

## NORTH AFRICA.

PARIS, JULY 22.

I have just received a letter from Algeria written by a gentleman who is following General Saussier, which gives some interesting details respecting the disagreement between General Saussier and the Governor-General—details which are rendered important by the consequences the disagreement might produce on the ultimate result of the military operations. This letter likewise gives some curious facts as to the origin of the insurrection, and contains a document which seems to show that the Sultan has it in his power either to calm down the insurrection or foment it. If this is true it is hard to understand a policy which seems directed more and more to irritating the Sultan. The letter is as follows :—

“ At the review on the 14th inst. the population made no manifestation. They received the Governor very coldly. M. A. Grévy seemed very nervous, and yet he had an air of contempt for the crowd which showed so openly its discontent. The 1st Regiment of Zouaves and the 1st Turcos, which have just returned from Tunis, were warmly welcomed. People were much surprised at the absence of M. Grévy on General Saussier's arrival, and they will not forgive him that omission. Official relations apart, they are not on good terms. One day General Saussier invited M. Grévy to dinner, and asked a number of officers to meet him. M. Grévy, who was in perfect health, at the last moment, after having kept the company waiting, sent word to say he was not coming. This was the starting-point of the disagreement which was to lead to the General's recall. To it must be added M. Grévy's delay in reorganizing the Goums. It was just to avoid an official conflict that it was proposed to appoint General Saussier to the 6th Corps on the Eastern frontier. It is not true that General Saussier has been invested with exceptional powers. He is only the commander of the 19th Corps, but it is certain he will do whatever he pleases. His return will necessarily lead to the military and civil powers in time of war being defined. The causes of the insurrection date from two years back. Since then Bou Amema (that is his real name—'man of the flat turban') has been stirring up agitation. A number of letters in which he incited to the Holy War were taken from Spier and brought to the Arab

Bureau at Geryville, where they were translated. No importance was attached to what they contained, and it was only when the massacre of the Flatters expedition was known—that is, when that famous letter was seized from Itaren, the chief of the tribe of the Touregs Haggar, announcing the massacre to the Sultan, that the idea was conceived of arresting Bou Amema. It is now evident that Bou Amema is in correspondence with the Sultan. The general opinion here is that had the Sultan wished there would have been no insurrection in Algeria, for if you will call to mind the summons to the Holy War made in 1864 by the celebrated Si Kaddour Ben Hanza, you will be convinced that as the rebels recognize the Sultan as their only master they would obey him. The following are some passages from that summons:—

“ ‘ We are here on the land of God and obedient to our lord the Sultan. May God assist and exalt him, render all his armies victorious, and give under his prosperous reign to his armies advantage over the enemies of God and of God’s apostle. They are infidels, while we are Mussulmans. We are poor emigrants for the cause of Islam. If our lord the Sultan tells us to place ourselves in obedience to him and to conform to his written orders, we shall have nothing to reply.’ ”

“ Bou Amema was a taleb (scribe). Having left his country and studied a great deal, he returned after a few years and passed himself off as a marabout. He is a man of from 45 to 48 years of age, small, very fat, wearing a full beard, with a face like an owl’s. He is sly, malicious, and intelligent, and is both very cautious and very bold. He is not a noble, as has been asserted, but a man of the lower classes. There is, therefore, no danger of his gaining over the Ouled Sidi Sheikh, who would never be commanded but by ‘ a chief of a big tent.’ Although belonging to the Ouled Sidi Sheikh tribe, he is not in favour among them, and has more to fear than to gain from them.”

TUNIS, JULY 22.

A telegram from Mehdia states that the insurgent tribes have come to an understanding with the inhabitants of Kirwan to resist the authority of the Bey, and they are all in a great state of excitement. Yesterday a number of cattle were carried away from a farm five miles distant from Mehdia. There is no news from Sfax.