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Important Foreign Intelligence.

From the Boston Centinel of March 23.

FROM FRANCE.

By the Rambler, Capt. Snow, we have very late advices from France.

The allies were rapidly marching towards Paris. The light troops, principally Cossacks had penetrated to within 15 or 20 leagues of that city—the allied H. Q. were not far behind.

Bonaparte joined his army near Brienne the 26th January. Some sharp fighting ensued; the French official accounts are given this day. It will be seen that on the 3d February Bonaparte was at Troyes, many miles nearer Paris than Brienne. The affair of Brienne was magnified in Paris to a great victory—But a letter from Bordeaux says—"The emperor did not gain the victory as reported in the battle of the 29th, &c."

There is nothing from Italy, except that Murat, king of Naples, had made peace with the allies, on condition to be allowed to remain King for life, and after his death that the crown should revert to the house of Sicily.

The account that Soult had evacuated his encampment in Bayonne, after leaving a strong garrison in the citadel and town is amply confirmed. Many of his troops had arrived in Paris, and other places on their way to join the Emperor's army.

The most extraordinary fact is, that a congress of the belligerent ministers, including Lord Castlereagh from England, had convened in Chatillon in France, about 100 miles east of Paris—and where diplomatic ceremonies had passed; and some sort of negotiations said to be on the carpet. Our verbal advices are, that Russia and Prussia will not consent to a pacification until it is negotiated in Paris.

The "mascadins" of Paris were strongly fortifying their city against an expected visit from their old friends the Cossacks.

Other verbal and epistolary news by the Rambler is, that the greatest alarm existed in Paris; and that many were removing their valuables—that there were reports of recent battles, in which the allies were successful—that DENMARK had joined the allies—that the citadel of Bayonne had not surrendered—and that there had been no recent fighting near that place.

Mr. Prooss states it to have been reported at Bordeaux, that Hamburg had surrendered to the Swedish army.

A letter from an American public character in Paris, dated 25th January, says "I expect our Ministers in Russia will reach the United States before the Rambler."

The allied armies were rapidly approaching Paris, on the North and the East. At the last date they were at Soissons [about 58 miles] and at Fontainebleau [about 33 miles] from that capital—A Congress of the belligerent powers was in session at Chatillon, on the Seine [about 410 miles from Paris.]

The Emperor had caused trenches to be dug around the city, and the beautiful groves in its vicinity to be put down for palisades.

He left the city himself on the 26th of Jan. having appointed the Empress, Regent, and his brother Joseph his Lieut. General, and charged him with the defence of the Metropolis. The official account of his battles immediately after joining his army we have published at length. Notwithstanding his attempt to disguise the truth, it is evident he was worsted in every engagement—and such was the general opinion in Bordeaux.—It is certain that he has continued to retreat. The disaffection among the people was general—Placards had been put up in the Theatre at Bordeaux, denouncing the tyrant. The levy en masse could not be carried into effect. The armies were scattered, and composed chiefly of raw recruits.—A rumor was circulating that the Crown Prince had taken Hamburg. Numerous failures had taken place in Paris.—And, Bonaparte having taken all the specie from the vaults, the Bank had been obliged to stop payment. Stock which cost originally 1450 francs had fallen to 480.

Lord Wellington's force was estimated at 100,000 men—Soult's army at about 30,000.

Manheim was the place selected by Napoleon in Dec. to treat on the basis offered by the allies, as stated in the note of the Baron de Aignan. It will be remembered that the Count de Fontanes complained in his speech of the 26th of Dec. that the allies had refused to adhere to these terms. It now appears that the seat, as well as the conditions, of negotiation is changed. The Paris papers speak favorably as to its progress. This language may be political.

We find in the Bordeaux Indicateur London dates to the 26th of Jan. but no articles of news.

A Paris paper of the 9th of Feb. was received at Bordeaux just as the Rambler was sailing. It contained nothing of importance, but the mention of the despatching of a courier to England by Lord Castlereagh.

OFFICIAL.

PARIS, FEB. 5.

Her Majesty the Empress Queen and Regent has received the following account of the situation of the army on the 3d inst.

The Emperor arrived at Vitry (on the Marne, 100 miles E. of Paris) Jan. 26. Gen. Blucher, with the army of Silesia, had passed the Marne and was marching upon Troyes (on the Seine, 80 miles S. E. from Paris).—On the 27th the enemy entered Brienne, and continued his march, but he was obliged to lose time to rebuild the bridge of Lesmont upon the Aube.

On the 27th, the Emperor ordered St. Dizier to be attacked. The Duke of Belluno presented himself before that town. Gen. Duhesme, overthrew the Rear-Guard of the enemy, which was yet there, and made some hundred prisoners. At 8 in the morning, the Emperor arrived at St. Dizier. It is difficult to describe the enthusiasm and the joy of the inhabitants at this moment. The vexations of every kind which the enemy commit, especially the Cossacks are beyond all description. On the 28th the Emperor moved upon Momierrander.

On the 29th, at 8 in the evening, General Grouchy, who commands the Cavalry, ordered Gen. Milhaud, with the 5th corps of cavalry, to present himself between Marzières and Brienne before the enemy's army, commanded by Gen. Blucher, and which is estimated at 40,000 Russians and Prussians; the former under Gen. Sacken. At 4 o'clock, the little town of Brienne was attacked. Gen. Lefebvre Des Nouettes, commandant of a Division of cavalry of the guard, and Generals Grouchy and Milhaud executed many fine charges upon the right of the road and possessed themselves of the heights of Parthe.

The Prince of Moskwa, put himself at the head of six battalions in close columns, and moved upon the town by the road of Maizières. The Gen. Chateau, chief of the staff of the duke of Belluno, at the head of two battalions, turned by the right and entered the Castle of Brienne, by the Park.—At this moment the Emperor directed a column upon the Road of Bar, upon the Aube, which appeared to be the retreat of the enemy. The attack was furious and the resistance obstinate. The enemy did not expect so fierce an attack, and only had time to withdraw his parks from the bridge of Lesmont, where he intended to pass the Aube, and march in advance. The counter march much embarrassed him.

Night did not put an end to this battle.—The Division Deconz, and a Brigade of the Division Mensnier, were engaged. The great number of the forces of the enemy, and the beautiful situation of Brienne, gave him a great advantage; but the taking of the castle which he had neglected to guard in force, deprived him of it. About 8 o'clock perceiving that he could not maintain the post, he set fire to the town, and the conflagration spread, all the houses being of wood.

Profiting by this event, he attempted to retake the castle which the brave chief of a battalion of the 50th regiment defended with intrepidity. He covered with dead all the approaches to the castle especially the stairs on the side of the Park. This last check decided the retreat of the enemy, which the burning of the town favored.

On the 30th, at 11 in the morning General Grouchy and the Duke of Belluno pursued him to the village of Rothière, where they took a position.

The whole of the 31st our troops were employed in repairing the bridge of Lesmont-sur-Aube, the Emperor wishing to march upon Troyes to operate upon the columns which were moving by Bar-sur-Aube and by the route of Auxerre, upon Sens.—The bridge could not be completed till the morning of the 1st of Feb. when a body of troops was immediately filed on it.

At 3 P. M. the enemy having been reinforced by his whole army, debouched upon Rothière and Dienville, which we still occupied. Our rear guard received them with firmness. Gen. Duhesme, distinguished himself in preserving Rothière and General Gerard in protecting Dienville. The Austrian General Giulay, who wished to pass from the left to the right bank, and force the bridge, had many of his battalions destroyed. The Duc de Belluno maintained himself the whole day at the hamlet of Giberie, notwithstanding the enormous disproportion of the force which attacked him.

This day our rear guard sustained itself on a vast plain against the whole of the enemy's army, five times more numerous—it is one of the greatest feats (des beaux faits) of the arms of the French army.

In the darkness of the night, a battery [une batterie] of artillery of the guard, which followed the movement of a corps of cavalry which had pushed on to repulse a charge of the enemy, missed its way and was taken.—When the cannoniers perceived the ambushade into which they had fallen and saw that there was not time to form themselves en batterie, they formed themselves immediately in squadron, attacked the enemy, and saved their horses and teams. They lost 15 men killed and made prisoners.

At ten o'clock at night the Prince of Neufchatel visiting the posts, found the two armies so near each other, that he several times mistook the enemies posts for our own. One of his aids de camp approached within ten paces of their videttes and was made prisoner. The same accident happened to several Russian Officers who passed the Countersign, and threw

themselves into our hands, supposing they had arrived at their own quarters.

Few prisoners were made on either side. We have taken 250.

On the 2d of February at the break of day, the whole rear guard of the army was engaged before Brienne. It took successively the positions which were necessary to effect the passage of the bridge of Lesmont, and rejoin the rest of the army.

The Duke of Ragusa, who was in position on the Bridge of Rosnay, was attacked by an Austrian corps, which had passed behind the woods. He repulsed them, and made 300 prisoners, and drove the enemy beyond the little river Voire.

On the 3d at noon, the Emperor entered Troyes.

We lost in the battle of Brienne, the brave Gen. Baste. The Gen. Lefebvre des Nouettes was wounded with a bayonet. General Forrestier was severely wounded. Our loss in these two days may be computed at 2 or 3,000 men in killed and wounded. That of the enemy was at least double.

A detached division of the enemy's army which observes Metz, Trionville and Luxembourg, twelve battalions strong, has moved upon Vitry. The enemy has attempted to enter this town, which Gen. Montmarie and the inhabitants have prevented. He has in vain thrown shells into the city to intimidate the citizens—they have returned his due and repulsed him a league and a half. The Duke of Tarentum arrived at Chalons and marched against this division.

PARIS, FEB. 5.

On the morning of the 4th the Count de Stadion, Count Razumowsky, Lord Castlereagh and Baron Humboldt arrived at Chatillon upon the Seine; where the Duke of Vicenza (Caulincourt) had arrived. The first visit had taken place between them, and in the evening the first conferences were had.

February 6.—Yesterday the Duke of Vicenza, (Caulincourt) gave a dinner to Lord Castlereagh, Minister of Foreign Affairs of England; to Lord Cathcart and Lord Aberdeen, Plenipotentiaries to the Congress for England; to Count Stadion, Plenipotentiary for Austria; to Count Razumowsky, Plenipotentiary for Russia; and to Count Humboldt, Plenipotentiary for Prussia. The negotiations appear to go on with activity.

Feb. 7.—Yesterday the members of the Convention dined with Lord Castlereagh. It has been remarked that the best etiquette reigned among the Ambassadors, and especially between the English and French, who are full of attention and reverence for each other.—Montteure.

Feb. 9.—Yesterday a Courier from Lord Castlereagh passed through this city on his way from Chatillon to London, having taken the route of Nogent, Paris and Calais. In future all the couriers from the English Ministers at the Congress are to pass the same way, as being much nearest.

Feb. 3.—They write from Versailles that a division of the army of Spain [Soult's] arrived there this morning; and that to-morrow and the day after they will be followed by a second and third.

Feb. 4.—It was reported here yesterday that an engagement had taken place at Brienne the first of February; but we decline giving an account of it to our readers as we have not received the particulars.

We have seen this day a great number of military men who lately made a part of the army on the frontier of Spain. They will depart to-morrow for Champaigne.

The army continues to manœuvre, and to second with unexampled zeal the movements conceived and ordered by his majesty to profit by the first successes gained by our arms. It has marched to form a junction at Arcis, upon the Aube, with the troops placed in that position under the orders of the marshal the duke of Treviso. During these operations we see reinforcements destined to rejoin the army, they arrive and depart every day. Yesterday the first division of infantry of the troops which were expected from Spain had arrived at Versailles. The second division is but a day's march behind. The third is near the second. Beside this beautiful reserve of infantry, the division of cavalry commanded by Gen. Guichard advances by forced marches. It is at this moment upon the Loire, and takes the same direction as the division of infantry. From the other side regiments come from Catalonia, enter successively, every day into Lyons, and augment the corps d'arme already considerable within the walls of that city, and will soon be in a state to assist in an advantageous manner, in the measures of general defence, which are wonderfully developed to our sight.

A traveller who has passed Burgundy, through almost its whole length, and who has just arrived at Paris, has given us details of the manner in which that beautiful and unhappy province is now treated by the enemy.

They have laid waste Bresse, and the environs of Macon and Chalons. They follow the same course in the Cote-D'Or. They demand, without distinction, contributions from towns and villages. They have demanded two millions from the single town of Dijon.

They arrived at Semur, the 25th. They quartered upon the inhabitants, and indulged in every excess. With sabre and pistol in hand, they compelled the housekeepers to give them whatever they wished. They even made it a crime not to understand German. They committed excesses on the municipal corps and even struck many of its members. They have

pillaged many houses of the most distinguished men. The damages are estimated, at more than 100,000 crowns. They finished by laying a heavy contribution, and set out on the 27th for Monthard.

Their entrance into this little town has been signalized by insults to the proprietors, and a great part of the inhabitants. They went into the house of Madame de Buffon, a grand daughter of the celebrated Buffon. It was there that that great man composed his immortal works. It was his happiness to embellish the place of his retreat. The gardens were curious and eagerly visited by strangers. The plantations were admirable; but the enemy have overwhelmed the whole. Finally, after having done all the mischief that was in their power, they approached Troyes. We believe that here they have terminated their movement, having been apprised that the emperor had quitted Paris to put himself at the head of the army.

Feb. 5.—The entrenchments which have been raised as the barriers of Paris, are this day completed.

On the 22d ult. the Emperor and King issued his letters patent, confirming the Regency of the Empire in her Majesty the Empress and Queen Maria Louisa.

The Cardinal Maury, issued a mandate, ordering that public prayers be offered to Almighty God for the prosperity of his Majesty's arms, against the invasion of the French territory by the allied powers.

Rouen, Jan. 25.—In consequence of the Imperial decree of the 21st, relative to the formation of twelve regiments of volunteers of the young guards, the municipality of this city have published the following proclamation:

"Inhabitants of the capital of ancient Normandy! Whose name is rendered illustrious by so many combats! Whose arms have carried victory into the heart of England! Shall foreigners pollute the soil of your country? Your compatriots of Franche-Compte, of Lyons, and of Lorraine call on you for aid! Hasten to augment the number of the brave who fly to their succour.

The battalions of voltigeurs and of tirailleurs are organizing; men of every rank and age solicit to be enrolled among them, leaving in their absence, their wives and children to the protection of beneficent laws. To armies impelled by hatred and revenge they go to oppose armies animated by patriotism and supported by honor. Go, and share with them the danger of the contest and the glory of the victory.—Go, and repulse from our territory the enemy who threatens to invade and to dismember France, to rob us of the fruits of a thousand combats, and to subject us to the yoke of our inveterate rivals, who would destroy our numerous manufactures.

After having driven your enemies beyond the confines of the empire, after having vanquished under the greatest of heroes, you will return to enjoy in the bosom of that country which you will have saved, the sweets of peace and of repose, and the testimonies of the gratitude of your fellow citizens, (con citoyens.)

EXTRACT OF A LETTER, DATED

"Bordeaux, February 19.

"I regret that some delay should not have put it in my power to advise you of some amelioration in our political and commercial situation; instead of which we have to deplore daily increasing alarm and an aggravation of the distress you witnessed previous to leaving this city. The Emperor beat the enemy at St. Dizier, on the 27th ult. and gained a victory over Blucher's army, consisting of 40,000 men, at Brienne on the 29th ult. and on the 30th Blucher effected a junction with the army of the Prince of Schwartzburg, computed at 150,000, and the French troops in that quarter not amounting to more than 40,000 men, were compelled to retreat to Troyes, after some considerable loss.

"Paris is in great consternation, and I begin to entertain serious apprehensions for that rich, important and interesting city. Three or four very numerous armies being now advancing towards it without the possibility of the French uniting one half their numbers. The marauding Cossacks have already been within 12 or 15 leagues of the capital. The French, Russian and Prussian negotiators met at Chalons, upon the Seine, on the 4th inst. and exchanged visits. You can easily imagine our anxiety to know the result of the conferences, I cannot but be afraid the enemy will make great efforts to take Paris before they will make peace. It is seriously to be apprehended that these disastrous events may have a bad influence on our affairs in America, but thank God, we cannot fear that a haughty and insulting enemy will ever menace our capital.

"It was reported there some days since, that a large English fleet arrived at Port Passage, in Spain, but its object is not yet ascertained—20,000 men having been withdrawn from that quarter, which even before did not consist of one half the forces opposed to them by Lord Wellington. I should not wonder if the latter should make an attack. His inaction has astonished every body. With 60,000 English and Portuguese troops and as many Spaniards, which, contrary to report, always continued with him, he has for a long time made no attempt on the French army of 50,000 men now reduced to 30,000!

"The times are pregnant with important events, and the first news you receive from this country after your arrival, must be peculiarly interesting."