

FRANCE AND TUNIS.

PREMIER GAMBETTA EXPLAINS HIS POLICY TO THE SENATE.

PARIS, Dec. 10.—The Tunisian grant was discussed in the Senate to-day. Duke de Broglie (Orleanist) demanded explanations regarding the future of Tunis. He incidentally referred to the constant insults to which the Senate was subjected, and said it would be an act of suicide to assent to the proposed revision of the Constitution. M. Gambetta eulogized the Senate, saying that he fully recognized its importance in the republican system. He only desired, he said, to consolidate it. He repudiated joint responsibility with the former Cabinet for the Tunisian expedition, and said he would introduce a bill for the future administration of Tunis as soon as the country was pacified—probably in February. With regard to the Tunisian debt, he said he desired, in accord with the other powers, to effect a settlement similar to that applied to Egyptian finance. He hoped that with patience and moderation France would succeed in appeasing the objections which her policy has provoked among the foreign powers. He stated that the total French loss in the campaign was 1,100 men. The Bardo treaty, he said, was binding until the day when honorable means should be found for releasing France from her obligations toward the Bey. The treaty must not be torn up, but should be more clearly defined. It is possible, he said, to reorganize Tunis without depriving her of her independence.

The Senate voted indemnity to the survivors of the victims of the coup d'état of 1851.

LONDON, Dec. 10.—The continued heavy rains have flooded the country and prevented Gen. Logerot's march southward to Gabes. He is now marching toward Sfax; thence he will go to Susa. Ali Ben Halifa is strengthening his forces on the Tripolitan frontier.

The New York Times

Published: December 11, 1881

Copyright © The New York Times