EVENING BULLETIN

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PEACOCK, FETHERSTON & CO.

Tuesday, August 30, 1870.

THE PRUSSIAN CHANGE OF FRONT.

Although there are some inconsistencies and contradictions in the despatches from the seat of war last night, we are able to obtain from them a tolerably clear view of the situation of the contending armies. At the village of Stenay, in the department of the Meuse, important roads meet, leading east and west to Montmedy and Vouziéres, and nearly north and south to Verdun and Sedan. The line of MacMahon's army seems to have reached originally from Mezières to Montmédy, with the centre at Stenay. On Saturday and Sunday MacMahon made vigorous demonstrations from Stenay upon the road to Verdun, possibly for the purpose of penetrating the Prussian force and reaching Bazaine, who occupies a position almost due southeast of Stenay, between Etain and Metz. The Prussians held, and continue to hold the village of Dun upon this road, and they have devoted all their energies to defeat the French attempt to obtain possession of it, conscious that MacMahon's success at this point would release Bazaine. During the conflict MacMahon advanced his whole line, and he now occupies a position with his left resting upon Stenay, and his right in the vicinity of Rethel, a few miles northeast of Hollins; his line of communication, meantime, being open in his rear through Mezières. Along this line reinforcements to the extent of 60,000 men have been hurried from Paris. This position threatened the flank of the Prussian army which was advancing on Paris, and it necessitated the force which surrounded Bazaine.

MacMahon's movement was intended in part as a diversion in favor of Paris, and it was of such an important character that it seems to have accomplished this purpose, and to have commanded the attention of the advancing army. If the reports which have been received tell the truth, the Prussian line which faced west and reached north and south, say from Rheims nearly to Troyes, has been swung around so that it is perpendicular to its former position. Troops have been marched northward until the present Prussian line extends from Longuion west through Dun, Vouziers, Rethel, Rheims and Rhiems. At the latter place the main body of the army of the Crown Prince has been massed in force, while a vast army of reinforcements has been collected south of the Strasbourg railway from Chalons to St. Dizier. This latter body appears to be a portion of the army which was advancing on Paris, and is now in the rear of the Prussian line, which faces north, and doubtless it will be moved up to support that line more closely. Examination of a map will make this situation perfectly clear to the reader, who must remember that the left flank of the Prussians is now turned toward Paris. MacMahon's left is at Stenay, while Bazaine is between Metz and Etain, with Prussians between him and MacMahon, and apparently on every other side of him.

We cannot learn from the reports positively, whether the armies of Paris has reached a junction or not. It may be that the Crown Prince and Prince Frederick Charles feel themselves competent to take care of MacMahon and Bazaine, while General Steinmetz and the King, heavily reinforced as they have been push on to the capital. The indications however, are that the attention of the whole army is turned to the destruction of MacMahon. We shall not be surprised to hear that an attempt has been made by the Crown Prince of Rheims to move northward in heavy force, to attack MacMahon's right flank at Rethel, and to sever his communications by way of Mezières. Should the successful accomplishment of such a feat is not more improbable than the events which isolated Bazaine, for the Prussians occupy a position favorable to such a manœuvre, and they have a force much larger than that of MacMahon. An attempt at such a movement may compel MacMahon to leave his position and withdraw to Paris, or it may inspire him with fresh determination to cut his way through to Bazaine at any sacrifice. In either case he seems to have the worst of the situation, and to be operating at a perpetual disadvantage. There will be some heavy fighting in the direction which is very few hours, and we will easily ascertain from the locality of the battlefield what are the intentions of the French Marshal. Meanwhile the brilliancy of his strategic movements of which such a boast has been made by the Paris papers is not apparent. The Prussians have a superior position, and a superior force with which to defeat the designs of their enemies.

THE PASHONS AND THE WAR.

One of the memorable distinctive features of the Second Empire in France has been the politica tion of Dress and the worship of extravagance in personal adornment as a means of human adornment. As Josephine and Maria Louisa were as famous women, with a passion for finery which made and kept France the mode of society of the First Empire, so Eugénie, handsomer than either, and with the feminine love of dress stimulated by her husband's traditional as well as personal admiration of it and appreciation of its value in French politics, has made splendor of decoration among women a prominent fact of the Second Empire. The Imperial Majesty will doubtless be canonized by Mr. John S. C. Abbott, as have been the other two Empresses of France, and her name, her memory, her beauty, and her wardrobe will be held in veneration by those who study history under his guidance. Napoleon the sphinx crowned the work of the *Cosip d'Etat* by his marriage with the handsome woman of the world who had the rare gift of knowing how to dress well. The Court, with bachelor Emperor, who had not a good-looking female relative, was a dull affair; but it was at once made splendid when Eugénie, whose beauty was then imperial, was placed on the throne. With womanly tact, she gathered women around her not one of whom was quite as handsome as herself, but still each was marked by some distinctive trait of cleverness; each of them was taught by her that fine dressing was a religious duty of a lady of the French Court, because it set an example, not only to the women of Paris and of France, but to the women of all other countries. She and they "set the fashions" of the world, and as they consumed French silks, laces and bijouterie, France prospered and the people of France were contented. The women of England, of America, of Russia, and of all countries where wealth existed, paid their tribute to the Empress Eugénie, whenever they sent an order to a milliner, or a dressmaker, or a jeweler, or a glover, or a tradesman of any kind, in Paris. When a thinking man or woman contemplates the service quietly done to the people of France by the Empress's encouragement of French manufactures and Parisian shopkeepers, he or she may well wonder that the Napoleon dynasty has been brought to apparent ruin in the very beginning of a campaign against Prussia.

Ever since the marriage of Napoleon the Third, the rage for extravagant finery has been growing in Paris, and consequently it has been growing in the rest of the world. There is hardly a husband or a father of any means, in this or in any other Christian land, that has not suffered from this rage. But, unfortunately, virtuous wives and daughters, in Paris and elsewhere, have not been able to monopolize the glory of fashion and finery. The great world of the court has excited a spirit of rivalry, not only among the rich bourgeoisie, but among the base women of all classes, who sell their virtue at prices high enough to enable them to compete with the court ladies in finery and in equipages. A name for this set of strumpets, that have become distinguished under the second Empire, had to be invented. Not being of the high world, their extravagance still saved them from what the money-worshipping public calls the base world, and they have been politely entitled the half-and-half world, or, in French, the *Demi-Monde*. The women of this class in Paris, we have, of late years, really usurped the functions of the Empress as a leader of fashion; for they never grow old—they die first; their places are continually supplied, and all the while, the once beautiful lady of the Tuileries has been subsiding into old age, the marks of which have been made more conspicuous by the accidents of her position, as the wife of a man who is himself prematurely old, and whose infirmities have unfitted him for the social as well as the political duties that devolve on the head of the government. The dethronement of the Empress as the Queen of Fashion is now followed, owing to the war, by the abandonment of Paris itself as the seat of Fashion. The war has taken away many thousands of Frenchmen, and has driven away as many more men of other nations. The population of Paris who made the fashions for the world, are thus left without their supporters; the serious business of war has taken away those who set the frivolous business of finery and folly; the great world and the half-and-half world are alike in trouble, and the reign of Paris Fashions is brought to an end along with the end of the reign of the Napoleons. Of course when peace comes Paris may again become the seat of Fashion, and, under a new court at the Tuileries, extravagance in finery and vice may again be the fashions set for imitation by the rest of the world. But we cannot helpthinking that there is some compensation offered to the rest of the world by even a temporary suspension of the rage for extravagance that has prevailed ever since the beautiful Eugénie was called to the court of the Second Empire.

THE "RULES" OF THE N. Y. A. P.

The New York papers that compose the Associated Press are quarreling among themselves, and grumbling at the rules they have themselves established. The *Herald* is abusing the *Tribune* for its special despatches from the seat of war, and it makes this revelation concerning them:

"The rules of the Associated Press, of which the *Herald* is a member, require that the private news despatches of every journal concerned shall be shared among its competitors, and that every such despatch when received shall be immediately handed over by the agent of the Association to be copied and delivered to the several papers of the Association at the same manner as other telegraphic news is delivered."

The *Herald* complains of this rule, which it says it was "forced to accept," but it accuses the *Tribune* of violating it, in these words:

"That journal, since the commencement of this European war, has deliberately evaded and violated this law. It has appropriated to itself, under the weak devices of the shoplifter, the property of the Association to which it belongs; it has been playing the game of obtaining credit and money upon false pretences. Its enterprise is a fraud, and its exclusive news is stolen goods. It has deprived its associates of news which belonged to them, while it has been sufficiently generous an 'artful dodger' to hold them to their full share of the expense. And as Robert Macaire flourished in triumph the handkerchief filched from a neighbor's pocket, so boasts the *Tribune* of its achievements in this dirty business."

Further to illustrate the vassalage of all papers connected with the New York monopoly, the *Herald* says:

"There is another rule of the Association under which all special despatches that are received by any member after one o'clock A. M. shall be sent to the office of the Associated Press instead of being sent to the paper to which they are addressed, in order that they may be promptly copied and distributed to the several papers concerned. To avoid this rule or law of the Association the *Tribune* has had its despatches, likely to come in the night, addressed, not to one of its subordinates as an 'outsider,' a trick which accounts of the Association from such despatches until it is convenient for the *Tribune* to inform its fellow-subscribers that it is time to be too late for its publication in their morning edition, unless in a mutilated form, but still in time to extract from them their full proportion of the costs."

If the charges made by the *Herald* are correct, there ought to be power enough in the Associated Press to punish the *Tribune* for its violation of the rules. But the public, who respect independence and enterprise among newspapers, are likely to side with the *Tribune* in its refusal to be bound by such rules. They will also be more than ever convinced of the meanness of such papers as tamely submit to the rules, and as the *Herald*, one of those papers, is daily beaten by the *Tribune's* despatches, it must forfeit its old character for enterprise and independence.

MORE ANTI-BONAPARTISM.—According to a London telegram, a strong anti-Bonaparte feeling has sprung up in Madrid in consequence of the revelation that, before the war with Prussia, Napoleon had engaged to restore Saboia to the throne of Spain upon the cession of the Balearic islands to France. These islands of the Mediterranean are Majorca, Minorca, Ivica, Formentera and Cabera, and they have a population of about a quarter of a million. If the bargain referred to was really made, it is no wonder that the Spaniards are incensed against Napoleon.

France, or rather the Emperor, is fast losing all the friends that were counted on in the beginning of the war on Prussia. Austria and Italy have positively refused to enter into an alliance with the Emperor. Even the friendship and sympathy of the Roman Church have been withdrawn from him, since he has called his troops from Rome. And finally it is announced that Denmark, which, as having been despoiled by Prussia, was expected to assist France in the war, has decided otherwise. A despatch, dated Copenhagen, August 24th, says: "The reaction in public feeling is as complete as it was sudden. A similar change has taken place in the language of the press. There is no longer a party advocating French alliance." Perhaps the Emperor could afford to do without the help or sympathy of other Powers. But the Anti-Bonapartism that has sprung up in France since the war began is what he has most to dread. Less than four months ago the French people voted to sustain him and his dynasty by an enormous majority. Now there is hardly a man in France that raises a voice in his favor.

The Norristown *Herald* contradicts the report telegraphed from Harrisburg that there is opposition to the enforcement of the Fifteenth Amendment in Montgomery county. On the contrary it says that the County Commissioners, Democrats though they be, instructed the Assessors to enroll the colored voters, and these instructions have been, or are being, carried out in every instance. Nor was the Governor's proclamation concerning the enforcement of the amendment addressed especially to the authorities of Montgomery county. It was sent to the Commissioners and Sheriff of every county in the State.

General Grant is to be the recipient of a very beautiful reduction of the colossal painting of *Sheridan's Ride*, by the poet-artist himself, Buchanan Read. This, if possible, a more forcible and powerful work throughout than the noble original painting, but bears marks of the lamentable delicacy of the artist, who in this case outdid his former efforts most decidedly. The gift is from Mr. Ben. Holladay, of California, who is at once a great admirer of our President, the great Cavalry General and Poet, and who pays them all a compliment of the highest character. It remains in the hands of Messrs. Earle & Sons only to-day and a portion of to-morrow, as they despatch it thence to the President's cottage at Long Branch.

The numerous excellent private schools of Philadelphia will soon be opened, and we call attention to the announcements of many of the best, that appear in our advertising columns. We would especially commend the Academy of Mr. H. Y. Lauderbach, in the Assembly Buildings. There is no better institution for giving a thorough practical education to young men. Mr. Lauderbach has had long experience as a teacher, and he has a most excellent corps of assistants.

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