

A VISIT TO BAZAINE.

Prison Life of France's Condemned Marshal—How He Lives in the Prison on the Island of St. Marguerite.

Blanton Duncan, recently prominent as a leader of the Bourbon faction that nominated O'Connor for the presidency in the last campaign, is in Europe and paid a visit to Marshal Bazaine in his prison on the island of St. Marguerite.

BAZAINE'S SITTING ROOM is a small but comfortable one, neatly and plainly furnished. Hanging upon the wall was a fine likeness of the pope, with a Latin autograph.

They were seated upon the paved promenade, bounded by the parapet, wherein was reserved for his use a small space, and there we paced up and down discussing the varied topics which surged into the mind in connection with current events.

Of course there is a seal of privacy upon many of the Marshal's opinions. As a prisoner of state it would not be proper for me to make known observations on many subjects which were only intended for me as an old friend.

The director, according to his views, was very polite, but at the same time strict. No doubt, however, he was acting under orders from his superiors, under the provisions of existing laws which he could not modify.

I find nothing in BAZAINE'S APPEARANCE changed. His manner is easy, unaffected, and composed as it was in the days of his freedom and power.

The parapet in front of the door extends about 80 feet. The width of the parapet is about 30. The height of the wall is about 3 1/2 feet, and one looks over at the sea, breaking upon the foot of the cliffs, 100 feet beneath. Along the sea-wall another parapet runs perpendicular to the first one until it reaches the wall some hundred feet distant.

Towards the interior a newly constructed wall twenty feet high connects the house with a parapet and cuts off all communication with the fortress.

Possibly this was done to prevent any sympathizers (of whom there are many thousands in the army) from demonstrations of offers for services. An effort had been made to establish a miniature garden inside the space within the sea-wall, but it is not possible to use the cistern water for flowers, and the Marshal was afraid they might be parched to death before a rain came.

When the blazing summer sun comes down upon those stones and bricks in July and August it must be pretty hot. But the Marshal is an old campaigner and I presume can stand it pretty well.

Anybody wishing to escape from this place is a practical impossibility. Looking over the battlements the descent is easy enough, and practicable with very little exertion, and a boat, stationed beneath, could easily carry off at night an escaping prisoner.

But such a thought would never enter the Marshal's brain. He has been always rather indignant that they did not cap the edifice of his persecution by shooting him. But as the government did not dare do that in the face of the civilized world, he is content to live under the fostering care of France's present rulers.

It is stipulations as of binding effect, and that their avowals had been seemingly applauded by the French people.

HIS OWN FUTURE.

The Marshal is not at all disheartened. An easy conscience overcomes even regret at the black ingratitude which he must feel has been displayed toward him for that forty years of faithful and loyal service, unmarred by a single tarnished spot until his zealous adherence to the sovereign who had placed unlimited command in his hands, and to whom his solemn oath was pledged brought upon him the intolerant persecution of thousands of those very men who bowed in homage, yes, even in rivalry, a short year before the fatal surrender at Metz.

And I could readily cheer him, for the wheel of fortune ever turns from year to year, crushing the most favored with the same fickleness with which the next moment she elevates the victim of adversity.

The view from the parapet was magnificent, the outlines of the coast showing villages and chateaux, interspersed with groves; promontories jutting into the sea; while one point, composed of lofty mountains, was in bold relief, and the amphitheatre of mountains in the background was covered with forests in which were cultivated openings tinged with the rich verdure of budding spruce.

While we thus promenaded came out and joined us, walking between us and taking her full share in the conversation. She is, you know, Mexican, with dark, lustrous eyes, black eyelashes and eyebrows beautifully curved, a mouth indicating unusual resolution, and a radiant, lovely face, tinged with carmine and lips like twin cherries or half open rose buds.

It seemed to me that every time one of her sunny glances fell upon the Marshal it served to warm and quicken the blood in his veins.

After all, if a man's London, and Paris fashion plates, have been ordered and will be regularly received.

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