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wife(58). The maids of the community-peasant girls lacking dowries and whose chances for marriage were consequently slim-were invited to this place of entertainment and were properly chaperoned while there. They met many young men in uniform and if a couple struck it off, as frequently happened, fortune smiled on both. The girls certainly had no better opportunity back home. The young men, too, were in luck-they found husky helpmates who were used to hard work and who would be willing to share with them the hardships of pioneering in a strange world. Large numbers of such villages were founded and thousands of French veterans chose Algeria as their permanent home. After the Franco-Prussian war, many inhabitants of Alsace-Lorraine who did not wish to become German nationals likewise came down. That was the way in which Algeria was settled by Frenchmen.

Footnotes

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- (3) - A.E.M.D., Algérie iv. St. John to la Bretonniere, December 10, 1829.
- (4) - A.E.C.P., Angleterre 629. Polignac to Laval, January 15, 1829.
- (5) - Foreign Office, Turkey 27/188 (hereafter this will be abbreviated as F.O) Aberdeen to Gordon, January 20, 1830.
- (6) - F.O., France 27/405, Aberdeen to Staurt, February 2, 1830.
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- (8) - F.O. Turkey 78/184. Gordon to Aberdeen, February 7, 1830.
- (9) - Ibid., same to same, March 2, 1830.
- (10) - F.O.France 27/405, Aberdeen to Staurt, March 5, 1830.
- (11) - A.E.C.P., Angleterre 631. Laval to Polignac, March, 3, 1830.
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- (23) - A.E.C.P. Turquie 260. Guilleminot to Polignac, January 6, 1830, and January 16, 1830, Douin, G., Mohamed Ali et l'expédition d'Alger, Cairo, 1930.
- (24) - A.E.C.P. Turquie 260. Guilleminot to Polignac, February 9, 1830.



across the Mediterranean and attacked Algiers. The city fell one day later, on July 4, 1830, unhappily for himself, at the very moment of success Charles X ruined all prospects of retaining the throne by disbanding a newly-elected legislature whose makeup was disbanding to him, by promulgating new electoral laws which would return a friendly majority and by restricting freedom of the press. The new ruler, Louis Philippe, a member of the House of Orleans who was elevated to the throne by the liberals when he subscribed to the principle of parliamentary supremacy, found himself with a war on his hands, a war which he had not started, a war which he did not want, a war which he had no interest in, but which he could not stop. And, for nearly two decades from 1830 to 1848. France was carrying on war in Algeria(52). The basic difficulty was that there was no single monarch to conquer and settle scores with. Each portion of Algeria had its own feudal lord and, although the French defeated Hussein, the Dey of Algiers, dignitaries elsewhere refused to recognize Gallic overlordship. The most that the French could do for several years was to take certain of the seacoast town(53).

They realized by 1840, that this was not going to get them anywhere hence in that year, the government sent over an army under Bugead which ultimately 100.000 men and a systematic piecemeal conquest was undertaken(54). And so, at length in, 1848, at a cost of 150.000 French lives and \$ 600.000.000 from the national treasury, the French found themselves masters of a territory which they have never been particularly interested in acquiring and which they were not particularly interested in possessing. It could not, of course, be abandoned after having been purchased at such a staggering price. What to do with it! Bugead determined to colonize the area with veterans of the long campaign and an interesting plan of directed settlement was evolved(55).

The French government confiscated the personal domains of all the vanquished dignitaries and laid out completely equipped agricultural villages in them. Privates homes, a catholic church, a school for boys and another for girls and a village hall were built in each, and the surrounding land was then made available to the soldiers through home stading. Any man who had served in Algeria over a year might apply for a furlough to go home(56). If he could persuade the old neighbor girl he had grown up with or some new commmer who dazzled him to share his fortunes in Algeria, he was, upon returning with his pride, given a house in some village, a plot of land nearby and tools and seeds(57).

Of course, as many a solder learns nowadays, the average girl won't wait very long-poets notwithstanding, absence doesn't seem to make the heart grow any fonder! To meet this situation, the government opened a matrimonial agency at Toulon, France's great Mediterranean naval base. This was a highly-respectable establishment under the patronage of the Mayor's



The colonial office had left him without specific instructions, although Goderich had warned the consul of the necessity of conducting himself in his relations with the French Authorities « with that courtesy and respect which should mark the intercourse between the agents of friendly governments ». St John had been warned also to abstain from making application to the French for diplomatic privileges. It was obvious that before long the problem of the consul's position must come under the notice of the foreign secretary.

Palmerston was not the man to acquiesce in a position in which any British agent in the Mediterranean was exempt from his control. From May 1832, his advice conditioned the instructions sent to Algiers from the colonial office(48).

St. John was advised to send copies in his reports to the British ambassador at Paris, and to send them by safe channels only. The foreign secretary was kept informed of events in Algiers by way of Paris, and through inter-departmental correspondence from the colonial office.

The outcome of Algiers occupation for Charles X

Charles X, a hard-fisted autocrat who staged innumerable reprisals against the liberals of France after mounting the throne in 1824. The result was that he wore out his welcome, he was on the skids by 1830, and knew it. Any ruler who has found himself in that delicate position has brought on a foreign war as an easy means of maintaining himself. He could then appeal to the patriotism of his subjects saying « let's forget our internal troubles, let's be nationals first ». Charles' need was urgent. He must precipitate and win a war in a short order and, looking about for a ready victim who could be worsted with ease, he singled out the Dey of Algiers(49).

It so chanced that three years before, 1827, a ridiculous incident had occurred. Deval, the French consul, had sought an audience with Dey Hussein in Algiers city to press claims against two of the latter's subjects. During the course of a very heated interview, Hussein had struck Deval across the face with a fly whisk. It might be mentioned parenthetically that it was not a fly- swatter(50). The natives of North Africa, don't swat flies, they just shoo them away. This had, of course, been an unfortunate episode, but the French consul had swallowed his pride as best he could and the incident had been all but forgotten, we must also mention to the diplomatic incident between Algiers and France in 1620, that the French killed the members of the Algerian mission to France at Aix(51).

Now, 1830, Charles X, seeking an excuse for declaring war on the hopeless Dey, Charles X recalled this event, declared that the French honor was at stake, assembled an expeditionary force of 40.000 men, rushed them



upon this Regency. I have the honor to propose to your majesty to perpetuate, by a monument, this glorious deed of arms, and to order:

1st- That a neutral colmun, surmounted by a light, shall be erected in the road of Toulon.

2nd- That the names and number of the corps and vessels composing the two armies, and those of the officers general, and the superiors who commanded them, shall be inscribed on the base of the colmun.

3rd- That the ornaments which decorate the monument shall be made from the brass of the cannon taken from Algiers. Your armies, Sire, will find in this decision of your majesty, the most honorable reward, and a new subject of gratitude and love. I am with the greatest respect, Sire, avery humble, obedient. Baron d'Haussex. Approved: Charles.

Shaler and the French Expedition

It is remarkable that the exact plan of the French expedition had been laid out, by William, Shaler, the American consul, in his « Sketches of Algiers », boston, 1826, 310p. Shaler himself says, « The several expeditions against Algiers, where land forces have been employed, have landed in the bay eastward of the city, which is evidently an error, and discovers unpardonable ignorance of the coast and topography of the country, for all their means of defence are concentrâted there.. But it is obvious that anyforce whatever might they might in the fine bay of sidi ferrajh without opposition, whence by a single march they might arrive upon the heights which command the castle del Emperador,awhen as nothing could prevent an approach to the foot of its walls, they might be either scaled or breached by a mine in a short time. This position being mastered, batteries might be established on a heigh commanding the citadel, which is indicated by two cylindrical ruins of windmills, and where are the ruins of a fortress which as called the Stau, which the jealous fears of this government caused to be destroyed, for the reason here alleged, that it commanded the citadel, and consequently the city. The Fleet which had landed the troops, would by this time appear in the bay to distract their attention, when Algiers must either surrender at direction or be taken by storm »(47).

Position of diplomatic agents after 1830

The French conquest of Algiers in 1830, put an end to many of the privileges enjoid by the consuls resident in Algiers. They held no other credentials than those to the Dey, but the French refused to recognize their position as 'diplomatic agents' R St. John maintained that the French did all to annoy and irritate him and to debase Britain's official character in Algiers.



departure of the cigogne, we had already found more than 97 Millions, and we hope to find still more. On this subject they attribute to general Bourmont what follows.

When this treasure was found, Mr. Bourmont said, « Gentlemen, of this sum 60 Millions are more than sufficient to pay the expenses of the war, and I think that the excess will be devoted to the payment of the arrears of the (brave soldiers) of the legion of honor, they have well earned it, and it is a sacred debt that France owes sooner or later to the legion of honor ».

We have found at Algiers magazines furnished for more than three years, and more than 3.000 pieces of brass artillery, of which 1.500 were in the batteries. Among the French slaves restored to liberty was one named Beraud, who has been absent from Toulon, his native place, for 29 years. He was only twelve when he was taken by the (Pirates) and thrown into the galleys at Algiers. There has nothing been since heard of him, and he was supposed to be dead! Their joy and surprise of his old mother can be imagined, who after so long a space of time finds again a son when she thought forever lost to her.

For some days past certain reports have been current, which give rise to the belief that our occupation of Algiers will meet with obstacles which we had certainly no reason to have expected, we are assured that the Duke of Wellington complains directly to an august personage of the conduct of the French cabinet in the affair of Algiers and that the observations of the English minister were received with a just indignation... Notice has been given to the Turkish subjects to quit the territory of Algiers immediately, that those who possess real property had a delay of eight months to sell it, and that at the expiration of that time the property not disposed of should be sold at public auction, and that the said Turkish soldiers should be conveyed by the French vessels out of the territory of the Regency of Algiers, with an express prohibition not to return.

Toulon, July 23, 1830.

The Maritime Prefect to his excellency the minister of the navy and of the colonies:

The ship Marengo, which left Algiers the 15th, has just arrived with 15 Millions Francs, of which two Millions come from the French chest, and thirteen Millions from the treasury of the Regency of Algiers. These thirteen Millions are composed of ingots of gold and silver, and money in gold.

Report to the king

St. Cloud, July 21st, 1830.

« Sire, -In a few days, the valor of your armies on land and sea has placed in your hands the destinies of Algiers and the countries which depended



(M. L'Archeveque, we had implored the aid of the Almighty for the success of our expedition, which was to prove at once so glorious for France, and so been felicity for mankind. The Lord has blessed our arms and it became a duty for me, and for each of my subjects, to offer up immediately our solemn thanksgivings. This signal goodness has caused me to experience a satisfaction which I have not felt for years. I come to throw myself before the most high, and to offer to him the homage of my most sincere and profound gratitude. I implore from him grace to cosecrate the remainder of my strength to the rendering my people happy, and I desire ardently that the French will be persuaded and feel with all their souls, that I live only to confirm and to consolidate their happiness).

And we read also:

The Bey of Tunis sent an envoy to general Bourmont, to express his good wishes for the success of his expedition. It is probable that the Dey of Algiers hastened the surrender of the city, to save his own life, he heard of a conspiracy, however, and beheaded sixty suspected persons. There was much dissension in the city. The Dey's treasures are said to amount to a vast sum-four millions sterling. The consuls of all nations have quitted Algiers, accompanied by a Turkish guard, which escorted them as far as the out-posts.

Letters from Toulon, of the 15th july

Has the following passage:

« The Amount of the treasures which have been found in the Cassaba is not positively known. Some make it 500 Millions, and some only 300, but these are only conjectures. The fact is that admiral Dupere was amazed on entering the cellars, heaps of gold and chests full of piasters occupied them. Another account says -The inventoried treasures of the Dey are said to amount to 90 Millions of Francs in money, and 10 Millions in gold and silver bullion and plate. There were besides 20 or 30 Millions not inventoried. He was allowed to retain for this own use 9 Millions and his estate ».

The following paragraphs are from the Journal des Dubats.

There was a report at Toulon, July 20th, that an English vessel, going out of Algiers, looked with the treasures of the Dey, had been stopped our squadron at a distance of a mile from the coast... The treasures of the Dey of which they have taken possession, and an account of which has been taken for the French, amount at present to 90 Millions of Francs in money, and to 10 Millions in articles of gold and silver. It is hoped that there remains from 20 to 30 Millions to be counted... I forgot an important point, it is that at the



scheme. Talleyrand warned that « If this enterprise is an expedient with the view to facilitate some home matters, they will find themselves, greatly mistaken ». The enthusiasm that was originally expressed in the press soon died down, and the more liberal journals become openly critical. *Le Journal des Debats* regretted that « French blood must be spilled in such conquest »(46).

The chamber was dissolved in May and an election was ordered for July. The election had been timed to take place just after the arrival of the news of the French victory in Algiers. The election was disastrous for the king. The opposition elected 270 out of 420 candidates, a clear majority.

Charles X was still determined to crush the rebellious opposition. On July 26 he issued a royal Ordinance which destroyed the freedom of the press, modified the election law, and annuled the election which had just taken place. A revolution was the result. Charles X was forced to abdicate and a new dynasty was established with the coronation of Louis Philippe.

The French Press and Occupation of Algiers

From the *Moniteur* of Monday, July 12, 1830.

His Majesty has just addressed the following letter to the bishops relative to the fall of Algiers:

« M. L'Eveque. - our firm confidence in the divine protection has not been deceived, Heaven has blessed our arms, justice, religion, and humanity triumphy, Algiers has fallen, immortal thanks (graces immortelles) be given to the all-powerful. God, Who has crowned with this brilliant victory our glorious and rapid African expedition. The first desire of our heart is to lay at the ffoot of the holy land, amidst the acclamation of public joy, the solemn expression of our gratitude. We send you, therefore, this letter that you may order a TE DEUM to be sung by way of thanksgiving in all the churches of your dioces. You will invite to this ceremony, as usual, the civil and military authorities. This being the sol intent if our letter, I pray God, M. L'Eveque, to have you in his holy and worthy keeping.

Given at our palace of St. Cloud, this tenth day of July, in the year of grace, one thousand eight hundred and thirty, and the sixth of our reign. Charles X (by the king).

« Count De Gueron-Ranvill ».

Yesterday, a solemn te deum was sung at the church of Notre Dame for the king of Algiers. His majesty the Duke and duchess of Orleans, Mdles. D'orleans, the Duke de chartres, the duke de Nemours, and an immense number of the noblesse were present and address of congratulation was presented to the king on entering the church by the archbishop and clergy, to which his majesty replied as follows:



to call a general conference of the powers to decide the futur status of Algiers, but Polignac refused to commit himself, much to the annoyance of Staurt. Charles X was busy, for the time being, with his plans for the reorganization of his government. Polignac, in whose hands the Algerian problem rested, was either without instructions or lacked the courage to carry out the will of his sovereign(42). He considered with drawing from Algiers and wrote to the French ambassador at Constantinopole to sound out the Porte on the matter(43). No one seemed to know just what should be done. Even the consuls in Algeria were uninstructed as to the plans which their government expected to follow. The general feeling in England was averse to allowing the French to stay in Algiers after the Dey had been duly chastised! The press reflected to concern, lamenting in particular that the French had taken such a valuable colony. The London chronicle commented on the healthy climate, the productivity of the soil, the fact that there were over two million people within the confines of the territory according to London Chronicle, July 12, 1830. They especially resented the fact that France of all nations, had acquired such a lucrative territorial possession. Many of them remebered France as their old rival in colinization. The long wars of the eighteenth century culminating in the struggle with Napoleon were still grim realities. The occupation of Algiers might, in their estimation, be the beginning of another struggle. Various plans were suggested in the press for the curtailment of French activities in North Africa. The one most generally agreed upon was to establish a gouvernment in Algiers controlled jointly by Great Britain, Russia, France and Austria. All this was unofficial, but it gives an idea of how the English people felt about the matter(44). St. John, British consul at Algiers, enthusiastically sponsored the cause of his country. He was active in his endeavor to minimize the possibilities of French success both during the conquest and in the attempted administration of the territory by the victors. He sympathized with the natives, gave them advice and in some instances material aid. He courted the friendship of the native chieftains and won their confidence by intimating that his country would come to their rescue. He urged Aberdeen to intervene in their behalf, and suggested small force would be needed to drive out the invaders Aberdeen did not take kindly to these suggestions. Although opposed to French occupation of Algiers, he was not willing to resort to drive out the French(45).

He rebuked St. John for his unothorized aggressiveness pointed out that no feeling of hostility existed between France and Great Britain. There is no evidence in the Record Office to prove that Aberdeen ever encouraged St. John to give support to the natives against the French.

The enthusiasm in France over the victory at Algiers was short-lived. Several prominent French citizens had never approved of Charles X 's



30.852 infantry, 534 cavalry, 2.327 artillery, 1.330 engineers, besides officers, medical staff, commissariat, and other necessary appendages of an army, the whole force being 37.527 men and 3.984 horse. The general staff of difference divisions and services contained 830 officers. The expedition was attended by not fewer than twenty-five interpreters of the moorish Arabic or Turkish languages, and general Bourmont himself, the minister of war, was commander in -chief.

The expedition had been regarded by Europe as an expedition to chastise an insult: It now turned out that it was a conquest. Bourmont proceeded to take all the necessary measures for retaining the Regency, as a French settlement. In the meantime, the revolution had taken place at Paris, and general Clausel was sent by the new government to supersede Bourmont, who forthwith proceeded to London, without taking France in his way, to render any account of the treasure which had been found and spoiled in Algiers. After the guns of the forts had been silenced, Bourmont forced the Dey to abdicate and sign over all the fortified cities under his control. The French soldiers occupied the city garrisons and public buildings, and put the capital under military rule(36). Charles X and Polignac anxiously awaited the effect that the occupation would have on both France and the foreign countries.

The enthusiastic reception of the news of the victory in France seemed to indicate that even their greatest expeditions in that quarter had been realized(37). The attitude of the foreign Courts was also far from discouraging. With the expedition of Great Britain and Turkey, the nations seemed to be either enthusiastic or passively indifferent, the Czar of Russia sent his congratulations(38) officials in Holland and several of the Italian states openly expressed their thankfulness. In the United States, France was acclaimed for having rendered so great a service to humanity? Austria, although not so enthusiastic, was not critical. Metternicht passed over the whole over affairs as a matter of no great importance. He concluded that « the expedition was the result of an accident more than the outcome of a premeditated design »(39).

Great Britain and Turkey were openly opposed to the French occupation of Algiers. The Sultan was in no position to offer military resistance himself but it is evident that he expected Great Britain to champion his cause. The American ambassador at Constantinople predicated that the British would surely take advantage of this which they had lost in recent times(40). Great Britain was in reality the only great power that looked upon the conquest as an actual violation of the sovereignty of Turkey. The other powers apparently felt that the Dey was practically independent and did not consider Algiers, he congratulated Polignac but reminded that (the expedition was undertaken for the sole purpose of vindicating the national honor of France, and not with a view of acquisition or conquest(41). He tried to get Polignac



with jealousy by the British government, having a great naval superiority, and possessing Gibraltarr, Malta and Corsu -but a letter, dated Paris, says-Paris is filled with reports respecting misunderstandings between the governments of France and England, with regard to Algiers. It is, however, stated here positively, by persons who must know, that no note has been presented to the French government by the British ambassador. No alarm is felt with regard to the intention of either Party, but some is felt with respect to the manner in which the papers have taken the matter up. The minister for the United States did not attend at the Te Deum « the opening worlds of the hymn » in consequence of the close connection existing between his government and the Dey of Algiers(33). We think, however, that until Great Britain shall withdraw entire from the strong places that she holds in the Mediterranean, a French minitry, that shall give up Algiers ought to be punished as traitors.

A French ministrial paper says « It is said that the cabinets of France and England have just forwarded to each other diplomatic notes of the highest importance, in regard to the occupation of Algiers by France ». If the new monarch of England, « says, the paper » shares the prejudice and political jealousy of Old John Bull. We have also a prince who has inherited the goodness of Henry IV, and the high character of Lewis XIV.

Another paper assets, that the British ambassador has declared that his government would oppose any establishment on the coast of Africa, and that he has required a decisive answer in the course of ten days(34).

Internal Commotions

Within 1830, later five months, the king had had two cabinets, first, very liberal, had been displaced by one still more liberal, and complaints were now made against the second, that it was not liberal enough. The Tumults of October had terminated the stability of the later. Amid these internal commotion, the arms of France had been overturning the Regency of Algiers, and had gained for her a permanent settlement on the coast of Africa. The expedition had been fitted out by the ministry of Prince Polignac, in the hope of conciliating public favour, by bribing the public vanity with national glory, and they had equipped it upon a scale which gave every assurances of success(35).

The naval part of the expedition left Toulon on the 25th of May. And consisted the number of ships of war amounted to 68, among which were 12 ships of line, twenty-five frigates, six corvettes, twenty-five brigs, besides bomb vessels, smaller craft, the number of transports was 277 accompanied by eight steam-vessels, making in all a fleet of more than 350 sail. The military force embarked on board the ships of war and trasports amounted to



2 - The dynasty of the bourbons in Spain, that of the Bragnaza family in Portugal, shall cease to exist: a prince of the family of the Emperor Napoleon shall be invested with the Crown of these Kingdoms.

3 - The temporal authority of the pope shall cease, and Rome and its dependencies shall be united to the Kingdom of Italy.

4 - Russia undertakes to lend France the aid of her marine to conquer Giblatair.

5 - The cities of Africa, viz: Tunis, Algiers, shall be French possessions and after a general peace all conquests which the French have made in Africa during the war, shall be given as indemnities to the Kings of Sardina and Sicily.

6 - Malta shall be occupied by the French and never be at peace with England until she has ceded this Isle for France.

7 - Egypt shall be occupied by the French. France, Russia, Spain and Italy, shall have the right of navigation in the Mediterranean - all others shall be excluded.

8 - « The eight article is not given ».

9 - Denmark shall be indemnified in the North of Germany and the Hanseatic towns, if she will resign her fleet to France.

10 - Their Majesties of France and Russia shall make an arrangement by which no power shall hence forward have the right to send to sea merchant vessels, unless they send to them a certain number of vessels of war.

L.S. Kourakin
C.M. Talleyrand
Prince De Benevente
Tilsit, 7th July 25, 1807(32).

Fall of Algiers

Regarding the capture of this famous city of Algiers, by the French, as one of the most important events in the military history that has happened for a considerable time, we have give the official papers at length. They are highly interesting, and will be often refered to France deserves great credit for this undertaking, this army thought to have been by far the best fitted of any that ever departed from Europe.

The question « What course will France now pursue as to Algiers ». Is much discussed. We hope that she will retain the possession. It may have effected to injure us, « British gover », in certain respects, but the good of mankind will surely be advanced by firmly planting the standard of civilization in benighted Africa. Some of the English papers are very liberal on this subject, and express a hope that such proceeding will not be viewed



which had caused him considerable concern(24). Polignac expected opposition from Great Britain but took consolation in the hope that Russia and Prussia would not object(25). Meanwhile the Sultan, because of the influence of Gordan, urged Guilleminot to allow Taher Pacha to go alone to Algiers to attempt to mediate(26). Gordan urged this because he was convinced that the French ambassador and not intention of appointing a representative to serve on the commission. Aberdeen asked the British ambassador in Paris to secure for Taher Pacha a promise of a scale passage to Algiers. Polignac answered that he « had too much experience with the Porte's utter inability to influence the authority at Algiers, to induce him to advise his sovereign to delay measures for obtaining the object by force »(27).

On March 27, the British ambassador at Paris, was informed that any offer of mediation from the Porte would not be welcomed by the French government. Furthermore, Polignac declared: « The attainment of the ostensible object to the expedition by mean of negotiations will not produce the effects in France that were to be expected from military success(28). This is a very clear statement of fact and it also destroyed what hopes the British had for a compromise of any sort.

Guilleminot, after some hesitation, gave Taher Pacha a passport for Algiers. There is no evidence in the official documents that Polignac instructed the French agent to do this, but the former was convinced that it was too late for Taher Pacha to do any harm to the French plans(29).

Taher Pacha set out on a fruitless and hazardous expedition. He was taken captive by the French before he even arrived at Algiers and was sent in chains to Toulon. He appealed to Polignac but without success(30). Stuart protested, feeling against France ran high in London; but Polignac refused to free Taher Pacha(31). There was no question now but that the French intended to send a fleet to Algiers. Diplomacy had failed and Great Britain did not see fit to declare war in order to save the Dey. The fleet, after elaborate preparations was ready to set sail for Algiers, but before talking on the fall of Algiers, we have to read the London express quotes, respecting Algiers, a curious document, which is not generally known. It is certain that Napoleon long cherished the idea of seizing the Regency. The secret history of the cabinet of the Empire cites a secret paper on the treaty of Tilsit, we give a copy of this very singular document, the authenticity of which is unquestionable, and which unveils the policy of Napoleon.

Secret treaty of Tilsit

Article 1 - Russia shall take possession of Turkey in Europe, and shall push her conquests into Asia, as far as she may think fit.

opposition in his own country. In reality he was steadily losing ground to the liberals.

The possibility of territorial expansion on the mainland of Europe had disapproved, so another place must be chosen. In 1827, Charles X had been advised that an expedition against Algiers would avert a calamity similar to the one which the French monarchy had experienced in 1782, all parties, he was told, were more interested in the extension of frontiers than in anything else(21). Charles X was in a position to consider Algiers and he definitely decided to choose it as the scene for action. He believed that here France would not be forced with the international complications which had characterized the Rhine undertaking, and that a victory would serve the same purpose. This decision marked the beginning of an aggressive French policy in the Mediterranean.

Charles X had no difficulty in finding an excuse war against the Dey(22). What amounted to a state of war had existed since 1827, when diplomatic relations were broken. The city of Algiers was blockaded in an attempt to bring the Dey to terms.

Admiral la Bretonniere, after almost two years of an ineffective blockaded, was sent to reopen diplomatic negotiations but the Dey was in no mood to arbitrate la Bretonniere's ship, although it carried a flag of truce, was fired upon. Charles X and Polignac considered that this incident gave them a just cause for war at a very opportune moment, Charles X and his ministers had forgotten the first incident diplomatic between the states, when, the French killed the Algerian diplomatic mission's members.

Charles X and Polignac decided to take advantage of the existing friendship with Mohamed Ali, and invited him to participate in the proposed expedition against Algiers. Whether this move prompted by a desire to farther French interests in Egypt or merely to insure the success of the expedition is hard to determine. Polignac insisted that he had no designs against Egypt, and there is no evidence in the official correspondence to prove that he did. Regardless of the motives involved, however, it proved to be a most unfortunate move for the French. The British were averse to a French attack against Algiers, and the possibility of involving Egypt was more than they could tolerate. Wellington insisted it was a scheme to destroy completely the Turkish state and that Great Britain would not permit this and even at the risk of war.

Mohamed Ali was anxious to participate in the conquest. In order to satisfy Wellington he wrote to the Sultan asking permission to attack the Dey of Algiers. At the same time, however, he informed Guilleminot, that « unless assent is readily given I will go without his consent »(23). Polignac was pleased with the prospects of having the support of Mohamed Ali, because it lessened the immediate military responsibilities of the French



civilized and enlightened government they could not faith to exercise great influence over the commerce and the maritime interests of the Mediterranean Powers »(13).

Polignac expressed surprise that the English should be so concerned when « the Courts of Europe have given the most flattering commendation to the actions ». However it was evident that some concession had to be made in order to prevent the English from intervening. Polignac knew that Mohamed Ali', participation was one of their chief concerns and as both d'Haussez and Bourmont, ministers of marine and war respectively, objected to the same thing he decided to drop his ally(14). This news start hastily reported to London(15). The temporary relief afforded by this concession was soon ended on April 20, there appeared in the *Moniteur* an elaborate plan of the proposed system for the administration of Algiers, once the conquest was completed, Staurt, questioned Polignac but the latter would give no satisfaction, no even a denial of the authenticity of the article in question(16).

Polignac lost patience and asked Staurt not to make him disclose things which would render him open to attack in the Chambers(17). He had for some time felt that Staurt was intirely too aggressive. He asked Laval to complain to Aberdeen, adding that he felt that the English Ambassador « had gone out of his way to embarrass the French Government »(18).

Preparations continued unabated at Toulon in spite of the many protests. Polignac tried to satisfy the English by explanations. On May 12 he again assured the English of French good intentions.

« France has two interests (he declared), the one especially concerns France, it is to vindicate the honor of our flag, to obtain redress for the outrages which have been the immediate cause for our hostilities: to preserve our possessions from agressions and acts of violence to which they have been so often subjected, and to obtain for us a pecuniary indemnity which may relieve us, so far as the state of Algiers will allow, from the expences of a war which we have not provoked, and the tribute which regards christendom in general, it embarrass the abolition of slavery, of piracy and the tribute which Europe still pays the Regency of Algiers »(19).

Marchal Bourmont destroyed all the good effects of Polignac's speech just before embarking for Algiers he made along speech at Marseilles in which he outline the proposed plan of operations in Northern Africa. He even predicated that France would profit greatly by the new acquisitions. Polignac had come to believe that English opposition was very largely due to jealousy and that in the end England would no great resistance to the occupation(20).

The failure to the Rhine project did not daunt the French King. He was still convinced of the necessity for a military victory in order to crush the



and not only expressed his disapproval of the expedition but characterized as an absurdity. « I can't but view this scheme as one tending to establish in the Regency a French system instead of a Turkish one. It is folly for a nation as strong as France to seek aid in attacking a place no strong than Algiers ». He declared(6). In a letter to Wellington, shortly after the plans were made known, Frère expressed the prevailing opinion as follows. « It is useless to imagine that the French will remain satisfied without aggrandizement of some kind... In 1830, this probation must be concerned as having expired. Their vanity must find an outlet somewhere. They fell that the Rhine is their limit but if we oppose that we must let them seek an outlet in some other direction »(7).

Gordon interviewed both the Sultan and Guilleminot, the French agent at Constantinople. He proposed that a commission composed of members agreed upon by both be appointed to settle the impending dispute. The Sultan immediately complied and annouced Taher Pacha as his choice but Guilleminot delayed, saying that he was waiting for instructions from Paris(8). After delay of almost a month Taher Pacha had proceed alone on his hazardous mission(9).

Stuart inerviewed Polignac as soon as he learned of the departure and tried to arrange for a preliminary conference. Polignac refused and ordered Taher Pacha arrested.

Meanwhile, extensive plans for the expedition were being made at Toulon. So elaborate were they that Aberdeen complained to Polignac. « This extensive preparation is to be regarded with suspicion. Your Excellency is already aware of the since desire which his majesty entertains that the injustice and the affronts which have been induced by the King of France from the Regency of Algiers may be duty arranged and that his most christian Majesty may exact reparations from the state, but the formidable force about to be sent... appears to indicate an intention of entire destruction of the Regency rather than the inflection of chastisement »(10). The English were so pronounced in their protest that Laval wrote to Polignac declaring that unless something was done he believed the English would oppose their expedition by force. Polignac somewhat alarmed, sought to relieve the tension by an explanation of French intentions. In a long letter dated March(11), he stressed the humiliation the French consul had experienced, related the absolute disregard of the Dey for all forms of maritime Law, and closed the letter with a promise « that if the existing Government at Algiers should be destroyed... the King whose views on this important subject are perfectly desinterested, will concert with the Allies of the purpose of directing what shall be the new order of things »(12).

Only a few days later Aberdeen wrote « Polignac is doubless aware of the great geographical importance of the Barbary States. In the hands of a more



absolution in his government, This he believed could be accomplished without much opposition by a manifestant display of French arms. On the one hand he hoped to direct a victorious army, while on the other he slyly planned the destruction of a rebellious Assembly. His first plan, to extend the French boundary to the Rhine River, had been for decades a popular but unrealized desire. Extensive plans were made for the attestation of the political map of Europe but they failed because of opposition and lack of cooperation. Nevertheless, this failure did not daunt the French King and his minister Polignac.

Another choice was made. The time they decided upon Northern Africa, where they believe the same results could be attained without the international complications that were so evident in the earlier project.

Even before the decision was made, virtual state of war existed between the Dey of Algiers and France. The port had been blockaded for some months upon the French(1).

This to the French was a sufficient cause for war and Charles X believed that even England would remain neutral if she were assured it was only a humanitarian act! to rid the Mediterranean corsairs. England, however, was not so easily convinced. Wellington, the prime minister, had for sometime viewed with alarm the activity of the French fleet in the harbor at Algiers. As early as May 1829, the French government was notified that « any change in the status quo in the Mediterranean would incur opposition(2).

The English consul at Algiers, knowing the general attitude of the government he represented, vainly offered his services as mediator(3). The blockaded continued. This manifest opposition came before anyone in England knew of the proposed occupation. On January 11, 1830, Laval, French Ambassador at London, was instructed to break the news to Wellington. In doing so he portrayed the Algerian mariners as a menace and a disgrace to christianity and emphasized the unbearable humiliations which the French had suffered. He assured Wellington that the Laval heaped insult upon injury by suggesting that as Tripoli, Tunis and Algiers were all practically independent of the Sultan, no infringement on the general political status would be made(4). A French expedition against Algiers alone was enough to antagonize the English but to have Egypt, Tripoli and Tunis involved was, to them, beyond endurance. This would endanger practically the whole of Northern Africa and place France in a dominant strategic position for the control of the Mediterranean. Wellington, protested in behalf of the integrity of the Turkish Empire. He had Aberdeen, the foreign secretary, write to Gordon, the English minister to Constantinople, « to represent to the Turkish Government the necessity of using possible endeavor to induce the Dey of Algiers to make ample and prompt reparation to the King of France to prevent the expedition »(5). He summoned Laval

◆ BRITISH OPPOSITION TO THE FRENCH EXPEDITION AGAINST ALGIERS (1830)

By: Ali TABLIT

معارضة بريطانية للاحتلال الفرنسي للجزائر العاصمة (1830)

أ. علي تابليت

يتناول البحث موقف بريطانيا من الاحتلال الفرنسي للجزائر (1829-1847) من خلال المراسلات المتبادلة بين الحكومتين الفرنسية والبريطانية على مستوى وزراء الخارجية أو بين سفيرى البلدين، وكذا بالرجوع إلى مكاتبات القنصل البريطاني في الجزائر «سان جون» (Saint-John) الذي عرف بمواقفه المتحفظة من الاحتلال الفرنسي للجزائر وهذا ما دفعه إلى اقتراح تقديم مساعدات عسكرية للجزائريين على أن حكومته فضلت التريث قبل أن تسلم بالأمر الواقع، وتعتزف رسميا باحتلال فرنسا للجزائر بعد 1848.

The Congress of Vienna established only a récess in the colonial and commercial rivalry between England and France. In 1830, just fifteen years after a presumably permanent adjustment had been reached, French troops occupied the strategic port of Algiers. This was a violation of the status quo which the English so zealously defended, especially in this particular region. For the same reason that caused them to resist forcibly Napoleon's attempted conquest of Egypt they contested the right of the French to occupy Algiers. Furthermore, they feared that this port, once occupied, would serve as a base for more extensive conquests. This was their chief concern and consequent developments proved the truth of their contention.

The immediate cause for the occupation of Algiers was not so much a desire for colonial possessions as the ambition of Charles X to establish