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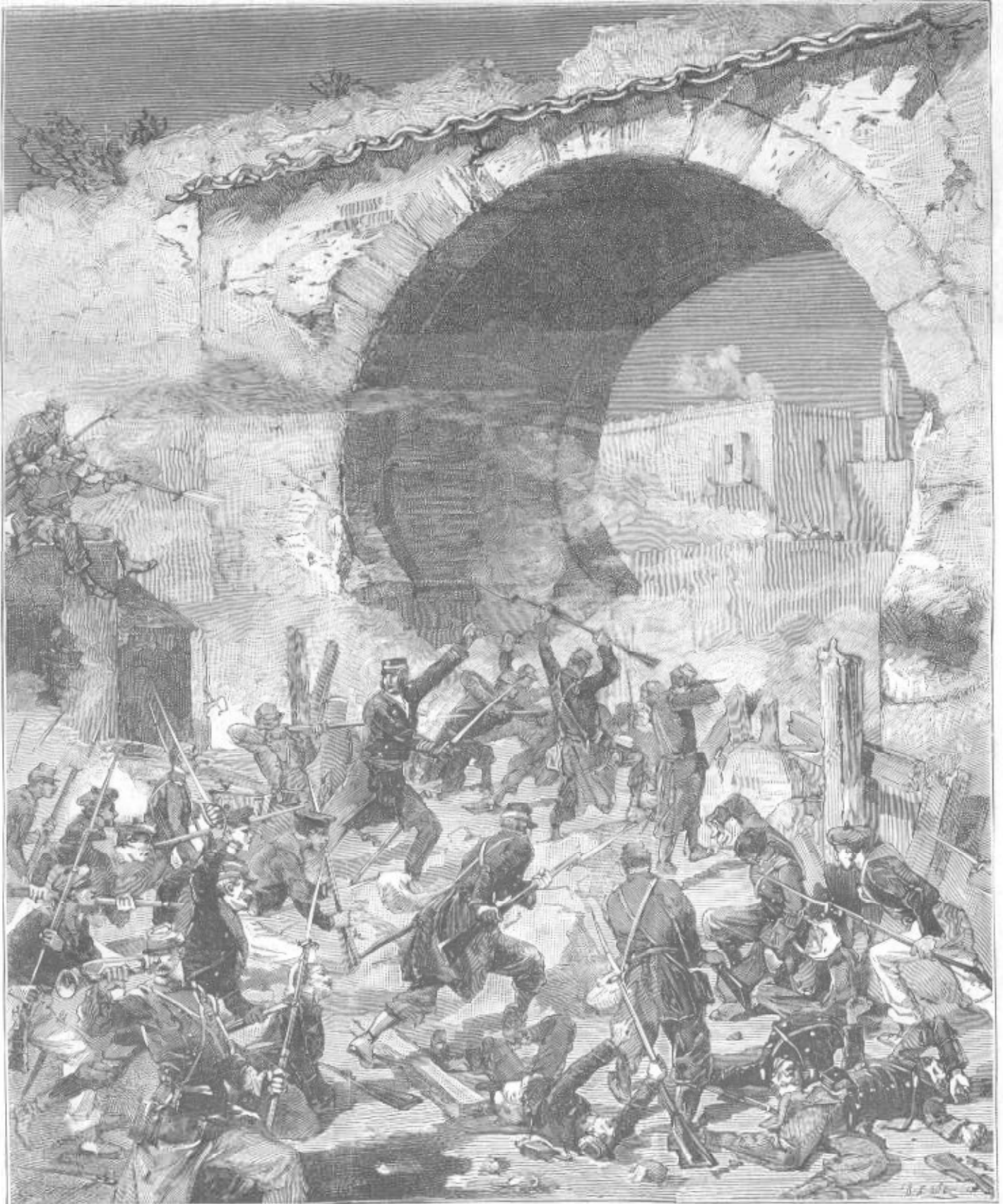
13, QUAI VOLTAIRE

25^e Année. N^o 1270 — 30 Juill. 1881

DIRECTION ET ADMINISTRATION, 13, QUAI VOLTAIRE

Toute demande d'abonnement sera accompagnée d'un bon sur Paris ou sur la poste, toute demande de numéro à laquelle ne sera pas joint le montant en timbres-poste, seront considérées comme non avenues. — On ne répond pas des manuscrits envoyés.

Secrétaire, M. ÉDOUARD HUBERT.



EN TUNISIE. — Prise de Sfax. — Entrée des troupes de débarquement par la porte de la ville arabe. — (Dessin de M. de Haenen.)



EN TUNISIE. — PRISE DE SFAX. — Les compagnies de débarquement (fusiliers marins et 92^e de ligne) abordent sur la plage et s'emparent de la batterie des insurgés. — (Dessin de M. Ferdinandus.)

EVENTS IN AFRICA

Disembarking of the French troops at Sfax

The disembarkation on July 16 was carried out at six o'clock in the morning. At seven o'clock, the troops forced the doors of the Arab city; at eight o'clock the occupation of Sfax was assured. On the plain they had to engage in a combat which lasted approximately two hours and which tested our troops with some losses but without gravity. The command of the place was entrusted to colonel Jamais, who took every precautionary measures.

We will add to these facts the little bit of information that Mr. Louis Piesse willingly communicated to us two sketches recently taken by him in Sfax and Sousse. The Tunisian coast does not have depth, and since our departure from Tunis we moored some distance out to sea in front of Soussa, Monastir, Méhédia and Sfax. *Dragest* drops anchors at two miles or 3 km 600 from this city. Opposite us, the fleet of the bey, two steamers without crews and with a dirty insignia.

The general aspect of Sfax presents a long white line surmounted by two minarets. When we approach, the plans become more clear. In front of the enclosing wall, on the right, a low battery (lit. *barbette* 'with earthen parapet') of old iron guns whose shooting must be ineffective. Alongside, the gate of the Quartier Franc; opposite the door, the offices and warehouses of Mr. Mattei, our vice-consul, and the representative of the Transatlantiques (shipping company); at the SW corner the Kasba.

Sfax, which has the form of a long square, includes the Arab city, 7,000 inhabitants, where we never saw anything monumental or even picturesque, and the European quarter, a long street lined with shops and tiny cafés run by Maltese, Italians and Jews. On the left of this street, a chapel served by Italian capucins, and a school and infirmary belonging to the sisters of Saint-Joseph.

Two gates give entrance to Sfax, one to the north, the other to the south; a third gate pierces the wall which separates the Arab district from the European district. It is at this door that the event occurs that we represent on our first page.

Sfax makes a big business in sponges and oils.

Sfax is the old Taphrura or Taparura of the Romans. In north, some remains of constructions are still met with. The surroundings are arid, sandy. However, one can see strong fine cisterns there which feed Sfax. At 3 kilometers to the west, many and splendid gardens.