

FIRST EDITION

THE WAR IN EUROPE.

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THE SITUATION.

Marshal Bazaine's Defeat, and the Crown Prince's March on Paris—The Rumored Battle at Chalons.

As we write, no additional intelligence of the battle reported last night as having taken place before Chalons has been received.

THE PERIL OF PARIS.

The Capital Preparing for a Siege—Its Fortifications and the Efforts to Strengthen them.

Additional works for the defense of the city were at once inaugurated, thousands of men being put at the task, while the leading contractors placed all their appliances at the free disposal of the Government.

Notwithstanding the show of activity which was made in preparation for defense, a leading journal, the Opinion Nationale, a week later ventured to raise a doubt, in response to which the Journal Officiel on the 14th contained a manifesto in which occurred the following passage:

"More than six hundred cannon are already mounted on the walls of those forts which are likely to be the first threatened with attack, and the work of placing other pieces in position continues without interruption day and night."

A Paris despatch of the 15th noticed the following among the preparations for defense then progressing:

"The beautiful iron gateway at the entrance of the Bois de Boulogne at the end of the Avenue de l'Imperatrice, is removed. Blocks of trees have been cut down. The wall of circunvallation is nearly finished, uniting the two formerly open spaces, and is pierced with loopholes. The great ditch is dug across the road and a drawbridge is ready to be thrown across it."

By this time, however, the danger from within had become greater for the moment than that from without. On the afternoon of the 14th a band of about eighty men, all armed with revolvers and poignards similar to weapons which had been seized on the previous night in an out-of-the-way house near the fortifications, made an attack upon an engine-house in the Boulevard La Villette, in which one or two officials were killed and several wounded before the engine could be suppressed.

On the 17th, General Trochu, who had been appointed Le Boen's successor as Major-General of the army, on the fall of the Olivier Ministry, but who had been sent to Chalons as commander and organizer of the new levies, was ordered back to Paris to reconquer Marshal Baraguay d'Hilliers in command of the city and the forces for its defense.

On the 19th orders also went forth for the destruction of a portion at least of the Bois de Boulogne and the Bois de Vincennes, as a necessary precaution in case of a siege.

The question of sustaining two millions of people during a protracted siege could not be lost sight of, and M. Thiers, a few days ago, advocated calling into the city the country people of the surrounding districts, with all the breadstuffs and provisions they could gather.

Meanwhile, during the past week Paris has been in a constant ferment over the battles around Metz. Great crowds of impatient people have surrounded the Ministries of War and of the Interior day and night, clamoring for news from the front, and roaring the "Marsellaise" on the repeated announcement of French victories and the complete success attending Marshal Bazaine's grand strategical movement on the capital.

But on Saturday afternoon Paris was thrown into consternation by receiving news of the disastrous defeat sustained by Bazaine near Metz on the 18th, and the scenes which followed the announcement are said to have beggared description.

The Fortifications of Paris, erected during the reign of Louis Philippe, while M. Thiers was at the head of the ministry, are of the most elaborate and formidable character, and it is estimated that their total cost has not been less than \$100,000,000. They consist

of a bastioned and terraced wall, strengthened by numerous outworks or detached forts. The wall embraces the city on both banks of the Seine, and has a continuous circuit of 23 miles, presenting 94 angular fronts.

The detached forts are seventeen in number, and each of them is connected with the wall, as well as with the others, by fine military high-roads for the rapid movement of artillery and troops. These forts are situated at a distance of from a mile and a quarter to two miles from the walls and from each other, thus forming a complete girdle of fortifications beyond the walls.

This peculiar style of defensive works is known in engineering terms as a "continuous enceinte" and "a surrounding girdle of exterior forts," and the only other city in the empire similarly fortified is Lyons.

In 1857 the fortifications of Paris were pronounced impregnable, and since then millions of dollars have been expended in the effort to bring them to the highest degree of efficiency.

THE BATTLE-FIELDS.

We give below the relative location of the different towns and cities which figure principally in the cable despatches of the past month, with several points referred to in the article on the campaigns of 1792 and 1814.

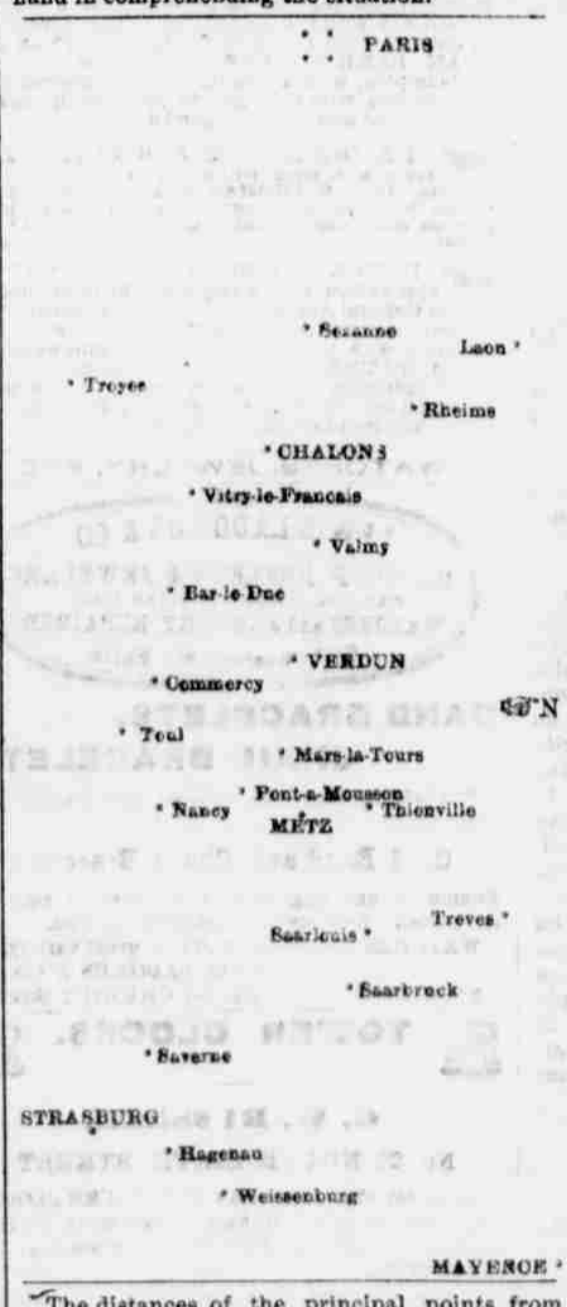


Table with 2 columns: Location, Distance from Paris. Includes Metz, Verdun, Strasbourg, etc.

HISTORICAL ANALOGIES.

The Campaigns of 1792 and 1814—The Tide of Victory Turned in the Former, but Sweeping Downward in the Latter to the Capital—The Bonaparte Duke of Brunswick and the Anti-Diplomatic Blucher.

Germany with extreme interest, and when it had advanced sufficiently to render the distracted country to all appearances easy of conquest, the resolution was quickly taken to interfere.

In 1791 a conference was held at Pillnitz, in Saxony, between the Emperor Leopold II and Frederick William II, the King of Prussia, at which, in the presence of the Count d'Artois, the youngest brother of Louis XVI of France, an offensive league was formed against the Revolution.

The French Directory met the menace of this alliance by a declaration of war early in 1792; and while the forces of Austria were kept at home to watch Russia, Poland, and Turkey, the Duke of Brunswick, at the head of the Prussian army, was ordered across the Rhine.

On his entrance into French territory he was confronted by the fortress of Metz, but he passed to the right of this, entered Longwy, near the Belgian frontier, on the 23d of August, and then, leaving Metz in his rear, advanced upon Verdun, which fell into his hands on the 2d of September.

Dumouriez was enabled to gather considerable reinforcements and to effect a junction between his army and that of Kellermann. The Duke of Brunswick finally crossed the Meuse, passed over the wooded plateau of the Argennes, and descending into the plain watered by the Marne, came within sight of the French army at Valmy.

Meanwhile General Custine had invaded the Palatinate and captured Worms and Mayence, and Dumouriez, following up the retreat of the Duke of Brunswick, encountered and defeated the Austrians at Jemappes, just within the present borders of Belgium, on the 6th of November.

The next attempt was more successful. The campaign of 1813 was a mere succession of disasters to the first Napoleon, and by November all Germany as far as the Rhine was freed of the French. Driven west of the Rhine, Napoleon was quickly deserted by the whole of the Rhenish Confederation which he had founded.

The Prussian military system, codified by the "Law of 3d September, 1814," has been often enlarged upon, but seldom epitomized; and not one-half of those who peruse with unfeeling interest the accounts daily published of the great war at this moment convulsing Europe have any clear conception of even its general provisions.

THE PRUSSIAN SYSTEM.

The New York Times has the following:—The Prussian military system, codified by the "Law of 3d September, 1814," has been often enlarged upon, but seldom epitomized; and not one-half of those who peruse with unfeeling interest the accounts daily published of the great war at this moment convulsing Europe have any clear conception of even its general provisions.

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stead of following the direct route to the east by way of Nancy and Chalons, as the Crown Prince of Prussia has done, he diverged towards the south for fancied strategical reasons, and during the delay caused by the fluctuating diplomacy of the conference, Napoleon was enabled to throw himself in his way on the 29th of January, 1814, at Brienne-le-Chateau, a small town about forty miles S. E. of Chalons.

Blucher then pushed on towards Paris, but between the 10th and the 18th of February Napoleon fell upon detached portions of the allied army, repulsing them in detail, after his favorite fashion at Champeaubert, Montmirail, Chateaub-Thierry, Beauchamp, Mormant, Ville-neuve-Comte, and Montereau—the scenes of these operations being restricted to the triangular space included between the Seine and the Marne, with Paris at the apex of the triangle, and the base distant but 70 miles.

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Then it was that Blucher set diplomacy at defiance, and resolved single handed and alone, and in defiance of all his superiors, to hurl Napoleon from power if possible. The victories gained by Prussia had been viewed with considerable alarm in that day as they have in this, and the other allies, jealous of her growing power and influence, were more disposed to diplomate than to fight.

Blucher anticipated the coming diplomatic solution, and averted the disastrous results that might have followed the retreat of the allied army, by pushing forward alone and in defiance of orders to the contrary. Having been reinforced in his position on the Marne by Winzingerode and Solow, he fell upon Napoleon's army at Laon, 74 miles northeast of Paris, on the 9th of March. When nightfall put an end to the fight the battle was undecided.

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client number of the youth of the nation, called out between the ages of twenty-one and twenty-five, a service of from one to three years being compulsory. The Landwehr of the first call was a militia liable to serve either at home or abroad in case of war, but in peace time compelled only to undergo such exercise as was necessary for training.

With so all-embracing a scheme of service, applied as it now is to all those States recently absorbed by Prussia, her immense military power is easily understood. Less oppressive, or at all events more popular, than the French conscription, owing possibly to its universality and the general impossibility of providing substitutes, it is more efficient, and seems to appeal more successfully to the patriotic instincts of the people.

THE MASSACRE IN CHINA.

Attack on the French Catholic Mission at Tien-tsin—The French Consul and Fifteen Other Europeans Killed—The Chinese Massacred the Natives, Killed—The Emperor's Proclamation.

About half-past 9 A. M. on the 21st instant, Chow, the Taoist of Tien-tsin (Intendant of Circuit) called at the French Consulate, situated at the Tien-choo-tang—the Chinese name for the Roman Catholic Mission premises, where the Catholic priests reside—accompanied by a man who had been arrested while collecting Chinese children in the country, and who had later declared himself to be an employee of the Catholic priests.

The wounded people began yelling out; and the Chinese people on the street, who had rushed on the foreigners and killed them, throwing their bodies in the Grand Canal, situated five or six yards distant. Chung-how and the magistrate were dragged by their attendants to the Yamen. There were now heard a tremendous yell from the people, numbering over 10,000, and they rushed at once to the Tien-choo-tang, from which before long flames were seen to issue.

M. Chalmaison and his wife, who resided near the north gate and kept a pretty store, were also killed. They were both Roman Catholics, but the Chinese say they were not killed because if M. Chalmaison had not fired on the people, I suspect in any case, however, they would have been destroyed.

From M. Coutris we have been able to obtain the name list of the slain, and they are as follows:—Henri Fontanier, French Consul at Tien-tsin; Mr. Simon, Secretary of the Consulate; Monsieur Thomassin, French interpreter of the Legation at Peking; and wife, guests of the French Consul; Pere Chevrier, a Catholic priest; Mr. Protopotoff, a Russian officer, and wife; Mr. Bascoff, a fur merchant; Sister Louise, an English subject, with Sisters of Charity, Mary, Louise, Victoria, Therese, Josephine, Vincenta, Orelia, Eugenie, Monseigneur and Madame Chalmaison.

PROCLAMATION BY THE EMPEROR.

Chung-how, having reported to the Emperor about the troubles of Tien-tsin between the people and the missionaries, and the fight which has taken place between them, and acknowledging himself guilty, having prayed that he might be punished, and that the other local mandarins might likewise be chastised severely according to their greater or lesser guiltiness.

It is evident that so great a disaster could never have taken place but for the alleged reason, and that therefore all the above-named officials must be considered guilty and responsible for these events. The Ministry of Administration (Li-pao) has therefore been instructed to define the several punishments to be inflicted upon the said officials.