The New Orleans Bee.

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THE RETREAT OF THE FRENCH SECURED.

It may be considered certain that the French army has succeeded in making good its retreat from Metz to Chalons and thus defeating the attempt of the left wing of the Prussian army under the Crown Prince Frederick William to cut off Marshal B-Mahon's corps, which has been marching in all haste to form a junction with the French centre and left wing. The Prussians have undoubtedly marched with great rapidity, and apparently in perfect confidence that they would be able to place themselves in time between Chalons and Metz and thus interrupt French communications. Their object must have been promptly perceived by the French commanders, for the Prussians concede they have been checked. Their loss in the engagements of Sunday and Monday may have been exaggerated, but they are doubtless large enough. We have nothing to retract from what we said yesterday about the relative positions of the two armies. Indeed we are inclined to believe that Marshal Bazaine has purposely enticed the Prussians to the ground he has selected for the great battle which must be fought. This field is probably the plain between Chalons-sur-Marne and the Meuse, which is said to be favorable for the movements of armies so large as those now confronting each other. The French have the advantage of the ground, and the Prussians probably have the advantage in numbers, while they are liable to be attacked in the rear in the event of disaster and retreat. We cannot help admiring the brilliant strategy and masterly execution of the Prussian plan of operations up to this time. The display of individual valor is really wonderful. Everything has gone on like clock work and almost like magic. We would not detract one iota from the splendid soldiership which has been displayed by the Prussian troops. They are worthy of the brave and chivalrous enemy against whom they are fighting. The steadiness and valor of the Prussian troops have never been excelled. Should the result of this victory be thus crowned, they will have something to be proud of.

We acknowledge receipt of a pamphlet entitled "Official Register of the Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge. Session 1869-70," and containing a roll of the officers and cadets of the institution, with all needful information touching the course of studies and the expenses incurred by the cadets.

FINE GROCERIES.—Messrs. Cobb, Dallbouhe & Co., 96 Magazine street, have just received a splendid stock of groceries which they offer for sale at moderate prices. We call attention to their advertisement in another column. There are bargains to be made at the present time at the above store, and the retail trade will be apt to find.

Barriers Between Metz and Paris.

The St. Louis *Republican* publishes the following summary of the various obstructions to an invading army, between the Moselle and the French Capital:

It is said that the Argonne and Lorraine forts furnish an excellent barrier extending as they do from Toul (where Mc-Mahon's corps is reported to Mezieres, a distance of 110 miles, including the forts of Troyon, Verdun, Dun-le-Chatelet, and Stenay. Metz is defended by the forts of Queleu, Plappeville, Saint Privat, Saint Julien, Saint Quentin, Saint Eloy, Saint Louis, Saint Thiebault, Saint Hubert, Saint Michel, Saint Marie, Saint Jean, Saint Ladre, Saint Barbe, Saint Quirin, Saint Avold, Saint Remy, Saint Jean