

famous French writers. It may be a rather famous French story, I'm not sure. I think it ought to be because it was so well written.

I remember very forcibly though I haven't look at it for 40 years the general content of this story.

The story was about an elderly Frenchman in Paris in 1870. This old man had been a soldier. He was very proud of the glory of France. As you read about him you think about DeGaulle and how DeGaulle thinks they can push aside the Anglo Saxons with one hand, push aside America and Britain, and then with the other hand he can push aside Russia and the glory of France will emerge ahead of all the world pretty soon! A wonderful vision DeGaulle had, but he is a little old to carry it out I fear. But this old man had much the same idea, and he was old and he was weak. In 1870 there was war. The Franco-Prussian war, and the Prussian forces were entering France. This man was looking forward to the great victory and the people saw that when he heard of a French victory he felt so much better, so his daughter said, Well, we've got to make dad feel good. So we'll tell him about great victories! So the story would come in that a small French detachment met a German detachment and it (the German) was defeated. She would tell him, O you ought to read the papers. There was a small French detachment met a German detachment, and the French just wiped up the earth with them, and now they are heading into Germany.

The old man raised himself up to his full stature and looked so happy, and he was in better health than he had been in years. So the next day when they had another bad defeat, she told again of another great victory, and he wanted to mark on the map where the army was that made its way into France (into Germany?). And then there came that great battle of Sedan, in which the forces of Napoleon III were so decisively defeated, but she told him there had been a tremendous defeat of the Prussians and soon the French army would be getting to Berlin, and would enter Berlin.

Then he said, How soon will our armies come back? How soon can we celebrate, can we march through the Arch of Triumph? Oh, she said, I think in about 4 or 5 days they will be coming back! And 4 or 5 days went by and the Prussian troops reached Paris! And they heard the noise outside and they heard the sounds of the shouting and the shooting and he said, What's happening, are there troops coming in? Are our glorious troops coming back to celebrate? And she said, O yes, they are coming in now. They are entering Paris. And he said, Put me up on the porch where I can see them. So they put him up on the porch and he watch and saw the troops coming in the distance and and they heard the drums and he said, Oh, isn't this wonderful! It's our great victory! And the troops came marching in. Finally, they came right in front of the place, and the old man looked down and recognized the Germans uniform, and not the French uniforms and fell over dead with the shock! of it all! That was all. It was hope based on imagination. It was hope based on wishful thinking. And there is so much of that in the world today. But that's not the kind of hope that the Christian is supposed to have.