correspondent of the Constitution, who signs his letters "John Wilkinson," has sent the following communication to that journal:—"To give your readers an idea of the impossibility of England breaking her neutrality, we may cite an example which shows the chaos into which the organization of the army has fallen. A few days ago a detachment of artillery was sent from Woolwich to the depot, but the carriages were so damaged that it was found necessary to spike the guns. It was with the greatest difficulty that the carriages, whose planks were disintegrated, and whose wheels only held on by a miracle, were carried away. We are assured that the whole war material is in the same condition. There is a want of ammunition; the weapons (Snider and Martini) are greatly inferior to those of France or Prussia. It is not an army, it is a ruin." Evidently "Wilkinson" is not a patriot.

Position of Italy. The Daily News congratulates Italy on the removal of the French garrison from Rome. It remains to see whether the Pope can hold them to resort, if he subjects to the aid of his miscellaneous army after the departure of the French. Nor is it impossible that the ultimate result may be the establishment of an Italian garrison at Rome under General La Marmora, who is already assigned to the command of the Papal frontier, and whose presence in Rome at the head of his troops would not perhaps be so disagreeable to the Pope as the reappearance of Garibaldi volunteers within a day's march of the Vatican. Another consequence of the war is less legitimate.

The French Party in Italy. The Pall Mall Gazette says:—"As an evidence of the spirit of the French party in Italy, and the straits to which their line of policy obliges them to resort, it is said that General La Marmora, who is the leader of this section of politicians, is now engaged on a publication which is to exhibit the opinions of the Prussian press on the Italian army in the campaign of 1866. These criticisms and the judgment of the Berlin War Office are certainly not flattering testimonies to the state of discipline, or, indeed, the

valor of the army, and will not fall at this moment to produce an unfavorable feeling toward Germany. The urgent demands for prompt action which the cabinet might be presumed to have forced upon the military authorities in Italy, and which were not always models of forbearance or delicacy in their tone, will now be held up as evidence of the insulting spirit of an arrogant and exacting ally. If, read without connection of the charges which called them forth, will very easily be received as signs of a selfish policy and a very ungracious people. That La Marmora will by this brochure pay off an old grudge is far more probable than that it will render a valuable service to his country."

The Treaty of Vienna. The Daily News thinks it hardly fair in Mr. Disraeli to raise the ghost of the treaty of Vienna merely in order to frighten the public. It secured a peaceful peace in Europe for nearly forty years. But to refer to it as an engagement actually in force can only serve to shake public confidence in the observance of other engagements. The fact is, however, that the treaty of Vienna continued vitally no question or doubt can arise. Such treaties are those which secure the neutrality of Belgium and Luxembourg. But it will be time to speak about them, as Mr. Disraeli hints, when their neutrality is invaded or menaced. In that case the duty of this country would be plain and manifest, and simply as a matter of self-interest, putting the claims of international morality for the moment out of sight, it should be supposed that we should be ready to perform it.

NAPOLEON AT THE FRONT.

His Reception at Metz—The 'Sea-Green' Metz Correspondence London Standard. The Emperor and Prince Napoleon arrived tonight at 7 P. M., therefore the ball will soon open—the air is full of a dash of festivity. Fact and inevitable inference. As I hurried down to the letter-box at the railway station, where the military authorities were waiting, I was met by a crowd of half military, half civilian, attending the coming of the sovereign. Curious rather than enthusiastic those crowds, but excessive in their admiration of the Emperor. In pushing my way down to the station, the passage was kept clear by gentlemen on foot and Centaur on horseback, who charged and charged forward and forward now and again, while a picket of trusty Zouaves in their undress of red and canvas breeches passed under the massive archway of the station. The Emperor's party was allowed to pass the barrier guarded by the Zouaves, and got down to the terminus, where they were met by the Emperor's staff, and a noisy juveniles being far in the greatest proportion. A shout of "Vive l'Empereur" was raised at the Emperor's arrival. The Emperor and Prince Napoleon do not know how to cheer; a few ladies should be sent across to teach them. The Centaurs do not seem to have their full strength. Inquiry into the affairs of that station. The Emperor had just cast my letter into the box when a movement of the crowd indicated that his Imperial Majesty had come. The Emperor and Prince Napoleon were met by a crowd of half military, half civilian, attending the coming of the sovereign. Curious rather than enthusiastic those crowds, but excessive in their admiration of the Emperor. 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