

CONFESSION AND SUICIDE.

The Facts to the Dreyfus Infamy Coming to Light.

AN AWFUL WRONG DISCOVERED

Captain Dreyfus Was Convicted on Forged Evidence—Lieutenant Colonel Henry Admits Forging an Important Letter and Then Commits Suicide.

PARIS, Sept. 1.—Lieutenant Colonel Henry, who confessed Tuesday that he forged an important letter which figured in the conviction of Dreyfus, committed suicide in prison last night, cutting his throat with a razor which he had concealed in his valise.

As a result of the confession made by Henry, General Le Mouten De Boisdeffre, chief of the general staff of the French army, has tendered his resignation to the government.

It is reported that at yesterday's meeting the ministers admitted that a revision of the Dreyfus trial was absolutely unavoidable, and a public announcement that the ministry has decided to initiate such a revision is expected soon.

The Temps asserts that the disclosures made to the ministers have decided the minister of war to place Major Count Esterhazy on the retired list.

Colonel Henry was attached to the war department when Dreyfus was convicted, and he was one of the prominent witnesses who testified unfavorably to M. Zola during the latter's sensational trial on the charge of libeling military officials.

During the Zola trial, Henry accused Colonel Picquart of falsifying telegrams. A duel followed, in which Henry was wounded.

The next scene occurred in the chamber of deputies, where Colonel Picquart proclaimed the letter a forgery, and, as a result, was arrested, while Henry's villainy was rewarded by his being appointed Colonel Picquart's successor in the intelligence department.

It is now evident that Henry forged the letter with the express object of paralyzing Colonel Picquart's efforts to expose Major Esterhazy and to get a revision of the Dreyfus case. The letter was written in bad French, a fact which first led it to be regarded as spurious.

It is said that, if the cabinet decided upon the revision of the Dreyfus case, M. Cavaignac, minister of war, will resign.

Colonel Henry confesses to having committed forgery "owing to the absolute necessity for finding proofs against Dreyfus." It is understood that the document in question is the letter which hitherto has been alleged to have been written by the German military attache to the Italian military attache in October, 1896.

It is also said that when the interpolation in the Dreyfus case was coming in the chamber of deputies, this letter was secretly communicated to the court-martial and was the chief evidence upon which Dreyfus was convicted. The anti-Dreyfus papers are dumbfounded at the arrest of the colonel, while upon the other hand, the papers which have been supporting the proposition to reopen the case are jubilant. They now demand the immediate release of Colonel Picquart, who is imprisoned on charges connected indirectly with the Dreyfus affair and they also insist upon a review of the Dreyfus trial. When Count Esterhazy was informed of the arrest of Colonel Henry and of his admission, he exclaimed: "This is too terrifying."

As soon as M. Cavaignac assumed the office of minister for war he charged the official bureau to make a thorough research of the Dreyfus case, and it was this inquiry which resulted in the recovery of documents showing that proof of the guilt of Dreyfus was forged. When Colonel Henry was summoned to the ministry for war and questioned by M. Cavaignac in the presence of General Boisdeffre and others, he at first affirmed the authenticity of the incriminating document, but when discrepancies were pointed out, he at first admitted adding sentences and finally confessed to fabricating the whole letter.

It is affirmed, however, that while this discovery has not changed M. Cavaignac's belief in the culpability of Dreyfus, the minister is determined to punish all the guilty parties, no matter what their rank or position may be. Colonel Henry was to be tried by court-martial.

The scene of Lieutenant Colonel Henry's avowal was most painful. When he saw it was almost useless to deny further, his tongue grew too thick for his mouth, and he was unable to speak. It was feared that he would have an apoplectic stroke. After his arrest he was permitted to visit his wife. Henry clasped his wife in his arms and exclaimed: "My conscience is pure and free from every sting."

This exclamation is much commented upon, as going to show that he may possibly have forged the letter under orders from his superiors.