

PAGES OF BRITISH HISTORY.

Historical Battles—Noteworthy Events in the Story of the Creation of the British Empire.

Alexandria, 1801.

The brilliant victory won by Nelson in the Bay of Aboukir imprisoned the army of France amid the arid sands of Egypt; but, nevertheless, Napoleon led it in 1799 across the desert to Palestine. He took Jaffa by storm, and laid siege to Acre, where, as related in last issue, he was repulsed by the British and Turks under Sir Sidney Smith. Subsequent to this, alarming news from France caused him to hurry home and leave his troops in Egypt, when they began to lose heart. When Sir Ralph Abercrombie, an old and gallant officer, who had served in many parts of the world with great distinction, received orders to place himself at the head of an independent armament, of which the design according to immemorial usage was kept secret. This was the army ultimately destined for Egypt.

The troops were 20,000 strong. After many delays, much indecision, and also late wandering about the Mediterranean, on the 29th of December the expedition reached the Bay of Marmorice, in Asiatic Turkey.

The regiments were disembarked and exercised. Turkish horses were purchased for the cavalry; gun-boats were procured to cover the landing of the troops in Egypt, and a plan of co-operation was arranged with the Turks. The delays of the latter detained for some time the fleet, which, however, put to sea on the 23rd of February, 1801. A gale dispersed the Greek and Turkish contingents; but the British held their course, and by sunset on the 1st of March they saw Alexandria, with its old Pharos, rising bleak and bare from the sea, unrelieved to the eye by aught but a few palm trees, and the occasional flag of a consul fluttering in the wind. Bearing on, the fleet came to anchor in the recent scene of Nelson's glory, the Bay of Aboukir. Sickness, death, and changes had now reduced the original force to 15,330 men; the fleet consisted of 175 sail of all kinds.

On their arrival at Aboukir, the first tidings that reached the troops was, that the two brave and intelligent officers, Major Mackerris and Captain Fletcher, whom General Abercrombie had sent to examine the coast, had fallen into the hands of the enemy; the former dead and the latter alive.

Broken and equally weather rendered the attempt to land impracticable for a week; and in the meantime a French frigate, which, by capturing some British ships, had become acquainted with our private signals, and daintily accompanied the expedition as if she formed part of it, suddenly shot ahead of the fleet, and hoisting the tri-color, ran safely into the harbour of Alexandria, with a reinforcement for General Menou.

On the evening of the 7th the wind abated; and, accompanied by Sir Sidney Smith and the chief officers of his staff, Sir Ralph Abercrombie proceeded in an armed launch to reconnoitre the coast, and found the preparations to resist debarkation most formidable. The sand-hills which stretch in a semi-circular form from the castle of Aboukir to the distance of a mile on the left were occupied by strong bodies of cavalry and infantry. Along the ridge were planted twelve pieces of artillery, so as to throw with the cannon of Fort Aboukir, a cross-fire on every channel of approach; while several mortars, half concealed by inequalities of the ground, promised some variety of peril in the nature of missiles to be encountered.

On the morning of the 8th the landing was to be attempted; and the first detachments under Major-General Coote, got into the boats, and pushed off for their rendezvous, the Mondovi, brig some hundred paces from the shore.

The ascent of a sky-rocket from the admiral's ship was the signal for the boats to leave the fleet. A brilliant moon favoured, and, at the same, fully displayed all the operations; but owing to the distance they had to row, the moon had waned and day dawned ere they reached the brig which formed their point of rendezvous. Three boats each containing sixty men, were sunk by the enemy's guns, within a hundred yards of the land. Many were saved, but all the wounded inevitably perished.

This was at nine in the morning, when, at a given signal, all the boats pulled in for the beach, 200 feet above the level of which the French were in position, on the summit of the sand-hills. In light marching order, and

closely packed, each man with his loaded musket between his knees, the soldiers sat in silence, while the seamen bent to their oars, and for a time the rattle of these in the row-locks and the splash of their blades alone were heard; but in a minute or two latter the artillery and mortars from the beach and the castle of Aboukir opened, the sea began to hiss and boil ahead, astern, and around the frail armada, as round shot, grape, and shells were showered upon it.

Undaunted by this hot reception, the seamen, under Captain Alex. Cochrane (son of Lord Dundonald), pulled steadily on; and ere long the musketry, like a shower, was added to the cannonade, and the furrowed water rose in spouts one very hand. The troops, however, leaped into the surf, forming a line as they approached the beach, with bayonets fixed and colors flying, while loud cheers rang from flank to flank.

"Forward!" was the word, and forward all went with a will, led by General Moore (the fated hero of Corunna). "They rushed up the heights," says Sir Robert Wilson, "with almost preternatural energy, never firing a shot, but charging with bayonet the two battalions that crowned them, breaking and pursuing them, till they carried the two hills which commanded the plain to the left, taking at the same time three pieces of cannon."

The Guards, on their landing, were attacked by the cavalry, who had rallied; but a flank fire from the 58th enabled them to form and advance together against the enemy. Prior to this the French cavalry had actually ridden into the sea and in some instances killed in the boats those men who were so densely crowded as to be incapable of using their weapons. The engagement at Aboukir was short but decisive, the French posted to oppose the landing being repulsed on all points, the troops advanced to support the column of General Moore, who by this time obtained complete possession of the commanding ground in front, with a loss, however, of 700 killed and wounded, including seamen and marines.

Covered by swarms of tirailleurs, the French were now in full retreat along the road to Alexandria. No attempt was made to follow them then, for the general and staff had ample occupation in getting stores conveyed from the ships to the beach and thence to the bivouac; and in having wells dug in the sand, wherever the appearance of date trees gave promise of water. The old castle of Aboukir still held out, but was blockaded by the Queen's Own, and twenty-six dragoons, dismounted; while the army advanced on Alexandria by a movement from the right, proceeded by the brigade of Guards.

The conduct of the 92nd, whose colonel was killed, and who lost many officers and men, was splendid on this occasion. "Opposed to a tremendous fire," says Sir Robert Wilson, "and suffering severely from the French line, they never receded a foot, but maintained the contest alone, until the marines and the rest of the line came to their support." So conspicuous was their gallantry, that they were afterwards ordered to bear the word "Mandora," on their colours and appointments.

The rest of the troops came on but slowly, as we had no horses to drag our guns; and the utmost exertions of the seamen, even when aided by the soldiers, scarcely sufficed to drag them through the loose sand, in which the carriages sank at times to the axletrees. But the enemy did not pause to receive the grand attack, as they fell back on an entrenched position which they had formed with great care in front of Alexandria, and these works Sir Ralph Abercrombie determined to carry at all risks. He continued to advance till the line had come within point-blank range of the enemy's batteries. A halt was then ordered, and the men stood still under a murderous fire of a skillfully-handled cannon, while Sir Ralph and his staff rode forward to reconnoitre.

"The difficulties under which he laboured, through the absence of all information touching the plans and disposition of the enemy, were," says his biographer, "very great." It was found impossible to make the Arabs comprehend the object of such questions as were put to them; while from their own statements, voluntarily offered, no conclusions could be drawn on which the general considered that he ought to place the slightest reliance. The troops were directed to fall back upon the post from which they had that morning dislodged the enemy."

By this time not fewer than 156 officers and men had been killed and 1,070 wounded.

These were the operations precursory to the battle of Alexandria.

NEAR THE DARK VALLEY.

A YOUNG GIRL RESCUED FROM AN 'EARLY GRAVE.'

Pale, listless and weak, the victim of a hacking cough, she was apparently going into a rapid decline—a case of deep interest to every mother in the land.

From the Cornwall Standard. It is now a common thing in this locality to hear people acknowledge the wonderful benefit they have derived from the use of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and it is not to be wondered at that the druggists find the sale of this remarkable medicine so large and yet constantly increasing. We could give any number of instances of splendid results following the use of Pink Pills, but so many of these are well known to many of our readers as to not need recapitulation. However, now and again a case of more than usual interest arises, and we will give the particulars of one of these for the benefit of the public at large. Some years ago a young girl of 14, a daughter of Mr. Leon Dore, a well known and respected resident of Cornwall, began to show serious symptoms, and caused her mother great anxiety. She was just at the critical period of her life, and medical aid was called in and



"Was merely a shadow of her former self."

everything done to help her. But it appeared to be useless, and week after week she continued to grow worse, until it was evident she was fast going into decline. A hacking cough set in, and the poor girl, who was formerly plump and healthy looking, with bright rosy cheeks, began to waste away, and in a few months was merely a shadow of her former self. Her mother had about lost all hope of saving the young girl's life, the doctors being apparently unable to do anything to check the mysterious disease. At length the mother's attention was directed to Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and she decided to give them a trial. A box was taken, and, as the girl did not show any visible signs of improvement, her mother was on the point of discontinuing the medicine when a neighbor persuaded her that a single box was not a fair trial, and induced her to continue the Pills. By the time the second box was completed there was some improvement noticeable and there was joy in that small household, and no more persuasion was needed to continue the treatment. The use of the Pink Pills was then continued for some months, by which time the young girl had completely recovered her health. To-day she is the very picture of health, and the color in her cheeks is as bright as it was before her illness commenced. To those who saw her during the days of her illness and suffering, her recovery is little short of a miracle. Mrs. Dore freely gave the Standard reporter permission to publish an account of her daughter's illness and recovery. She said she could not find words strong enough to express the gratitude for the miraculous cure this great life-saving medicine had effected in her daughter's case, and she hoped her testimony might be the means of leading others similarly afflicted to give them a trial.

After writing the above, the reporter again called on Mrs. Dore and read it to her, asking if it was entirely correct. She replied that she would like to give even stronger expression to her appreciation of this wonderful medicine. She further said that Pink Pills had greatly helped herself. She had been suffering from the effects of la grippe, and the Pink Pills had restored her to health. Her daughter also expressed her gratitude for the extraordinary change this medicine had wrought in her health.

In the case of young girls who are pale or sallow, listless, troubled with a fluttering or palpitation of the heart, weak and easily tired, no time should be lost in taking a course of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, which will speedily enrich the blood, and bring a rosy glow of health to the cheeks. These pills are a positive cure for all troubles arising from a vitiated condition of the blood or a shattered nervous system. They are a specific for troubles peculiar to females, correcting suppressions, irregularities, and all forms of weakness. Manufactured by the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont., and Schenectady, N. Y., and sold in boxes (never in loose form) by the dozen or hundred at 50 cents a box, or six boxes at \$2.50. May be had by druggists or direct by mail from Dr. Williams' Medicine Company at either address.

AIMS OBJECTS, AND BENEFITS

OF THE SONS OF ENGLAND

BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

Organized in Toronto, December 13th, 1874. To Englishmen and Sons of Englishmen:

The mission of the Society is to bring into organized union all true and worthy Englishmen; to maintain their national institutions and liberties and the integrity of the British Empire; to foster and keep alive the loving memory of Old England, our native and Mother land; to elevate the lives of its members in the practice of mutual aid and true charity—caring for each other in sickness and adversity and following a deceased brother with fraternal care and sympathies, when death comes, to earth's resting place.

Great Financial Benefits, viz.: Sick pay, Doctor's attendance and medicine and Funeral Allowance are accorded. Healthy men between the ages of 18 and 80 years are received into membership. Honorary members are also admitted. Roman Catholic Englishmen are not eligible. Reverence for and adhesion to the teachings of the Holy Bible is insisted on.

Party politics are not allowed to be discussed in the lodge room. The Society is secret in its proceedings to enable members to protect each other and prevent imposition—for which purpose an initiation Ritual is provided, imposing obligations of fidelity to the principles of the Society on all who join it.

The Society is making rapid growth and has lodges extending over Canada from the Atlantic to the Pacific shores, having a membership upwards of 12,000 at present, the ratio of increase being far greater as the Society's influence and usefulness is better known. Lodges have been started South Africa

and will soon probably be started in England, etc.

The Beneficiary (Insurance) Department is providing insurance to the members for \$1,000 or \$2,000 as desired, at the minimum cost, unsurpassed by any other fraternal Society in Canada, and is conducted on the assessment system. The assessments are graded. A total disability allowance is also covered by the certificates in class "A." There are no disability claims in class "B." No Englishmen need join other organizations when the inducements of this Department are considered.

Englishmen forming and composing new lodges derive exceptional advantages in the initiation fees, and 12 good men can start a lodge. In our lodge rooms social distinctions are laid aside and we meet on the common level of national brotherhood, in patriotic association for united counsel and effort in maintaining the great principles of our beloved Society. As such we can appeal to the sympathetic support of all true Englishmen—asking them to cast in their lot with us, thereby swelling the grand roll of those bound together in fraternal sympathies and in devotion to England and the grand cause of British freedom.

Any further information will be cheerfully given by the undersigned.

JOHN W. CARTER, Grand Secretary.

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SEPTEMBER, 1895. Arrival and Departure of Mails.

Table with columns for CLOSE, MAILS, and DUE, listing various mail routes and times.

BRITISH MAILS. 1 45 Monday, 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th. Via New York. 1 45 Tuesday, 30th, 10th, 17th, 24th, Supplementary. Via New York. 1 45 Wednesday, 11th, 18th, 25th. Via New York. 1 45 Thursday, 4th, 12th, 19th, 26th. Via New York. 1 45 Friday, 13th, 27th, Supplementary. Via New York. 5 30 Saturday, 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th. Via Rimouski. 4 30 \* Parcel Post Dispatched with these mails.

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