

NORTH AFRICA.

TUNIS, JULY 27.

Official news has just been received at the French Residency that the island of Gerba has been occupied by the French troops.

Some Maltese carriage drivers have just arrived from Al-Rades, a village about four miles from Tunis, and they report that a large number of horsemen were riding about in that direction, where several Maltese farmers are resident. It has been attempted to send out carriages to their assistance, but the drivers will not venture to go in that direction.

The whole town is in a state of commotion, and crowds of people are coming in from the directions where the Arabs have been seen. It is reported that a Greek, who farms an extensive property within a few miles of Tunis has been murdered, and his cattle carried away. As the town is walled, the Arabs could not easily enter Tunis. The present state of the country can be imagined when the Arabs riot with impunity almost under the town walls.

In order to reach La Goletta from Al-Rades it is necessary to cross a bridge which spans the channel between the sea and the Goletta Lake. The Tunisian Government have stated that the bridge is destroyed, and have placed two pieces of artillery on the road to prevent any attempt of the Arabs to enter La Goletta. Some French cavalry from Manouba are watching the Tunis gates.

Further official and trustworthy details have been received of events that have occurred at Sfax since the French occupation. It appears that, under pretence of searching the European houses for Arabs, the French soldiers have carried away or destroyed a great deal of valuable property, and even hard cash. The spirit and wine shops were forced open, the soldiers became intoxicated, and the confusion is described as having been

dreadful to witness. Arabs who took no part in the fighting have been permitted to enter the town, but the French can only be said to be masters of the ground they stand on, it being unsafe to venture outside the town walls.

JULY 28.

The body of the Greek who was murdered yesterday has been brought to town. It was found that all his cattle and horses had been carried away by the Arabs.

To-day the Ramadan commences. It has always been the custom for the Bey to remain at Tunis during this month and have daily receptions at his town palace. His Highness will stay at Goletta this year, and he comes to Tunis to-day by a special train. This departure from an established custom is looked upon most unfavourably by the natives.

Messengers have just come here and affirm that the Goletta inhabitants are even more alarmed than those of Tunis. The village of Rades, where the Arabs were seen this morning, is equally close to Goletta as to Tunis. All the Jews have closed their shops, and many of them have engaged boats so as to be prepared in case of necessity; but it is only the timid part of the population who are panic-stricken, and there is no cause for alarm. The Arabs may come close to the town, but it is highly improbable that they would attempt to enter it.

According to official news received from Hammamet, a sea-coast town north of Susa, a band of Arab horsemen appeared in that district, drove away cattle and horses, broke open a house, and carried away money and valuable articles belonging to the British Consular Agent. They threatened to kill any Christians whom they might meet. The greatest consternation prevails.

News has also been received from Portafarina, a sea-coast village 40 miles north of Goletta, that a report had reached there that the Arabs were preparing to make a razzia in that district, and the inhabitants were greatly alarmed.

The excitement of yesterday has calmed down, and the inhabitants of Tunis and Goletta are not quite so alarmed, though many have sent their families to Malta. The premature order given by the Bey to destroy the Rades Bridge led the people to suppose that the Arabs were actually marching on Goletta, but evidently they had no such intention. The French Cavalry have returned

to Manouba without meeting the band of Arabs, whose movements appear to be wonderfully swift, and we shall no doubt again soon hear of their exploits in some other quarter. They are led by Hamed Bey Yussuf, a notoriously daring Arab. Their spoils are taken to Aspol, near Kairwan.

The Marseillaise Company attaches much importance to the publication by the official *Gazette* of the legal opinions regarding the Enfida affair. These forced opinions or decrees do not, however, throw any light on the further complications of the case. Originally it was a very simple one. Mr. Levy claimed his right of pre-emption, and constituted himself a defendant in the Hanefi Court. According to the local recognized laws had the Marseillaise Company proceeded against Mr. Levy and made their objections in that Court the affair would have been determined, and no complaint could have been made on either side ; but without any apparent cause the case has been transferred to the Maliki Court by decree issued by the Bey, although it is an acknowledged fact that the Bey has not any real power over the Ecclesiastical Court. Before trying, therefore, the main point at issue the question should be decided whether or not the transfer was legal. Certainly, as the matter now stands, the behaviour of the Marseillaise Company calls for some explanation. They at first, without any reason, refused to attack Mr. Levy in the Hanefi Court. They deferred taking any step until the Treaty of the 12th of May was signed, and now they cause the affair to be illegally transferred to an incompetent Court.

[A portion of the above appeared in our Second Edition of yesterday.]