

THE VERY LATEST.

MIDNIGHT DISPATCHES.

ANOTHER BATTLE.

REPORTED DEFEAT OF THE PRUSSIANS UNDER PRINCE CHARLES.

EPERNAY EVACUATED BY THE FRENCH.

VIGOROUS STEPS TO SAVE PARIS FROM CAPTURE.

SUBSTANTIAL SYMPATHY FROM DUBLIN.

WHERE BAZAINE AND MCMAHON ARE.

The Latest from Berlin.

The Latest from Paris.

Paris, August 25—9 A. M.

The Figaro has just issued the following news extra:

"A person who arrived in Paris at eight o'clock to-night, coming from Epernay, reports that he heard in the city that the Prussians were defeated to-day between Verdun and Chalons. Groups of Prussian stragglers, cavalry and infantry, were continually coming into Chalons.

"The combat commenced at 3 in the morning, and the news reached Chalons and Epernay at 3 in the afternoon. Nothing definite as to the numbers engaged. It was rumored that the entire army of Prince Charles was in the fight."

An order was given to evacuate Epernay to-morrow. The trains going east, from Paris to Epernay, are stopped at Chateau Thierry, which is now the terminus of the line.

The animals in the Zoological garden have been removed. A part were retained in the city, and a part sent to Belgium.

More Prussian spies have been arrested, taking a plan of the works on the banks of the Seine. Others were arrested here, and sent with the troops of McMahon.

A remittance for the wounded has been received from Dublin. The Empress, in acknowledging the contribution, says: "This offering to the wounded French is received with gratitude; the generous sentiment which inspired the act, and your wishes for the success of our arms and the happiness of the Imperial family, have profoundly touched His Majesty."

The Prussian troops closely surround Strasbourg, yet the government treasurer managed to escape with twelve million francs.

The Opinion Nationale says: "To all who think more of any other thing than of driving the Prussians from the soil of France, it recommends the perusal of the following passage from the published Prussian plan of attack: 'Paris will never be ours unless that owing to political circumstances or moral reasons which will oblige the defenders to open to us their gates.' Political circumstances, says the 'Opinion,' mean revolution, and moral reasons mean treachery."

A council of ministers was in session half to-day, and it was ordered by the committee of defence that on the approach of the enemy, the crops in the environs of Paris must be destroyed. Great haste is urged on the farmers to store their produce before the enemy seizes it.

The Sum of all the News.

Paris, August 25.

The Journal Officiel says the sum of all the news received at the Ministry, is that the Prussians push their reconnaissances even into the town of Chalons, and that the northern arrondissement of Vessey has been occupied by the Prussians. An order has been given to oppose the Prussian march by every obstacle which the patriotism of the people can suggest.

McMahon and Bazaine.

RHEIMS, August 25.

It is supposed that McMahon and Bazaine have effected a junction, and supported by the quadrilateral, composed of the fortresses of Montmedy, Verdun, Thionville and Metz, would await attack. No important engagements are expected for two days.

Belgium Neutrality.

PARIS, August 25.

The Belgian minister contradicts the statement that the Belgian Government permitted the passage of Prussian wounded through Belgium.

THE JUBILEE IN NORTH CAROLINA.

RALEIGH, August 25.

The treasurer and paymaster have been enjoined from paying Holden's soldiers by Judge Mitchell.

Josiah Turner, editor of the Sentinel, Judge Kerr, S. P. Hill and others, prisoners recently released, were received this morning at the North Carolina Railroad depot by an immense concourse of citizens. The procession, which was composed of mounted men, and carriages decorated with flowers, marched through the principal streets, amid the wildest plaudits. The ladies waived their handkerchiefs. The procession halted before the courthouse, and speeches were made. During the speech of Robbins, three cheers were given by the ex-Confederates for the American flag. On the arrival of the train a national salute was fired in honor of the prisoners, Judge Brooks, and *habeas corpus*. A large number of colored persons participated in the ovation. The best order prevailed throughout, and all the speakers counselling moderation and conciliation.

THE CAUSE OF CUBA.

NEW YORK, August 25.

Nicolas Ozcarate, special envoy from the Spanish Government, is here to consult with the Cuban leaders upon terms of peace. It is not yet certain whether the consultation will take place here or in Havana.

THE GOLD MARKET.

NEW YORK, August 25.

In the Gold Room to-day there was renewed excitement. Gold opened at 18, declined to 16, rallied to 17, then declined. The dealings were heavy at the various fluctuations. Quiet during the afternoon to the close. United States bonds 11.

WASHINGTON ITEMS.

WASHINGTON, August 25. The customs for the week ending the 20th instant were four and a half millions. Kennis & Co.'s distillery, at San Francisco, has been seized. The seizure aggregates sixty-thousand dollars. Porter succeeds Farragut as Admiral.

THE CHILD STEALERS.

NEW ORLEANS, August 25. Louise Murray, as principal, and Ellen Follen, as accessory, were to-day sent before the Criminal Court, charged with kidnaping the Digby child. Bail, \$5000 each.

AFFAIRS IN COLUMBIA.

A Radical Meeting—Why the Whites are not Armed—Scott on the War Path—The "Worm" in Lexington.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT] COLUMBIA, August 25. Elliott spoke nearly two hours last night at the Radical meeting. He took the opportunity of replying to Judge Carpenter's arguments. Honored General Butler; honored General Kershaw, and would honor them more if they were in the Republican party. He went completely back on Whitmore, and, like St. Peter, denied his master. Took up the Militia bill for Scott's justification, and said that the militia was organized throughout the State under his supervision; that every man so enrolled was entitled to his musket, but that it would not do to put arms in the hands of any but loyal citizens, who would not use them against the government—the same old meaning. He wound up at last by saying he would vote the whole Radical ticket, not because they were the right men, but because they were the regular nominees of the convention. He would vote for Colonel Nash, not because he was Colonel Nash, but because he was the regular nominee, and exhorted his hearers to go and do likewise. Purvis, Wigg and Elliott, all concluded in the same strain; each of them throwing a stone at the others, but they are standing firm, may say that they will not be controlled in their ballots, even during the meeting.

There is to be a large meeting at Walhalla to-morrow. Scott, Worthington, Elliott, and Purvis left for that place this morning; some of our speakers have gone too.

Our town was calmed this evening by a runaway. Mr. Sulzbecher and friend were driving down Main street, when the horse became unmanageable and ran away, throwing the occupants out and cutting Mr. Sulzbecher severely on the head. The buggy was badly used up.

The crops are looking fine—some cotton so heavy with bolls as to bend to the ground. Unfortunately the worm has made its appearance in Lexington and in this county, but has not touched the cotton yet. The grass in the cotton fields is full of them, and it is feared as soon as that is eaten out, they will attack the plant.

WATER FOR COLUMBIA.

The Columbia Guardian prints the following comments upon the contract which has been executed by and between the city council and Mr. Pearce, agent or trustee for Mr. Sprague, of Rhode Island, relative to the water works of the City of Columbia. It says: "As will be seen, the city obligates itself to pay the sum of \$16,000 per annum, for twenty years, and Mr. Sprague is to erect machinery, and lay pipes, and the members of the city council are men with whom we are politically antagonistic, and we would for that reason desire to refrain from criticizing unfavorably any action of theirs, not palpably to the interest of the city. In this instance we feel constrained to enter, for the taxpayers of the city, a most earnest protest. Our objections are: First, That such a contract is unnecessary. Second, That the price paid is exorbitant. Third, That the whole scheme was kept secret until consummated. The contract is unnecessary from the simple fact that the city has water works, and the supply of water is sufficient for present uses, and its quality unexceptionable. This, we think, cannot be disputed. Secondly, as to the sum contracted to be paid. We learn from former members and from the Council that the cost of supplying the city with water was never more than from \$6000 to \$8000 per annum. It is proposed to pay Mr. Sprague \$16,000—an increase of from \$6000 to \$10,000. This will, of course, raise the water tax proportionally, which would be about 250 per cent. Our people are now groaning under a heavy burden of taxation and stringency of the times, and regard this additional amount grossly oppressive. The scheme has been kept secret. The taxpayers have not been given an opportunity of expressing their opinions nor other contractors a chance to compete for the contract. There is another feature, too, in the agreement which strikes us as unjust to the city, and throws an air of suspicion upon the whole transaction. We refer to the enormous sum to be paid upon the completion of the contract, which is to be paid in full upon the completion of the contract, which may possibly happen—certainly can be made very easily to happen. The consequence would be that our entire community would be left to the tender mercies of a single individual for the supplies of water, and the tax would be raised to the highest possible point that the people would suffer themselves to pay. The sophistical argument of the Scott Ring in attempting to justify the increase and the public opinion of public taxation, that there are now a larger number of citizens to govern, will not hold in this case. A slave can drink as much water as a freeman. We had need of this Sprague contract smacks too much of the phosphate, gold, and other fraudulent acts of the recent Legislature.

WEAT HARD WORK WILL DO—AN INSTRUCITIVE EXAMPLE.

A correspondent of the Columbia Phoenix says: "There is life in the old land yet." That is so, the following facts will demonstrate: Last January Rev. L. C. Chappell held some strange services in the upper part of Richmond, known as the "Centre Place." It was a poor, worn-out place, and had long been abandoned as unfit for cultivation. It had grown up in old field pipes, broomcorn, and such things, but we must confess that one could find in a month's travel, Mr. Chappell and his three sons, only one of whom is grown, went to work, cleared, fenced and ditched fifty acres and planted them in corn, cotton, peas, potatoes, &c. Besides this, he harvested about 200 bushels of wheat and oats, which he had sown on an adjoining place. See, Mr. Editor, what well-directed industry can do on the poorest, worn-out land in South Carolina. The farmer, Mr. Chappell and his boys, and he will live. To Northern and European small farmers we would say, "Come on, here's the place to get your money."

THE WAR IN FRANCE.

A PRUSSIAN COLUMN BETWEEN CHALONS AND PARIS.

CHALONS AND RHEIMS GIVEN UP BY THE FRENCH.

Prince Frederick Charles Pressing Onward to the Capital.

THE MOVEMENTS OF BAZAINE AND MCMAHON A MYSTERY.

A New Plan of Campaign for the Prussians.

LONDON, August 25.

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The Prussian Advance at Sezanne—Belgium and Neutrality—The Ministerial Council.

PARIS, August 24—Midnight. Last night's journals ask what action is to be taken by the French Government regarding Belgium's violation of neutrality. General Wimpf, recently operating against Algerian rebels, commands Fally's corps. The Ministerial Council is now composed of the Ministers and Rouher, Schneider, Persigny, Barouche and Trochu.

It is reported that the Prussians were at Sezanne to-day. [Sezanne is a town of five thousand inhabitants, twenty-five miles south-west of Epernay and sixty-five miles from Paris.] The Crown Prince is reported at Nancy.

Nothing from Metz, or the armies of McMahon and Bazaine, to-day. Prussian scouts have been seen near Chalons and Troges. Advances from Montmedy to the 23d are silent regarding McMahon's and Bazaine's position. Prussian detachments are reported at Chaumont and Brienne.

Getting Ready for the Siege.

PARIS, August 25. The committee of defence have ordered the destruction of the food crops in the departments of Marne and Seine.

The Empress is at the Tuilleries. A dispatch says she is becoming unpopular on account of bigotry.

Favorable French News.

NEW YORK, August 25. The correspondent of the Courier des Etats Unis, in his correspondence, says that there has been a decided change in the military situation within forty-eight hours. We look back upon ourselves, after three weeks of disappointment and defeat, and to-morrow perhaps we shall take the offensive. Such is the opinion at the War Department and throughout official circles.

The correspondent adds: I am assured that McMahon's outposts extend to Mezieres and Montmedy, covering Ardennes, the railroad, and a line parallel to the frontier. The arrival of Bazaine's prisoners at Solons proves Bazaine's lines intact. The work on the fortifications is almost finished.

Another battle occurred at Metz on Sunday, resulting in our favor. Something decisive is preparing in that quarter.

The Prussians between Chalons and Paris.

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News via London.

LONDON, August 25. Strasbourg is well defended and fully supplied. Correspondents concur that France will only treat for peace beyond the Rhine. Dense fogs cover the battle-fields.

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A sortie was made from Toul yesterday. Seven hundred Prussians were killed or wounded.

Preparations for the siege of Metz proceed with great activity.

The Paris papers are persuaded that Bazaine is executing a deed of deep strategy.

Later Reports from London.

LONDON, August 25. Paris is utterly without news from the seat of war. The entrenchments around Metz are completed. It is believed that a deputation of the Corps Legislatif has gone to the Emperor with a demand for his abdication.

The Corps Legislatif is now permanently guarded by troops. The announcement of a provisional government is imminent.

Belgium's neutrality has not been violated in the matter of facilitating the passage of the Prussian wounded. Belgium was first inclined to yield on the ground of humanity, but finally declined.

There was no rally from Metz to noon yesterday.

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The Patrie repeats formally that the Prussians were defeated on Sunday.

An extract from the Journal Officiel says: "Our ports are free, the fleet will strike boldly in the North and Baltic Seas, our commerce and industry is active, our credit good, and there can be no comparison between ours and the enemy's finances. Prussia looked for treachery here, and unexpectedly wavers at the promptitude of the nation in arming and organizing, and understands by this time that it is the struggle protracted, the better is our situation. Our resources in men and money are inexhaustible. Though invaded, France arms the entire nation. The neutral powers remain friendly, on pretexts that there cannot be a question of mediation."

The Siecle, in commenting on the statement that the Imperial headquarters are at Rheims says: "Who cares? The Imperial headquarters can only be a superfluity, an embarrassment, a pretext for losing battles. The crisis is too great to talk of Imperial headquarters anywhere near those of the commander-in-chief."

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