A SURPRISE PARTY.

Furious and Unexpected Attack by Arabs on the British.

TERRIBLE HAND TO HAND ENCOUNTERS.

Camp Followers, Transport Employees and Others Terribly Cut Up—Scenes of Indescribable Confusion—Steadiness and Discipline Win the Day, and the Enemy is Driven Back with Great Loss.

A last (Sunday) night's London cable says: Massowah advices say the rebels, reinforced from Berber, attacked Kassala, but were repulsed. The Governor of Kassala states he can hold out for some time, and will burn the town rather than submit.

In the recent operations against Tamai all portions of the force worked admirably and gallantly on very difficult ground, covered with high thorn bushes, and occupied by an agile and determined enemy, showing that the troops are able to master the Arabs in any position.

SUAKIM, March 22.—The British lost 21 killed in Friday's engagement, including 17 Indians, and 42 wounded, including 16 Indians.

The troops in the zareba at Hasheen yesterday morning shelled and dispersed the rebels collected on the adjacent hills. The whole force, except the Guards, will advance at daybreak this morning. They purpose constructing zarebas at points seven or eight miles from the camp. The Berkshire regiment and the marines will be left to garrison the zarebas, the remainder of the troops returning to this place.

SURPRISED BY THE ARABS.

While the detachments of English and Indian infantry were making a zareba, seven miles southwest of this place to-day, they were suddenly surprised by a rush of Arabs who had been massed and concealed in the defiles west of Hasheen. The English formed a square as quickly as possible, but the camels, mules and horses were driven back in confusion on the troops, causing a stampede, and amid clouds of dust the Arabs penetrated the south and north of the square. Meanwhile the marines and the Berkshire regiment, who were on the east and west sides of the square, maintained a continuous fire, holding the enemy at bay, while a charge of cavalry and the fire from the guns at the Hasheen zareba checked the onslaught of Arabs, which, at the onset, threatened a serious disaster to the British. Gen. Graham reports the English losses, so far as known, two officers and twenty-two men killed, 33 men wounded. The losses of the engineers and transport corps and Indian troops are not reported.

An unofficial estimate places the British killed at 52 and the wounded at 85. Nearly all the casualties were due to spear thrusts received in hand-to-hand encounters. The Arabs got between the transport train and the zareba and speared the men of the transport corps and killed the animals. They fought savagely, refusing to give or take quarter. General McNeill, who was commanding the zareba, reports vaguely that there were several thousand rebels in the fight, and that over 1,000 were killed or wounded. General McNeill is blamed for not taking precautions against surprise.

The enemy began its attack at 3 o'clock this morning. They were repulsed, and the ground was cleared by 4 o'clock. The damage to transport material yesterday is immense. The guards and artillery were sent to reinforce the besieged troops, and the whole British force remained in the field during the night. The camels and mules were hamstrung by the Arabs. Scores of camp followers were cut up. The Arabs scattered about in the vicinity intercepting the native fugitives. The appearance of the yelling Arabs was so sudden that the whole assemblage of transport animals, mixed with the natives, became panic-stricken and surged on the zareba, making resistance hopeless.

The scene was indescribable. The Arabs fired and crept in all directions among the animals. The Hadendowahs swarmed from the bush like magic and attacked the zareba fiercely on all sides. The Soudanese coolies were mistaken for the enemy, and many were killed by friends. The Berkshire regiment and marines stood firm and cool, and fired volley after volley into the ranks of the enemy. The naval brigade inside the zareba also opened a hot fire. The Indian troops held their own gallantly as soon as they were able to again close the square. Eventually, being unable to stand the rattling fire, the enemy disappeared as they came. Gen. McNeill drew in all his forces and stood to arms. The Hussars brought in the wounded, though menaced by the Arabs, who watched their movements vigilantly. The desert is dotted in every direction with runaway animals. The enemy's loss must be heavy. The camp at Suakim was prepared for a renewal of the attack but was unmolested.

Gen. Graham has received the pipe line apparatus to furnish his army with a full water supply during their march to Berber. He will start on Tuesday to make the permanent advance necessary to secure such occupation of the country as will permit of the construction of the railway between Suakim and Berber.

The Mahdi has sentenced many natives to death for not revealing the treasure supposed to be hidden at Khartoum. Many slave women from Khartoum are being sold in the vicinity of Korti at one hundred dollars each.

The Mudir of Dongola is being joined by many friendly Arabs on his march up the Nile. The Mudir's warlike activity is carried on for the purpose of disabusing the Arabs of the notion that hot weather will prevent aggressive operations against the Mahdi.

Camelry corps," the name just given in joke as a play on the words "cavalry corps," has become a standing term in the Soudan army.

"Why do you set such a tough chicken before me?" indignantly exclaimed a fair damsel in a restaurant the other day. "Age before beauty, always, you know, madam," replied the polite attendant, who well knew how to serve his employer and a tough chicken at the same time.—*Indianapolis Journal.*

An old saying—"If you put milk in your tea before sugar you will lose your sweetheart

DOMINION PARLIAMENT.

Mr. Bourbeau presented a Bill to amend the Scott Act. He explained that it referred to certificates for the sale of liquor, and was to provide that a priest or minister should have the power to grant such certificates. The Bill was read the first time.

Mr. McCarthy moved, in the absence of Mr. Cameron (Huron), the third reading of the Bill to provide that persons charged with misdemeanors should be allowed to testify in their own behalf.

The Bill was read the third time.

The debate was resumed on the motion of Mr. Wilson for the copies of the petitions from the County Council of Elgin, praying for a general measure of relief to the municipalities of Ontario which have aided railways declared to be for Dominion purposes.

Mr. McCallum denied that Ontario or Ontario municipalities had any claim in this matter. If Elgin had given money to the railways it had profitted by so doing and had been repaid the money from the municipal loan fund. One listening to this discussion would suppose from what hon. gentlemen opposite said that Ontario was not in the Dominion at all. He declared that the municipalities of Ontario should not be allowed to rob the Dominion, and he would do his best to prevent such robbery. He was not afraid that his action on this question would keep him out of the House

Mr. Wilson said that he had not intended to continue the discussion of this matter, and would not do so but for what had been said. Elgin had borrowed the money it had paid for railways, and had repaid every cent of it. The Municipal Loan Fund distribution did not help the county in this respect. He had not a Government at his back to gerrymander a constituency for his benefit, but under the circumstances he did not see why the honorable member, judging from past experience, should not feel perfectly contented.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Charlton moved the second reading of the Bill for the punishment of seduction and other like offences. He briefly went over its provisions. It made it a misdemeanor to seduce a woman of previously chaste character under promise of marriage, but provided that the marriage of the parties should be a bar to the conviction. It made it a misdemeanor to procure a feigned marriage or to inveigle a chaste woman into a house of ill-fame for the purpose of prostitution. Two years was the maximum of punishment provided for. He said this was the fourth time the Bill was introduced. It had been fully considered each time and had been passed by the Commons, but had been thrown out in the Senate. He would not discuss the measure at length, as he believed the members of the House had their minds already made up with regard to it.

Sir John Macdonald said that while he objected to several clauses of the Bill those relating to feigned marriage and the enticing of girls into disorderly houses were sufficient to save it. Because of these clauses he would vote in favor of the Bill.

The Bill was read the second time without a division, although a few members said "Lost" when the question was put.

Mr. Orton's Bill to provide better banking facilities for farmers was read the second time.

A Lion Tamer Killed.

A Vienna cable says: A terrible scene was enacted at the circus on Saturday evening. Amongst the many attractions which drew a large attendance was the performance of Zeth, the lion tamer, with his cage of performing animals. Zeth, who was a fine specimen of muscular humanity, in his silk tights and spangled jacket, leaped lightly into the cage and, armed only with a small riding whip, commenced putting the animals through their exercises. The cubs played their parts well; but the old lion was particularly sulky and remained growling in the corner. Zeth approached to stir the animal up, and just at the same moment a seat in the circus fell and disturbed the trainer's attention. In a second the animal sprang upon him and tore him to pieces before any of the attendants could interfere. A slight panic ensued and several women and children were injured in the rush that was made for the doors.

The Samoan Annexation.

A Berlin cable says: Prince Bismarck states that he has been informed that the Samoan Parliament has requested the British Government of New Zealand to annex the Samoan Islands. Acting on this information he instructed Count von Munster to protest to the British Government against what was deemed to be an infringement of international agreements. He states that he has learned that the members of the Somoan Parliament are simply creatures of an English commercial clique. Your correspondent has since ascertained that New Zealand has sent a formal application to Lord Derby, the Colonial Secretary of Great Britain, for permission to annex Samoa, and has guaranteed to defray all expenses. The consent of Lord Derby is considered doubtful in view of the new agreement between England and Germany.

Mrs. Tom Thumb's Wedding.

A New York despatch says: The marriage of Mrs. (Gen.) Tom Thumb to Count Magri will take place on Easter Monday. The Count failing in his efforts to purchase his intended wife's professional engagements has gracefully submitted to the ceremony being performed while Mrs. Thumb continues on exhibition. The wedding will take place in the Church of the Holy Trinity in this city, and cards of invitation will be limited to the mutual friends of the contracting parties, the Italian and French consuls, and the Mayor, and none but those to whom invitations are sent will be permitted to witness the ceremony. The Count and Mrs. Tom Thumb are anxious to avoid any public display, and as soon as possible they will sail for Italy. Miss Lucy Adams will be bridesmaid, and Major Newell, the husband of the late Minnie Warren, will be the Count's best man.

Lord Wolseley is a teetotaller.

The New York *Sun* is authority for the statement that Barnum's elephant Albert, who for several months has given evidence of insanity, "is having as good a time as an elephant can when his head is chained down and he feels his mind going."

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE

Hon. C. F. Fraser, in moving the House into committee on the resolutions with reference to new legislative and departmental buildings, said: The question whether or not new buildings are necessary has already been decided this session. The House has, by a very considerable majority, pronounced itself in the position that, having regard to the character of the present buildings, that having regard to the necessities of the public service of this Province, and that having regard to all the circumstances that ought to be considered, the time has come when new public buildings should be erected. So long ago as 1880 an Act was passed authorizing the Government to expend the sum of $500,000 on new buildings. The House is aware that subsequent to that vote being taken competitive plans were advertised for, obtained and remodelled, and that tenders were received by the Government. The House is also aware that the Government came to the conclusion that buildings such as were necessary for the requirements of the Province could not be erected for the sum of $500,000, and as the Government were pledged to the House that no greater expenditure would be incurred, no further step has meanwhile been taken. Now the Government propose to ask the House to be permitted to expend $750,000 for the erection of the necessary buildings, and the proposition is to amend the Act previously passed by substituting $750,000 for $500,000. What we propose to do is that suggested by the Act of 1880, viz., to erect the buildings in the Park. By those who are competent to judge, it is said that that site is one of the finest in the Dominion for such a purpose, and I agree with that opinion. That site can be had for nothing, because if hon. gentlemen will look back to the Act they will find there is an agreement made authorizing the erection of Parliament Buildings there. That agreement is made binding by the Act of 1880. The plan proposed by the Government saves to the Province the cost of the site.

Mr. Meredith—Might I ask whether the Education Department is to be provided for in the new buildings?

Mr. Fraser—This matter was some time ago fully considered, and it was thought advisable that, having regard to the fact that the grounds and buildings now occupied by the Education Department are in every way suitable, and that it will always be an advantage to have the Model and Normal Schools together under one roof, the Education Department should be retained where it is and so save the extra expense. For the erection of the buildings according to the plan of Messrs. Gordon & Helliwell we received ten different tenders from contractors, all of whom were men of experience and all financially able to undertake this work and willing to undertake it, so that they were in every respect the tenders of first class men.

Mr. Carnegie—They will be tendered for again of course?

Mr. Meredith differed from Mr. Morris in his views on the question. He did not think that Mr. Fraser had made out a case—first as to the necessity for the buildings, next that the funds could be provided without injuring the finances, and thirdly as to the site. He proceeded to criticize the statement that $125,000 to $150,000 would be needed for the erection of a new wing for the Crown Lands Department, and he quoted the records of the House to show that only $25,000 would be necessary for a vault. He opposed the selection of the site, and suggested that this and Government House block should be disposed of. Then there was a strong feeling that the public at large should not continue to support Upper Canada College, and while he recognized the great good that the institution had done in the past, yet he thought the assets of that institution should be taken to support the University or some other educational work. He suggested, therefore, that the land occupied by Upper Canada College should be taken for the site. Again, it was a mistake not to place the Education Department in the new buildings. He proposed that the Education Department should be placed in the new buildings, and the Normal School put in the neighborhood of the University. If this land were sold with the other land then there would be sufficient realized to erect suitable buildings on the present site of Upper Canada College.

A division was then taken on the motion to go into committee on the resolution, with the following result:

YEAS—Messrs. Awrey, Badgerow, Balfour, Baskerville, Baxter, Bishop, Blezard, Caldwell, Cascaden, Chisholm, Clark (Toronto), Cook, Dill, Dowling, Dryden, Fell, Fraser, Freeman, Gibson (Hamilton), Gibson (Huron), Gillies, Gould, Graham, Gray, Hagar, Harcourt, Hardy, Laidlaw, Lees, McIntyre, MacKenzie, McLaughlin, McMahon, Master, Metcalfe, Morris, Mowat, Murray, Neelon, Pardee, Phelps, Rayside, Ross (Huron), Ross (Middlesex), Sills, Snider, Waters, Widdifield, Wood, Young—50.

NAYS—Messrs. Broder, Carnegie, Clancy, Creighton, Denison, Ermatinger, French, Hammell, Hart, Hess, Hudson, Kerns, Kerr, McColman, McGhee, McKay, Meredith, Merrick, Monk, Morgan, Mulholland, O'Connor, Preston, Ross (Cornwall), White, Wilmot—26.

The House went into committee, Mr. Baxter in the chair.

Hon. C. F. Fraser moved that the sum of $750,000 should be substituted for $500,000.

Mr. Meredith advocated the removal of the Education Department from the Normal School buildings to the new Parliament buildings when they were completed.

Hon. C. F. Fraser opposed this on the ground that the present place was more convenient to all connected with the Department and all who had business with it.

Mr. Merrick urged the Upper Canada College grounds being utilized for the new Parliament buildings.

Hon. C. F. Fraser said that was impossible and absurd on account of the extra cost it would involve.

The motion was carried and the committee rose and reported.

Mr. Fraser introduced a Bill to amend the Act of 1880, for the erection of Parliament buildings. He explained that the only amendment was as to the amount of the appropriation, which would be changed from $500,000 to $750,000. With the consent of the House the Bill was read the first and second time.

Mr. Sills moved the second reading of the Bill to incorporate the Niagara Falls Railway Company.

Mr. Gibson (Hamilton) said if he had thought his name was destined to receive the amount of attention from the public that it had he did not think it would have appeared in connection with this scheme at all. However, he was convinced that this was a matter so far as it affected public interests affected them favorably. There was a petition in favor of the Bill signed by a very large number living in the locality, including the majority of the Town Council of Niagara Falls, and it affirmed that the work proposed would not in any way affect or mar the scenery of the river. From his own knowledge of the locality he was satisfied that this was the case. It was intended that the railway should be started at a point below the lower Suspension Bridge, while the territory proposed as a park was not intended to come below the Clifton House, so that the park would not be interfered with at all. He maintained that the railway would be in the public interest because it would afford facilities of witnessing the points of interest along the river between the lower bridge and the village of Queenston. The opposition arose from this argument, that a park might be formed and that this Bill might give a franchise that those who might at some time organize a park company might attach some value to. He could not help observing, and he thought he was justified in stating that the opposition to the Bill had emanated from one source alone—the Canada Southern Railway Company. If any one was going to be affected by this Bill it was this company, because this railway would compete with the Canada Southern in taking the summer traffic from Toronto to the Falls. A certain promoter of the park scheme happened to be the solicitor of the Canada Southern Railway Company, and the objections to this Bill, if not emanating exclusively through that source, did so almost entirely.

Mr. Meredith read a petition from the town of Niagara Falls in favor of the establishment of a public park, to secure unrestricted access to the Falls, and against the Bill.

Mr. Awrey contended that the petition had been gotten up after the strenuous exertion of the Canada Southern Railway Company. He stated that the inhabitants of the neighborhood were largely in favor of the Bill, and that a large majority of them had signed petitions in favor of the railway scheme.

The Bill was read a second time.

Mr. Wood moved the second reading of the Bill to provide for the better observance of the Lord's day by prohibiting Sunday excursions of a certain kind. He took the ground that railway excursions should be prohibited on Sunday because they interfered with the peace of the people who wished to observe the day in a Christian manner.

The question of the second reading was then put, and five members not calling for the yeas and nays it was carried on division.

MARRIAGE OF SIR E. MALET.

Nuptials of a British Ambassador—The Dresses and the Presents.

A London cable says: The marriage of Sir Edward Baldwin Malet, K.C.B., British Ambassador to Germany, and Lady Ermyntrude, second daughter of the Duke of Bedford, was solemnized yesterday at Westminster Abbey, and was attended with almost regal splendor. The bridegroom has been in the diplomatic service of Great Britain for more than thirty years, but he looked as fresh as when he attended his first ball in diplomatic uniform at Frankfort in 1854. He was an attaché of the British Embassy at Washington during the ticklish times between 1862 and 1865. The bride's dress was Worth's *chef d'œuvre*. The robe was of white brocaded velvet, covered with flowers, every petal of which was worked with pearls. All the buttons of the costume were studded with diamonds. The bridal gifts were numerous, and their value is estimated at £20,000. They included a tea and breakfast service of gold, with kettles, tea urns, sugar bowls and salver. The bride is 29 years of age, while Sir Edward is 48.

A London cable says: The dowry given by the Duke of Bedford to his daughter on her marriage with Sir Edward Malet yesterday was $650,000, invested in consols. The papers to-day have columns of descriptions of the gorgeous wedding ceremony in Westminster Abbey. The Radical newspapers contrast the unseemly splendor of the wedding pageant with the Duke of Bedford's constant refusals to subscribe to local charities. They recall the fact that the bulk of his immense income is derived from the rental of rookeries in the city slums, which are in a sad state of delapidation. They also recall that during the smallpox scare last summer the Duke of Bedford refused to clean the pestilential alleys of his property around Covent Garden market, and even refused to allow others to remove the accumulated filth of years. It is said that the only time when His Grace shows a lively sense of his duties as a landlord is when some tenant fails to pay his rent, in which case the tenant is evicted with great promptness.

France-Chinese War.

In Paris the reports that China has made overtures for peace are discredited. No negotiations, direct or indirect, have, it is said, been opened, and there are no symptoms that the Government at Pekin is intimidated or anxious to secure peace on any terms unfavorable to China. Members of the Chinese Embassy in London express themselves hopeful for the cessation of war, but they say it should be brought about by France accepting the territorial concessions formerly made by China in Tonquin without any indemnity. From China direct come reports that the army of the Empire has been reinforced and put in readiness to resume offensive operations in Tonquin. At Kelung the French remain practically in a state of siege. The war in Tonquin and Formosa, members of the Embassy say, has not perceptibly affected the internal prosperity of the Chinese Empire, although the Treasury Imperial of the Government, it is admitted, needs funds.

The French loss at Kelung between the 4th and 8th inst. was 198 killed and wounded.

It is not generally known that nutmegs are poisonous, but Dr. Palmer writes to the *American Journal of Pharmacy* detailing the case of a lady who nearly died from eating a nutmeg and a half, and he points out the fact that the toxic effects of the drug are described in both the National and United States Dispensatories.

ROMANCE AND DEATH.

The Tragic Ending of an Ohio Elopement Case.

A Clarington, Ohio, despatch says: The sad death of Miss Minnie Hamilton, one of the beauties of this section, is the talk of the country side, and as the facts come out it is made apparent that the young girl's life was sacrificed to silly romance. When the roller skating craze struck Ohio young Arthur Simpson, who is the son of a wealthy farmer living near Clarington, took the fever and spent much of his time at the inane pastime. Among the lovely girls who doted on the nimble-heeled youths was Miss Minnie. She was the daughter of a prominent farmer on the Virginia side of the Ohio river, and although she came to this city upon visits but twice a year she was well known, and a general society favorite. She had just graduated at a fashionable seminary and came to town to enjoy a short vacation in January. The rink had charms for her far in excess of all the winter amusements of this place, and she became a nightly visitor. Young Simpson and the lovely Virginian naturally gravitated together, and they immediately became fast friends. Friendship rapidly ripened into love, and before three weeks had passed the twain were secretly engaged. Arthur followed up his conquest by a visit to the home of the Hamiltons, and was received with most unromantic good-will by the parents of his affianced. This appeared rather to disappoint the young people, who were of a romantic turn, and had rather enjoyed the prospect of opposition. But they resolved to get up a sensation anyway, and so they planned an elopement. Miss Minnie left home for a short visit to a friend in this place, and everything was prepared for a most sensational disappearance. On Wednesday night the ardent lover procured a shaky ladder which he placed against the house where his love was stopping. It hardly reached to the second story, where the room of Miss Hamilton and her friend was located. The night was dark, and a disagreeable drizzle made the ground and all without slippery, for the moisture froze as it fell. Simpson had a carriage waiting at the corner, and was prepared to fly with his lovely companion to Cleveland, where it was arranged the marriage should take place. A shrill whistle notified the waiting girl that her young man was prepared to receive her in his arms, and she silently arose and prepared for flight. Most of her baggage had been sent to the depot, instead of to the house, on her arrival. Softly she opened the window and peeped out. A few whispered words were spoken, and tremblingly the young girl began her descent. But the silly lovers had forgotten that Mr. Patton kept a large and ferocious bulldog on the premises. At the first shrill whistle of Romeo that dog began tugging at his chain, and suddenly it parted. The next instant his fangs were buried in Simpson's shoulder, and he let go the ladder with a cry of pain. The noise awoke Miss Patton, who screamed and alarmed the house. The hubbub was sufficient to distract an acrobat. The poor girl could not retain her hold on the slippery ladder, and fell to the ground, where she lay insensible. Simpson almost paralyzed with grief and terror, engaged in a terrific conflict with the ferocious dog. They rolled over and over on the ground, the brute tearing the youth in a frightful manner. Nothing but the opportune arrival of Mr. Patton saved Simpson's life. The insensible girl was carried into the house and medical attendance summoned, but nothing could be done, and she died yesterday in terrible agony, calling wildly for the foolish youth whose folly had cost her her life. Simpson, after having his wound dressed, rushed from the house demented with grief. He refuses to go to his home, and has requested the authorities to restrain him. The parents of the unfortunate girl are distracted, and the life of her mother is despaired of.

How Ice is Formed.

The hottest water in a pond or lake is always the top layer; the coldest is that at or near the very bottom. The reason is that hot water ascends, owing to its relative lightness, while cold water sinks owing to its relative heaviness. Just as water is on the point of freezing, however, it expands, and then, becoming lighter, rises to the surface. Thin flakes of ice, or of water just expanding preparatory to freezing, are frequently formed at the bottom of a pond, and raise themselves slowly to the top. But sometimes, owing to the interference of cold springs, or to great coldness of the bottom, or to other causes interfering with ordinary convection, the water in the lower layer freezes where it stands, and becoming hard fixed to the subjacent soil, is rendered incapable of rising, owing to its cohesion. This phenomenon frequently occurs in basins in cold climates, where the ice is formed at the bottom only, or at both top and bottom, while the intermediate portion of water remains liquid. Hot and cold springs flowing into the same pond often complicate the general result. Ice likewise frequently forms on stones at the bottom of running water. Here the rapid motion of the central channel on top keeps the main thread of the brook from freezing; but the ice forms in thin layers on the cold surface of the pebbles, where the current is most delayed by friction, and such ice is of course prevented from rising by adhesion to the stones.

The result of the experience of the expedition up the Nile has proved conclusively that even the most formidable series of cataracts can be surmounted at almost the lowest state of the river by English-built boats manned by soldiers. For all practical purposes it may be said that above Dongola the river and its shores were unmapped and unknown. The channels and proper pilotage of the river had to be discovered by the boats yard by yard as the force advanced, the passes and defiles found out and explored by the Cavalry.

Tobe Reeves, a mere boy, weighing about seventy-five pounds, captured a couple of moonshiners near Gainesboro, Tenn., last week. They had been using Tobe's oxen team to haul their illicit liquid, and revenue officers captured the team. Tobe was promised the return of the oxen if he captured the wild-cat fellows. The young man soon marched them in at the muzzle of his gun.