

# AFFAIRS IN FOREIGN LANDS

## FRENCH AGGRESSION IN THE NORTH OF AFRICA.

REPORTED BOMBARDMENT OF SFAX—THE SITUATION VERY SERIOUS—TURKISH TROOPS CLOSE TO THE TUNISIAN FRONTIER.

LONDON, July 7.—Reuter's Telegram Company has the following dispatch from Tunis to-day: "Private telegrams say that the French began shelling Sfax on the 5th inst., and that the fire was returned from that town. There are no details of the fighting. The telegraph wires are working badly."

The *Fall Mall Gazette* says: "The situation in Northern Africa is very serious. There are points in the Sultan's African dominions to threaten which would compel England to enter the field. The interests of France and England would be best served by making that fact clearly understood on both sides of the Channel."

*Le Soir*, of Paris, referring to the Havas Agency's denial of the *Morning Post's* statements that France intends to mobilize 120,000 men and ask the Chambers for credits for the dispatch and employment of the same for three months, says: "The news, which is denied is, in the necessity of the situation, and though, perhaps, exaggerated in form, ought to be true in principle. There may not be 120,000 men required, but it is evident that Gen. Saussier cannot expect any result in Algeria without large reinforcements." The *Post* refuses to accept the denial in preference to the authority upon which it made its statements, and says: "The recent French explanations and denials regarding designs in Northern Africa are too well remembered to allow the world to credit smooth assurances in contradiction with the whole bearing and action of the French authorities at home and in Africa."

PARIS, July 7.—Four battalions of the Lyons garrison—not one battalion, as previously stated—are preparing to go to Sfax to participate in the occupation of that place.

*Le Temps* blames the Government for prematurely recalling a portion of the Tunis expedition.

LONDON, July 8.—A correspondent at Constantinople says ammunition is continually going to Tripoli.

A correspondent at Tunis has been informed that four columns of Turkish troops are encamped in Tripoli, close to the Tunisian frontier. The French complain that this encourages the insurgents.

A Paris correspondent says the Havas Agency again contradicts the report of the intended mobilization of 120,000 French troops. The report has attracted little or no attention here.