

NORTH AFRICA.

TUNIS, JULY 15.

Everything went off quietly last night. There were many more Tunisian troops in the streets than spectators, and the Arab population had orders to withdraw at an early hour.

A telegram which has been received here from Susa, dated Thursday night, says that several tribes from the environs of Kairwan have left for Sfax. An envoy with 35 horsemen from the tribe inhabiting the Enfida district has gone to inquire of Ali Ben Halifa, the leader of the insurgents, if they are assisted from Tripoli. If such is the case they would join the insurgents; otherwise they intend to remain neutral.

A telegram which has been received here from Mehdia, dated Thursday evening, says that all is quiet there, but the townspeople are arming themselves.

The news from Sfax is to the effect that the Arabs continue to march in the direction of Sfax.

The French gun-vessel *Corse* is stationed here.

PARIS, JULY 15.

Mustapha Pasha left here this evening for Tunis.

ALGIERS, JULY 15.

I have arrived here by the same ship as General Saussier. He is glad to return to Algeria. In order to form an exact idea of the situation of the provinces, he has summoned the generals commanding in Constantine and Algiers to a conference, and after hearing their reports he will draw up a plan of campaign. To prevent Bou Amena from invading the Tell, alterations will be made in the commands of the columns. The three columns now on the scene of operations will be so posted as to cut him off from the Tell and force him either to remain stationary or to retreat. General Saussier will not at present take the field, for troubles are apprehended in other provinces, and he is consequently bound to remain at Algiers as the central point; but in September, when serious operations will be commenced in the south, he will take the command. The five columns in Oran are at present under the direct orders of General Delbecque. General Delbecque is one of those best acquainted with that part of Algeria. All general orders, however, will be issued from General Saussier just as at the time of the Aures insurrection they were sent to General Forgemol, who was then very near being

superseded by General Saussier, on account of his alleging that he had not sufficient troops. The success of General Saussier's operations proved that General Forgemol was little posted up in the Arab warfare. The rumoured despatch of 120,000 men is entirely unfounded. There has been no idea of extensive operations, which cannot begin till September. Meanwhile all necessary measures will be taken. The Goums, now totally disorganized, will be reorganized, but the assent of the Chambers is necessary. They will take the name of "the Free Company of the Sahara." They will be composed of 250 infantry mounted on mules, taken from among the riflemen and privates of the *Bataillons d'Afrique*, with 25 Spahis armed with revolvers and the Gras breechloader. Camels will carry provisions and water for a week. A first company will be tried and commanded by M. Petetin, ordnance officer of General Saussier. M. Petetin was at the *Ecole Supérieure de Guerre*. I shall have the advantage of following his first operations. The September expedition will be certainly extended as far as Figuyar, which is the centre of insurrection. Rectifications of frontier are looked upon as the guarantee of security for the future. The instructions received by General Saussier from the Minister of War and the Prime Minister only refer to the command of the 19th Corps and to nothing special. General satisfaction is felt—nay, almost relief—at General Saussier's return. The public are still convinced that disagreement did exist and had existed between M. Albert Grévy and General Saussier. It was hoped that M. Grévy would go and meet General Saussier in order to contradict the rumours of disagreement. M. Grévy had not the tact to do so or even to send anybody. The population is much discontented. On the other hand, General Saussier has assured me that officially nothing had passed between them. The word "officially" should be noted. It shows that disagreement, nevertheless, did exist. People are delighted at the return of General Saussier, for he alone can set things right. Such is the opinion in Governmental, political, and military circles—in Governmental especially. The Algerian Press is growing more and more hostile to M. Grévy.

The *Figaro Algérien* says that the instigator of the insurrection at Sfax is an ex-captain of Spahis.

At a late meeting of the Council-General at Oran a member said that in his opinion the members of the Government, from the highest to the lowest, had been guilty of great negligence, and were responsible for all that had occurred. These remarks created a profound sensation.

The news to-night from Batna is very disquieting.

PARIS, JULY 15.

Despatches received this evening by the Minister of War announce the defeat, but not the capture, of Bou Amena. On Wednesday Colonel Brunetière heard at Medrissa that 700 horsemen, 400 infantry, and 1,500 camels had been seen marching southwards. He immediately sent two squadrons of cavalry, three companies of infantry, and some artillery, who came up with the enemy at 1 p.m. Bou Amena was present with his flag. After some fighting, the Arabs retreated. Colonel Brunetière pursued them all that night and the next day, obliging them to retire southwards without having effected any raid. Bou Amena kept two kilometres ahead of the French, but both the infantry and the artillery fired on his rear, and he lost 70 men, while the French had only one Spahi wounded. Bou Amena is fleeing at full speed towards Askoura.