



The Argus (Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.)
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According to the *St. James's Gazette*, "A letter written by a merchant long resident in Sfax, describing the manner in which the town was plundered by the French troops, is going the round of the German papers, with the preface that the writer is not a German, and, having been at first one of those who welcomed the advent of the French troops in Tunis, in the belief that they would enforce public order, may be considered an impartial witness. Immediately the troops entered the town a general looting (the writer states) began. Not only the houses of the Arabs were plundered, but also those of the European residents, although the latter inhabit a distinct quarter of the town, between the Arab town (which is surrounded by an old wall built centuries ago by the Spaniards) and the sea. The excuse, therefore, put forward by some French officers that their men could not distinguish between the houses of Arabs and Europeans is, the writer argues, manifestly worthless. Neither was the town plundered by men in hot blood, inflamed by hard fighting, or exasperated by an obstinate resistance. The town had been bombarded by a fleet which comprised altogether 18 vessels of war for 15 days before the troops were disembarked; and half an hour after the attacking force, which consisted of 5,000 men, was landed the whole of the town was occupied. The defenders, indeed, numbered only from 3,000 to 4,000 men, and were armed only with old flint-muskets or fowling-pieces. The flags flying over all the consulates were also pulled down, and in place of the German flag the French was hoisted. Eight days after the town was entered looting was still going on; while on the steamers returning to France with detachments of French troops on board, articles looted at Sfax were offered for sale under the very eyes of French officers."

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