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Affairs In Tunisia

Le Temps received the following dispatches from its correspondents:

Tunis, July 18, 10:00 morning.

I sent two special couriers to Kairouan. Their information agrees perfectly. Five hundred Zlass cavalry started from Kairouan after threatening the governor and obliging the farmers of the concession and salt not to collect taxes any more. Fifteen hundred horsemen of the Hamama are moving on Kef, coming from Gafsa. Other tribes march on Mateur and Wadi Saïd; around Enfida, it is quiet, but the Zlass intend to go to plunder this region. The director took refuge in Tunis.

The 500 Metellit that arrived at the gates of Tunis plundered all the enchirs (rural properties) of the suburbs. It is 2,000 camels of the bey that they have taken, and not 400, as the first information said.

In a garden located at little distance from Bardo, two Maltese were assassinated. There is no more safety anywhere. The countryside is infested everywhere by marauders. All the emissaries report that the tribes openly state the desire to fight the French and the bey, to pillage all that they can and to massacre the Christians.

The news from Sfax says that the natives had 300 dead and 800 wounded. The European district suffered greatly. The Arabs have moved away from Sfax a little, but they camp in the surrounding area. It is confirmed that various tribes march on Tunis.

The minister Mustapha arrived at four-thirty at la Goulette. He was greeted by twenty one volleys of the cannon.

According to the estimates of captain Zaconne (in Notes of Tunisia) the large tribe of the Zlass, whose cultural and geographical territories extend between Kairouan and Zaghouan, account for approximately 12,000 souls. It is seen as belonging to the "Hasinia" which includes the tribes devoted to the family of the reigning bey. In this it is the same as the Hammama, which traverses sandy and arid regions between Karouan, the oasis of Gafsa and the Algerian border to the south of Kef. This tribe provided to the bey a goum and 800 riders and even more infantrymen. Lastly, the Metellit, of which there had been question in our dispatches of yesterday, camp between Sfax and Souse, on the shore which faces the Kerkenna islands; to come to Manouba, their horsemen would have traveled nearly 200 kilometers through the interior of the country, probably by the valley of Wadi Miliana.)

Tunis, July 18, 7:00 evening.

The most recent news from Sfax is that in addition to the 300 dead already announced, the insurrectionists had 200 horsemen killed in a shooting which took place last night.

Today, calm has been restored; the city is deserted. Most Sfaxiens have left. Even the gardens of olive-trees in the suburbs have been abandoned.

Tunis, July 18, 7:50, evening.

I learn that at Gorombalia (between Tunis and Hammamet and barely 35 kilometers from Tunis), some marauders, belonging, it is said, to the Tripolitanian tribes who emigrate periodically at that time of the year to the Regency of Tunis, removed 1,200 sheep and 250 oxen

belonging to the Tunisian general Ben Turquia.

A messenger from Kairouan confirms that 800 horsemen belonging to the Zlass entered this city and have obliged the governor to abolish all the town duties, the tax on salt and the farming of tobacco, whose sale will have from now on to be free.

These Zlass announced that they were proposing to go on Tunis, to cut the aqueduct which brings water to the city from Zaghouan and Djogar (it is the old aqueduct of Carthage, restored years ago, under the direction of a French engineer, M. Colin), and finally to destroy the telegraphs and the railroad. It appears that the riders which pillaged the enchir of Si-Chakir yesterday, belong to these bands.

Several notable and rich inhabitants of Kairouan are encouraging the rebels and promising to provide them with corn, barley, meat and powder.

Dispatches from Sfax announce that the chief of the rebels, Ben-Alifa, would be among the death along with five or six other of most influential individuals among the Metellit. Their death would have produced a great effect on the insurgent tribes and would seem to have caused a certain discouragement among them.

Mustapha has been received at his disembarkment by all the people of the court. The bey embraced his effusively.

In the course of the day, a great reconaissance was carried out around Manouba and in the nearby plains by two squadrons of cavalry. From Mateur two squadrons of hussars have arrived. Perhaps would be it imprudent to withdraw too many troops from this locality, because the Zlass have announced, it appears, their intention to take themselves this direction.

Monastir, July 18, 3:00, evening.

In the combat of the 16th, under the walls of Sfax, were killed the sheik Belgassem-Ben-Djerouba of the Metellit, the most intrepid rider of the regency, a kind of Tunisian Jugurtha, and terror of the enemies of his tribe; his brother; the son of khalifa El-Hardoui, of the Metellit; and a nephew of the khalifa of the Neffel.

The losses undergone by the insurgents had to have been great, because from many casualties come to seek care in the villages of the Sahel.

The death of the Djerouba brothers will produce a considerable moral effect; the Arabs say, indeed, that they were worth an army.