GENERAL GORDON.

What his Recently Published Letters to the War Office say.

Among the batch of letters to and from General Gordon in the Soudan, published by the English War Office, are the following of more than unusual popular interest :—

GENERAL GORDON TO SIR E. BARING AND NUBAR PACHA.

KHARTOUM, July 30, 1884.

Your telegram of the 5th May, 1884. received. Thanks for kind expressions. Nile now high, and we hope to open route to Sanaar in a few days. We have had no serious losses. Stewart was slightly wounded in arm near Palaco ; he is all right now. Be assured that these hostilities are far from being sought for, but we have no option, for retreat is impossible unless we abandon civil employees and their families, which the general feeling of troops is against. I have no advice to give. If we open Sanaar and clear Blue Nile will be strong enough to take Berber—that is, if Dongola still holds out. As for Mahdi, he will not send succour here: Not one pound of the money you gave me got here ; it was captured at Berber. We want £200,000 sent to Kassala. The expenses of these garrisons must be met. Khartoum costs £500 per diem. If route gets open to Kassala, I shall send Stewart there with journal—that is, if he will consent to go. You may rely on this that if there was any possible way of avoiding the wretched fighting I should adopt it, for the whole war is hateful to me. The people refuse to let me go out on expeditions, owing to the bother which would arise if anything happened, so I sit on tenter hooks of anxiety. If I could make any one chief here I would do it, but it is impossible, for all the good men were killed with Hicks. To show you that Arabs fire well, two of our steamers received 970 and 860 shots in their hulls respectively. Since our defeat on the 16th of March, 1884, we had only thirty killed, 50 or 60 wounded, which is very little. I should think we have fired

HALF A MILLION CARTRIDGES.

The conduct of the people and troops has been excellent. I was thinking of issuing a proclamation liberating the slaves of those in arms, but have deferred doing so for fear of complication. I have great trust that God will bring us out triumphantly, and with no great loss on either side. We have queer stories as to the fall of Berber. Arabs captured there all Stewart's Hussar uniforms, and my medals, etc. It may be bad taste to say it, but if we get out of this give Stewart a K. C. M. G. and spare me at all costs. You will thus save me the disagreeableness of having to refuse, but I hate those things. If we get out it is in answer to prayer, and not by our might, and it is a true pleasure to have been here, though painful enough at times. Stewart's journal is copious. I only hope it will get down to you when I send it. Land mines are the things for defence in future ; we have covered the works with them, and they have deterred all attacks and done much execution. Since the 30th March, 1884, date of your Cairo depatch, we have had no news from you. Seyd Mahomet Osman, of Kassala, ought to be the route for your despatches, and you ought to give him a present of £500 for he saved Khartoum. We have made a decoration with three degrees, silver gilt, silver, pewter, with inscription "Siege of Khartoum," with a grenade in centre. School children and woman have also received one ; consequently I am very popular with the black ladies of Khartoum. We have issued paper notes to the amount of £26,000, and borrowed £50,000 from merchants, which you will have to meet. I have sent in addition £8,000 paper notes to Senaar. What Kassala is doing for money I do not know. Of course, we only get taxes paid in lead, so you are running a good bill up here. The troops and people are full of heart ; I cannot say the same for all the Europeans. The Arabs are in poor heart. I should say that about 2,000 determined men alone keep them in the field. I expect it will end in

A TERRIBLE FAMINE

throughout the land. Spy yesterday stated the Queen of England had arrived at Koroska. Perhaps it is a steamer. The only reinforcements the Soudan has received since 27th November, 1883, date when Hicks' defeat was known at Cairo, is seven persons, including myself, and we have sent down over 600 soldiers and 2,000 people. The people here and Arabs laugh over it. I shall not leave Khartoum until I can put some one in. If the Europeans like to go to the Equator I will give them steamers, but I will not leave these people after all they have gone through. As for routes, I have told you that the one from Wady Halfa, along right bank of Nile to Berber, is the best, and this, had not Berber fallen, would have been a picnic. The other route is from Senhit to Kassala, and Abou Harason Blue Nile, which would be safe up to Kassala, but I fear it is too late. We must fight it out with our means. If blessed by God, we shall succeed ; if not His will, so be it. The main thing is to send money to Kassala Where is Wood? Kind regards to him and Generals Stephenson and Graham. Why write in cypher? It is useless, for Arabs have no interpreter. You say your feeling is to abandon Soudan ; so be it, but before you do that you must take down Egyptian population, and this the Arabs do not see. According to all accounts, 5,000 men were massacred at Berber. All is for the best. I will conclude by saying that we will defend ourselves to the last ; that I will not leave Khartoum,; that I will try to persuade all Europeans to escape ; and that I am still sanguine that, by some means not clear, God will give us an issue. What was the result of your negotiations for opening road Suakim to Berber? The Arabs captured the money (you gave me) at Berber, but it is the only money which the Egyptian pachas have ground out of the Soudan since their occupation.—(Signed) C. G. GORDON.

P. S.—July 31, 1884.—Reading over your telegram of the 5th May, 1884, you ask me "to state causes and intention in staying at Khartoum. knowing Government means to abandon Soudan," and, in answer, I say I stay at Khartoum because Arabs have shut us up and will not let us out. I also add that even if the road was opened the people would not let me go unless I gave them some government or took them with me, which I could not do. No one would leave more willingly than I would if it was possible. —C. G. G.

GENERAL GORDON TO SIR E. BARING.

KHARTOUM, July 31st, 1884.

We continue, thank God, to drive Arabs back up Blue Nile, and hope to open road to Senaar in eight days or less, and to recapture small arms lost by Saish Bey. We then hope to send an expedition to surprise and recapture Berber. It is a sind qua non that you send me Zebehr otherwise my stay here is indefinite. And you should send £50,000 to Dongola to be forwarded to Berber if we take it. River begins to fall in, say, four months. Before that time you must either let the Soudan take back the Soudan or send Zebehr with a subsidy yearly. (D. V.) We will send down to Berber to take it with the Egyptian troops here, so that they will be on their way home, and I shall send Stewart. We hope (D. V.) to recapture the two steamers which were lost at Berber on its fall. The Equator and Bahr Gazelle provinces can be (D. V.) relieved later on, and their troops brought here. As to Darfur, it must be afterwards thought of, for we do not know if it still holds out. As for Kordofan, I hope and believe the Mahdi has his hands full. I could vacate Senaar if it was possible, but I do not think it is, and also the moral effect of its evacuation would be fatal to our future interests, while we have no food to feed the refugee people who would come here. You will see if we open road to Senaar from here to cut the Arab movement in two by Blue Nile. I repeat I have no wish to retain this country. My sole desire is to restore the prestige of the Government in order to get our garrisons and to put some ephemeral government in position in order to get away. —(Signed) C. G. GORDON.

A Water Pipe Shock.

A singular occurrence, which is stated to have recently taken place at Ithaca, N. Y., illustrates the dangers attendant upon the universal introduction of electricity. As a lady was turning on the water from the faucet over the sink in her kitchen, using her right hand, her left being in contact with the iron lining of the sink, she was suddenly prostrated by a severe shock. Her impression was that she had been stricken with paralysis or apoplexy, but a physician who was summoned found that the inside of the thumb of the left hand had been blistered in several places. This led him to believe that she had received a strong electric shock from some source. A few minutes subsequently the lady's daughter, in drawing water from the same faucet, was similarly affected, though not so severely. The family then became convinced that the trouble existed in the water pipe and sink. The manager of the Telephone Exchange, after a brief examination of the premises, found the secret of the trouble. The residence was connected with the Ithaca Hotel by a "dead" private telegraph wire. This wire had been crossed with the electric light wire. The "dead" wire was connected with the metallic roof on the dwelling house, which in turn was connected by a tin water conductor with the water pipe leading to the sink. When the dynamo machine of the electric light company was in operation, the current passed over the "dead" wire to the tin roof, and thence to the water pipe. It needed only the completion of the circuit by some person drawing water.

Care and Caution.

A man may be too careful, and too cautious ; but the reverse is much more apt to be the case. When care and caution are the result as well as the cause of mature deliberation, they are to be commended by all means. It is the man who looks carefully over the whole ground, who looks at all sides of the question, thus exercising care and caution, and who then acts, if he acts at all, with decision and tenacity, who is eminently successful. And otherwise a man cannot act steadily and perseveringly ; he who rushes to action, hasty and inconsiderate, will be just as erratic and inconstant in his movements. It is a popular opinion that in this country we must act upon the spur of the moment, and that care and caution are factors better discarded. This is most assuredly a mistake. Where the hurly-burly of life is greatest, there is the most need of being careful and considerate.

A Biblical critic of British extraction corrects what he styles a stupid perversion of sense. For "hewers of wood and drawers of water" he would read "drawers of wood and ewers of water." Nobody, he justly says, ever saw a bureau with drawers of water, or a bedroom pitcher made of wood.

"Smith, didn't you tell me you sometimes wrote for the paper?" "Yes, I did." "It's strange I never saw any of your articles in print." "Oh, they never publish them. You see, I don't mind telling you, the editor told me confidentially that my articles were so solid he used them for paper weights."

What is Catarrh?

From the Mail (Can.) Dec. 15th.

Catarrh is a muco-purulent discharge caused by the presence and development of the vegetable parasite amœba in the internal lining membrane of the nose. This parasite is only developed under favorable circumstances, and these are :—Morbid state of the blood, as the blighted corpuscle of tubercle, the germ poison of syphilis, mercury, toxœmea, from the retention of the effete matter of the skin, suppressed perspiration, badly ventilated sleeping apartments, and other poisons that are germinated in the blood. These poisons keep the internal lining membrane of the nose in a constant state of irritation, ever ready for the deposits of the seeds of these germs, which spread up the nostrils and down the fauces, or back of the throat, causing ulceration of the throat; up the eustachian tubes, causing deafness; burrowing of the vocal cords, causing hoarseness, usurping the proper structure of the bronchial tubes, ending in pulmonary consumption and death.

Many attempts have been made to discover a cure for this distressing disease by the use of inhalants and other ingenious devices, but none of these treatments can do a particle of good until the parasites are either destroyed or removed from the mucus tissue.

Some time since a well-known physician of forty years standing, after much experimenting, succeeded in discovering the necessary combination of ingredients which never fails in absolutely and permanently eradicating this horrible disease, whether standing for one or forty years. Those who may be suffering from the above disease should, without delay, communicate with the business managers, Messrs. A. H DIXON & SON, 305 King Street West, Toronto, and get full particulars and treatise free by enclosing stamp.

Where Women Start the Fires.

Among the tribes of Africa the care of the fire is entrusted to the oldest unmarried daughter of the chief, or, if he has no such daughter, to the maiden nearest related to him. If by an accident or misfortune, it is extinguished, it must not be relit from another, but must be made anew from the beginning. For this purpose two straight sticks of any readily burning wood are taken. A hollow is made in one of the sticks, in which the sharpened end of the other one may be twirled, and some punk or half rotten wood is put in a grove cut to hold it, to serve as tinder. This stick is held to the ground by the knees, while the other one is turned rapidly back and forth between the open hands. When a spark appears, it is directed upon the tinder, which is then readily blown into a flame. The natives dislike this work very much, and when on a journey if they have no other fire apparatus they take an ignited stick with them. the fire of which they skillfully keep glowing for a long time.—[Popular Science Monthly.

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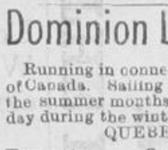

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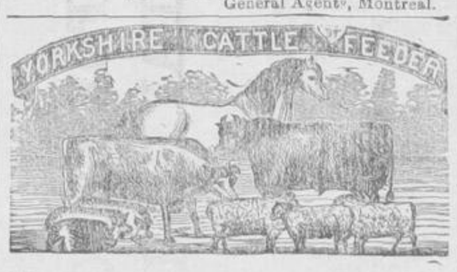

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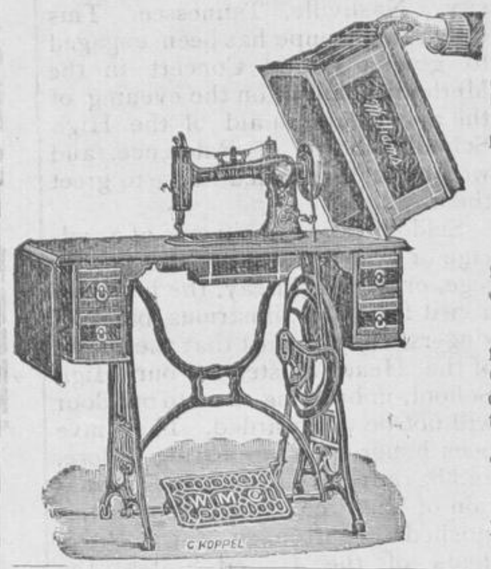

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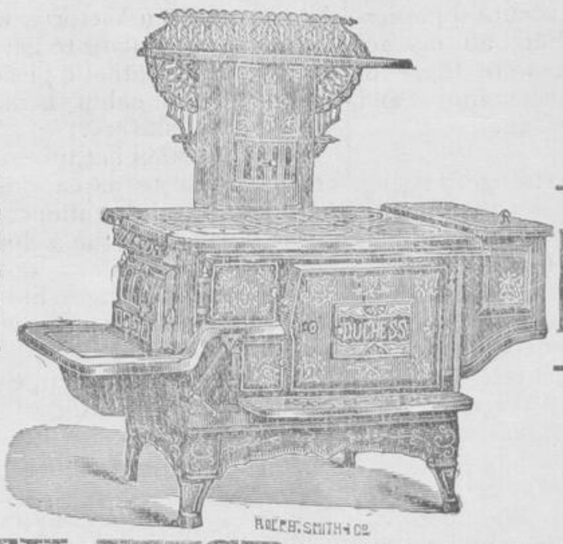

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