Napoleon the Third.

[Continued from the Pirst Page.] King William left Ems as soon as intelligence of the declaration of war by France reached him through the agency of the public press, his journey to Berlin being one continued ovation. and his arrival at the capital the occasion of a reception which, for wild, bewildering enthusi-

asm, is without a parallel in history. It was not, however, until the 19th of July that the Prussian Government was formally apprived of the action of France. On that day the following document-the first official document received from France since the rise of the Hohenzollern imbroglio-was presented by M. Le Sourd, the French Charge d'Affaires :-

The undersigned, Charge d'Affaires of France, has the honor, in conformity with the orders he has re-ceived from his Government, to bring the following communication to the knowledge of his Excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs of his Majesty the King of Prussia. The Government of his Majesty the Emperor of the French being unable to view the project of placing a Prussian prince on the Spanish throne otherwise than as an action directed against the security of the territories of France, found itself obliged to demand of his Majesty the King of Prussia assurance that such a combination could not be realized with his consent.

combination could not be realized with his consent.

His Majesty having rejused to give any such guarantee, and having, on the contrary, declared to the Ambassador of his Majesty the Emperor of the French that he intends to reserve to himself for that eventuality, as for any other, the right to be guided by circumstances, the Imperial Government has been forced to see in this declaration of the King an arriere pensee menacing in like manner to France and the European equilibrium. This declaration has been rendered worse by the commi on made to the different Cabinets of the King's refusal to receive the Ambassador of the Emi and to enter into any further explanations with him In consequencet hereof the French Government has thought it its duty to take immediate steps for the defense of its honor and its injured interests, and has resolved to adopt for this object all measures which the situation in which it has been placed renders necessary. It considers itself from this momen n a state of war against Prossia.

On the same day, July 19, the North German Parliament was convened at Berlin. Count von Bismarck at once formally announced the declaration of war by France-an announcement which was greeted by the most vehement cheers. King William, who was received with frantic applause by the deputies, opened the session with a speech, in which, after reciting the alleged grievances of France and the action of the Imperial Government, he said:-

"The more the Confederate Governments are conscious of having done all our honor and dignity per-mitted to preserve to Europe the blessings of peace, and the more indubitable it shall appear to all minds that the sword has been thrust into our hands, so much the more confidently shall we rely upon the united will of the German Governments, both of the North and South, and upon your love of country, and so much the more confidently we shall fight for our right against the violence of for ign invaders, inasmuch as we pursue no other object than the durable establishment of peace in Europe. God will be with us, as He was with our forestablishment."

In response to this address a reply was voted unanimously, in which the deputies said: -"We place our trust in our own old and heroic King, to whom Providence has granted that he should in the eve of life bring to a close the war in which he fought in his youth. We place our trust finally in God, who will surely punish the wicked audacity of the invader. The German people will attain its unity on the field of battle, in which are also at stake the honor, freedom, and peace of Europe, and the welfare of its people.'

This was followed by the voting of a loan of 120,000,000 thalers unanimously amidst the wildest enthusiasm, and the enactment of measures for vigorous resistance to the invaders. Not only the States of the North German Confederation came to the hearty support of the King, but Bavaria, through her sovereign, sent "a joyful echo," and, in common with Wartemburg, Baden, and Hesse-Darmstadt, the other South German States, who were allied to the Confederation only by military treaties, took up the cause of Prussia as the cause of the aniversal German Fatherland and their own. The issue was fully and finally joined.

The Course of Foreign Powers.

The powers of Europe who were not parties to the quarrel, as a matter of course attempted to avert the calamity of war. Great Britain was especially active in efforts at bringing about an amicable solution of the difficulty, and her Ministers at Paris and Berlin were kept busy in consultations with the governments of France and Prussia, and with the representatives of other powers. But an amicable solution was out of the question from the first, and on the 25th of July developments were made which rendered such a solution still further removed from the sphere of possibility.

These developments were the publication by the London Times of the project of a treaty which it was alleged that France submitted to Prussia subsequent to the war of 1866. In this treaty it was stipulated that Napoleon should acquiesce in the territorial acquisitions made by Prussia in the war against Austria and her allies: that King William would facilitate the acquisition of Luxemburg by France; that Napoleon would not oppose a federal union of the South German States, except Austria, with the North German Confederation; and that King William would aid Napoleon by force of arms in acquiring and holding possession of Belgium, in case Napoleon should be led by circumstances to invade or conquer that country. In conclusion, it provided for a general alliance, offensive and defensive, between the two nations.

The publication of this projected scheme for the rectification of the boundary line between France and Prussia took all Europe by storm. England, especially, was thrown into consternation by it, and suspended her exertions in behalf of peace, to become the champion of Belgian neutrality and independence. Explanations were demanded from both powers. Prussia responded by alleging that Count Benedetti, the French Ambassador, had proposed the terms of the treaty to Prussia, and that Prussia had indignantly declined to entertain them. The fact that the original draft of the project, still preserved at Berlin, was in the handwriting of Benedetti, gave credit to this explanation, and will doubtless sustain it before the impartial tribunal of history. But France insisted that the project had originated with Count von Bismarck, at whose request Count Benedetti had reduced it to writing, and that the Emperor Napoleon had refused to sanction it in any way. This is about the sum and substance of the result which followed a long and tedious altercation and investigation, at the close of which public opinion, in England especially, settled down to the conclusion that Napoleon had, ever since the war of 1866, been intriguing with Prussia and the other Continental powers for the extension of his frontiers at the expense of Belgium and Luxemburg. England therefore busied herself with negotiations for the neutrality and independence of the Netherlands during the pending struggle, and in the meantime began to overhaul her arsenals and navy yards in view of the possible necessity of a resort to arms on her part to maintain the integrity of the Belgian bulwark. Fresh treaties stipulating the neutrality of Belgium in the war were negotiated with both France and

Prussia, and finally ratified on the 27th of August. Meanwhile, diplomatic efforts at bringing about a peaceful termination of the imbroglio were resumed, but they utterly failed, and in

into an agreement to take no action looking to intervention or mediation between the bellige-

rents without mutual notification. Nearly all the powers of Europe, at an early period, had formally announced their neutrality in the customary fashion, but the sympathies of their people found open expression. Spain, glad to be out of the broil, preserved a masterly inactivity on the great issue, and turned her attention to the suppression of fresh Carlist disturbances. Italy was divided, and greatly agitated by the prospect of an attempt to force her into an effective alliance with Napoleon, into which the Government could never have entered without the risk of civil war. The German element of Austria gave its almost unanimous sympathy to the cause of the Fatherland, while in the non-German provinces of the Empire the cause of France was equally In this state of affairs, the vored. Austrian Government wisely held aloof, and preserved a strict neutrality. Russia, too, was divided in sentiment, and content with the same course; while Denmark, at first all aflame for an alliance with France, at last cooled down, without any compromise of her position. The mass of the English people, of course, sympathized with the cause of united Germany, but the shopkeeping element defied the public sentiment, and drove the best bargains it could with both belligerents. The ample supplies which the French fleets received from England resulted in earnest protests from Prussia, and in the imperiling of the friendly relatious between the two nations. Ireland, with her usual impetuosity, rushed into the arms of France, and blazed with bonfires and enthusiasm. Belgium, more nearly interested than any other neutral power, received the exertions made in her behalf with gratitude, and sent her army to the frontier, to disarm every soldier of either hostile army who might venture on her soil. In the latter days of August and the opening of September, she had enough to do in this line to keep her busy.

The Strength of the Combatants. While English diplomats were making herculean efforts to avert the clash of arms, the hostile nations were marshalling their forces on the border. France was supreme on the sea; Prussia mustered the heaviest armament on

From the immense mass of figures which have been published on the subject, we can gather that the German host approached in round numbers a million of men, when finally mustered on a war footing. According to the best authority, this force was made up as follows:-

North German field army 447,838

- 50	11	garrisons	164,132	231
Bavaria Wurter Baden	an con	tingent	117,438 34,680	1686 240 66 64
	was d	tal livided among the	twogreat	
North (Germa	n Field army Garrisons Reserves	148,984	Canalry, 58,529 10,208 18,991
Bavaria	an Cor	tingent Contingent	106,558	82,727 10,880 4,352 3,264

Grand total..... 848,090 101,223 The disposition made of this immense force at the outset of the struggle was as follows i round numbers: -

The Army of the Centre, under Prince Frederick Charles, nephew of the King, 250,000 men and Googuns.
The Army of the Left, under the Crown Prince

Frederick William, 250,000 men and 460 guns.
The Army of the Right, under General von Steinmetz, 70,000 men and 200 guns.

This gave a total of about 570,000 men and over 1500 guns, ready to encounter the invading host of France. In addition, 108,000 men, under the command of the Duke of Mecklenburg, were stationed on the coast near the month of the Oder; 58,000, under the command of General von Falkenstein, near the mouth of the Elbe; and 50,000, under the command of General von Bittenfeld, near Ems.

The French army, on a peace footing, according to a report of the Minister of War in 1869. amounted to an effective force of 334,280 men. while on a war footing it figured on paper, at he onthreak of the war as follows:

Staff 1,841	Gendarmes 25,688
Infantry515,937	
Cavalry100,221	ministration 33,365
Artillery 66,132 Engineers 15,443	Total

The army of reserve figured at 198,546 men, and the Garde Mobile at 381,723-making a total under arms, or liable to be placed under arms, of 1,337,996. The artillery summed up a total of 1362 field and siege guns. But at the end of June, 1870, the force actually under arms fell considerably under half a million-there being in France 365,179 men; in Algeria, 63,925 men; and in Rome 5252 men, according to the paper exhibits, while of this total of 434,356, nearly 110,000 were at that time absent on leave. Taking the estimates altogether, after Napoleon had called to his standard every man that was available for the time, and had properly garrisoned the string of fortresses along the border, he could not and did not muster more than 400,000 men with which to assail the German host of nearly 600,000 which awaited him along

the Rhine and the Saar. But on the sea, France, as already stated, was

available fleet:—	is a	summary	of her
Class. Iron-claos. Screw steamers. Paddle-wheel steamers. Sailing vessels.	264 62	#orse-Power. 28,150 55,812 8,655	Guns. 672 1,547 154 672
Total	401	92.627	3.045

This formidable fleet was manned, on a peace footing, by 2218 officers and 39,346 sailors, the whole number being swelled by the men of all grades and in all capacities attached to the service to 74,403. On a war footing, this force could be raised to a total of 170,000.

The fleet of North Germany, in startling contrast with the above, showed the following summary :-

White the self-self-self-self-self-self-self-self-	The second second second	M. HITCH.
Iron-clad screw steamers 7	5,150	102
Frigates and corvettes 9	3,200	200
Gunboats 27	2,420	71
Salling vessels 59	24.4.4;	247
Total	19,770	200
		620
This fleet was manned by	y 216 officers	and
about 3500 seamen and boys.		
To show the disparity be	etween the r	aval

armaments of the two powers, we give the following table of the totals embraced in the above exposition:-North Germany

Vessels 10,770 In view of this inequality, King William attempted nothing on the ocean, but prepared to strike heavy and rapid blows on land.

The Imperial Advance to the Berder. Napoleon strained every nerve to strike the Prussians before they were fully prepared to ward off his blows. And he appounced that he would himself lead his army in its victorious

the end the great powers were forced to enter | march on Berlin. On the 23d of July he published a proclamation to the people of France, in which he said:-

in which he said:—

"The giorious flag of France, which we once more unful! in the face of our challengers, is the same which has borne over Europe the civilizing ideas of our great Revolution. It represents the same principles, it will inspire the same devotion.

"Frenchmen, I go to place myself at the head of that gellant army which is animated by a love of country and devotion to duty. That army knows its worth, for it has seen victory follow its footsteps in the four quarters of the globe. I take with me my son. Despite his tender years, he knows the duty his name imposes upon him, and he is proud to bear his part in the dangers of those who fight for our country. May God biess our efforts! A great people, defending a just cause, is invincible."

On the 27th of July, a decree was published,

On the 27th of July, a decree was published, appointing the Empress Regent during the absence of the Emperor from the capital, and on the 28th Napoleon left St. Cloud for the front in a special train, accompanied by the "noble infant." At 4 o'clock on the afternoon of the same day, the Imperial party arrived at Metz, where the general headquarters were to be established; and on the 29th appeared a proclamation in which Napoleon formally assumed the chief command. This document, which has now become one of the curiosities of history, read as follows: -

Soldiers:—I come to take my place at your head to defend the honor of the soil of our country. You go to combat against one of the best armed of European countries; but other countries, as valiant as this, have not been able to resist your valor. It will be the same to-day. The war which now commences will be long and hardly convested for the these will be long and hardly contested, for its theatre will be places hedged with obstacles and thick with fortresses; but nothing is beyond the persevering efforts of the soldiers of Africa, Italy, and Mexico, You will prove once more what the French army is able to accomplish, animated by a sentiment of duty, main alned by discipline, induenced by love of country. Whatever road we may take across our frontiers we will find upon it glorious traces of our fathers, and we will show ourselves worthy of

All France follows you with ardent prayers, and the eyes of the universe are upon you. Upon our success depends the fate of liberty and civilization. Soldiers let each one do his duty, and the God of Battles will be with us. Napoleon.
At the General Headquarters at Metz, July 23,

Just five weeks to a day were suffered to elapse after the fulmination of this burlesque upon the style of the great Napoleon, before its author threw his sword at the feet of King William and delivered himself up as a prisoner of war! The work was accomplished with a rapidity that is paralleled only by the humiliation of Austria

The First Disposition of the Hostile Armies. When Napoleon arrived at Metz, everything was apparently in readiness for the opening of hostilities. The Emperor having taken the chief command, the general conduct of the campaign in its details fell upon his Major General or Chief-of-staff, Marshal Lebouf, who had vacated the War Office temporarily to assume this position. The French line extended from Thionville, near the Luxemburg border, to Belfort, at the southern extremity of the Vosges, and directly oppposite Basel, in Switzerland, the entire frontier being thus covered. The northern or left wing of the French army, styled the army of the Moselle, was under the immediate command of Marshal Bazaine, and consisted of the 4th Corps, Genaral Count Ladmirault, with headquarters at Thionville; the 2d Corps, General Frossard, with headquarters at St. Avold; and the 3d Corps, Marshal Bazaine, with headquarters at Metz. The southern or left wing, styled the army of the Rhine, was under the immediate command of Marshal MacMahon, and consisted of the 5th Corps, General de Failly, with headquarters at Bitche: the 1st Corps, Marshal MacMahon, with headquarters at Strasburg, and the 7th Corps, General Felix Douay, with headquarters at Belfort. The 6th Corps and the reserves were collected at the camp of Chalons, under the command of Marshal Canrobert, who had been succeeded in the command of Paris by Marshal Baraguay d'Hil-

The German line extended from Treves, near the Luxemburg frontier, to the southern extremity of Baden. King William assumed the chief command in person, with General von Moltke as chief of staff in charge of the details of the campaign. The right, as already stated, was commanded by Genesal von Steinmetz, the centre by Prince Frederick Charles, and the left by the Crown Prince Frederick William, the greater portion of whose force was made up of the Bavarian and other South German contingents.

King William did not assume the chief command until his arrival at Mayence, on the 3d of Angust. In doing so he issued the following proclamation to his armies:-

"All Germany stands united against a neighboring state which has surprised us by declaring war without justification. The safety of the Fatherland is threatened; our honor and our hearths are at stake. To-day I assume command of the whole army. I advance cheerfully to a contest which in former times our fathers, under similar circumstances, fought gloriously. The whole Fatherland and myself rest confidently in you. The Lord God will be with our righteous cause.

The Affair at Saarbruck.

Meanwhile Paris had grown weary of singing the "Marseillaise," and clamored for an advance upon the enemy's lines. A few insignificant skirmishes had taken place between small advanced bodies, but two weeks had been suffered to elapse without any serious demonstration. The Emperor, however, prepared to make a move as soon as he was fairly in the midst of his army. On the morning of Tuesday, August 2, three divisions, or about 30,000 men, were advanced across the frontier under the command of General Frossard. On the heights to the west of Saarbruck, just over the border, they encountered a small Prussian force, which was soon put to rout, with a loss of two officers and seventy men. The engagement began at 11 o'clock in the morning and terminated at 1 in the afternoon, the artillery being the only branch of the army which was fairly employed in accomplishing this wonderful result. The affair was altogether too insignificant to be styled a battle, but the Emperor made the most of it. In company with the Prince Imperial, he occupied a position from which they could see the smoke and hear the roar of the great guns, and after the imperial party had returned to Metz on the same day, the following delicious bulletin was forwarded to the Empress Regent:-

"Louis has received his baptism of fire. He was admirably cool and little impressed. A division of Frossard's command carried the heights overlooking the Saar. The Prussians made a brief resistance. Louis and I were in front, where bullets fell about us. Louis keeps a ball he ploked up. The soldiers wept at his tranquility. We lost an officer and ten men.

The French plan of campaign contemplated fighting on German soll alone, and it was thus ludicrously inaugurated. The "battle" of Saarbruck, however, was destined to be the last as well as the first engagement on Prussian soil.

The Battle of Weissenburg. Just on the frontier here, formed by the Lauter, is the town of Weissenburg, with 6000 inhabitants. It is a station on the railroad from Strasburg to Manheim, and but partially fortified, the lines having been abandoned a few years ago, and an attempt to man them effectively made only after hostilities were inevitable. On the 3d of August, the day after Frossard's brillant achievement at Saarbenek, the army of the Crown Prince was put in motion

toward Weissenburg. On the 4th, a division of the 1st French Corps, MacMahon's, under com-mand of General Abel Donay, crossed the Lauter and advanced upon the Prussians. Douay had about 25,000 men; the Crown Prince at least 75,000. While an obstinate contest was raging here, the 2d Bavarian Corps was moved to the rear of Weissenburg, and the French army was placed between two fires. General Donay fell at the head of his troops, and after a desperate engagement Weissenburg was carried by storm, the French were completely routed, and the remnants of the shattered force compelled to fall back towards Hagenau. The slaughter on both sides was terrible, but it is impossible as yet to give details approximating even to the truth, or to state the number of prisoners taken by the Prussians.

The Battle of Woerth. The brilliant victory at Weissenburg was quickly followed up, before MacMahon could recover from its demoralizing effects. On the 5th the French commander, mustering his whole available force and being heavily rein-

forced from the surrounding corps, concentrated his army on the hills west of Woerth, s few miles below the scene of his defeat on the previous day. On the evening of the same day the Prussian advance occupied the hills to the east of the village, and at dawn of Saturday, the 6th, skirmishing began between the outposts. To describe in detail the battle which ensued is impossible in the space at our command. The French fought with desperation, but they encountered foemen worthy of their steel and greatly superior in point of numbers. By 7 o'clock on the evening, MacMahon had been routed out-andout, and was making the best of his way with his shattered army to the west. The carnage on both sides was terrible, and 5000 unwounded prisoners, 30 guns, 6 mitrailleuses and 2 imperial eagles were left in the hands of the victors. The completeness of the disaster which befell the French arms was alleged to have been the result of a blunder in telegraphing to General de Failly an order to move to the assistance of MacMahon. He was directed to move on Lembach; the telegraph as received, read Kausbach,

and he went in an opposite direction.

Advance of the Crown Prince towards Paris, The fortress of Hagenau, just to the south of the scene of the battle of Woerth, fell into the hands of the Prussians, and the Wurtemburg and Baden divisions, under General Werden, were detached from the Crown Prince's army to invest and besiege Strasburg. With the remainder of his force, Frederick William at once followed up the retreating Erench, whose movement westward was a complete rout. MacMahon rushed pell-mell through Saverne towards Nancy, where the bulk of his shattered army halted for a few days. But on the 13th he abandoned Nancy, and, leaving a garrison at the small fortress of Toul, twelve miles west, pushed back towards Paris until he reached the neighborhood of Chalons. The victorious Crown Prince followed him rapidly, destroying the railroad to interrupt all possibility of communication with Metz by the main central route, and pushing his cavalry advance to within forty or fifty miles of the capital. The bulk of his army, however, advanced leisurely after the occupation of Nancy, and does not appear to have advanced beyond Bar-le-Duc and St. Dizier, thirty or forty miles east of Chalons, while awaiting developments to the north.

The Battle of Forbach. Simultaneous with the advance of the Crown Prince upon Weissenburg and Woerth the Prussian right, under General von Steinmetz, made a move from the line of the Saar. The advance commenced on the 5th, and on the 6th, the same day on which MacMahon was routed at Woerth. a terrific encounter took place near Forbach. Frossard's corps was strongly posted on the hills of Spicheren, to the west of Saarbruck. which he had abandoned. His new position was almost unassailable, but an inferior force, although the German army present on the field ontnumbered the French, assaulted it galiantly; and Frossard was buried backward upon Metz. the victorious Prussians capturing 3000 prisoners and following up the retreating French until they were within a few miles of the Moselle.

At Forbach, as at Woerth and Weissenburg. the French troops fought with heroic desperation, but the glaring incompetency of their leaders rendered their courage unavailing and the result of the three encounters was to drive them from their first defensive line, the Rhine and the Saar, through their second line, the Vosges, to the line of the Moselle.

The Downfall of Ollivier. All Germany was thrown into a blaze of enthusiasm by these startling victories, and all France was overwhelmed with dismay. The news of the disasters reached Paris on the 7th, and that turbulent city was seized with a paroxysm of rage and deflance. The first and foremost object of condemnation was the ministry, through whose incompetency the people believed disaster had fallen upon the army. The Corps Legislatif was called together on the 9th. and a terrible scene was enacted on the opening of the session. Vast multitudes of people surrounded the hall wherein the Deputies assembled, which was protected by a large force of regular troops under Marshal Baraguay d'Hilliers, the commander of Paris. These troops were greeted with derisive shouts of "To the frontier!" and a serious encounter between them and the people was barely averted.

But the passions of the populace were soon gratified by the result of the proceedings within the hall. -When M. Ollivier ascended the tribune, and announced that the deputies had been called together before the situation of the country was compromised, M. Jules Favre cried out. 'Descend from the tribune; this is shameful! Protestations of ability on the part of the Ministry to save the country were unavailing. M. Favre demanded that the Chamber should at once assume the management of affairs through an executive committee of fifteen members, a proposition which the President, M. Schneider, refused to entertain, because of its revolutionary and unconstitutional character. A terrible scene of disorder ensued in which there were several personal conflicts. Finally M. Ollivier made a stand by resisting the demand for the order of the day, but it was carried in his face, and after a short recess he announced the resignation of the Ministry and the selection by the Empress Regent of the Count de Palikao

as the head of the new Cabinet. The new Premier selected for himself the portfolio of War, and on the following day announced as the names of his colleagues the Prince de la Tour d'Auvergne, Foreign Affairs; Henri Chevreau, Interior: Admiral Regault de Genoullly, (the old incumbent, and the only member of the Ollivier Ministry retained), Marine: Pierre Magne, Finance: Jerome David, Public Works; Jules Brame, Public Instruction; M. Grand-Perret, Justice: Clement Duvernois, Agriculture and Commerce; and M. Busson-Billault, President of the Council of State. The new Ministry without exception, belonged to

the extreme Bonapartist party, the party which had been overthrown to make way for the socalled "responsible" ministry at the head of which Ollivier had been placed. But from the outset they seemed to possess the confidence of the ple, and they went to work with a will to repair the shattered fortunes of France. M. Magne, who had frequently been at the head of the Department of Finance before, and had been the instrument through which Napoleon had regotiated nearly all the loans of his reign. introduced and carried a measure for a new war loan of 2,500,000,000 francs, and Imperialists and Republicans vied with each other in advocating measures for the placing of every ablebodied Frenchman under arms. The Republicans, lead by Favre, Gambetta, and Keratry. however, indulged in daily assaults upon the head of the Government, denouncing the Emperor for meddling with the management of the army, and charging the majority with the responsibility of having entered upon a war for

which the country was not prepared. Marshal Bazaine was placed in chief command of the army; Le Bœuf, who, as previous Minister of War and subsequently Major-General or Chief-of-Staff of the army, was justly held accountable in great part for the Prussian victories, was deposed; General Trochu, who had enjoyed a high reputation as a soldier, without having an opportunity to display his ability, was named as Le Bœuf's successor, but sent at first to the camp at Chalons to organize the new levies, and from that position called back to Paris, on August 17, as Military Governor of the capital, in place of Marshal Baraguay d'Hilliers; and throughout France, as well as in Paris, there was such an expression of determination to repel the invader, that the entire nation appeared at last to have realized the magnitude of its peril and risen to an equality with the situation.

The Battles Around Metz. Meanwhile the valley of the Moselle had become the scene of stirring events. The Prussian right, as already stated, had followed the retreating French under Frossard after the battle of Forbach until they were close upon the Moselle, in which threatening position they awaited the arrival of the Prussian centre, under Prince Frederick Charles. The latter, striking the Moselle near Pont-a-Mousson, crossed that stream on Sunday, August 14, with the object of turning the French right and cutting off communications with MacMahon, who had, sas already stated, abandoned Nancy on the 13th and hastened westward towards Chalons, closely followed by the Prussian left under the Crown

The abandonment of the line of the Moselle was the first thing determined upon by Bazaine after his increased authority under the Palikao administration. On Sunday, August 14, he began the movement of his army across the Moselle, in the immediate vicinity of Metz, where he had collected it on the 12th. Before he had accomplished his purpose, however, the 1-t and 7th Prussian Corps of General von Steinmetz's command fell upon his rear, and a serious engagement ensued, at the end of which the entire French army had succeeded in effecting the passage of the stream. But, while the Prussians suffered a loss quite out of proportion to that inflicted on the French, the westward movement of the latter was materially delayed, and the first object of the Prussians practically accomplished.

On Monday, the 15th, the army of General von Steinmetz having crossed the Moselle, the hostile forces were engaged principally in manœuvring for position; but there appears to have been two distinct and determined engagements, and on the following day, the 16th, there was a protracted and bloody contest. The fighting was continued on the 17th, and the struggle for the possession of the roads from Metz to Verdun culminated on the 18th, in the great battle of Gravelotte. By this time the original positions of the hostile armies were reversed, the Prussians facing east and the French west. The final struggle lasted from 10 o'clock in the morning until 9 in the evening. It was the battle of Sadowa, fought over again. At the opening, the junction between Prince Frederick Charles and General von Steinmetz had not been effected. The French were between two fires, but that of Von Steinmetz did not become effective until evening, when he swept down from the northeast, and, turning the right flank of the enemy, decided the fortunes of the field. Bazaine was thrown back on Metz, his communications with Paris were cut off, and the Crown Prince was left at liberty to pursue his advance towards the capital, without the danger of encountering any opposition other than could be presented by MacMahon's demoralized force and the new levies that were being gathered at Chalons.

Paris in Peril.

From first to last, the engagements around Metz were claimed by the French as victories, but the only foundation for this claim consisted in the alleged fact that the Prussians lost the greater number of men in killed and wounded. the truth of which it is impossible, even at this late day, to ascertain. The attempt of Bazaine to transfer his army from the neighborhood of Metz, however, was certainly foiled; and while a portion of the united armies of Prince Frederick Charles and General von Steinmetz was detached to watch the French, the remainder were pushed forward towards the still advancing army of the Crown Prince. By the time that General Trochu assumed

command of Paris, the capital was fairly persuaded that a siege was inevitable, and every nerve was strained to prepare a determined and desperate reception for the enemy, in case they should advance to the gates of the capital. As already stated, this contingency appeared imminent, for parties of Prussian cavalry approached to within 40 or 50 miles of Paris, and at one time the eastern terminus of the railroad to Chalons and Rheims was fixed at Chateau-Thierry, but 45 miles from the capital and only half the distance to Chalons. General Trochu assumed the command of Paris in a proclamation issued on August 18th, and the preparations for defense were steadily pressed forward. Laborers by the thousands swarmed upon the fortifications, 3000 cannon, according to the French reports, were mounted upon the walls and exterior forts, manned by 15,000 well-trained cannoniers, taken for the most part from the navy; a motley army of 200,000 men, in which the regular element numbered scarcely 20,000, was assembled in and around the city; portions of the Bols de Boulogne and Bols de Vincennes were destroyed, to give the artillery an unimpeded command of the approaches, a large number of houses in proximity to the fortifications being demolished for the same purpose; immense quantities of provisions were stored in the city, and hordes of beeves, sheep and swine collected: the country in front of the advancing Prussians was ordered to be laid waste, and the bridges over the streams to be destroyed on their ap-

The general management of these prepara tions was entrusted to a Committee of Defense on which were General Trochu, Marshal Vaillauf, Admiral Rigault de Genoullly, Minister Jerome David. On the 23d of August, the members of the party of the Left demanded that nine deputies be added to this committee. The Ministry at first resisted this demand, but on the 26th. Count Napoleon Daru, who had preceded the Duke de Gramont as Minister of Foreign Affairs under M. Ollivier, and two Senators were added, and on the 27th it was still further strengthened by the name of the veteran Orleanist M. Thiers, to the general satisfaction of people of all parties.

MacMahon's Effort to Rescue Bazaine.

Paris being thus occupied in preparations to take care of herself, MacMahon halted in his retreat at Chalons, and made a venture from that point towards Mezieres with the intention of effecting a junction with Bazaine. The camp at Chalons was broken up on the 22d of August, and burned on the 25th, a portion of the new levies departing for the front with MacMahon. while the Garde Mobile of Paris, in which signs of insubordination were manifest, were marched back to the capital immediately after the departure of Trochu. The army of MacMahon had been spread out in front of Chalons and Rheims for some days, but was finally concentrated in a general movement towards the northeast, the headquarters reaching Rethel. midway between Rheims and Mezieres, on August 25.

While these movements were under way to the west of the Mense, Bazaine himself was ropeatedly reported as having broken through the Prussian lines around Metz, and succeeded in reopening his communications with MacMahon and Paris. A small portion of his army, which had been cut off from the main body during the prolonged series of engagements around Meiz. apparently succeeded in accomplishing this object, but the escaping force was an inconsiderable one, if it had any existence at all, and Bazaine remained shut up under the guns of Metz until the final blow fell upon MacMahon at Sedan. From the morning of August 31st. until noon on the following day, Bazaine appears to have made a last desperate attempt at piercing the Prussian lines, but a portion of Prince Frederick Charles' army, under General von Manteuffel, successfully resisted the attempt, and he was again hurled back upon the fortress of Mets. the engagement, which was severe as well as protracted, being styled the battle of Noiseville.

The Final Blow at Sedan.

The general headquarters of the army of the Crown Prince, and probably the bulk of his force, advanced no further than Bar-le-Duc, but Frederick William himself is reported to have slept at Chalons on the night of August 27, his advance being then at a point about ten mile; further west and eighty miles from Paris. But at that time the movement of MacMahon towards Mezieres was fully developed, and the army of the Crown Prince was turned to the right to follow him up, while the detached portion of the Prussian army around Metz was pushed towards the northwest, to intercept the French advance. As soon as MacMahon had collected his forces in the neighborhood of Rethel, he began a movement directly east towards Montmedy, and daily conflicts between detached portions of the hostile armies occurred, with almost unvarying success on the Prussian side. By the 30th of August, the whole French army was fairly in motion in the direction of Montmedy, and on that day there was a fierce encounter with the Prussians at Beaumont, about fourteen miles west of Montmedy, in which the corps of General de Failly was severely handled. The French were driven to the northwest upon Sedan, where the conflict became general on the 31st of August, and continued into the 1st of September. On the last day of August, it would seem that the Prussians suffered severely, but when the final struggle came on Thursday, the 1st of September, they mustered 240,000 men, while MacMahon had at the outside not more than 120,000. Although severely wounded, he still retained the chief command, the German forces being under the immediate direction of General von Moltke, with the Crown Prince Frederick William of Prussia and the Crown Prince Albert of Saxony next in command. The corps of the Prussian commander were pested to the left, those of the Saxon to the right of the French position. The plan of attack was to effect a junction between the two, and thereby enclose the enemy in a semicircle. This object was fully accomplished by noon, and by 3 o'clock the battle had been transformed into a rout, with the French in full flight.

The Capitulation of MacMahon.

Darkness put an end to the pursuit, and on the ensuing day, September 2, the Prussians prepared to assault Sedan, by which the French retreat was protected. But it was not necessary. At noon, General Wimpffen, who had succeeded the disabled hero of Magenta in command, left Sedan with a flag of truce, and at half-past I o'clock the fortress and the remnants of MacMahon's army were formally and unconditionally surrendered. When MacMahon went into the engagement on the morning of September 1st, he had under his command, as already stated, about 120,000 men. The number who were placed hors de combat during the fight it is impossible as yet to ascertain, and it is equally impossible to estimate with accuracy the number that became prisoners of war through the ceremony of capitulation. The Independance Belge of Brussels places the number of French in Sedan at the time of its capitulation at 70,660. and states that on the 4th 15,000 more surrendered, while 30,000 took refuge upon the neutral soil of Belgium. But this much is certain, that the victory of Sed in, followed, as it was, by the capitulation of the entire French army, was one of the most brilliant on record. After all was over, the Crown Prince resumed his triumphant march on Paris.

The Surrender of Napoleon.

But it was accompanied by a circumstance which imparted to it additional lustre and importance. The Emperor Napoleon, after the vicissitudes narrated by us yesterday, had arrived at Sedan on the 27th of August. According to some reperts, the Prince Imperial had preceded him thither, while others state that he made his escape into Belgium. General Wimpffen bore with him a letter to King William from the Emperor, of which two or three versions have been published, the Paris Gaulois giving the following as its exact text:-

"Having no command in the army, and having placed all my authority in the hands of the Em-press as Regent, I herewith surrender my sword to the King of Prussia,"

While, according to other reports, the docu-

ment ran thus:-

"As I cannot die at the head of my army, I lay my word at the feet of your Majesty." But be surrendered, and at an interview with King William, who had accompanied the army of the Crown Prince in its march to the north (Continued on the Wird Page).