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If you have the slightest symptom of kichey or bladder trouble you can test ments have been made whereby every reader of this paper can obtain a trial package of Dr. Pitcher's Backache Kidney Tablets absolutely free by enclosing two cent stamp for postage to The Pitcher Tablet Co., Toronto, Ont. When giving address mention this

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ANOTHER WAR CLOUD

SOME DANGER THAT KING MENELIK MAY TAKE A HAND.

The Ambitious Successor of the Queen of Sheba-He Might Undo Kitchener's Great Work-He Hates the British Because of the Past

The cable announces that King Menlik of Abyssinia will not visit the vench Exposition, as he had intendea. And only a few days before the cable supplied the explanation of this change in the royal plans, in shape of a statement that Menelik was preparing to march on the Scudan as soon as the Sirdar had left for South Africa. The ambitions and character-istics of Meneilk make this more than probable. He believes himself to be



King Menelik.

the direct descendant of Solomon, by the Queen of Sheba, alleged in Abyssinian traditions to have come from the land then known as Ethiopia, a name still applied to it by its inhabitants. The name Abyssinia is an appellation bestowed by the Arabs. It means "mixture," referring to the mixed character of the inhabitants of that great country.

The Vast Domai

There is no exact limit to the vast omain loosely called Abyssinia. Lying between 7 deg. 30 min. and 15 deg. 40 min, north latitude, forming the extreme eastern portion of Central Africa, it is the most delightful of countries, notwithstanding its proximity to the equator, for its mountains and table-lands-lying six thousand or eight thousand feet above the sea levl-affords all possible varieties of climate and products. Menelik, "Negusa Negust" ("King of Kings"), is absolute monarch of all the wide domain, with Its four or five million inhabitants. It is divided into three large provinces— Tigre on the north, Ambama on the outh and Shoa on the southeast. Ethiopic is the language of the first; Amharic is spoken in the two other provinces. The inscriptions of Egypt point to the importance of Ethiopia n ancient times, and it is known that there was constant communication and often warfare between Egypt and Ethiopia. Up to a few years ago, however, little was thought and less was known of the country and its inhabi-The Ethiopian was thought of merely as one of the numerous savage African peoples. But he is not even a negro. He bears no resemblance to the other inhabitants of the Dark Continent; in fact, many of the inhabitants of Abyssinia are of the Caucasian race, of dark olive tint, approaching more nearly to the Bedouin than to any other people in appearance.

A Christian People. 7 More than this, the Abyssinians are a Christian people, and have been since the fourth century, when Bishop Athanasius of Alexandria, who wrote the famous Athanasian Creed, sent missionaries to them. They are independent Christians, however, like no other greed on earth. They practise much of the Old Testament code, ob-serving the rite of circumcision, the distinctions between animals called clean and unclean in the Pentateuch, and enforce the law "An eye for an eye" with a literalness never practised in Palestine. But they do not forget the Golden Rule, which is observed with directness and simplicity. If a priest was married before he entered the priest was married beroit in the the priesthood, he may sitil retain his wife, but if not married he cannot marry after becoming a priest. There are numerous churches, but no images in them. Great reverence is paid to Radley's Stomach the saints, especially SS. George and Michael. The walls of the churches are covered with frescoes, where may be seen the Crucifixion, with Jesus on the cross, the two thieves on either side, the Roman soldier extending the sponge soaked in vinegar, and Mary weeping at the foot of the cross. Anachronisms do not embarrass their mural decorations, for in a picture of the Israelites crossing the Red Sea the soldiers of Pharaoh are armed with guns! Nor are they always true to the traditioned interpretations of the Bible, for Eve tempts Adam with the Bible, for Eve tempts Adam with a banana instead of with an apple. The artist probably never saw an apple. The churches are rude buildings, circular in shape, with three divisions in them—an outer one for the people, an inner one for the priests and the largest central part for the hely of he

eigns through Mcnelik I. Hence he calls himself Mevelik II.

tion for a tribe of Jews in Abyssinia, the Falashas, and prides himself upon his descent from the wisest of sover-

The life and cuetoms of the Abyssinians are simple to primitiveness, yet they are an intelligent people, capable of a high civilization. The army of Menelik numbers some two hundred thousand, a formidable force, trained as they are and supplied with modern weapons. The ftalians bed a little exweapons. The Italians had a little experience with them which they will remember for many years to come, for the troops of Menelik go into battle to light with rifles if they can, with . . . and shield when they have a chance. In their last battle with the Italians, who numbered twenty-one thousand, New Store

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C. M. STILES

but one thousand escaped. three thousand were taken prisoners and the rest were killed outright. They understand the value of discipline, but they couple with the order of modern troops the fierceness of the savage, and will rush to kill, though wounded

to the death themselves.

The discipline enforced even upon the chiefs is of the severest. If Menelik is not pleased with the acts of one of his chiefs he sends for the man, and with his own royal kands lays on lustily with a stick. The monarch loes it thoroughly, but firmly, for the good of the kingdom. These chiefs are esponsible to him personally for their men and for the taxes required. Mene-lik is not easily deceived, for he goes about like a modern Haroun al Ras-chid to see that all is well in his capi-tal, Adis Adaba. He even descends to the royal kitchen.

Attends to Details,

Not a detail escapes him, and in his eagerness to see and learn everything he can snatch but three or four hours a night for sleep. He can fix his own watch if it gets out of order, and handle a Gatling gun with the best of his men. At the same time he will take part in their dangerous sport of hurling javelins at one another while riding at full speed, and fears neithen man nor beast. But there are two persons who exert no small influence upon him, and these are his clever wife, Tarhai-itu, and his cousin and the commander in chief of his armles, Ras Makonnen, both of whom worked-hard for the introduction of the latest modern methods into Abyssinla. Such is the country and the people which may precipitate all its power upon the Brit-ish Soudan to gratify the ambition of Menelik and Ras Mokonnen. What cause have the Abyssinians to hate the English? This is a matter of history. The first of the three great kings of Abyssinia was Theodore III., who ascended the throne in 1855. Of considerable intelligence, Theodore organized an army of 150,000 men, and when Plowden, the English consul and his friend, was killed by a rebel named Garred Theodore revenged his death by slaying some two thousand followers of this rebel. This was in 1860. and when, two years later, another consul was sent by England Theodore dismissed him with a letter to the Queen. This letter was never answered, and in connection with the un-welcome reappearance of Cameron, the consul, embittered the Ethiopian monarch. He put Cameron and his suite in prison , and when Mr. Hormuzd Rassam came to demand his release he, too, was put in prison. Theodore then sent to Victoria for British machinery and workmen. He treated his prisoners kindly at first, but later almost starved them, until they were released by British troops in 1863.

Some History.

Meantime rebellions against Theodore had broken out, and although the Queen thought to conciliate the monarch by sending him some arti-sans and machinery, she found it necessary to support with troops her demand for the release of her subjects. After severe marches through the mountains the British troops, under Sir Robert Napler, surrounded Theo-dore with the remnant of his army. that was still faithful to him, and the

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inmost central part for the holy of ho-lies, like the temple at Jerusalem. In fact, Menelik shows great considera-A lot of 25c, cuspidores for 18 cents Cups and saucers, sugars, creamers, butter dishes, plates, all sizes; also a quantity of glassware will be closed out at a reduction of ten per cent for the day. We shall also make a reduc-tion of 10 per cent on all lamps for the

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Ethiopian died by his own hand. Eng-land was acknowledged supreme by the son of the dead Kirg, Alam-ayahu, who returned to England with the British troops. Scen after the sol-diers had been withdrawn Prince Kassai, of the province of Tigre, declared his independence, defeatedt the chiefs about him, and in 1872 was crowned King of Ethiopia under the name of Johannes. He was successful in 1889 by the present King Menelik II. Such is the story of British attempts against Abyssinia It is possible that if the English troops had not been withdrawn in 1868 this broad domain would now be a part of the British possessions in Africa, but it is enough to know that a king of Ethiopia was brought to his death by Mitish arms to understand how Menelik feels toward Great Britain.

What Will He Do?

Encouraged by Russia, it would take very little to induce Menelik to march the short distance to Khartoum and undo at one stroke all of the work so brilliantly performed by Kitchener. The struggle, under existing circum-stances, would be by no means easy for England, and it is more than probable that the hardy, well trained troops of the Ethiopian monarch would

sweep all before them. Will Menelik try it? Every traveler who has visited him has been struck by the tremendous ambition of the



Ababdeh Warrior

man, which he does not pretend to conceal. He knows what is going on in the world, and if, after his defear of the Italians, he has dreams of establishing a great empire in the centre of Africa, will he not be merely imi-tating the ambilion of European sovereigns? That he can succeed at first, while all of Eng'and's forces are engaged in South Africa, is undoubted, and that he has such dreams is more than probable, while that he will do so is already rumored-perhaps has been suggested to him by some of England's numerous Continental enemies.

Earthquake-Proof Pagodas.

In Japan there are pagodas of considerable height which have withstood the effects of frequent earthquake shocks for centuries. The secret of their stability is that they are fitted inside with a heavy timber beam construction, which hange from the roof like a clapper of a bell. On the occurrence of a shock the effects of the vibration are wholly counteracted by this comparatively simple device.

MEN OF MARK.

Senator Beveridge is to spend his next our of Germany, England, France and Italy. Samuel Mather of Cleveland has given

\$50,000 to the endowment for a contazious disease ward in the Lakeside hospital of that city. Douglas MacArthur, son of General

Arthur MacArthur, has passed the semi-annual examinations at West Point and stands at the head of his class. Timothy L. Woodruff, lieutenant gov-ernor of New York, is one of the best

amateur billiard players in the state and makes the game his chief recreation. Senator Platt of New York dines out less frequently than almost any other member of the senate. He is fond of nome life and generally spends his even ngs over a book.

Herbert H. Vreeland, president of the Metropolitan Street Railway company of New York, is a graduate, not of any university, but of the shovel, the sand bank and the gravel train.

Thomas Cahill of Brookline, Mass., who has just celebrated his eighty-ninth birthday, is the oldest living member of the famous Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Boston.

Frederick Waterman of Grafton, Mass. who has just celebrated his ninety-third birthday, has voted in 19 presidential elections and walked 150 miles to see the cornerstone of Bunker Hill monument

General Henry Harnden, who died at Madison, Wis., the other day, was the commander of the detachment which captured Jefferson Davis. During the war of the rebellion he had six horses shot

General Edward Moody McCook, one of "the fighting McCooks," has been compelled to enter the Soldiers' home at Yountville, Cal. He was the fifth and seventh governor of Colorado and was long active in Kangas and territorial bull long active in Kansas and territorial pol-

Major General Wheeler said recently of his life in the Philippines: "Hard as it was, I enjoyed it. Indeed I missed only one thing, but that I missed badly. It was my evening game of chess. There was not a chessboard to be had in the is-

This is the official designation of the British general commanding in South Africa: "Baron Roberts of Kandahar and Waterford, P. C., K. P., G. C. B., G. C. S. I., G. C. I. E., V. C., D. C. L., LL And yet he is the shortest general in the service.

The death of former Congressman John A. Bingham of Ohio leaves former Governor George S. Boutwell the last of the managers who conducted the prosecution of President Johnson in the improceedings. The other many peachment proceedings. The other members were Thaddeus Stevens and Benja-

min F. Butler.
Sir William MacCormac and several other London surgeons who volunteered for service in South Africa are drawing pay at the rate of \$25,000 a year apiece. Though that sum may not recoup them for what they would earn in London, it is far in excess of any salary hitherto paid to any army medical officer.

In the matter of advice, most men and women, too, seem to realize that it is more blessed to give than to re-



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