



FRANCE.—French affairs in North Africa do not look very promising. Sfax is being vigorously bombarded, but no landing has as yet been effected, as the French troops on board the fleet were not considered to be sufficient, while the Bey's contingent could not be utilised, as it was feared that the Tunisian soldiers would join the insurgents. Indeed, according to one report, they have been encouraging the rebels by shouts from the vessel in which they are confined. The Arabs have replied to the bombardment by pillaging the European houses. The green flag has been hoisted, and the head of the insurgents, who is stated to be an old St. Cyr student, has declared that he will resist to the end. Reinforcements to the amount of three battalions of infantry and a battery of artillery have been sent to Sfax from Goletta, and on its arrival the French will probably make a definitive attempt to land. In the mean time the protracted resistance of the insurgents is producing a bad effect upon the neighbouring tribes, and, unless the French can speedily achieve some noteworthy success, it is certain that the insurrection will assume formidable proportions. Indeed, the inhabitants of Susa have declared that, though they will remain quiet if left alone, they will not tolerate the landing of the French troops, whose appearance would produce a general rising, as at Sfax. The French are now fast finding out that the occupation of their new protectorate is turning out a very different thing to the "military parade" which was expected. Nor are matters in Algeria any better. Bou Amema is still on the alert, and on Saturday attacked a force under Colonel Swiney at Sfid, and though the onset ended in his defeat, it shows that he is ready and prompt to take advantage of any weak point in the French military position. He has displayed great judgment and skill throughout the campaign, has continually outwitted the French Generals, and is termed, with some reason, a second Abd-ul-Kader. Several other tribes have rallied to his standard, and he has circulated amongst his followers General Farre's declaration "that no one could catch him who had not wings," and has qualified this admission by declaring "You see by the confession of the chief of the French army I am an envoy of God, and perform miracles. I cannot be made prisoner, I am invincible." The French are sending reinforcements to Algeria, and General Saussier has left to re-assume the command, but the great heat and drought will preclude any military operations for some months. The French troops engaged are already suffering from fatigue and dysentery. Taking it all in all, there is a general uneasy feeling prevailing throughout the whole of the native populations of Northern Africa; and as the insurgents are aware that the recent high-handed policy of the French Government has found no sympathy amongst other European nations, there is some danger of the movement ending in a general conflagration. For instance, M. Barthelemy St. Hilaire has deeply offended Spain by not officially replying to her Note asking that the poor Spaniards who have lost everything in Algeria through the insurrection might be compensated, though he did not hesitate to inform the Chamber that any such claims would not be entertained.

The action of the Government, and of the military authorities in particular, both in Tunis and Algeria, has been freely criticised by the French Press, and is by no means unlikely to have a potent effect upon the elections. Probably if M. Gambetta had forecast the events of the past two months a little more correctly, he would have postponed his Napoleonic *coup d'état* in Tunis for a while. Apart from this question, all is quiet in Home political circles. In the Senate the Education and Press Bills have been the theme of discussion, the only noteworthy incident being an effort made by M. Jules Simon to obtain greater liberty for the Press ; while in the Chamber a large number of Deputies, with an eye to the coming elections, have made a bid for popular favour by removing the cost which the abolition of elementary education fees will entail from the shoulders of the parish authorities to those of the State.

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