

ABU KLEA.

Gen. Stewart's First Gallant Fight with the Arabs—Eye-Witness Accounts of the Attack and Rout of the Rebels.

From the several accounts of the desperate battle of Abu Klea, published in the London papers, we are able to give herewith a connected and clear description of that sanguinary affair.

THE BRITISH ADVANCE.

The *Daily News* correspondent says:—Up to late on the morning of the 16th of January we had been advancing rapidly with a somewhat straggling column, but the sight of many places where Arab scouts had evidently encamped the night before led to long halts for a more compact formation and regular advance. The general supposition was that the Abu Klea Wells were held by a few rebels, who must be driven out at whatever cost. We had bivouacked and breakfasted at the south east side of the great plain, with distant hills to the right and left, and a black and rugged ridge in front, over the saddle of which the caravan route leads to Abu Klea. The 19th Hussars had gone on to reconnoitre and we heard the sound of distant rifle shots. About noon came news from Barrow that the enemy were holding the wells. General Stewart immediately made his dispositions for attack, massing the brigade in line of columns, the Guards on the right, the Heavy Camel Corps in rear of the Guards, forming the right face of the square. Lord Charles Beresford's naval brigade was similarly posted behind the mounted infantry. The Sussex Regiment on foot closed up the rear, and all the baggage was in the centre. In this compact square of column the brigade moved forward as steadily as if on parade, and halted 400 yards from the foot of the ridge, while General Stewart and his staff went forward across it to reconnoitre. As I followed them and looked back at the serried mass of our men it seemed but a mere speck on the vast plain. From the hill where General Stewart stood one could see forward over the extensive stretch of level country, comparatively fertile, bounded miles away by a silver strip that was either a mirage or the Nile. At the neck of this valley, where it narrows into the hills on which we stood, and among the mass of mimosas one could discern the enemy's force, with at least twenty banners waving in the sunlight.

NIGHT BEFORE THE BATTLE.

Thinking it too late then to advance and attack without knowing the actual strength of our foes, General Stewart wisely resolved to form a zereba for the night, with flanking squares strongly occupied, and pickets holding posts on the lofty hills on our left.

A Reuter's telegram says:—The troops advanced to within three miles of the wells, and, as the rebels showed no signs of moving, a halt was made, and the men were set to felling the trees and clearing away the grass in front of the column. An abattis was then formed round the baggage, and a stone breastwork with a frontage of about 150 yards was thrown up as an additional protection some 100 yards further to the front. The enemy's camp was sighted about four miles from our zereba. The camp comprised a large number of tents, and it appeared fairly fortified. Meanwhile two groups of the rebels were watching our movements from the high hills on our left front. Towards six o'clock the enemy fired a few stray shots on our right flank, to which Captain Gilbert Norton, R. A., replied with some rounds from three of the screw guns.

The *Daily News* correspondent says:—All night long we were harassed by shots from the heights a thousand yards distant. On the opposite flank there was a continuous hiss of bullets overhead. Now and then one fell in the square, but only two men and a camel were hit. Our sleep was not very sound. Thrice the men were called to arms before dawn, when a general attack on our position was expected. All was quiet until after breakfast.

THE DAY OF RECKONING.

After breakfast the fire recommenced from the stone breastworks, constructed during the night on the heights on our right and rear. This was only a feint fire. It was soon suppressed by the Mounted Infantry. By eight o'clock the enemy developed considerable strength on the right front, coming over the black, stony hills in good order in two long lines, with banners flying bravely. At the same time some force of the rebels began creeping steadily up the grassy Wady on our left front, the direct road to the wells. The screw-guns' battery made good practice. Two or three shots checked the advance for some time. Our position in the hollow, with lines extended along the ridge, was strong and well covered. Nevertheless several men were hit. One of the Heavy Camel Corps was killed early in the action. Another of the Mounted Infantry was dangerously wounded within a few yards of where I write. A camel close by was hit by the next shot. The rebels evidently made skilful use of their Remingtons. Our Martini's fire, hitherto restrained, was now beginning to tell effectively. At half-past nine the enemy's scouts were reported trying to creep round the hills on the left flank. Barrows Hussars were sent forward to check this. Meanwhile, the fire in the centre of the line was hotter every minute.

ADVANCING IN SQUARE.

The *Morning Post's* correspondent says:—Gen. Stewart at ten o'clock left his camels and stores with the baggage and the hospital commissariat in the entrenchments, under the guard of 150 men and at once marched out with the remainder of his force. The advance was made in square, with the Mounted Infantry as skirmishers on the front and right, the Hussars being in skirmishing order on the left. The enemy saluted us

with a hot fire from the hills, by which several were wounded, among whom were the following officers:—Major Gough (Mounted Infantry), Major Dickson, Lord St. Vincent, Lieutenant Beach (Life Guards), and surgeon Magill. By the continued and determined bold skirmishing of the Rifles and Mounted Infantry the enemy were gradually driven back, the artillery at the same time keeping up a brilliant fire on the position across the valley where the hostile flags floated in a long line, stretching out at right angles to the line of our advance.

The whole force was on foot, all the camels having been left behind in the entrenched post, save those which were allotted for hospital purposes and to convey water and ammunition, which were stationed inside the square. There were frequent stoppages for these purposes. They made progress slow. It was nearly an hour before we sighted the enemy's main body and realized that at least 7,000 or 8,000 men were against us. General Stewart took up a good position on a slope where the rebels must advance uphill across open ground. Skirmishers of Mounted Infantry were sent forward to force on the attack, while Captain Norton's battery of screw guns planted several shells among the densest mass.

THE ATTACK.

The authorities differ somewhat as to the precise tactics of the enemy. Lord Wolseley says they wheeled to the left and delivered a well organized charge. Reuter gives a much more elaborate account of the affair. He says the enemy began advancing towards us in two divisions in echelon, each numbering some 5,000 men, with drums beating and flags waving. Many of them were armed with rifles. They occasionally halted as they approached, as if to discover our formation. By a cleverly executed movement the rebels almost disappeared from view, leaving their standards only visible, and then on a sudden a large body reappeared, and wildly charged the front of our square. Unable to stand the deadly fire poured on them, the rebels turned and furiously attacked the left rear of the square.

The *Daily News* correspondent describes the attack as follows:—The rebels fought with the most reckless and admirable courage, and displayed great tactical skill. They harassed the zereba all the previous night, and endeavored to lead us into a skillfully-laid trap. We advanced two miles exposed to a heavy fire on all sides. We halted and closed square, while skirmishers went forward to force the concealed enemy into an attack. They sprang up, twenty banners waving, and came on in splendid line. The troops on the right were led by Abu Saleh, Emir of Metemma. On the left they were under Mohammed Khair, Emir of Berber. The latter was wounded, and retired early; but Saleh came desperately on at the head of a hundred fanatics, escaping the withering fire of the Martinis marvelously, until shot down in the square.

A BREACH IN THE SQUARE.

The *Morning Post* correspondent gives the best account of the breaking of the square. He says:—“At eleven o'clock the square was moving on a right incline, in order to enfilade the enemy, who were distant a quarter of a mile, and had brought its left face towards the Arab force, when suddenly they leaped in dense masses and rushed fiercely at great speed against the square. The onset was such that the skirmishers had scarcely time to reach the square before the enemy, following close upon their retreat, came upon the heavy dragoons, who formed the rear half of the left face, and the whole of the rear face of the formation. So fierce and rapid was the rush at this moment that the heavy cavalry were borne back by the masses of the Arabs, and in a moment the square was forced. The Gardner gun was jammed, and for ten minutes a desperate struggle raged from the left rear to the centre. Here Colonel Burnaby fell dead, a spear having severed his jugular vein. General Stewart's horse was shot under him, and the general fell for a moment to the ground. At the same moment his orderly was killed beside him. Many camels were speared by Arabs, and the interior of the square presented a mass of falling camels, of struggling Arabs and soldiers, the whole being filled also with a dense smoke and, while shots and sword-strokes were the replies to the Arab spear thrusts.

The *Daily News* correspondent gives the following explanation of the cause of the breaking of the square:—The rear face, composed of the heavy cavalry, broke forward in the endeavor to fire on the rebels, who swept round the flank and broke into us.

A RAPID BRITISH RALEY.

The *Morning Post* says:—It was not long before every Arab in the square was killed and the rest beaten off. Three hearty cheers were given as the square was reformed on fresh ground. The enemy then retreated sullenly, numbers of them rising from among the dead, and rushing past the square, not without many being shot.

The *Daily News* says:—For a moment there was much confusion. Then the men fell back, re-formed in good order, and poured volleys into the rebels, every one in the leading division falling dead in our midst. When we had time to look we saw that line after line of the enemy had fallen under the Martini fire as they advanced. In the temporary confusion the Gardner gun could not be got into action at the most effective moment. When it opened fire the rebels were close on it. The Naval Brigade therefore lost very heavily. Norton's little battery did immense service, especially when the rebel cavalry formed for the charge, three Shrapnels going in their midst; and again when a renewed attack was threatened from the enemy's left. The shells caused utter demoralization. Altogether the

battery fired 38 Shrapnels, 19 common shell, and 6 case, the latter when the rebels rushed to close quarters. The naval Gardner also produced great moral effect on the retreating bands. Of the ground selected by Gen. Stewart for the final stand, and the way he handled the men at the most critical moment, too much cannot be said in praise. He and the staff were in imminent danger repeatedly. The Earl of Airlie was wounded at the beginning of the fight, but never gave up. Rhodes was always cheery in the right place. Wardrop incessantly active. Piggott and Walsh, of the Mounted Infantry, did immense service, keeping the companies well in hand, pouring volleys into our resolute foes. The Guards moved not an inch, even when the rear was threatened simultaneously with the front. The *Morning Post* correspondent says:—Gunner Smith behaved most gallantly, and saved Lieut. Guthrie at the moment when all the other gunners had been borne back. He took up a handspike, and kept back his assailants with the utmost vigor.

AFTER THE BATTLE.

The *Daily News* says:—The steadiness of the Guards, Marines, and Mounted Infantry prevailed, and the fierce foes retired beaten, leaving the ground strewn with dead and wounded, with arms and banners. Barrow's Hussars came up soon after, but were too late to striking at the retreating foes, many of whom, however, were shot down while retiring. After the fight had terminated the Hussars were sent toward the wells of Abu Klea, which were then just two miles in advance, and took possession of them after a few shots. The heat has been extreme, and the men, who were without water or food, bore up admirably. Their behaviour was simply splendid during the march, and worthy of the highest praise when they were in the face of the enemy. The wells of Abu Klea were reached by the troops at 4 o'clock, p. m. The water is plentiful and is excellent for drinking. At 8 o'clock at night General Stewart sent back a portion of the Guards, with some of the heavy Cavalry Camel Corps and of the Mounted Infantry, to fetch everything from the entrenched post in the rear. They all arrived safely at 8 a. m., and on their arrival the troops here had the first food they had partaken of for 24 hours. General Stewart was to advance on Metemma on the 18th inst., leaving the post here under the charge of a strong detachment, with the wounded. The prisoners, in giving an account of the number of their force, reckon up ten tribes having on an average 800 men each in the field, which would make the total 8,000 men. Another report says: The number of the enemy was 14,000. They are said to have consisted of followers of the Mahdi from Khartoum, Kordofan, Berber, the latter having especially sent great chiefs. Among the killed are the Emir of Metemma and the chief of Hamara Arabs. One of these penetrated into the square on horseback. The number of the enemy killed is supposed to have been 2000.

The Use of a Scarf Pin.

They were playing whist in the smoker. One of the players wore on his collar-scarf a diamond pin. It was very large and very brilliant. The inference was that the wearer was a showy nabob, or a black-guy. As a partner was shuffling for a new deal, another remarked: “That is a fine pin you wear!” “Yes,” replied the man, “that is a good pin—for the money. It cost \$350. It is paste. You may wonder why I wear such a worthless bauble. I wear it for protection. This is the third one I have worn, the other two were stolen. Let me explain:

“I was travelling on a southern railway at night. Gradually the passengers in the car I was in dwindled to three—two men besides myself. I discovered that these men were attracted by my scarf pin, and I was convinced that they were determined to get it. I was glad, for I had more than \$3,000 in money and checks in my pocket. When I left the car one man was in front of me, and one was behind, and as a passed out the door, the jolting of the car gave both an opportunity to fall against me. At that moment one of them snatched the pin, and thinking it was a great prize, had no thought of taking anything else. It is a safeguard, and I would not travel with valuables in a strange country without one.”

A Promising Youth.

The Vienna police have arrested a very naughty boy named Navratil, who is only 18 years of age, but has a record entitling him fully to rank with patriots such as Mr. O'Donovan Rossa and saviors of society such as Mme. Clovis Hughus. He was brought up as a tinker; but he had a soul above tinkering, and he took to murder as a profession. He hired lodgings in one of the suburbs of Vienna, and on the second day after he had taken them he assassinated Frau Schinke, a pawnbroker's wife. A few days later he killed Herr Kostler, an old gentleman of independent means. By these two murders, as it now appears, he secured 7 florins. As he has been living in comparative comfort, it is supposed that he has committed a good many other murders, to say nothing of more aggravated crimes, such as theft and burglary. If he were tried by a French jury and acquitted, he would probably degenerate into a pickpocket, then perhaps take to betting, and ultimately sink to telling falsehoods, and talking about his honor and reputation. As it is, his downward career will probably be cut very short, for the Vienna police believe they have evidence upon which they can convict him twice over, if not, indeed, oftener.—[St. James's Gazette.

It is intimated that the widow of the late Tom Thumb intends to be married again soon, and that the wedding cards will soon be issued. The name of the lucky man has not been published.

FOREIGN ECHOES.

A child recently died in Rye, England, of fright caused by a boy wearing a mask.

The *Cornhill Magazine* was so named from a street in London, not far from the exchange.

In Morocco schools the Koran is only taught, and the pedagogue receives fifteen cents a month for teaching it.

In the French military hospitals chaplaincies have been abolished. The necessity of reducing the army estimates is the official explanation.

Owing to colonial annexations during the past year, Germans, like Britons, are now able to say that the sun never sets on the German empire.

French peasants in Ecouen receive sixty cents a day for work in the fields. They rise at three or four o'clock in the morning and end their labor sometimes not till nine in the evening, with a short intermission for an eleven o'clock dinner.

Billingsgate, the great market through which London buys her principal fish supply, delivers monthly an average of 11,000 tons. During December there was brought into the market 9,600 pounds of fish that was seized as unfit for food.

Although rice is the chief article of consumption in Sierra Leone, not one pint is grown on the peninsula, and the price of this food staple is regulated by the facilities of transit and the number of inter-tribe conflicts of the adjacent tribes of savages.

An extraordinary case of longevity is that of Pietro d'Andrea, who is 120 years old. He lives at Rocca Barardi, a village of the common of Pescocostanzo, near Citta Ducale, Italy. He is still in the full possession of his mental faculties, and is able to walk long distances.

In Japan, where a ridiculous and injurious custom prevails of having the eyelids daily turned inside out, and then rubbed over, titillated and polished with a smooth patula, the ratio of the blind to the whole population is one to four hundred. In the city of Yeddo, it is said, there are no fewer than 36,000 persons without sight.

Considering the number of children who are thrashed within an inch of their lives, generation after generation, in consequence of the “rod” dictum of the “wisest of men,” Mr. Labouchere wonders that no one has pointed out how sadly the system of that “wise” parent failed in the case of his own son Kichoban.

Many passenger coaches on the West France railway are two stories in height, and heretofore numerous accidents have occurred from people standing up while the trains enter Paris on the Ceinture line, which passes under innumerable bridges. To avoid this the bed of the railway is now being dug lower, it being impracticable to raise the street bridges.

Rhenish railway companies are liable to the government for military fees and conscriptions, to partly relieve which one company built last year two monitors, which it stationed at Cologne, but in their construction the water level and the currents and eddies of the river were not taken into account, and they had to be abandoned. The boats, which cost \$225,000, have just been sold for \$1,700.

Some of the English bishops work hard. Thus, for instance, during 1884 Dr. Thorold, the bishop of Rochester, received 9,074 letters, preached 107 sermons, delivered 199 addresses, confirmed 11,087 catechumens, attended 79 committee meetings and 27 public meetings, consecrated 8 churches, opened 4 mission buildings, ordained 44 deacons and 44 priests, and presided at 6 rural deanery conferences.

Charles Westwood, of Shoreditch, being an anti-vaccinationist, evaded the English health law, and permitted three of his children to remain unvaccinated. They have recently died of small-pox. The *Lancet* says that Mr. Westwood will have to look far back into history for any accident from vaccination to be compared with the disaster that has accrued to his home from small-pox.

The banners and other insignia of the Knights of the Garter are kept above the choir stalls in St. George's chapel, Windsor. Recently they have been rearranged, owing to the deaths of the Duke of Albany, the Duke of Buccleuch, Earl Cowley, and the Duke of Wellington, and the bestowal of new insignia upon the Princes Edward and George, sons of the prince of Wales, for which a place had to be found.

The Maison Doree, the well-known Paris restaurant, was the scene the other day of a very exciting arrest. A well-known count, belonging to one of the best families in the gay capital, and very popular in the American colony, was given in charge by the proprietor for making it his practice to order a good dinner and then leave without paying. Only two years ago this nobleman was a shining member of the beau-monde.

The extent of the London smoke nuisance is very well measured by the statistics lately published of last year's sunshine in London and the provinces. In the city the sun shone for 974 out of a possible 4,455, or an average of two hours forty minutes per day. At Kew, in the same time, there were 1,484 hours' sunshine, or a daily average of four hours three minutes, while at Hastings the total was 1,825, or exactly five hours a day.

From the record of inundations which have for ages been the scourge of Holland, it would appear that during the last thirteen centuries one of the larger floods has occurred on an average once in seven years. About six hundred years ago the

sea broke through its restraining dikes and eighty thousand persons are said to have perished. In a single night, in 1421, seventy-two villages and one hundred thousand human beings were swept away.

The myth that a large sum of money had been offered by the government for one million postage stamps is said to have arisen in the following way: An advertisement appeared in London, England, asking charitable people to send their stamps to a poor boy in Brighton, who wished to cover his walls with portraits of her majesty. When they should be covered the lad's education was to be paid for by a wealthy lunatic. Thousands of stamps were sent, and then cleaned and sold. The police broke it up.

In England there are 114,000 school teachers, 95 per cent. of whom are spinners. In Athens, Greece, the proportion is quite as great, while the entrance by young women into that occupation there means almost as certainly a life of single blessedness as though they had taken the veil. Occasionally it happens that one marries, but she is ever after regarded by her late spinster associates as having had a weakness in her composition that rendered her unworthy of the profession.

In the Cassel, Germany, natural history museum are specimens of the wood of five hundred different European trees, made up in the form of a library. Each specimen is in the shape of a volume. The back is formed of the bark, the sides of the perfect wood, the top of the young wood, with narrow rings, the bottom of old wood, with rings wider apart. When the volume is opened it is found to be a little box, containing the flower, seed, fruit, and leaves of the tree, either dried or imitated in wax.

The Legal Status of Prince Albert Victor.

The law is singularly bare in its recognition of the second generation of the royal family, even in the case of its senior male representative, when the first generation includes his father. He is not even entitled in strictness to be called heir presumptive to the Crown, because there can be no heir presumptive when there is an heir apparent, and his father's titles admit of no courtesy title borne by the heir apparent to them.

His place in point of precedence is after his uncles, as was settled in 1760, when the Duke of York, in the lifetime of George II., took his seat in the House of Lords. Nothing remains except the comparatively modern title of Prince, to which must be added the first Christian name, as in point of law the first Christian name is the only Christian name, no one being entitled to more than one.

Even the position during minority of a son of the Prince of Wales is rather vaguely defined by the law. In 1718 it was decided by a majority of ten Judges to two that the education and the care of the sovereign's grandchildren belong to the sovereign during the lifetime of their father; but the decision of the majority has had doubts thrown upon it.

It has never been doubted that, at common law, the approval of the marriage of the sovereign's grandchildren belongs to the sovereign, and now, by statute, control is given to the Crown over the marriage of all the English descendants of George II. It is a popular error that a prince in the direct line of the throne comes of age, in the sense of capacity of reigning, before he attains 21.

The fact is that the heir to the throne is always capable of reigning, as the sovereign is never a minor. In the case of sovereigns of tender years regents have been appointed; but the age at which sovereigns who were minors began to act for themselves has varied from time to time. Henry III. and Edward III. were considered of full age to act as kings at 18; Richard II. and Henry VI. not till 23; and by a statute of Henry VII. his successor, if a male, was to be under guardianship until 18, and if a female until 16.

The modern practice has been to make 18 the full age of a sovereign, as evidenced by the statute in regard to the children of Frederick, Prince of Wales, in regard to the children of George III., and in regard to the children of her present Majesty and the late Prince Consort, in the event of that Prince surviving her Majesty, and the heir to the throne being under that age. No age, however, is now fixed by law before attaining which the sovereign cannot reign without a regent.

The attainment by Prince Albert of Wales of the age of 21 has legally even less significance than in the case of an ordinary subject. Although he is, like others, no longer under pupillage, he, unlike them, is still not master of himself in regard to marriage.

She Locked Her Children in the House.

Mrs. John Alling of Bristol, Conn., locked her three small children up in the house on a recent afternoon and went away. The oldest child was a boy of five and the youngest a babe. When Mrs. Alling returned at four o'clock she saw smoke pouring from the windows and doors of the house. Hastening in she stumbled over something on the floor, which she found to be her baby with its clothing consumed and its body badly burned. She ran to the chamber where she had left the three children in bed, and there, hidden under the bed clothes, she found the two older ones almost paralyzed with fright. After their mother left them in the afternoon they got up and amused themselves by striking matches and throwing them about the room. When the baby's clothes took fire the two older ones hurried back to bed and left the infant to its fate. The babe soon expired. It is a miracle that the house, with all the children, was not consumed.