

General Buller's Force Overtaken in the Desert by the Mahdi.

THE BRITISH HELMED IN ON ALL SIDES.

Arab Rifemen Taking Pot Shots at Them at Long Range—The Government Called on the Militia and Preparing for a Long War.

A last (Friday) night's London cable says: The Government has called on the militia and suspended the transfers of officers from the regular army to the reserves. The action of the Government has created a profound sensation, and a general feeling of alarm regarding the safety of not only the forces under Buller, but those under Wolsey and Brackenbury. The opinion is expressed that the War Office has received more startling information from Wolsey than that conveyed in the telegram in relation to Buller being hemmed in at Abu Klea. The quantity of ammunition and projectiles under process at Gubat is estimated to be greater than that of the quantity sent out of the country during the entire Crimean war. The Government is evidently preparing for a long campaign.

Gen. Buller, who began to retreat from Gubat several days ago, was compelled to halt at Abu Klea. Walls and trenches his troops in order to defend himself against the Mahdi's men, who are gathering in large numbers on his line of retreat, and are continually menacing the British. It is believed that Wolsey will have to send strong reinforcements to Buller if he is to be rescued. Grave fears are entertained that Buller may meet the fate of Gordon unless he is speedily succored.

A despatch from Gen. Buller at Abu Klea says: The enemy's cavalry scouted around all day on Monday. They were reinforced before sunset by 400 infantry armed with rifles. The infantry crossed the hill to northeast of us, and have kept up a well-aimed desultory long-range fire, which has caused sixteen casualties. I am perfectly safe here against the attack of a larger force. The long-range firing is annoying. Wolsey adds that Gen. Wood, who is at Gakul, is sending a transport of camels to Buller, as the latter needs additional transport services. Wolsey anticipates that on the arrival of the camels at Abu Klea, Buller will move to Gakul.

Gen. Buller reports the firing of the rebels continued all Monday night. Two men were killed and four officers wounded. Later details of the night attack on Gen. Buller's forces while on retreat from Gubat towards Korti, says the attack was made by a party of 400 Arab sharpshooters at long range, and the British shielded themselves behind the hastily constructed entrenchments. No serious attempt was made to return the enemy's fire, owing to the necessity of holding the ammunition. On the British side, the Mahdi's men killed and eleven wounded. Among the latter is Charles Williams, correspondent of the London Chronicle, who was shot in the leg, not seriously. Buller has erected three new forts, and is preparing for a longer stay. He has ordered the British to be ready to march at a moment's notice, and is sending a party of 400 Arab sharpshooters to the east bank of the Nile to assemble opposite Gubat. When the Mahdi heard of the result of the battle at Abu Klea he proclaimed that his troops had gained a great victory, and announced that the British were destroyed. He forwarded British accoutrements on spears as proofs of the truth of his statements. When the Prophet made this proclamation the garrison in Khartoum were on short rations, and they believed what the Mahdi said. When the British were approached Khartoum the disaffected garrison killed a portion of the wall to admit them.

A despatch from Korti further explains the retreat of Buller. The Mahdi on the 11th had been engaged for three days in collecting an army outside Khartoum for an advance against the English at Gubat. He was loading steamers with guns and ammunition. On the 8th he despatched two sheiks with three thousand men and four guns down the right bank of the Nile to erect a fort opposite the English camp. The despatch from Wolsey announcing the death of Gen. Stewart says: "Stewart will be buried at Gakul. No braver soldier or more brilliant leader ever wore the Queen's uniform. England can ill afford to lose this young general."

Irish weekly newspapers generally display a feeling of indignation at the British retreat. The Nation, of Dublin, describes "The British Skedaddling Out of the Sudan," "John Bull on the Run," etc. It hopes "worse things may yet befall the British marauders," and prays that "success may shine upon the Mahdi's banner."

An Arabian paper reports that the Mahdi promised Farag 140,000 thalers to betray Khartoum, but he gave him only 60,000. When Farag complained the Mahdi hanged him.

A committee, composed of all the European nationalities represented in Alexandria, with the exception of Englishmen, is raising subscriptions to a fund for the erection of a monument to General Buller's memory.

Earl Herbert Stewart has been spoken of sometimes as one of the "luckiest" of soldiers. He was fortunate, but he had deserved his good luck. He entered the service in November, 1863, under the old purchase system, and he was a captain in April, 1865. He had, however, to wait upward of eleven years for his majority. In December, 1878, he passed through the Staff College, and the Zulu War of 1879 gave him an opportunity of showing the stuff that was in him. As Brigade Major of Cavalry he then attracted the favorable notice of Brigadier Russell in the operations against Sekukuni. Stewart did admirable service, and became Chief of the Staff and Military Secretary to Wolsey. The close of the war found him a Lieutenant-Colonel, after his name had been frequently mentioned in despatches. He was on special duty in South Africa in 1881, and in the Boer War he served as Assistant Adjutant and Quartermaster-General. In the latter capacity he was present with his ill-fated friend, Colley, at the disastrous affair of Majuba Hill. His friends thought that his career was over when then checked, and that the road to future honors and promotion was blocked; but Wolsey remained staunch to him through good and evil report, and having so powerful a friend, Stewart was not "laid upon the shelf." In the Egyptian campaign of 1882 he did excellent service with the cavalry division, and after the battles of Kassassin and Tel-el-Kebir, followed by the capture of Cairo, he was made a C.B. and A.D.C. to the Queen. But further work and honors were in reserve for him. In the Sudan campaign he was with the cavalry brigade under General Graham, and was present at the actions of El Teb and Tamai, winning his spurs as K.O.B. He was only 43 years of age.

They say that there are to be very fashionable bonnet springs, quite taking the place of the bonnet, even for visiting.

THE ALBHOUSE HOLOCAUST.

The Building Fired by an Inmate at the Institution of One of the Officials—A Startling Confession.

A Philadelphia despatch says: At the coroner's inquest yesterday afternoon in regard to the deaths of the twenty victims of the Blochly Almshouse fire, a sensation was developed by the confession of Joseph Nadine, a young negro, that he set fire to the building and that he was instigated to do so by Peter J. Schroeder, one of the chief attendants. Nadine, who is 23 years of age, was committed to the institution as an inmate. The physicians of the institution say he is morally responsible and was frequently permitted to go home unattended. Schroeder has been jailed to await further developments.

Nadine said Schroeder gave him a match the night of the calamity and told him to set fire to the building. Nadine then went to the drying-room and set fire to some rubbish on the floor. He then called Schroeder, and the two, with the assistance of an attendant named Mullen, endeavored to get the patients out, but the fire gained such headway that they were forced to leave the building themselves. Nadine says when Schroeder gave him the match he told him to set fire to the building; that he was tired of the place and was going to leave, and that he disliked Dr. Richards because he refused him a railroad pass. Nadine says that an attendant Mullen knew he set fire to the building, but thinks he did not know it until the next day. Mullen will be detained as a witness against Schroeder. Nadine says he twice before set fire to the building, but both times the flames were discovered and extinguished before they gained any headway. He says on both occasions he afterwards told Schroeder of his acts, but the latter assured him he would not report him to the authorities.

Nadine in giving his story was at times nervous and apparently greatly frightened, but upon being assured no harm would be done him he would become calm and collected. It is the truthfulness of his story can be verified it completely annihilates many important details of the testimony given by Schroeder and Mullen, whose appearance seemed to indicate that they had rehearsed their story together. Nadine told of many cruelties inflicted upon the patients by Schroeder when the latter was in a violent temper. Schroeder after his arrest admitted he had intended leaving the institution but denied the trust of Nadine's story.

CITY OF QUEBEC.

A Town Full of Paradoxes—Speaking French in an English City.

The approach to Quebec from the St. Lawrence is one of the most remarkable that can be found anywhere, says Macmillan's Magazine. To describe it as a river scene is misleading, for the scale is too large for comparison with European rivers. The city of Quebec is a cliff commanding a magnificent reach of water below. Looking down from the citadel on the St. Lawrence the traveller has one of the grandest views of this kind in the world, heightened by that wonderfully clear atmosphere which in England we only find on the coast. Only the clear early light of the finest English summer morning can be likened to the atmosphere which people live and breathe in all day on the western continent, and even that falls short of it. Quebec is a city full of paradoxes. You go to the citadel and see a factory in uniform exactly like that of the Royal Artillery. You naturally address him in English, and he answers you in French. This, one learns, is what Lower Canadians are apt to do, having retained their language, their laws and their institutions, but the French of their statements said of them, excellent Englishmen who happen to speak French. Passing troubles there have been, but they may now be forgotten. The city of Quebec is also paradoxically built, as if it had been shot out of a sack from the back of the cliff and shaken into place as best it could. It is more like a French provincial city than anything else, but it is not even like that, as no French city can be found over which the revolution has not passed. Quebec was saved from the French revolution by English conquest. Below the citadel stretched a long and spacious terrace, now named Dufferin terrace, whence we have after dark a fair view over the river, with the crossing lights of its many ferry boats. And here the people of Quebec, being simple enough to admire their own views, have a landmark custom to stroll up and down at the hour or two before the evening gun. Taking day and night all round, Quebec is as fascinating a city as one shall have the fortune to see.

Experiences of the Canadian Voyagers.

The Canadians speak disparagingly of the boats used by Lord Wolsey's expedition in its journey up the Nile, and declare that they were decidedly too frail for such service. In pulling them over the cataraacts it frequently happened that their stems would be torn, and during the passage of the river their boats were damaged so that they were no longer fit for use. Ten of the voyagers party were drowned in the Nile, two others died of fever, and two were killed on the railway in Egypt. The Canadians complain of the carelessness of the manner in which they were treated by the British officers attached to the expedition and express anguish at the fate of General Gordon.

International Militia Competitions.

A New York despatch says: Arrangements are being perfected to hold a series of competitive tests of physical endurance among members of the militia under the auspices of a military committee and a committee of prominent citizens. The object is to promote the improvement in the military ability of citizen soldiers. In the three week prizes will be offered for a competition between members of volunteer militia regiments from three cities in Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Wisconsin, Illinois and Ohio. Fourth week, great international contest between ten picked men of the National Guard of the cities of New York and Brooklyn and ten picked men from the best of the volunteer regiments in London.

It is the prerogative of God alone to truly comprehend all things. To Him there is nothing past or future. Everything is present.—Cervantes.

Lampblack is the principal adulterant for rubber of which overcoats are made. The more lampblack in your overcoat the sooner you need another pair.

THE SCOTT ACT.

Only Three Counties and Two Cities in Ontario Unorganized.

All the counties and cities in Ontario have been organized by the Scott Act supporters except Welland, Wentworth and Haldimand, and Hamilton in Ontario. A convention is being arranged for Haldimand, and the temperance people are getting ready to organize in Victoria county. So far the Scott Act has been adopted in 54 counties, and defeated in 11, the total number of counties being 65. The aggregate vote polled in the 65 counties and cities where the Scott Act was submitted is as follows: In favor of the Act, 109,549; against the Act, 71,918; majority for the Act, 37,631. In 28 of the 47 counties carried, the Scott Act is already in operation; in 11 of them it will go into operation on May 1st, and in the remaining 8 it will be brought into force on May 1st, 1886.

A Schoolmaster's Breach of Promise Case. At the Leeds Assizes last week—before Mr. Justice Lush and a jury—The case of Lewis vs. Widdison, an action for breach of promise to marry, was heard. The plaintiff was Miss Augusta Annie Lewis, aged 26 years, the daughter of a farmer and underwriter at Elkh Green, near Barnsley, and the defendant was John Widdison, master of the Board School at Sowerby, near Halifax, and formerly at Sheffield. Mr. Digby Seymour, Q. C., and Mr. Fenwick were counsel for the plaintiff; and Mr. Kershaw appeared for the defendant.

In 1878, when the plaintiff was a pupil-teacher at High Green, the parties first met, and a strong affection afterwards rose up between them. No set engagement, however, was come to until October, 1882. Taking advantage of the plaintiff's birthday, the defendant wrote to her on the 2nd of October:

"My own darling Annie—Here I am once more. What world this is! What a change from last night to this time (9:30 p.m.) Really, dearest, I have been wishing that I had not been over to see you. For why? you might ask. Not because I have not enjoyed myself, but simply because it will be such a long time before I see you again. Take very great care of yourself as time goes on. I am sure I never saw you look better than when you were making a little pastry on Saturday night—(laughter)—and am sure I never felt more happy or prouder of you than I do now. Always as I dress, after all? Just as the poet says, 'The mind's the standard of the man,' so it is with woman." (Laughter.)

On the 22nd of October the defendant sent the plaintiff a ring as a token of his affection. In the letter accompanying the ring the defendant wrote:

"If ever a heart beat restierling wishes mine does to night. I can safely say I never felt to have so much love for you as I do to-night. We have often heard of people's love growing colder and colder, but not ours. I have never loved you so much as now. I can safely say—at least, I think so—that it was the first Monday in July, 1879, when I might term that our love took root. From then till April, 1880, I felt I wanted something to make my life complete. I always have longed; I could not realize what it was until I became conscious that there was a true heart yearning for my love and I for hers. (Laughter.) Since then visiting you and receiving your letters have been the brightest parts of my life. As years roll on I realize more fully that I cannot live without you being nothing but a blank." (Renewed laughter.) Defendant afterwards went to the plaintiff's home and offered her marriage, and the parties became actually engaged on the 1st of December. The day after the engagement, the defendant thus philosophized:

"Ah! the 1st of December has come! What a strange story it tells with its advent! What is truer than the proverb, 'Time and tide wait for no man.' How short life is! I am sure the last few years since I finished my time here, always being lightning speed, and yet, after all, I shall have to say, as the poet puts it—

I live for those who love me, For those who've proved me true, For the heavens above me And wails my coming too. (Roars of laughter.) Again, on the 8th of December, the defendant thus delivered himself:

"Home once more! Fancy being at home! Through a snowstorm quite new here in my long life has been opened. Just imagine a man among the moors about here! Wordsworth's lines would be very appropriate:

So faint I was in those toiling feet, Making no mark on the snow I bear, My sinking heart forgot to beat, And drifting snows my tomb prepare.

"Ah! only two weeks more! Speed, speed, oh, time! Speed quicker in thy career! I would not care to have my snowed up if there was only a friend or two to keep me company." (Laughter.) Writing on the 4th of February, 1883, the defendant says:

"I was very happy to see you look so well, Annie, and not saying this in any spirit of flattery, but I believe I say it in spirit of pride when I say you look just every time I see you. (Laughter.) Yes; what can make a man happy? Solomon says rightly, 'A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband. Her many men have been drawn from the masses of worldly pleasure and amusement to sublimer thoughts, and how many men owe their happiness to the love of woman.'" (Laughter.)

In the following August the defendant's letters began to cool down and he told the plaintiff he was fickle and unworthy of her love. Finally he returned her letters. Mr. Seymour said the defendant had been trained at the college at Westminster, and that he was now earning only £120 a year. His prospects were good. His father had substantial means, and the defendant had also expectations from his uncle. The jury eventually found for the plaintiff, with damages £160.

Saved the Bank.

Many years ago, in consequence of a commercial panic, there was a severe run on a bank in South Wales, and the small farmers jostled each other in the crowd to draw out their money. Things were rapidly going from bad to worse, when the bank manager in a fit of desperation suddenly behought himself of an expedient. By his directions a clerk, having heated some sovereigns in a frying pan, paid them over the counter to an anxious applicant.

DOMINION PARLIAMENT.

The following Bills were read a first time:

For more effectual prevention of cruelty to animals—Mr. Charlton. Respecting representation of the territories in the House of Commons—Mr. Cameron (Huron).

Mr. Forbes asked—Is it the intention of the Government during the present session to increase the duty upon imported flour or cornmeal in accordance with the request of the Millers' Association of Ontario? If so, will the duty on coal be increased also? Sir Leonard Tilley—The intention of the Government on this subject will be communicated to the House when the Budget is brought down.

Sir Leonard Tilley, replying to Mr. Cameron (Huron), said the Government was considering the application of the town of Emerson for financial aid. Sir R. Cartwright said that the House having been called together two weeks later than last year, had now sat more than three weeks and the people were anxious to know what the Finance Minister was going to say about the financial condition of the country. It would be a great convenience to know when he would make his financial statement, and when the estimates would be brought down.

Sir L. Tilley said he hoped to bring down the financial statement on Friday, the 27th inst. Sir R. Cartwright—Not earlier? Sir L. Tilley—No. The House went into Committee on the Bill to declare it a misdemeanor to leave unguarded and exposed holes in the ice. Mr. Davies and Mr. Macdonald (P. E. I.) objected to the Bill as it would seriously interfere with farmers who cut holes in the ice in the rivers to obtain mud for fertilizing purposes.

Mr. Mitchell said it would be a blow to the fishing industry in his county, which employed seven or eight hundred men. The master could be dealt with better by the Provincial or municipal authorities.

Mr. Wood (Brookville) said the Canadian Pacific ferries in crossing the St. Lawrence in cool weather, had frequently broken the ice, and it would be very inconvenient if the law applied to them.

Mr. Blake said the discussion showed that it would have been better for the Government to refer the matter to a select committee. The circumstances were evidently different in different Provinces. Mr. Coursol presented a petition signed by over fifteen hundred citizens of Montreal, praying that the Scott Act be amended to make prohibition more easy, without at the same time granting compensation to the landowners who had been injured. Sir Leonard Tilley—That is the other side of the question.

The following Bills were introduced and read a first time:

Respecting the Annuity and Gratuity Fund Society of the Bank of Montreal.—Mr. White (Cardwell). To incorporate the Pension Fund Society of the Bank of Montreal.—Mr. White (Cardwell).

Respecting the Saint Ste. Marie Bridge Company.—Mr. Dawson. Respecting the Canada Congregational Missionary Society.—Hon. J. J. Abbott. To authorize the Dominion Grange Mutual Fire Association to insure the property of the Patrons of Husbandry in Canada.—Mr. White (Cardwell). To incorporate the Brandon Waterloo & Lake Erie Company.—Mr. Paterson (Bram).

Mr. Wood (for Mr. Foster) introduced a Bill to amend the Liquor License Act of 1883. He said the Bill repealed the 145th section of the Act, and was considered necessary in consequence of a late decision of the Supreme Court of New Brunswick, that decision being to the effect that the section repealed certain portions of the Scott Act.

The Bill was read a first time. The House resolved itself into a committee on the Bill providing for the taking of a census in Manitoba, the Northwest and Keewatin.

Hon. David Mills objected to the taking of a census in Keewatin. There were no white people there, and he thought that some of the Government pretending to enumerate the population there? Sir John Macdonald moved the second reading of the Bill to provide for the appointment of a Deputy Speaker.

The Bill was read a second time and passed through committee.

Mr. Cameron (Huron) moved the second reading of the Bill further to amend the law of evidence in criminal cases. The measure, he said, was an exact copy of a Bill first passed in the House of Lords, permitting persons charged with criminal offences to give evidence in their own behalf. The principle was not only admitted by leading lawyers in England, but lawyers and judges of high opinion in Canada favored it.

The following Bills were read a second time: Further to amend the Act to incorporate the South Saskatchewan Valley Railway Company.—Mr. Robertson (Hamilton). To amend the Act relating to the Great Western & Lake Ontario Shore Junction Railway Company.—Mr. Ferguson (Welland).

Mr. Tupper opened the debate on the Bill of Mr. Cameron (Huron) to further amend the law of evidence in criminal cases. He held that the proposed provision would place a prisoner in a false position. The Bill left it to the discretion of the accused to go into the box or not, as he pleased. But, as every lawyer knew, should he decline to testify, it would tell against him. The provision was practically compulsory. He moved that the Bill be read a second time this day six months.

Mr. Woodworth supported the Bill. Mr. Lister stated that the law had worked well in the United States, and he did not see why it would not operate satisfactorily here. Mr. Beatty thought the Bill was in the right direction.

The vote was taken on Mr. Tupper's amendment, which was lost—yeas, 55; nays, 87.

The Bill was read a second time and referred to a select committee.

It is more than suspected that very many of the snake-bites causing death in India are caused by parents desiring to put an end to superstitious offspring in a manner which defies discovery of guilt.

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

Mr. Dryden moved the following resolution: "That in the opinion of this House the time has arrived when it is undesirable to continue the annual expenditure out of the public funds of holding a Provincial Exhibition under the direction and management of the Board of Agriculture, and that it is desirable to consider other channels through which the appropriation might be used more to the advantage of the agricultural interests of the country. It was urged that the Provincial Exhibition was maintained as an educational institution, then he said the others were educational institutions also. He claimed that in Toronto, Hamilton and London they were able to give a better exhibition as to those who were on the spot all the time. Of what use was it going to London the present year? If the Provincial did not go there the usual exhibition would be held anyway. In Eastern Ontario it was not the same, because they could not hold large exhibitions there, and he was willing that the Provincial should be held there every three or four years. The Exhibitions at London, Hamilton, Guelph and other places were sufficiently Provincial for the purposes required. Then it was suggested that the money should be used to erect a museum, which was a very different matter. There was a danger of the others degenerating into a horse racing, dog-training circus. His idea was that if these features were objectionable the only way to stop them was to educate public opinion to frown upon them. For his own part he had never been at a Provincial Exhibition where these features were not present. He urged that there were other directions in which the money might more profitably be used, and suggested that it should be turned to the erection of the Farmers' Institutes held with so much success this year. Then he would suggest that some of the money should be spent in the direction of printing more reports interesting to farmers, or giving prizes for the best farms, or essays upon farming subjects.

Mr. Gibson (Hamilton) moved to represent the state of public opinion in his district. He had attended a meeting of the united societies of Wentworth, which had come to the conclusion that the time had come when the grant should be stopped. Mr. Gibson (Hamilton) moved that the grant be stopped, and the opinion of the meeting be referred to a select committee of the House. Sir Leonard Tilley—That is the other side of the question.

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THE LADIES' COLUMN.

At a meeting of the National Health Society, at the Parkes Museum of Hygiene, in London, recently, Sir Robert Rawlinson presiding, a paper written by Mrs. Priestly was read, on "The Dangers of the Home." She advocated the periodical inspection of cellars, their scrupulous cleanliness and ample ventilation. There was often a plague-spot in the cellars and basements, she thought, of our houses which was liable to be found when the gavs forth insidious germs, destructive to life when once they found a suitable soil inside the house or the human body. The house should be treated as a faithful servant. It would rather be a friend or enemy, according to the amount of consideration or neglect it received. Let them give it daily care, wash and tend it, avoid obscuring the light by covering the windows with too numerous folds of lace, drawn silk blinds and heavy curtains, which was to choke the house by pressing on its windpipes. The windows should be cleaned by the use of soda, so that the house could have an air-bath, the air should be cleaned if possible, and care should be taken to drink clean water by having the filters cleaned regularly, and, last of all, court and welcome the sunshine.

A Word as to Bluing. In the country, where there are grass plots for whitening the clothes, that process might be dispensed with, but it is necessary in the city, where the clothes grow yellow, or in the winter when the grass is covered in the country. In old times the bluing was what it even now pretends to be. This is the best substance, as it does not injure the clothes, but none is offered as bluing, though the indigo might be purchased and used for the purpose. Solid and liquid bluing consist of "Prussian blue," a compound containing iron. Used carefully, it makes a good thing, but if used carelessly it is very dangerous. The cause of so many mysterious iron rust spots. An alkali, and even soap, will decompose Prussian blue, and if clothes are not properly rinsed before being put into the water containing the bluing spots of iron rust are liable to be found, whereas the soap still remains. Ultramarine blue is beautiful, but not soluble, and the little particles are apt to settle in the clothes, and are difficult to remove, except with hydrochloric acid. So the safest way is to buy indigo, and use it in the old fashion, in a bag.

Fresh Fashion Freaks. Jet and beads in general are favorite adornments. Short sleeves for evening dresses are very short, for the most part being mere straps. Wire neck ties or a plaited fichu with lace trimmings are both becoming and dainty. White neck lingerie is again asking for favor at the hands of those who follow fashion, and is suspended from the neck by a white ribbon, either matching the costume or the trimming. Mechin lace is most used on these attractive neck-arrangements, although oriental lace still holds its own as a pretty and becoming lace. The tight-fitting undersleeve is often of the same color as the dress and trimming, while the outer sleeve is of the principal material of the dress. Long scarfs of fine silk muff are edged with a trimming of some fine, delicate lace or footings, and are gracefully knotted at the waist and fastened with a lace-pin.

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