



The tower of San Miniato, showing the damage done by "shellfire" in 1529.

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hours. Citizens are urged to boil all wine before drinking. . . .

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Florence, July, 1530

IN response to several deputations which have waited on the Government in the last few days, it has been decided to ask General Malatesta to offer a pitched battle to the besieging army and thus force a decision.

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Florence, August 3, 1530

SENSATIONAL news shook the heart of Florence yesterday. General Malatesta was called upon to engage the Imperial forces in pitched battle, and after he had first refused on strategical grounds, it became apparent that he had no desire to fight. Many citizens are recalling the earlier fears of the Chief Engineer. . . . All Florentines are urged to stand firm in the face of this grave threat to their existence.

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Florence, August 11, 1530

CITIZENS of Florence! This is the journal of Free Florence, now under completely new management. General Malatesta assumed full command and liberated your city yesterday, an attempt by your former civic authorities to usurp his command having failed.

The general announced last night that all Florentines would be overjoyed to know that their legitimate rulers, the Medici, would shortly return to the city and restore order.

Patriots who were imprisoned by the previous Government for having aided the cause of the Medici, have already been freed, and were greeted with flowers and kisses as they left their prisons.

A monument is to be erected forthwith to those noble patriots whom your oppressors murdered.

Floreat Florential

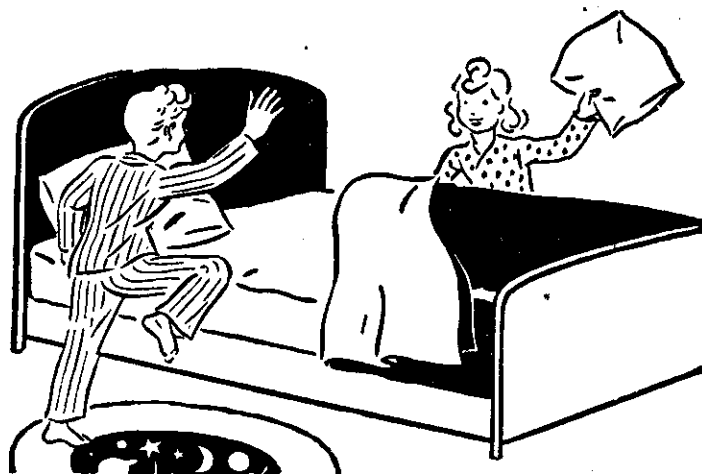


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