

**Prise de Sfax**  
**La Presse, July 14, 1881**

(Retrieved on April 14, 2008 from <http://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/bpt6k228439r>)

**Affairs in Tunisia**

We receive from our special correspondent the following dispatches:

Tunis, July 12, 9 o'clock in the morning.

General Logerot, arrived yesterday, installed himself today in Manouba. He will direct all the operations in Tunisia. One hopes that our troops will disembark tomorrow in Sfax, at least that it is not judged effective to send insufficient manpower for this difficult operation; we are assured that the Arabs massed in Sfax are numbered more than 15.000. Eyewitnesses say these daring Moslems, full of courage, face the grapeshot without stumbling, remembering the promise of Coran that paradise is open to the faithful who die fighting infidels.

I read the report of the bombardment which notes the precision of the shooting of our seamen. Almost every blow demolished a gun of the insurgents. The insurgents repair the breaches with sand and esparto mixed and packed tight. I am informed that various houses of the European district were damaged by the shooting that had to be directed on the batteries placed immediately in front of them.

Great preparations are made for the festival of July 14. Many people fear that on this occasion brawls will erupt with the Italians. I believe that there is little to fear from this possibility is little to fear, the French population being very calm and wise.

The French of Gabès and Jerba took refuge in Tunis.