

The Latest Situation.

The French Movement

From the Moselle to the Meuse

The Prussians Harassing Their Rear The Ramparts of Paris, The Moselle, the Meuse, and the Argonnes The Latest Advices by Mail. About in the French Camp. The Emperor at Metz. The Neutral Powers and Policy. Btc., Etc., Etc., Etc., Etc.,

THE SITUATION. THE RECENT BATTLES.

Conflicting Reports of Threel Days' Fighting in the Neighborhood of Metz-The Grand Movement of the French from the Moselle to

the meuse. For three days past fighting between the two hostile armies has been going on within 175 miles of Paris, and Paris is as much in the dark about the exact locality and result of the battles as if they had not yet been fought. In the Corps Legislatif yesterday afternoon Deputy Keller called attention to this fact, and the only satisfaction received from Count de Palikao, the Minister of War, was to the effect that the Prossians had been checked several times, and were retiring towards Commercy. Now Commercy is situated on the Meuse, some 15 miles west of Toul, at the point where the river is crossed by the railroad from Paris to Strasburg: and if the Prussians are retiring towards that point, they have not only succeeded in getting the French west of the Moselle, but are actually in possession of a portion of the line of the Mense. The Paris Gaulois refers to the battle of Sunday as the "battle of Longueville," which 5 miles still further west of Comercy some miles west of the river Alsne, and almost on the banks of the Marne! Indeed, the Paris Presse of yesterday declares that the army of the Crown Prince, after the battle with MacMahon at Woerth, advanced as far as Barle-Duc, a few miles west of Longueville, and almost on the Marne, and but 125 miles from Paris. The Prefect of the Meuse also corroborates this far advance of the Prussians, by stating that he has destroyed a portion of the Paris and Strasburg Rallway in the neighborhood of Bar-le-Duc, towards which a body of German Uhlans were seen marching from Comercy.

brought about. But in case this continual fire in the rear is kept up with almost unvarying success by the Prussians, the danger is great that the westward movement of the French will assume the character of a rout, and the demoralization resulting be so great as to prevent them from making a stand east of the defenses of Paris. The two armies are at present operating in a section of country completely encircled by railroads, but not intersected by them, and all the telegraphs having

been cut, communication with either force is extremely difficult and the news correspondingly meagre and unsatisfactory.

FRENCH LINES OF DEFENSE.

The Natural Ramparts of Paris-The Lines of the Moselle, the Mense and the Argonnes, and the Network of Rivers to the East of Paris. On the 14th it was announced that Count de Palikao, the new Premier and Minister of War, had issued an address to the troops, in the course of which, after blaming for firing too quick and wasting their ammunition at Weissenburg, he

"Reminds the soldiers that they are now on the grand line of defense from Thionville to Metz and Nancy, and they must hold their ground. Back of that is the line of the Meuse; then the Argonnes; then the line of rivers illustrated by the campaign of 1814, and behind all thus is Paris, and behind Paris is all France, with four millions of armed. all France, with four millions of armed men and a thousand millions of treasure." A review of these "lines within lines" will

not be uninteresting at the present crisis. The Line of the Moselle.

The line of defense from Thionville to Metz and Nancy, which has already been abandoned by the Emperor, is based on the river Moselle, which rises in the southeast corner of the Department of Vosges, flows first in a general northerly direction past Remiremont, Epinal, Toul, Frouard, Pont-a-Mousson, Metz, and Thionville; and then, verging towards the northeast, separating the Duchy of Luxemburg from Rhenish Prussia, passing Treves near its confluence with the Saar, and finally emptying into the Rhine on the left of Coblentz. Its total length is 328 miles, and it is navigable up to its confluence with the Meurthe near Frouard.

Ascending the stream towards the south, we encounter just within French territory the small walled town of Sierck, which has already fallen into the hands of the Prussians. The next place of consequence is Thionville, eleven miles to the southwest, with a population of 9000 souls. It is strongly fortified, and has been the headquarters of the extreme left of the Frencharmy from the outset of the war.

Seventeen miles to the south, and 170 cast of Paris, is Metz, in close proximity to which were fought the battles of the 14th and 15th, the most formidable stronghold in all France, and a place that has never surrendered or suffered a hostile army to enter its gates. Of the situation, history, and defenses of this city we have already

detention for English prisoners, from which now and then incredible escapes were made.

About 35 miles 8. 8. E. of Verdun is Commercy, a town of some 3500 inhabitants, on the railroad from Paris to Strasburg. It was found worthy of a siege in 1544 by Charles V, but at present is of no intrinsic importance.

The fortified town of Toul, already referred to, is brought by a sudden detour in the Moselle and the Meuse within 10 miles of the latter stream, and thus becomes essentially the southern point in the line of the Meuse, as it is in the line of the Moselle. The abandonment of Toul by the French will, in fact, render the line of the Meuse of but little avail as a barrier against the advance of the enemy, and as it is about 40 miles in length, it is doubtful if Napoleon will be able to man so extended a line in a manner that will oppose any material resistance to the Prussians.

The result of the fighting during the past three days will probably determine his ability to make a stand on the line of the Meuse; and, if he is driven from it, with Verdun and Toul at its extremes, the next barrier is

The Line of the Argonnes, an elevated plateau about 10 miles in average width, and still covered in some parts with dense wood. It extends from the neighborhood of Toul to that of Niezieres, a distance of about 100 miles, and separates the basin of the Meuse from that of the Aisne. This plateau is invariably counted on as one of the ramparts of the French capital. In 1792, after their capture of Verdun, the Prussians under the Duke of Brunswick crossed it, but only to sustain a signal defeat by Kellerman and Dumouriez at Volmy, on the 21st of September, the result of which was their expalsion from France.

The Network of Rivers Just East of Paris, comprising the Aisne, the Oise, the Marne, and many smaller streams, is that referred to by Count de Palikao as having been illustrated by the campaign of 1814. The fortified towns scattered through this section of the country are those on which Napoleon must depend to repel the invaders if they succeed in crossing the plateau of the Argonnes after driving him back of the Meuse.

The principal bulwark is that of Chalons, 90 miles east of Paris, on the railway to Strasburg, and on the right bank of the river Marne, a confluent of the Seine, which at this point is crossed by a fine stone bridge. It has at present a population of about 45,000 only, although early in the Christian era it was one of the most important commercial cities of Europe, and during the times of the Merovingian kings is said to have had a population of 60,000 souls. It is enclosed by old walls, and derives its present importance not because of its intrinsic military strength, but from the fact that it is the point which has been selected by Napoleon as his grand training camp.

The camp of Chalons, which is about fifteen

Russian and French Cabinets to continue on the same amicable terms as before. The same intelligence had been published in pre-cisely the same form by the *Exchange Gazette* four or five days previously, and there is little doubt that this tardy reproduction of the news in the semi-official paper was not accidental. As to the declaration of neutrality, which was also proclaimed on that day, it is rather a step in favor of France than otherwise, for it had been hitherto assumed as a matter of course that Russia would fight by the side of Prussia. Since then the *Journal de St. Peters-*bourg, like the other papers, has entirely come

bourg, like the other papers, has entirely come over to the French side. Another semi-official paper, the Goloss, after severely condemning Prussia for its arrogance, says that Russia desires her humiliation, but not her ruin, and that Prussia ought to be greatly obliged to Russia for her neutrality, as, if the latter power used it, she might annihilate Prussia without herself drawing the sword. All she would have to do is to declare herself on the side of France; this would compel King William to send half his army to the eastern frontier, and place him at the mercy of his enemies in the West.

AT METZ.

The Arrival of the Imperial Cortege-The Re-ception Accorded the Emperor and the Infant.

A correspondent of the New York Times gives the following graphic description of the reception of Napoleon and the Prince Imperial at Metz on the 28th of July:-

The Imperial train arrived at precisely 6%. The Emperor was received on the platform by the Prefect of the Department of the Moseile, Marshal Le Bouf, Minister of War, Marshal Bazaine, who had come from Boulay during the day, and a number of officers and gentlemen. The Emperor at once stepped into the open barouche which was waiting for him at the station, and the procession left the court-yard. It was led by four Cent Gardes, after whom came three outriders in buckskin breeches and green and gold liveries, followed by seventeen Cent Gardes, looking (superb with their sky-blue uni-forms, gold lace facings, marganta and gold and forms, gold-lace facings, magenta and gold saddle coverings, and powerful dark-bay horses. They were followed by a grand outrider who preceded the Imperial carriage, while the Emperor and Marshal Le Boeuf, attired as Generals of Division, were seated on the back seat facing General Vaubert de Genlis and General Bour-baki, Commander-in-Chief of the Imperial Guard, which constitutes the 8th Corps of the Army of the Rhine. M. Raimbeaux rode beside the carriage. The second carbeside the carriage. The second car-riage contained the Prince Imperial, wear-ing the uniform of a Lieutenant in the Voltigeurs of the Guard, having on his left Prince Jerome Napoleon, and in front Generals Lasalle and Decain. In the third carriage was Marshal Bazaine: in the fourth, General de la Franconniere, the Prince Napoleon's Aid-de-Camp, and M. Corvisart, the Emperor's medical attendant; and in the fifth were the Prefect and other gentlemen. A body of seventy-five Cent Gardes followed the Prince Imperial's car-

riage. Contrary to all the reports which have lately been spread respecting the Emperor's health, his Majesty looked remarkably well, and were it not that he is somewhat stouter than when he left Paris, in 1859, to join the French army, the ordinary spectator would not have detected a great difference in his general appearance— and yet there was a difference – for eleven years ago, when he passed along the Boulevards on

DOUBLE SHEET_THREE CENTS.

have you bought these curious potatoes?" "Me! I got mine from Lyons." "I had mine from Marseilles." "And I purchased mine in Lor-raine to save the cost of carriage." "But we in-jure no one, the Emperor will be here soon, and he will pay everybody." "No, I will not have him pay; his expenses are too heavy this year, but if you will accept a check on the King of Prussia"—and this remark produced general laughter. The good-hearted Mayor replied, "Come, and I will show you a field where the potatoes are riper. Take what you want, but do not waste. I prefer that my potatoes should be eaten by brave fellows like you than by those beggarly Germans." beggarly Germans."

The rigorous measures against the journalists are pitiful. If Marshal Le Boeuf continues in this mood the army will suffer more than we. The reception we have experienced ever since the commencement of the campaign shows that the officers do not despise a free press, the only possible medium between the nation on the march and the nation in suspense. My resolution is taken. If I am refused the commission of interpreter which I have asked from the 1st Division of the 5th Corps, I shall wait on the frontier for the abrogation of an illiberal and vexations measure, which the force of things and the wishes of the people equally condemn. An order from headquarters is circulating from mouth to mouth. We are to cross the frontier to-morrow in spite of the storm that is raging. Thunder to-day; cannon to-morrow.

SAARBRUCK.

General Frossard's Official Report of the Battle of August 2. The following is General Frossard's report of

the battle of Saarbruck, August 2, made to the Emperor:-

Sire:-I have the honor to report to your Majesty the movements effected this day by the 2d Army Corps, in pursuance of your orders-to take posses-sion of the positions on the left bank of the Saar, which command the heights of Saarbrucken. Genwhich command the heights of Saarbrucken. Gen-eral Bataille's division, supported on the right by that of General Laveaucoupet, and one of the twelve pounder batteries of the reserve, and on the left by the first brigade of the division of General Verge, with a second battery of twelve-pounders, formed the first line. General Bastoul, en-camped at Spicheren, and entrusted with the duty of directing the movement on our right, was ordered to send two battalions to occupy the village of St. Arnual and the heights above it, whilst the remainder of his brigade, crossing the ravine in front of Spicheren, was to make a front attack on the positions to the right of the road from Forbach to Saarbrucken. The other brigade of the Bataille division was to move on to the position known as the exercising ground. Three squadrons of the 5th Mounted Chasseurs preceded it to clear the way. Finally, Colonel Du Ferron, of the 1st Brigade of the Verge Division, was to push on a re-Brigade of the Verge Division, was to such on a re-connoissance to Guerswiller, to connect the move-ment of the 2d Corps with that of Marshal Bazaine. and 10 o'clock. Lieutenant-Colonel Thebeaudin and 10 o'clock. Lichtenant-Solohei Thebeaudin, with two battalions of his regiment (the 67th), in advancing to the attack of the village of St. Arnual, found it strongly occupied and defended by batteries of position planted on the right bank of the Saar To demolish this artillery, General Micheler, whose brigade had come forward to support the move-ment of General Bastoul, ordered into action a battery of the 15th Regiment, which effectually ment of General Bastoul, ordered into action a battery of the 15th Regiment, which effectually opened fire on the Prussian guns. Supported by a battailon of the 40th Regiment of the line, and by the company of sappers and miners of the 3d Division, materially assisted by the flank movement of Colonel Mangin, who, with the remainder of the 67th Regi-ment, and the 66th Regiment, descended the heights on the left, Lieutenant-Colonel Thebandin was able to carry the village of St. Arnual, and occupied it with a battailon of the 40th Regiment, and the com-pany of Sappers and Miners. The battailons of the 67th, with great clan, rushed up the slopes of the hillock of St. Arnual, and established themselves on the crest, opposite Saarbrucken. The 66th, with rucken. The 66th equal resolution, took possession of the heights up to the exercising ground, driving the enemy from all his positions. At the same time General Bataille moved his first brigade to the rising ground rap on the left of the Saarbrucken road, connecting his on the left of the saarorucker road, connecting his movement with that of his second brigade by ad-vancing a battalion of the 33d Regiment. Advanc-ing in line the battalions of the 23d and 5th Regi-ments, their front covered by numerous skirmishers, resolutely carried the many ravines which run across the ground, which is very difficult and thickly wooded. One battalion of the 5th Regiment, working its way across the woods, followed the railway as far as the village of Frotrany, where it effected its junction with the other battalions of the regiment, and together they attacked the exercising ground of the right. On gaining the heights General Bataille planted one of his batteries in front of the lines of the 66th Regiment, and another on the exercising ground, to fire on the railway station and silence the enemy's artillery, which had taken up a position on the left of Saarbrucken. It was unabl to sustain our fire, and had to fall back. The 12-pounder battery of the reserve was ordered by me to poort the fire of the batteries on the exercising ound and finally a battery of mitrailleuses of the support the fir 2d Division threw into utter disorder the enemy's co-lumns of infantry, which were evacuating the town. During this artillery duel the troops were able to acclaim his Majesty the Em-peror and the Prince Imperial on the very ground from which they had just dislodged the enemy. The movements of the infantry were ex-cellently seconded by the 5th Regiment of Horse Chasseurs, under the orders of Colonel de Sereville. The squadrons, supported by infantry fir skirmish-ing order, searched every nook in the ground, and rapidly gained all the crests of the hills whence they could descry the enemy. The 12th Battalion of Foot Chasseurs and the company of Sappers and Miners of the 2d Division formed the reserve of General Bataille. They joined the troop of the 1st Brigade 2d Division threw into utter disorder the enemy of the 2d Division formed the reserve of General Bataille. They joined the troop of the 1st Brigade of the Verge Division, which formed the second line, constantly kept at 400 or 500 metres of the first line, and availed themselves of every rise in the ground to cover themselves. The reports I have received up to this time announce the following losses:—The 69th Regiment had one officer killed, M. de Bar, lieutenant of the *francs tireurs*; Captain Adjutant Major Privat has a very dangerous gunshot. wound; Lieutenant Laramey received a bullet through his shoulder; fifteen or sixteen rank and file were killed or wounded. The 67th had no casualty among its officers; rank and file, twenty men killed or wounded. The sth Regiment, two rank and file wounded. The 3d Division reports a sergeant killed and a private wounded. I have not received the report of Colonel du Ferron. I am told that he was engaged, and had about ten I am told that he was engaged, and had about ten-men wounded. Neither have I received the report of the commander of the 10th Battalion of Foot Chas-seurs, which has pushed forward on the right along the road from Saarguemines to Saarbrucken. The troops are encamped on the ground they have gained. I have had a few entrenchments thrown up in front and fiank of their position. Some epaule-ments have also been established to protect our guns and guoners. I was greatly pleased with the dash and resolution of the troops. They showed great energy in marching up steep ground, and also in action. The heads of the steediness of their men, their intrepidity, and the growing confidence they show in their weapons. I will make known to your Ma-jesty the names of the officers and men of all ranks who specially merit being pointed out. Our losses amount to 6 killed and 67 wounded. Receive, etc., FROSSARD. men wounded. Neither have I received the report of

news conjectures as to the beginning of hostili-ties. But the cavalry is to be sent away simply because there is no accommedation in the place for them, and because all the barracks, maga-zines, etc., are to be used for hospitals and so forth, now in course of preparation. The Em-peror is represented as much depressed by this forced delay. He counted upon giving battle days before; and his chances of winning it have too obviously diminished, and are decreasing hourly. hourly.

The Latest Muster-Roll of the Rival Armics. From the London Army and Navy Gazette, Aug. 1.

The following is a correct statement of the available strength of the French and Prussian

French Army.-Total strength of field army, 286,400; army of reserve, 93,600; troops remain-ing in Algeria, 50,000; in fortifications, depots, etc., in France, 85,000; available for calling in, 143,000. Total, 658,000, with 1014 guns.

North German Army.—Present strength of field army, 447,838, with 1212 guns; reserve, 164,935, with 234 guns; leaving in fortifications, etc., 154,132, with 240 guns. Total strength,

Army Furnished by the South German States.
Bavaria, 117,438 men, 240 guns; Wurtemberg, 34,680 men 66 guns; Baden, 30,290 men, 64 guns. Total, 182,408 men, 370 guns.

It will be seen that the whole available troops of the German States amount to the colossal figure of 949,313 men, with 2056 guns.

Builet Pumps" and other Old-Time Mitrail-leuses. The mitrailleuse, it appears, is by no means so novel an invention as has been supposed. On the 12th August, 1792, a gentleman named Re-nard offered to the National Assembly a machine of the sort by which one man could, in a second, fire ninety shots. The Moniteur of that date announces that the invention was referred to the Military Commission, and there's an end of it. In 1848 a locksmith invented and exhibited a kind of machine which he chose to call a "bullet kind of machine which he chose to call a "bullet pump." It also disappeared after a time with-out attracting notice. In the exhibition of 1867 M. Renault, a Frenchman, showed an instrument called "A Reaper of Men," by which 8000 bullets could be fired per minute by three persons. It had seventeen barrels. M. Renault and his invention have alike been lost sight of. M. Perrot con-ceived the idea of three sorts of mitraillenses, all worked by compressed air. The first two all worked by compressed air. The first two fired bullets, and the only difference between them was that the one was stationary and the other movable. The other was a sort of ballista, and threw stones, fire, or any other projectile to annoy the enemy. The following year, 1868, the real mitrailleuse was discovered. What are its powers in war yet remain to be proved. The Prussians have also some machine of the sort; a model of the form they use was exhibited at the exhibition of 1867. It is believed that it could not fire more than 100 or 200 balls a minute.

Bismarck and the "Peace" Press.

The whole of the Northern Confedration except Silesia and Saxony being, says Galignani's essenger, in a state of siege, Count Bismarck proceeds with the greatest rigor against all those who are pointed out to him as entertaining anti-Prussian sentiments. Thus he has ordered a large number of arrests among the Hanoverian aristocracy who are devoted to the cause of the ex-King. All the particularist journals have been suppressed, the Rhenische Courier, the Francfurter Beobachter, the Schleswische Zei. tung, &c. The moderate ones have been menaced with extinction in case that they should seek to hinder the national movement instead of throwing themselves into the current.

The Catholic Clergy and the Prussian Army. From the Paris Monde, Aug. 2.

The most, and indeed the only, circumstantial account as yet received of the battle of Sunday, the 14th, states that-

"It was only a semblance of success or a mitigation of disaster. The Germans having cut on ai railway communication with Metz, Bazaine commenced to retreat across the Moselle, and proposed follow the ordinary high road towards Verdan When half the army was across the river he was surprised and attacked by a large force of the enemy, who, after four hours' fighting, were repulsed with great loss. From appearances the Prus-sians once more outgenerated the French, and got around in great force to the side of the river Bazaine meant to retire, and checked his etreat.

Despatches from King William to the Queen of Prussia render it certain that a battle was fought on Monday, the 15th, directly in front of Metz, in which the French were repulsed and driven inside of the fortifications. The Paris Presse of yesterday, however, speaks of a movement of MacMahon from Metz towards Verdun and Chalons, intended to prevent the army of Prince Frederick Charles from cutting the communication between himself and Bazaine, and adds that, before he reached Longueville, the corps of L'Admirault and De Caen encountered the army, the battle of Monday resulting. Prassian accounts of Monday's fighting refer to an attempt on the part of L'Admirault to flank the 1st Corps of the Prusslans, commanded by General yon Mauteuffel, from all of which we are forced to infer that the fighting on Monday extended all the way from Metz to the neighborhood of Longueville, a distance of about fifty miles, although the contest along this extended line was probably not a simultaneous one. While by King William's bulletins of Monday's battle, we are assured that the Prussians were victorious. the sub-prefect of Verdun forwards to Paris reports of a Prussian defeat between Metz and Verdun, with a loss of 40,000 (sic.), followed by a retreat towards the South, and the correspondent of the London Daily News alleges that the result of the battle of that day was to force the Germans back to the Moselle.

The fighting was continued yesterday, and as we write we are in receipt of a cable telegram from Paris which fstates that "there is no doubt hard fighting has been going on since Saturday last, the French being engaged in a great strategical movement involving a series of engagements." This movement is probably an attempt to transfer the entire French army, with the exception of the garrison of Metz, from the line of the Moselle to that of the Meuse; and as the railway from Metz to Verdan is not yet completed, and the parallel line to the south from Paris to Strasburg has been destroyed at several points, and at others is in possession of the Prussians, between Frouard and Commercy, the French are obliged to move their troops without railway appliances, thereby permitting the enemy to harass their rear at every step. A running fight has apparently been kept up for the past three days, extending all the way from Metz to Commercy; and while the French may have enceceded in repulsing the Prasslans at Isolated

given full details.

A little to the east of south, and fifteen miles distant, is Pont-a-Mousson, an unfortified town of about 8000 inhabitants, which has figured conspicuously in the cable reports during the past few days, having been first occupied by the Prussians on the 12th for a short time, and being again reported in their possession. At this p'ace the Moselle is crossed by a fine stone bridge of eight arches, which has probably been destroyed by the French.

Ten miles south of Pont-a-Mousson is the village of Frouard, at the point where the railroad to Metz branches off from the main line between Paris and Strasburg, and near the confluence of the Meurthe with the Moselle. After the evacuation of Nancy by the French, and its occupation by the Prussians on the 13th, Fronard fell into the enemy's hands, and a portion of the railroad to the west of it was destroyed, thereby cutting off MacMahon's communications with Metz by the most direct route.

The course of the Meurthe is to the southeast. and five miles from Frouard, and twenty-nine directly south of Metz, is Nancy, one of the finest provincial cities of France, with a population of nearly 50,000, and an interesting history, which we have already given at length. For a long time considered indispensable to the security of the line of the Moselle, it was held by the French until the 13th, when MacMahon, having concentrated his army around it on his retreat from the disastrous field of Woerth, abandoned the city to the advancing army of the Prussians.

Ten miles southwest of Frouard, and twelve miles west of Nancy, is situated the strongly fortified town of Toul, with a population of about 9000. It is on the left bank of the Moselle, and may be regarded as the southern point of the defensive line of the Moselle. The railroad from Paris to Strasburg passes through it, but the French have lost their communications with Toul by this road, the Prussians having destroyed it near Frouard, while they themselves have done the same in the neighborhood of Bar-le-Duc and Commercy, to the west. On forsaking Nancy, McMahon continued to hold Toul, and on the afternoon of the 14th, when a demand for its surrender was made by an advanced party of 200 Prussian Uhlans, the garrison declined to surrender. Toul has long been regarded as a military point of great value, and its fortifications were strengthened by Vauban, but of late years it has dwindled in importance by reason of the overshadowing strength of Metz.

Even if the French continue to hold possession of Metz, their recent movements have been such as to render

The Line of the Meuse

their most reliable barrier against the Prussian advance at present. It is based on the river Meuse, which takes its rise in the Department of Haute-Marne, near the fortified town of Langres. Its general course is a little to the west of north. Traversing the Department of Vosges, it disappears under ground near Bazoilles, reappearing near Neufchateau. 4 miles distant. Then passing Commercy, Verdun-where it becomes navigable-Niezieres and Givet, in France, it traverses Belgium and Holland, and enters the North Sea by three principal mouths, after a total course of 434 miles. Its general course in French territory is almost parallel with that of the Moselle, at a distance of about 30 miles to the west.

About thirty miles due west from Metz, on the railroad from that point to Rheims -not yet completed east of the city-is situated Verdun, the northern point of the de-

miles distant by rail from the city, and is situated on the vast plain of Mourmelon, is not, properly speaking, an intrenched camp, as it is sometimes called, but rather an enormous military rendezvous, made up chiefly of barracks and other unfortified buildings necessary for the housing and instruction in the art of war of large levies of raw recruits. The camp works include artillery, infantry and cavalry barracks, all permanent, as well as the headquarters, magazines, administrative departments, hospitals, coffee-houses and restaurants. Among the other appliances of the camp are a theatre, a street railway, and works for furnishing plentiful supplies of water and gas. In short, Chalons has been, ever since the accession of Napoleon III, a vast military colony, in which all the arts of life were carried on, as well as instruction in the art of war. Within itself, therefore, it possesses no material strength, but its position is an advantageous one, and when it comes to the worst a determined stand will be made by the Emperor in its locality, to keep the invaders from the gates of the capital. Twenty-five miles northwest of Chalons, and

about eighty miles E. N. E. of Paris, and the centre of railroads diverging to all points of the compass, is situated the important city of Rheims, with a population of about 60,000. It is located in an extensive basin, surrounded by slopes which are covered by vineyards. It is surrounded with a wall flanked with towers, the ramparts being nearly three miles in circuit and planted with trees, forming a splendid promenade. Philip Augustus was consecrated here in 1179, and all his successors have been also, up to the time of the Revolution of 1880, with the exception of Henry IV, the first Napoleon, and Louis XVIII. It is renowned for having maintained its liberties against the Bishops during the Middle Ages. While at present it is not a place of any considerable military strength, a struggle will be required before it falls into Prussian hands. unless the eastward movement of Napoleon should soon assume the character of a mere rout. If the Emperor should be so hard pressed as to be compelled to fight the enemy in the neighborhood of Chalons or Rheims, a victory will be absolutely necessary to save the capital and his throne. The fortifications of Paris are regarded as impregnable, but such would be likely to prove the case only in the event of the people of Paris being more determined upon repelling the invader than upon getting rid a tyranical and imbecile ruler of at any cost. The recent demonstrations in the city have developed an extremely bitter feeling against the whole Bonaparte family, which, in case of an advance upon the capital by the enemy, would probably become so powerful as to overthrow the last vestiges of Corsican misrule.

WAR NEWS BY MAIL.

NEUTRALITY.

Russia and the War-A Proposed Neutral League. From the Eastern Budget. "Within the last few days the policy of the

Russian Government in the war seems to have undergone a remarkable change. In the beginning, as I reported to you at the time, Prince Gortschakoff's organ, the *Journal de St. Peters-bourg*, was strongly in favor of Prussia. It began to alter its tone on the 32d, when it contained an article highly praising the patriotism of the French Chamber, and on the day after it published a communique, stating that General

his way to the railway station, he was seated erect in his carriage, bowing every minute in recognition of the cries of "Vive l'Empereur!" which greeted him at every step. Now, however, he leaned back in his carriage, and the mere lifting of his kepi Now, however, he leaned from his head seemed to fatigue him. The Prince Imperial made ample amends for his father's apparent lassitude, for he continued bowing to the people, without intermission, all through the town. The young Prince, who bears a striking likeness to his mother, looks very delicate and ill able to support the fatigue of a campaign. The reception which he received was even more enthusiastic than that of his father.

THE FRENCH CAMP.

Edmond About at the Front-His Views of the French Camp-Persecution of Journalists. Edmond About, the distinguished French writer, for whose safety grave fears have been lately entertained, but who has finally turned up safe, addressed the following letter to the Paris Soir, dated "From the extreme frontier, July 31:"-

People speak from habit of the licentiousness of camps. The word licentiousness continues part of the language, but it is no longer a part of our practice. I am in the camp; I am not purblind, and I have seen nothing like licenti-The word licentiousness continues ousness. It is a characteristic of memory to outlive reality, and to hand it down long after it has ceased to exist. Up to the last century, when wars lasted many years, there was a long interval between two campaigns which must be filled up somehow; the soldier must not feel ennui, or he gets ill. A regiment of girls was brought to the camp. Comedy began. Recollect Marshal de Saxe and Madame Favart in the first place. French officers do not like to amuse themselves without their soldiers. The trooper, therefore, had his "dears." Private Tulipe and Sargeant Ramee divided the favors of Jeanneton, while the strapping fellows of the staff courted Celimene. They indulged in a liberty of language and manner which astonished the nation somewhat, although the nation was anything but prudish. Now, the aspect of a camp is serious, not to say severe. Men who sleep, well or ill, under their tents awake in the freshness of the morning, and the mornings are almost cold. They dress, take coffee, and pile arms; every one is busy; there is no time for ennui or melancholy. Several soldiers are reading or writing, by which you see that the average level of instruction has been raised. Here and there you may hear a gross expression, but you also often hear a bit of pleasantry in good taste as sharp as it is broad. The very Arabs, those Turcos who so terrify the Germans, conduct themselves like civilized men. l visited yesterday a body of 4000 of these native sharpshooters. All the neighboring village was walking through their tents, and were not in the least shocked. Sometimes at the sight of a pretty Lorrainer, or a blonde Alsatian, white as drop of milk, a fire sparkles in the eye of the African, he opens his mouth and exhibits thirty-two teeth which would gladly crunch the pullet as they crunch the Government biscuits; but this s all. The women are not over frightened at this natural homage, and are, perhaps, even pleased with it. There is little or no marauding. The standing

crops which surround these cities of the canvas are generally respected. But the soldiers are often shamefully cheated by the small traders. They sometimes pay three sous for a piece of bread which is worth only one, and are charged for a yellow colored and bitter water the same price as for the excellent beer of the Grand Balcon. They have never taken their revenge. It is an exceptional case when they borrow potatoes from the neighboring fields. They are far from any town, the communication are difficult; perhaps the officer has said to his men somewhat imprudently, "Scatter yourselves abroad." All is fair are to to a man who is allowed to scatter himself abroad, and who has to depend on himself, but they use, and do not abuse. I visited an en-campment with the Mayor of a village. He spied in the pot potatoes the size of nuts which he planted for his own use. "Well, my boys, where

NOTES OF THE WAR.

Why the French were Slow in Attacking the Prussians. From the Pall Mall Gazette.

Various reasons have been given for the tardi-ness of the French attack. We are assured that the French have been checked by the knowledge that Prussia means to leave the Rhesish provinces bare of all sustenance for any invading force. The railway will be utterly destroyed, and no sort of forage or provision will remain for French use. At Metz we are told that "the for French use. At Metz we are told that "the army has an order to carry four days' rations in their knapsacks and eight days' rations in their regimental fourgons." With regard to forage the arrangement is much more difficult; its transport necessitates an endless train of all sorts of vehicles. The whole of the neighboring country employs its peasants and horses for this kind of work. They come even from Luxemburg and the southwestern part of Belgium, and are hired at the rate of Sf. a day per horse and 254f. a day per man. At Metz all the squares, every available spot in-deed, are crowded with these vehicles; and so it is elsewhere." We shall probably hear to-day or to-morrow news from Metz of the advance of the whole cavalry de la garde; and with that

In Prussia the authorities have accepted all the offer of material and religious aid made by the Catholic Orders. The greater part of the Jesuits' establishments, among others, those of Laach and Munster, the Franciscans, Redemptionists, and Laarists, are fitting up hospitals in their houses. A large of fathers of those Orders and number many of the ordinary clergy have already left for the army. On the 28th of July Prince Frederick Charles and General de Steinmetz passed through Cologne with several officers and Catholic ecclesiastics on their way to the camp. Among the priests were Prince Edmond Radziwill, who will attend especially to the Polish soldiers, with whose language he is perfectly acquainted. The Knights Hospitallers are displaying extraordinary activity. The Cen-tral Committee of those of St. John of Prussia (Protestants) is at Berlin, under the Presidency of Prince de Pless. An immense hall serves as a depot for gifts in kind. Those of St. John of Malta (Catholics) have their seat at Cologne. The Knights who follow the army wear a green uniform.

Le Boeuf's Speech to His Six Secretaries.

Marshal Le Boeuf's little speech to the six young Gardes Mobiles who are now his secretaries seems to have been very much to the purpose:-- "Gentlemen, we are bagianing the campaign: we will live well when circumstances are favorable; when we can get nothing, which may happen, we will buckle our walstbands in tightly. You will have much work and little rest, my esteem, the certainty of being useful to your country, and, on the least indiscretion, a ball through your head. And now, gentlemen, break up.

Roumania Favoring France.

The latest intelligence brought by the Eastern mail from the Danubian Principalities represents the sympathies of the Roumain populations in favor of France as deep and unani-mous. "Neither the Moldavians nor the Wallachians," observes the Paris Constitutionnel. "have forgotten the debt of gratitude they owe to the Emperor, and the whole country puts up ardent prayers for the success of the French armies

General Douny, Killed at Weissenburg.

General Douay, who was killed at the battle of Weissenburg, was one of the most popular of the superior officers in the French service. He rose from the ranks, and was appointed to a captaincy for his dashing courage during the Rome in 1849. He was gradually prosiege of moted to his late high rank for distinguished services in Italy, in the Crimea, and lastly in Mexico, where he was promoted to his present grade of general of division by Marshal Bazaine. In harmony with a most powerful physical organization, General Donay was endowed with a voice so loud and sonorous as to become legendary in the regiments he has led into the field. His word of command could be heard above all the tumults of battle. The Emperor has lost a very faithful friend and ad-herent in the General who has just fallen in his service.

Philadelphia Trade Report.

WEDNESDAY, Aug. 17 .- Cloverseed is scarce and nominal at \$7.50@9. Timothy is in fair demand at

\$5. Flaxseed, if here, would readily command \$2.25. Bark-In the absence of sales we quote No. 1

Bark-In the absence of sales we quote No. 1 Quercitron at \$30 per ton. Tanner's Bark ranges from \$18 to \$19 per cord. The Flour market is without change worthy of special note. The demand for shipment is quite limited, and the operations of the home consumers were confined to their immediate wants. The sales comprise 1000 barrels Market Street Mills extra family on private terms, and 600 barrels various grades at \$550,657 b for superline; \$666 25 for extras; \$650 67 for Northwestern do. do.; \$7,6750 for Penn-sylvania do. do.; \$7,6750 for Indiana and Ohio do. do.; and \$7,75,6850 for fancy brands, as in quality. Rye Flour may be quoted at \$6.

do.; and \$7.75@8.50 for fancy brands, as in quality. Rye Flour may be quoted at \$6. The receipts of Wheat from the West continue heavy, reaching to say 21,600 bushels, but there is only a moderate inquiry, and prices favor buyers. Sales of old Pennsylvania red at \$1.45@1.48, and new Western do. at \$1.40@1.45. Rve is more active, and 1300 bushels new Western sold at \$1. Cora is inac-tive and weak; sales of yellow at \$1.000 bushels new Western sold on private terms, and 2000 bushels new Western at 46@500.

Southern at 46650c. Whisky is more active. 210 barrels Western iron-bound sold at 97%@96c.; and 45 barrels do. woodbound sold at 96% @97c.