

THE VERY LATEST.

THINGS IN COLUMBIA.

Another Sirroco Cometh.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

THE METZ MYSTERY.

THE SMOKE OF THE CONFLICT NOT YET LIFTED.

WHAT PALIKAO TOLD THE CORPS LEGISLATIVE.

THE PRUSSIANS "CHECKED AND RETIRING."

ADVICES FROM STRASBOURG.

Latest from Paris.

PARIS, AUGUST 16.

The official confirmation of a great victory is impatiently awaited. Large crowds are collected.

Advices from Strasbourg state that the Prussians seem inclined to retire. Some shots had been exchanged. The people are determined to defend the place to extremity.

In the Corps Legislatif, to-day, Deputy Keller said the troops had been fighting three days, and there was no news as to what had been done.

Minister Palikao said it was not proposed to speak of the defeat the Prussians are said to have sustained.

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CONFUSED REPORTS.

BOTH SIDES STILL CLAIM A VICTORY AT METZ.

STRASBOURG NOT INVESTED.

BITSCHE STILL HOLDING OUT.

A STRANGE STORY FROM TOUL.

NO AUSTRIAN MEDIATION.

Reports from Washington.

WASHINGTON, August 16.

There is nothing official regarding Bitche.

From the Seat of War.

VERDUN, August 16—6 A.M.

There is no news from Metz. Nothing has occurred to-day. All day yesterday cannon was heard between Metz and Verdun.

Persons from that direction say that a great battle was fought, and the Prussians lost more than four thousand, and were completely defeated yesterday morning twenty-eight kilometers from the fortifications of Verdun.

The enemy had been seen directing his retreat to the south. Signed: Prefect of Verdun.

Though transmitted by authority of the government, we have not been able to verify it, and it is given to the public under reserve by the Minister of the Interior.

The Bishop of Luxembourg and several clergymen have gone to Metz to comfort the dying.

Reports from London.

LONDON, August 16.

Two hundred Uhlans appeared before Toul.

Shots were exchanged, and the Prussians demanded the surrender of the town. Receiving a defiant refusal, they retired.

Strasbourg is still invested. The French still occupy Bitche. It is again asserted that the Prussians hold Mulhaus and Besancon.

Extracts from the French official bulletins state that the Prussians are not in force before Strasbourg, and Bitche still holds out.

The bridges at Tegerheim and Basle were destroyed by the enemy.

Prussian dispatches to the Prussian Minister here are full of triumphs, and express the greatest confidence in the early result of the war.

English experiments with the mitrailleuse indicate that they are destructive at close quarters, but troops holding them may be annihilated before they come in range.

The Times sympathizes strongly with Prussia, and rejoices in Prussia's successes.

Reports from Paris.

PARIS, August 16.

The Prefect of the Meuse telegraphs to the Minister of the Interior that Uhlans were seen in the neighborhood of Commercy, marching towards Bar Le Duc.

The prefect cut the rail-ways in that section to impede the progress of the enemy.

The French journals complain of the brevity of the dispatches from the seat of war.

Even the Constitutional, semi-official, says the information is not precise regarding the position of either army.

The Journal Official declares Cherbourg, Brest, L'Orient and Rochfort in a state of siege.

The French left two dispatch boats in the Tiber on evacuating Rome.

No Austrian Mediation.

VIENNA, August 16.

Baron von Beust denies any attempt on his part to mediate between France and Prussia.

The Storming of Metz not Confirmed.

WASHINGTON, August 16.

The State Department has no dispatches regarding the storming of Metz.

The Battle at Metz—Prussian Account.

BERLIN, August 16.

The following additional particulars of the fight were received late last night:

"Late on Monday afternoon the first and seventh army corps vigorously attacked the French forces under the walls of Metz. A sanguinary conflict ensued. The French were finally driven within the city. The French loss is four thousand. On the same day a grand reconnoissance, led by King William, maintained itself for some hours within two lines of the French defences, from which, without effort, a part of the French were dislodged. The facts show the utter demoralization of the French."

Another Version.

LONDON, August 16.

The Daily News (sensational) has a dispatch from the Continent that the French have driven the entire Prussian line. The Telegraph has an editorial arguing Prussian disasters.

The Times' money article says a French victory is necessary to predispose the Emperor to treat for peace.

The Telegraph's Paris correspondent writes that the French Chambers are unworthy of public respect.

Having occasion to go over to Homberg this evening, I found that essentially British settlement in the way of becoming a howling wilderness.

King William in Berlin.

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THE REFORM CANVASS.

MASS MEETING AT LAURENS C. H.

The Militia—Do they Mean Fight?—The Leaders of the Militia—General Butler and the K. K. K.—Specimen Radicals.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

LAURENS C. H., August 13.

THE LAURENS RAILROAD.

Yesterday morning our party left Columbia for Newberry C. H., where we expected to take a train on the Laurens Railroad to this place.

But as there is only a tri-weekly train on that road, we were fortunately deprived of the privilege of a ride over it. It is true, that Mr. Joseph Crews, who is properly believed to be the owner of the road, offered us a hand-car, which we declined with thanks.

And when we saw the road we were glad that we had done so, and more than one of us suspected that Joseph must have had designs upon our limbs when he made his proffer. However, we concluded to go to Laurens Courthouse by private conveyance, and left Newberry at 12 M. After a ride of sixteen miles, we arrived at Martin's Depot, where we were met by Dr. Wright, in charge of two conveyances, sent by the committee of arrangements from Laurens Courthouse.

In these we made the remaining twelve miles, arriving at the courthouse at 8 P. M. Our route was alongside of the Laurens Railroad. For the first sixteen miles the ties were rotten, and sunk into the ground, the rails jagged, and many only fastened with four nails, two at each end. The weight of the trains passing over the rails had made them lay tolerably close to the ties, and as these were at various heights, the track presented a wavy-like appearance.

Within a few miles of the Courthouse the road is laid with T-iron rails; but the road-bed is no better than on the other portion of the track. Some of the ties are very high, and in a dangerous condition. Frequently the trains run off—oh, no, crawl off the track—but very few persons have been hurt.

At a meeting of the stockholders, held at Newberry yesterday, Major J. M. Baxter was elected assignee of the road. The people of this section of the country are very anxious for the road to be put in order. The majority prefer traveling by private conveyance to going over the road in its present condition.

THE MILITIA.

There is quite a large force of colored militia in this county. They are well armed, but poorly drilled. They are under the control of Judge Carpenter and W. P. Owens, the former member of the House, and the latter State senator; but more of them hereafter. Under the advice of their leaders, the militia have committed a number of blunders, which have done them great injury. On our route we passed through Clinton and saw the marks of the bullets on the houses and through the walls. These blunders have done them great injury during the day, and when the road is over marched to the top of a hill, about two hundred yards from the centre of the village, and without warning fired, thus endangering the lives of the militia, but doing nothing to the Prussian. The Prussian writer alleges that, with all shortcomings, their new system is far in advance of those of other nations in its adaptation to the present state of the world.

The tactics that gave them Magenta, and the tactics that won Solferino. The Prussians say that the one was lost by the inferiority of the militia to the French, and the other by the superior intelligence of their democratic rank and file, and their self-made officers and sergeants. The Prussian writer also says that the Prussian writer alleges that, with all shortcomings, their new system is far in advance of those of other nations in its adaptation to the present state of the world.

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