FIGHTING WITH AMAZONS.

France Ready at Last to Push Her War With Dahomey.

Rash Young King Behanzin Threatens to Drive the French Into the Sea—Cause of the Present Trouble—A Nation that Counts Women Among Its Best Soldiers

Among all civilized nations the white flag is the emblem of truce or of defeat. In Dahomey, the most warlike of all African States, it is the national emblem, symbolical of the power of the King, a standard to be upheld, or the glory of the land will fade. The white flag of Dahomey is again assailed by a European power. France is ready at last to push forward with energy her war against the proud and reckless young King, Behanzin, whose violation of pledges and invasion of French territory are no longer to be tolerated.

The French Chamber voted $600,000 to carry on the war. On June 17 France declared the blockade of the coast to prevent the importation of firearms. Re-enforcements from Senegal have arrived at Kotonu, and 4,000 French troops have occupied Whydah, Dahomey's only port. France would have taken the offensive earlier if she had been prepared. The regular rainy season of the past four months, however, would have rendered aggression difficult; and the French have improved the interval to complete their preparations.

A Scottish shipbuilding firm beat the record in the celerity with which it turned out a large gunboat for France's use on coast lagoons and the Wheme River. This iron vessel, the Opal, was completed in twenty-three days after work had begun. No French firm would agree to build it in less than from four to ten months. It will carry 400 soldiers, and its armament consists of

THREE REVOLVING CANNON

mounted on the bridge, and four rapid-firing guns on the spar deck. If France decides to capture the capital, Abomey, this light-draught gunboat can approach within a few miles of the town.

This war has been brought about by violation of pledges on the part of Behanzin. At the close of the war of 1889, France made a treaty with the King by which, in consideration of an annual pension of 20,000 francs, he recognized France's rights along the coast, and agreed to stop his raids into the French protectorate of Porto Novo, long the favorite hunting ground of Dahomeyan rulers for slaves and victims to sacrifice in their fetich rites. Late last fall the King violated his agreement by sending expeditions into Porto Novo, where they surprised several unsuspecting towns and dragged hundreds of people to Abomey. When the Lieutenant-Governor of the French colony protested, the King sent an insolent letter declaring that he recognized no treaty, that he had a right in Porto Novo because his fathers for ages had been the suzerains of that country, and that he should continue his forays if he chose, because all the region occupied by the French belonged to him; and yet, as he knew very well, his grandfather, King Gelele, fourteen years ago gave up to France all rights to the port of Kotonu, and he himself had recognized France's claims to Porto Novo. The young man has since sent word to the French that if they touch one of his towns in the interior he will at once destroy Porto Novo and all the French posts. He is carried away with an idea of his power and the prowess of his Amazons, and undoubtedly believes he can drive the French into the sea.

It has been characteristic of all rulers of Dahomey to entertain unduly exalted opinions of their importance. When King Gelele, for instance, heard that Germany had defeated France, he remarked: "Why did not my brother, the Emperor of France, ask me for aid? I could have sent him soldiers, and then I am sure he would have won." Behanzin is the great-grandson of Gese, the most powerful ruler Dahomey ever had, who reigned between 1818 and 1858. The present ruler is a most extraordinary mixture of civilization and barbarity. The dominant note of his character is unlimited vanity. While a boy he spent some time in Paris, where he learned to read French. To this day he receives his copy of the *Officiel*, which is brought from the coast to his capital by a special messenger. His vanity was greatly tickled when he heard that a session of the French Parliament, last winter, was devoted to a discussion of his august person and kingdom, and he displayed his gratification by dancing around the copy of the *Officiel* which contained the news.

In ordinary times the army of Dahomey is composed of 2,000 Amazons and 4,000 to 5,000 men warriors. This is the well-drilled, standing army, which, in peace, is kept at or near the capital, ready to march anywhere at a moment's notice. When an important war is on hand the King calls out the reserve, which increases the strength of his army to 12,000 or 15,000.

The most unique features of Dahomey are its large force of women warriors and its terrible system of religious sacrifices, in which hundreds of

HUMAN VICTIMS

are butchered at the capital every year. Dahomey is the only country in the world which makes women a part of its military system. In the year 1729 the King, hard pressed by enemies, placed a large number of women upon his fortifications to deceive the besieging army with regard to his military strength. These women acted with such unexpected gallantry and engaged with such abandon and ferocity in the battles which brought victory to Dahomey that they were organized into a permanent regiment, and women have ever since been among the bravest soldiers of the land. The flower of the fair sex is likely to get into the army as well as nearly all the strong-minded women, the viragos, and the unfaithful wives. Now and then the king takes a consort from his women regiments, but no other man may marry them. Bound to perpetual maidenhood, they know that a cruel death will be their punishment if they are found to violate their vows of chastity. There are occasions, however, when violation of these vows is permitted and the moral code is completely relaxed. When the King sends his Amazons through the country to enlist men for the army the fair recruiting agents are permitted to use any inducement they please to tempt men into the ranks. The women are taught that they are not weak, but strong. Every womanly sentiment is suppressed, and they become unsexed and naturally ferocious. But after all, the system of women soldiers is a source of weakness as well as of strength to the country. Dahomey is rich in soil and in resources, but its population is not large and is decreasing. It has less than 300,000 people. The country cannot afford to keep a large number of celibate women in its garrisons. In the natural order of things these women would be the mothers of thousands of children; but not only are the additions they make to the population most insignificant, but also most of the women captured in war become merely the camp followers and servants of the Amazons, and are under the same restrictions as to celibacy.

Two Englishmen, Messrs. Skertchly and Burton, made a very careful study of the Amazons. Burton said they showed the most desperate courage and reckless daring, and are very formidable enemies. Skertchly said that Amazons delight in nothing more than in polishing their gun barrels, which gleam like silver in the sun. The French gained a vivid idea of their

FEROCITY IN BATTLE

during the late war, when, under deadly fire from the French fortifications, they made charge after charge up to the works. When at last put to flight and pursued, dying women on the ground caught some of the French troops by the legs and tried to throw them down and stab them with their swords. All Dahomeyan soldiers, men and women, have a ration of intoxicating liquor before they go into battle. The French say that in the war of 1889-90 the perfect recklessness of the Amazons was doubtless increased by liberal potations of gin. The women had just enough liquor to make them devilish without interfering with their powers of locomotion.

One picture of it gives a very faithful idea of their military dress. Their sleeveless tunics of blue and white native cloth, their skirts falling to the knee, and their short trousers make it easy to distinguish them from the nearly naked male warriors. On parade in the capital they wear a head ornament of horn tips which, however, is not worn in battle. Neither do they, when advancing toward the enemy, wear the bells seen in the picture and which are always hung around their necks in times of peace. The well-known tinkle of the Amazon bell makes proclamation to all the male creation that it is high time to scurry down the byways or get out of sight somewhere to avoid meeting the King's soldiers: for the man who dares to keep the road when an Amazon approaches pays for his temerity with his life. On all the highways these women are more isolated from the other sex than any nun. Skertchly said it made his blood boil to be compelled to slink out of view like a thief whenever he heard that odious bell.

Another picture is taken from a sketch by a French officer of a scene he witnessed at one of the battles near Kotonu, three years ago, when two Amazons armed with bows and arrows were advancing on a dead run, one of them flourishing aloft the bloody heads of two Senegalese soldiers which she had just severed from their bodies.

Their weapons are blunderbuses, flintlocks, and bows and arrows. Their plan of warfare is always to take the enemy by surprise. They usually march to the attack in the gray of the morning and before the enemy is awake they are upon him with their impetuous war cry and fierce onslaught. Mr. Chaudouin says he saw 4,000 Amazons in 1889 grouped around the King, perfectly motionless as they stood in line but ready to bound at a signal from their master. Old or young, homely or handsome, they were a remarkable spectacle. They appeared every whit as muscular as the male warriors and their bearing was military. The crowd of people approached too near and a half dozen Amazons walked along the line flourishing their guns and crying with imperious gesture "Back, back," whereupon the crowd made haste to retire to a safe distance.

After the late war King Behanzin caused a number of Amazons to be beheaded on the charge of cowardice. He endeavors in every way to make them perfectly fearless and indifferent to pain. Mr. Borghero describes a sham fight that he witnessed at the capital a few years ago. Thousands of bundles of thorny cactus bushes made an obstruction 1,300 feet long, 25 feet broad, and 7 feet high. Beyond this obstruction rose the framework of a house of the same length and sixteen feet broad and high, the two slopes of its roof covered with a bed of thorns. The barefooted women three times surmounted the heap of thorns, scaled the house, and then appeared before the King, their feet and legs covered with blood, and their faces wreathed with smiles of triumph. Three thousand women took part in this astounding spectacle.

HUMAN SACRIFICES

are a feature of the religious customs. In Abomey, during the annual sacrifices, 500 or more victims are put to death to appease the gods and carry messages to the King's ancestors in the other world. These sacrifices are very elaborate. The victims, tied hand and foot, are fastened into the baskets and carried to the top of a platform twenty feet from the ground. Here the King, under his umbrella of state, imparts the messages he desires the victim to take to the other world. They are then raised aloft and dashed to the ground where, a crowd of Amazons and common people rush with the greatest fury upon the poor wretches, cut off their heads and often divide their bodies into many pieces. Gov. Bayol, while in Abomey in 1890, was a spectator of this scene. He says that he saw an Amazon about nineteen years old rush upon one of the victims. She was a new recruit, and had not yet killed anybody, and it was desired to put her to the test. With her sharp-edged sabre, held in both hands, she struck the victim three blows on the neck, then chopped off the last pieces of flesh that still held the head to the trunk, after which she carefully wiped her sabre and retired to the ranks. Alligators, cats, and other animals are also sacrificed to carry messages to their kind. If Behanzin makes the French too much trouble during the coming campaign, they may possibly send him himself to interview his ancestors.

The victims are invariably criminals or captives of war collected to make a negro holiday. When Europeans protest to the Kings of Dahomey against these terrible sacrifices, they are told that not only does this slaughter give great satisfaction to the gods, but also it is the only way to make a great jail delivery. If they did not kill their criminals, they say, it would take too many soldiers to suppress evil doers. And yet Dahomey is not a people of savages. Under ordinary circumstances the populace are gentle and easy to influence. Most of them obey implicitly all the laws and regulations of their king. The are fairly industrious and have attained a sort of negro semi-civilization. They represent one of the finest types of the black race, are above medium stature, have bright intelligent faces, and powerful physique, and it is only in war or in the practice of their religious customs that they display remarkable ferocity and fanaticism.

The King is aided in his Government by a council composed of his principal chiefs; but in spite of his ministers and his own nearly absolute authority, he is still submissive to the occult power of fetich. The people to-day would rise en masse against their King if he undertook to suppress the fetich doctors and abolish the time-honored sacrifices. One curious religious law imposed upon the King by the fetich priests forbids him to look upon the sea. This law was doubtless made to prevent the King from coming too much under the influence of the white men who might persuade him to forget the customs of his country and overthrow fetichism.

The sentiment in France seems to be against taking possession of the capital, Abomey, unless this step is positively necessary to insure the safety of French interests. It is not improbable, however, that France will be compelled completely to subjugate Dahomey before an enduring peace is secured. The road from Whydah to Abomey is only sixty-five miles long, but it is a difficult route, lying through forest and swamp. If the French advance to the capital they will very likely approach it by the route from Whydah, and also send an expedition up the Wheme River on the new gunboat Opal. Canna, the sacred city of the country, is eight miles south of Abomey. A large part of the army is said to be now at Canna, and 3,000 of the King's troops are at Godome, only a few miles from the coast. Abomey occupies a rolling plain nearly surrounded by marsh. The city is eight miles in circumference, and is surrounded by clay walls pierced by six gates. The population is 12,000. The French hope to make the campaign short, and it is certain that Dahomey can offer no effective resistance.

A Memorial to Hon. Joseph Howe.

The trustees of Victoria Park, Truro, N. S., propose to erect a memorial to Hon. Joseph Howe, one of Nova Scotia's most famous sons. With the object of bringing the project before the public, they propose to hold a picnic in the park on the afternoon of the 9th inst., on which occasion Rev. Principal Grant, of Queen's University, will deliver an oration on Mr. Howe. It may be mentioned here that one of the most charming features of the park is what is known as the "Truro Falls," which are situated about half-a-mile to the south of the railway station. This lovely waterfall was first brought to the notice of the public some sixty years ago by the late Mr. Howe. The falls were then in the midst of an almost impenetrable wilderness, but Mr. Howe pushed his way to the spot over rocks and windfalls, and through thickets of brush, till suddenly the view of the falls burst upon him. The impression produced by the first sight of the lovely scene was almost an inspiration. He at once made a pen and and ink sketch of the place, which was published in the Nova Scotian newspaper of which he was then the proprietor. The sketch is a masterpiece of composition, and will compare favourably with anything of the kind in English literature. The falls have been ever since associated with the name of Mr. Howe. The trustees are desirous to make this association still closer and more intimate. They have substituted his name for that of Truro, by which they were formerly known, and they propose to erect in the neighbourhood a memorial in his honour.

A Novel Point in Law.

The other day a man charged at a London (Eng.) police court with being drunk and disorderly vainly urged in mitigation of the punishment that "he was only dead drunk," and not "leg drunk," a subtle distinction which the magistrate was unable to recognize; but at the Stafford Assizes a day or two later Mr. Collins, another English justice, grappled with the question of the difference between "a sober intention" and "a drunken impulse," and in doing so laid down the law in a novel manner, calculated to drive temperance and other fair minded people into a frenzy of indignation. Harry Pugh, a miner, was charged with the murder of Anna Gili by drowning her. The couple had been drinking heavily together, and, according to the statement made by Pugh, they agreed to commit suicide in company in a deep pool, but when they got into the water the woman "seized him, held him under, and nearly did for him, but he got the better of her and drowned her." The case looked very black indeed against Pugh until the evidence was produced to show that both he and the woman had been heard to declare their intention to commit suicide. Thereupon Justice Collins directed the jury that before there could be a common purpose "the minds of two persons must have been in a condition sufficiently clear to enable them to frame an intention of that kind. Drunkenness, although often said to be no defence to crime, was a material factor when proved. Intention was a necessary ingredient of crime, for a person might be so drunk as to be incapable of forming an intention."

The Panama Canal.

The Panama Canal will undoubtedly some day be finished. Once completed, even according to its present modified plans, it would be far more convenient and afford greater facilities than any of the rival schemes, such as the Nicaragua Canal. It is a more direct cut across the Isthmus, is shorter and would give less trouble to navigators than the latter route. The great cost of cutting the Panama canal is the real obstacle. Already as much has been spent as it was first calculated the whole work would cost. A very large and difficult portion of the work has been done, however, and it would probably pay to do the rest, if the claims of those who have already sunk money in the undertaking, were set aside. That is to say, a new company could, it is calculated, if it obtained the present works and plant free of cost, carry through the work within ten or twelve years with a prospect of a small, a very small, return upon their capital from the traffic. The Panama canal is like a strong citadel; it must be carried, if at all, over the dead bodies of forlorn hopes. The Company which is now acquiring the canal, will probably prove the second forlorn hope victim. A third or fourth assault will prove victorious.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The general improvement in trade throughout many important centres of industry in the United States which has been lately reported continues to be well maintained, and in some districts is advancing, though the unusually high temperature that has lately prevailed has had a depressing effect in many lines of industry. Rain has fallen generally in the Western wheat and corn-growing States, with, as a rule, a beneficial effect, and the promising crop outlook is causing increased activity in various important trades. Prospective large crops and consequent favourable railway prospects have caused increased strength and activity on the stock markets, and money is firmer. Throughout Canada the crops are in excellent condition, and the business outlook has improved.

The other day the Rev. Dr. Rainsford, of New York, proposed that the church should start liquor saloons in the interest of morality and now the Sioux Falls, S. D., City Council has reported in favour of inaugurating a municipal saloon scheme, under which there will be six saloons, one in each ward, under the control of a superintendent. One of the objects the Council is said to have in view is to discourage the use of ardent liquors by increasing the price of whiskey to twenty-five cents a glass, while beer can be had for five cents. No doubt it is most desirable that the drinking of that liver-pulverizer and bile creator—beer—should be encouraged, but perhaps the Sioux council might find it advantageous to start card-rooms in order to be sure that gambling is fairly conducted.

Princess Beatrice had a narrow escape from death from fire in the castle at Heilgenburg Germany on Saturday morning. Her maid, carrying a candle, approached too near a mosquito net covering the bedstead, setting fire to the net. Princess Beatrice, who was in bed, had no time to dress, but ran out of the room and alarmed the household. The hose fixtures near the bedroom would not work and a whole wing of the castle was destroyed before the firemen arrived. Princess Beatrice lost all her jewels and clothes. Her husband, who was sleeping in a hunting box in the neighboring woods, hastened to the castle as soon as he learned of the fire. Two firemen were injured. Princess Beatrice telegraphed to the Queen saying that she is quite well and that personally she in no wise suffered from the alarm.

Sir Oliver Mowat's dehorning commission, it is said, will return an open verdict regarding the practice, that is they will report in favor of allowing cattle-breeders full liberty of opinion as to whether it is or it not beneficial to deprive the cow of his horn. In effete old England, however, it would appear that there is a lingering suspicion that dehorning is cruel and that the practice should be prohibited. At Newcastle-on-Lyne John Scott and Ralph Pickering, drovers, were summoned before the Newcastle bench of magistrates by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals for cutting off the horns of 23 bullocks, and Richard Hughes, cattle dealer of Coleraine, Ireland, was summoned for causing the cruelty. The veterinary evidence given showed that the operation caused acute suffering to the animals, and the magistrates inflicted a fine of £5 and costs on each defendant.

The announcement of the formation of a huge Trust to control the trade in seal-skins and furs was skilfully timed so as not to arouse popular indignation. If ever a monopoly in furs would be looked upon with equanimity by the people, it would be during the extremely heated weather of latter July and early August. It will be perfectly safe for the promoters of the Trust to make the usual protestations that their aim is not to increase prices, and to prove their sincerity by offering a large reward for any lady who bought a sealskin sack any day last week, and had to pay more for it than last winter. Certain mysterious political relations are hinted at in connection with the Trust, and a contemporary innocently informs us that "it is expected by the promoters that it will have considerable control over the Bering Sea arbitration." The reported capital is $10,000,000, but we should say that sum is hardly large enough to control the tribunal of arbitration.

Unfortunate Russia.

One affliction follows another in Russia. Within a year the Russians have suffered from the black typhus, and now the Asiatic cholera is among them. For over a year whole provinces have suffered from famine, and we learn by recent reports that this year's crops will again be short. For years past the Jewish question has disturbed the country, and now the Government is preparing for a gigantic exodus of the Jewish subjects of the Czar. Russia is in danger of getting into trouble with China, Afghanistan, and England in Asia, while standing on guard against the enemies who confront her in Europe. Russian finances are in a bad condition, and the Government is now compelled to adopt extraordinary measures of taxation, including a graded income tax. It is fortunate for Russia in these times that the Nihilists are keeping quiet, but even the Third section of the police cannot tell what underground schemes they have in hand. The afflictions and misfortunes of the Colossus of the North are more numerous and lamentable than those of any other power in Christendom. We suggest to his Majesty the Czar that he might find it advisable to grant to his subjects a larger measure of freedom than they now possess, and to grant to his provinces those franchises of self-government that would enable them to administer their local affairs successfully. His Government undertakes too much; his functionaries in St. Petersburg cannot possibly attend to all the duties with which they are intrusted. Take, for example, this plague of the cholera which is now terrifying all Russia. The local authorities are almost helpless in its presence; they do not possess the power to deal with it; they are accustomed to look to St. Petersburg in all emergencies. They should be empowered to look after their own affairs, and then be held to their responsibility. Many other things also could be put under their charge with advantage.

Duty is a power which rises with us in the morning and goes to rest with us at night. It is coextensive with the action of intelligence. It is the shadow which cleaves to us, go where we will, and which only leaves us when we leave the light of life.—[Gladstone

THE ASIATIC CHOLERA.

What Cause Has America to Dread its Approach.

Originating in India, Its Successive Epidemics of This Century Have Advanced Through Europe and Crossed to Our Shores—It has Now Invaded Russia, and Perhaps is Raging in Paris—It Will Knock at the Gates of Our Seaports, but Will Find Us Prepared to Meet it.

The epidemic of Asiatic cholera which has been ravaging the countries south of the Black and Caspian seas during the past winter, spring, and summer may prove of greater interest to the people of this continent than has heretofore been supposed. Reports of cholera, more or less terrible in their details, are expected to come every year from the sun-beaten lands of the East, which are its constant home, but they are usually no cause for dread. It is fortunately only occasionally that the plague leaps its natural boundaries and penetrates Europe. When it does there is just reason for alarm from the civilized world, for it rarely stays its course until it has encircled the globe.

The present epidemic is one of these exceptions. Late in May the cholera, after having ravaged the filthy and crowded cities of India, Persia, Afghanistan, and the shores of the Red Sea, leaped the mountains and inland seas, which are its natural northern boundaries and plunged into the very heart of European Russia. The plague took this course in 1830, and spread over Europe and America with frightful results. Several times since, it has burst its boundaries, and the end has always been the same. The Western Continent has never escaped. In 1849, in 1866, and in 1873 the scourge of Europe became the scourge of America. There is no reason to suppose that cholera will knock at our doors now. Our hope lies in the immense gain in efficiency in our quarantine service since the last visitation, and in the increased efficiency of our local health authorities.

The danger has been recognized both in England and the United States. The last numbers of the great British medical journals, whose conservatism is universally recognized, have sustained considerable discussions of the subject, and have advised the adoption of prompt and efficient defensive measures. The medical journals on this side of the Atlantic have followed in the same vein.

THE HOME OF CHOLERA.

There is always cholera in India. It began there before history, and has become a very part of the land and the civilization. Its seed is in the earth, and its breath is in the air. Its sway is undisputed by the swarming people, who lie down at its coming and die without effort or protest against their fate. The hot sun and the humid feverish atmosphere have much to do with its unchecked presence and occasional violent outbreaks, but the civilization of the land does more. Superstition and uncleanliness prevail to an almost unbelievable extent. The cities and towns of the Indian hills are undrained, unwatered, and filthy. The people live in a state of degradation which appeals more strongly to the nose even than to the eye. Under such conditions the plague thrives and fattens upon unnumbered victims.

Travelling is done by caravans, which, in themselves, are hotbeds of disease, and spread it far and wide. The hordes of pilgrims which yearly seek the sacred cities, marching in straggling armies of thousands upon thousands, serve to propagate and spread it. Lastly, the great fairs and festivals, which occur at frequent intervals, attracting visitors from the uttermost parts of India, and from Persia, Afghanistan, and neighboring principalities, are a prolific source of contagion. In particular, the great festivals of Juggernaut and Hurdwar, which occur at intervals of twelve years, and are attended by upward of a million people, are active agents in its spread. It is a significant fact that each of the greater epidemics which have penetrated Europe and encircled the globe have originated in years when one or the other of these great festivals were held. In 1823, the year in which the epidemic which reached us in 1832 began, so violent was the outbreak of cholera at the Juggernaut festival that the famous idol car could not be dragged around for lack of able men. The epidemic which reached us in 1866 received its impulses from the Hurdwar festival, and at the same festival began the present epidemic notwithstanding the attempts of the authorities, grown wiser after centuries, to check the growth and spread of the pestilence which inevitably accompanied it.

The traffic between Russia, Persia, Central Asia, and India by way of Cabul is largely accomplished by four tribes of Lohanese Afghans, known as Provindahs. There are 8,000 families, and they own 30,000 camels and 10,000 oxen. They move in three enormous caravans, descending into India, down the Ganges to Benares and along the Indus to Kurrachee, and thence by sea to Bombay. They bring Russian, Persian, and Afghanistan articles into India and return with cotton goods, muslins, shawls, silks, and the like. The course which these caravans take in entering and leaving India includes the city of Herat, near the western border of Afghanistan. Through Herat yearly pass 60,000 pilgrims bound for the holy city of Meshed, in north-eastern Persia. Through it also pass the many thousands who flock from Turkestan, Afghanistan, and Persia to and from the great Indian festivals at the foot of the Himalayas. For eight months of the year the fertile plain in which the city stands is covered with the tents of thousands—a huge undrained and stinking camp of migratory Asiatics, reeking with filth and disease. But there are more horrifying features yet. On the outskirts are smaller camps where thousands of mules are tethered. For each mule there is a pair of rough coffins, and in each coffin the body of a dead pilgrim—often dead for months. They are the bodies of those who drop by the way, and they are going for burial to the holy city.

In this city and its cholera-ridden camp the caravans of the Provindahs gather up the plague and carry it westward to the Caspian. The route of the plague is always from Herat to Meshed, and from there to Asterabad. This year its spread into Europe was aided by the new Transcaspian Railroad, which runs from Khohan in Siberia west to the east shore of the Caspian, as is seen on the map. The cholera got into Askhabad in Turkestan, a city on this road, and spread with wonderful rapidity east and west.