

GREAT battles have been fought at Abuklea and Metamneh in the Sudan, by the British troops against vast hordes of the Mahdi's Arab forces. The Queen telegraphed her thanks. Many officers are killed and two or three eminent Press agents. The total loss of the British including the loss at Abuklea, was 104 killed and 216 wounded. The enemy's loss was 3000 killed and wounded. The British found General Gordon's steamers waiting them on the Nile. A large troop of British soldiers under Col. Wilson, landed there and started up the Nile to help Gordon the Hero at Khartoum.

TERRIBLE NEWS FROM KHARTOUM.—Col. Wilson with the British soldiers reached Khartoum too late. He found that city in the hands of the Mahdi's rebel Arabs. They had betrayed Gordon by treachery, by means of cowardly men and wavering half-and-half's within the city, who let in the rebels by night on Jan. 26, and turned Gordon's batteries against himself and his little band of true blues. They also attacked Colonel Wilson on his arrival on Jan. 28, with great guns on all sides, and the steamer had to retire with all speed down the Nile, and suffered shipwreck on an island above Metamneh, but the troops were saved. The Arabs are now defiant and furious. The danger is extreme. Friendly tribes are wavering or yielding. No word is heard of General Gordon. He is supposed to be murdered, or else a prisoner under the Mahdi's power.

Intense grief and wrath prevails throughout London and Britain. Gladstone is waking up too late to spend ten-fold the expense and the blood, with most terrible risks, which might all have been prevented if he had taken Gordon's counsel in time! He has worn down that noblest Hero of all, whose heart is now breaking in prison, or cold in death! Carlyle's opinion was too terribly true.

We have said little about this. We leave it to those whose work it is. But ALL MUST SEE that Gladstone's declared policy to *rescue Gordon and leave Khartoum*, was enough to tempt or even force that city to make peace with the Mahdi. Who can wonder that they tried to make that peace even with Gordon's head rather than with their own heads, when they heard that Gordon was to be "*rescued*" and *themselves left to the Mahdi's tender mercies so soon*? The London Times says: "The shock has no parallel in the experience of the present generation. It is the sad result of a long course of disregard of the elementary maxims of statesmanship. Everything has been done that could be done

to add to the risks of defeat. Advice has been spurned, time wasted, and opportunity lost. By the loss of Khartoum Wolseley's whole expedition is in the air. The only effective base of operations is Suakim. To make this available Osman Digna must be vanquished, and a road to Berber opened. Gordon must be saved or avenged." All parties agree that now or never Britain must strain every nerve to save her honor. She dare not fly before the Eastern foe. It would mean war and mutiny from one end of Asia to the other. The Mahdi must be crushed. Party spirit must be dropped and one supreme effort made to save not only Gordon (if living) but also Stewart, Wolseley, Egypt and India from hideous fanaticism and rebellious mutiny.

TRKRY seems anxious to give help, but upon dangerous conditions, not likely to carry.

FRANCE was said to have seized the New Hebrides, with consent of Gladstone. This if true, is terrible news for the missionaries there, as the Loyalty isles have felt. No wonder that indignation runs high, and that even the Grit press twits Gladstone as a "poor old woman" in his foreign policy, and longs for one day of the Beaconsfield "jingo" to save the Missionaries. We hope they may be saved. Great efforts are made to arouse Earl Derby to interfere.

The case of the New Hebrides gives point to the opinion that our churches should confine their missionary efforts for some time to the heathen in the British Empire itself. There is a vast—a nearly illimitable field—in India, in Africa, in New Guinea, under the flag of Britain, where there need be no dread of foreign interference. Our first duty is to our fellow subjects, and tens of millions of them have never heard the Gospel.

THE Chinese have repulsed the French attack on Kelung, and threaten them in Tonquin with 80,000 soldiers. The French begin to fear at last.

AT BIRMINGHAM, on Jan. 29, John Bright addressed a crowded meeting. He said the question of dis-establishment would not be an opportune one in the present century.

THE first annual meeting of the Free Church Defence Association was held in Edinburgh. Resolutions were adopted in support of the principles of the Free Church at 1843 and 1846, in opposition to the present Dis-establishment movement and in favor of the restoration of purity of doctrine and worship. Dr. F. G. Balfour occupied the