

BENEDETTI.

EXPLANATIONS OF HIS POSITION AND THE AFFAIR AT EMS—CONFERENCE WITH BISMARCK—THE SPANISH THRONE—NO RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PRESENT WAR—MOBILIZATION OF THE PRUSSIAN ARMY—BISMARCK'S SCHEMING.

The following is a translation of an interesting communication from M. Benedetti, late French Ambassador at the Court of Berlin:—

FROM THE YEAR 1860. In 1860 I was suddenly ordered to Turin to expedite the reunion of France of Savoy and Nice, as unforeseen obstacles had occurred to it.

On the 27th of July, 1866, six days after the battle of Sadowa, I was ordered by telegraph to rejoin the Prussian headquarters, and do all I could to persuade the King of Prussia to agree to an armistice.

Finally, when I was sent to Ems, what were my instructions? They were to obtain the renunciation of the Prince of Hohenzollern to the crown of Spain, which he had accepted with the full consent of the King of Prussia.

Prince Antoine had intimated to the Cabinet of Madrid the renunciation of his son, and the King, in informing me of it, was desirous that I should be made aware of it, and that I should communicate to Paris that he had given his acquiescence as sovereign and head of the family.

Was such a guarantee necessary? Was the agitation which pervaded all classes of the people earnest and sincere? Could not the national feeling be restrained or appeased in some other way?

In giving you these details I do not seek to deceive myself or hope to convert prejudiced people or to disarm political opponents. It is not likely, after having overturned the empire, that they will show themselves just and true to one of its most devoted servants.

What is it that the public will not swallow? Among the private, and even among some of the officers of our army, who hunt after causes for our defeat, it is regarded as certain that Prussia began to mobilize her army in June— that is to say, several weeks before war was declared.

the mobilization of the Prussian army, and hence it is I am forced to reject a responsibility which in no respect falls upon me. I will only state that I had with me as military attaché Baron Stoffel, colonel of artillery, an officer of great merit, whose duty it was to attend to the orders issued by the War Minister at Berlin, but in bearing testimony to the distinguished manner in which he always performed his duty I prefer laying before the public official documents, where those decisions of knowing the truth will be able to find it, and be surprised that their having, perhaps, believed statements so utterly unworthy their confidence.

NOTHING OF THE PRETENDED TREATY. You will observe that I have said nothing on the subject of the pretended treaty, which I had taken upon myself to submit to the approval of M. de Bismarck. I have already given explanations on this subject, and will return to it once more in my publication, which I have announced.

After all what does the scheming of M. de Bismarck prove? Only this, that in entering into relations with him one was exposed to mistakes which could not be foreseen, and against which one could not guard without damaging one's reputation.

THE SECRET FRANCO-PRUSSIAN TREATY—IMPORTANT EVIDENCE AGAINST M. BENEDETTI. The recent statement of M. Benedetti, late French Minister at Berlin, published in the London Standard, regarding the authenticity of the famous secret treaty, and the part he had in the same, renders the opinion of Mr. Bancroft on the subject very interesting.

AMERICAN LEGATION, BERLIN, July 27, 1870. —Sir:—To-day I have to send you an authentic copy of one of the most remarkable documents ever framed by a European statesman. Some time ago (the exact date is uncertain) M. Benedetti, the French ambassador, proposed to Count Bismarck, at a time when France was in profound peace with England and with Belgium, to enter into an offensive and defensive alliance for the purpose of guaranteeing the consent of France for the union of Germany on the one side, and the consent of Germany to the annexation of Belgium and Luxembourg to France on the other.

During this mission, as well as during those which preceded it, I received instructions exclusively from the Foreign Minister, according to which I shaped my conduct and my language. I never had the honor of a private correspondence with the Emperor, and, contrary to positive assertions, his Majesty always abstained from addressing his demands directly to me.

THE MOBILIZATION OF THE PRUSSIAN ARMY. What is it that the public will not swallow? Among the private, and even among some of the officers of our army, who hunt after causes for our defeat, it is regarded as certain that Prussia began to mobilize her army in June— that is to say, several weeks before war was declared.

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