

THE ABYSSINIAN WAR.

One brief campaign, in which but one battle has been fought and one assault made, has terminated the Abyssinian war, and what can be said of comparatively few expeditions, attained the exact object for which it was undertaken. The captives have been restored to liberty, and this is more than most people expected they would be. It seems rather contradictory of the reports we have heard of Theodore's ferocious character that he should allow them to remain unmolested while the British forces were making an advance on his capital; unless we account for his conduct by supposing him fully impressed with the belief that he was able to drive his opponents back to the sea. The vengeful savage was for a time merged in the honorable hero, and he staked the captives on his power to cope with the almost invincible troops of Britain. On Good Friday he met his antagonists in a pitched battle, and they made short work of him. On the following Monday his capital was taken, and he himself was found dead having been killed in the fray, or having committed suicide. The spoils are considerable, but yet not anything like sufficient to indemnify the British Government for the expenses of the war. The budget brought down by the Chancellor in the House of Commons a few days ago included an item of five million pounds sterling for the expenses of the expedition, and the gold crowns, the jewels, and the other trophies found in Magdala will scarcely make up the amount. The loss on the Abyssinian side is represented as being heavy; the list of killed and wounded on the side of the British is comparatively small. It is somewhat singular that Theodore made his first stand at his capital, where most generals make the final one. The difficulties of the invading army were great, even when allowed to pursue their way unopposed through passes which might have been converted into so many Thermopylae, and that their progress was not disputed must be attributed to the fact that the King overestimated his own strength, or undervalued the courage and power of his foes. It was well he made the mistake, however, for had he acted differently from what he did the British Army would not likely be turning its face homewards, as the cable news informs us it is doing.

PROBABLE COURSE OF THE BRITISH MINISTRY.—The course which the Disraeli Ministry will adopt on the Irish Church question, does not yet appear to be fully decided. It is generally understood, however, that they will fight Mr Gladstone's resolutions one by one, as they are brought before the House; if defeated they will inform Her Majesty that they cannot recommend an affirmative reply to an address asking for the disendowment of the Irish Church, and will then appeal to the country. It is reported that the Queen has made a special request to Mr Disraeli not to resign during the present crisis, and that he has pledged himself not to do so. It is also said that Her Majesty considers that the oath taken by her at her coronation forbids her consenting to the disendowment of the Irish Church. Another story is to the effect that she does not consider the coronation oath an obstacle, but hesitates to part with any portion of the Royal prerogative until she ascertains that it is the nation's will that she should do so.

A SETTLER.—Adolphus [admired for his sentiment]—"Good night, beloved—may the drowsy god soon wrap that delicious form in golden slumber—may delicious dreams hover o'er thy couch Emily [his betrothed, somewhat matter-of-fact]—"Good night. Be sure you turn the gas off, put your boots on, and—don't snore." Adolphus never tried it "no more again."

The period for which the special constables were sworn in throughout England, in contemplation of Fenian complications, having expired, the Home Secretary has decided that they shall be disbanded, and their staves and badges returned. This shows a confidence on the part of the government that the cause for alarm has passed away.

A WAR MEDAL.—The Canadian Zouaves, at Rome have received from Madame la Marquise de Laguerelle a gold medal, valued at \$100, in memory of "their passage through the city of Lyons," where they received very fine honors. It bears an inscription to that effect. The memento is to be sent to Canada and placed in a church for

The Brazilian iron-clads lately passed the Paraguayan batteries, and the exploit is considered to have been a most daring one. The fleet consisted of casemated vessels, and one or two turret ships, eight in all, and these steamed past eight 68-pounder guns, and two or three 150-pounder Armstrongs. Little damage was done them. The *Anglo-Brazilian Times* gives the following account of the affair:—"Before daylight, 48 boats with 1,200 picked men, armed with carbines, revolvers, hatchets, and hand-grenades, pulled quietly from the river bank, after covering themselves with boughs so as to resemble a floating islet. Fortunately a guard boat in patrolling came sufficiently near to detect the artifice, and hurried back to give the alarm, but before the crew of the nearest vessel could all escape themselves inside the towers, 14 boats were alongside and the Paraguayans boarding; a short hand to hand fight ensued, in which the captain and first officer were severely wounded. The *Cabral* was also boarded from 12 boats, but her crew had time to enter the casemate. On both vessels the desperate struggle was continued through the ports with firearms, every shot of the defenders telling in the dense mass of the assailants, and the former suffering severely from the grenades thrown in. Meantime the plan of simultaneous attack had been frustrated in the excitement, and by the current, and the iron-clads *Silvado* and *Herval* warping themselves into position opened with grape with deadly effect upon the boats, while the *Brazil* swept the decks of the boarded vessels. The case being hopeless, then the Paraguayans leaped into the boats or the river, and sought to escape. The boats of the squadron were sent out to save the swimmers, but they refused to surrender, and only 13 prisoners were taken. The Paraguayan loss is estimated at 400 men, 140 bodies being found on the decks of the two vessels. On the part of the Brazilians, 22 were killed and wounded, 3 being killed on the *Lima e Barros*, and 3 on the *Silvado*."

Notwithstanding the successful passage of the batteries by the Brazilian fleet, it does not appear that the Paraguayans have any idea of succumbing at present.

The River of the Dead.

The *St. Louis Democrat* records one of the strangest and most ghastly spectacles ever witnessed on the Mississippi river. The rising of the waters on Saturday, 18th inst., carried away the Government graveyards, built on an island near Jefferson Barracks. The river was levelled to be covered for some distance with a number of human bodies, some in coffins and some floating in their grave clothes upon the water, and all drifting along silently and solemnly, without guide or pilot. When the first three or four floaters were caught, news was sent to the Coroner, who went down and held inquests on three of them. They came so fast, however, that the Coroner concluded they must have come from the cholera graveyard on Arsenal Island. When this fact became known, there was great excitement in Carondelet, and people kept at a distance from the corpses. Thirty-eight corpses were recovered altogether, and probably twice as many floated down or drifted into eddies. These floaters had been buried in the summer of 1866, by order of the Board of Health, on Arsenal Island. They were men, many of whom died of cholera, and the burial was generally hasty. Trenches about 100 feet long were dug 300 or 400 feet from the water, and the coffins were placed in them in rows, and covered with a foot or two of sand. Since that time the river has been constantly cutting away the island, and it was known months ago. It is believed that at least one tier of coffins fell into the river on Saturday, and that about one hundred bodies were set adrift. At that part of the island the quantity of ground washed away is about 300 feet long and 200 feet wide.

COMING AGAIN.—"General" O'Neill is stamping the west for the purpose of stirring up the Fenians to make another raid on Canada. He was in Chicago the other day, and the *Post* thus speaks of his visit:

"The excitement was intense, and did not subside until Gen. O'Neill stepped forward and commenced his speech, which was an urgent appeal to Irishmen to enroll themselves again, ready to march at once upon Canada. In appealing to them to take the field he said:—'We are ready to place our army in the field. Are you men of Chicago ready? [Cries of 'Yes, Yes!'] Then, if you are, when next we unfurl the green flag it shall not be furled again, and we shall not come back. Shall we give up the cause because we did not succeed in June, 1866? The men who think so are not fit to take part in such a movement, and the sooner they leave our ranks the better. We want men who will not give up, even though defeat and disaster stare them in the face. In conclusion, the speaker said that the question was to be tested, and the names would be enrolled of such as were ready and willing to join the army at once. How many are there here who are willing to go with us immediately? [At least 400 hands were raised.] Such as shall not enroll themselves we want to form into a civil organization to take care of the wives and children of those who go. Then all who wished to enroll their names were directed to repair to the Fenian muster-room, and the audience dispersed."

THROUGHOUT THE WEST the ruffians appear to be making preparations for a repetition of their foolish attempt in June, 1866."

UNSEATED.—We understand, says the *Chatham Banner*, that his Worship Mayor Prince, of Bothwell, has been unseated by the Court of Queen's Bench. It will be remembered that the election was warmly contested between Mr. Prince and Mr. McCraney, votes being brought from all parts of the Province by Mr. Prince's friends to secure him the election. At the close of the poll he was five ahead, and has consequently held the office until now. The case was brought before the court by a writ of mandamus, the relators claiming that a number of Mr. Prince's votes were illegal, and we are informed the court has decided such to be the case. A new election must be held to fill the vacancy.

POWER OF FROST.—The resistless power of frozen water is illustrated in a lecture on heat and cold, delivered by Professor Tyndall, before the Royal Institution of Great Britain. Among his experiments, an ordinary bombshell was filled with water, and securely plugged, and then placed in a bucket filled with pounded ice and salt to freeze it. In about half an hour the bombshell was burst into fragments by the freezing of the confined water.

The priests in Abyssinia claim two-fifths of the gross produce of the soil. Of the remainder one-third is claimed by the king. Then comes the local chief; so that finally the unfortunate cultivator gets less than one-fifth of the crop he has raised.

Gordon, who has charge of that portion of the Erie Railroad where the accident occurred, says he cannot get the needed material for repairs to the road. "We cannot get the iron, and the track is pretty bad in some places." It is confessed on all sides that the employees are efficient workmen, and the cry everywhere is, that the company will not give them what they need to keep the road safe. It would be about as harrowing as to tell the story of this massacre over again, to narrate the stories of the robberies done by scurrilous hands on the bodies of the dead and helpless wounded. Money in large sums has been taken, gold watches from the pockets of the dead, and rings torn from the fingers of women. In one instance a file was used to release a diamond ring from the finger of a lady who was at the time conscious enough only to be able afterward to tell the story. The people who were at the scene say they could not protect the sufferers from this sacrifice, and they knew the robberies were committed by passengers who were saved by being in the forward cars.

DIED.—Chow.—At Guelph, on the 26th April, Frederick Wm. Chow, aged 22 years and months. Friends are invited to attend the funeral on Tuesday morning at 10 o'clock.

New Advertisements.

Senior Girls' School. THE Senior Girls' School will be re-opened on WEDNESDAY, 4th of MAY, under charge of the newly appointed teacher, MISS WALKER, ROBT. TORRANCE, Guelph, April 27th, 1868. d w 1 Secretary.

Insolvent Act of 1864. In the matter of John and Adam Kinnon, Insolvents.

A Second and Final Dividend Sheet has been prepared, subject to objection till the sixteenth day of May next. Dividend payable at my office on the 15th of May.

The Town of Guelph.

TENDERS WANTED. SEALED TENDERS will be received by the undersigned till MONDAY, 4th MAY, for removing the Weigh House, Scales and Market Clerk's Office, and for fencing in Cattle Yards in connection with the said Weigh House.

THOROUGH-BRED BULL. THE fine thorough-bred Durham Bull, Royal Dane, bred by Mr. F. W. Stone, will serve cows this season at the subscriber's farm, Lot 14, 4th Con. Eramosa. TERMS—Thorough-bred cows, to insure a calf, \$4; Grade, to insure calf, \$1.25. The subscriber will show the pedigree if required.

SPEED LODGE NO. 180. A. F. and A. M. AN EMERGENCY MEETING of Speed Lodge No. 180, G. R. C., A. F. and A. M., will be held in the Masonic Hall on Wednesday Evening next the 29th Inst.

FURNISHED COTTAGE TO LET. TO RENT, a Furnished Cottage, in a pleasant and central part of the town, for six or twelve months, as may be agreed upon. For particulars apply at this office, or to D. Macfarlane, Esq., Guelph.

BUCKWHEAT FLOUR. At JOHN A. WOOD'S.

MAPLE SUGAR! At JOHN A. WOOD'S.

BISCUIT Arrowroot, Cream, Fruit, Victoria, Abernethy, Wine and Ginger Nut BISCUITS. At JOHN A. WOOD'S.

AMBER SYRUP. At JOHN A. WOOD'S.

DAYS BOOKSTORE. ENGLISH APRIL MAGAZINES.

Bow Bells, Belgravia, Englishwoman, Family Herald, St. Pauls, Cassel's Magazine, People's, Argosy, Temple Bar, Cornhill, SCOTTISH JOURNAL.

At Day's Bookstore, opposite the Market, Guelph.

HOUSE AND SIGN PAINTER, Paper Hanger, Glazier, &c. Shop on QUEBEC STREET, near Mr. Howard's Store and Tin Depot. All orders from the Town and Country will receive prompt attention. Guelph, April 23, 1868. daw m

NEW BLACKSMITH SHOP. THE subscriber begs to inform the people of Guelph and surrounding country that he has leased and fitted up the Blacksmith Shop, being that old and well-known stand on Carleton Street, near Goldie's, formerly known as the People's Mill, where he intends to carry on the Blacksmith business in all its branches. HORSE SHOEING.—Particular attention paid to Horse Shoeing. As the subscriber intends to keep none but a first-class horse-shoer, the public can rely on getting all work in that line done in a satisfactory manner.



IMPORTANT TO FARMERS.—The subscriber begs to intimate to farmers that he is now manufacturing, and has for sale first-class Steel Mould Board Ploughs, (Gray's pattern.) Ploughs of other patterns made to order. Wagons and all kinds of Farm Implements made to order and repaired on the most reasonable terms. WOOD WORK.—A first-class wood worker kept in connection with the shop. The subscriber having had long experience in the above business, hopes by strict attention to the wants of his customers to merit a share of public patronage. Don't forget the Stand, near Goldie's Mill. CALEB CHASE. Guelph, 24th April, 1868. dlm-6mw

Apothecaries' Hall! Superior to all other Oils. Will wear longer, and does not clog up the finest parts of the machine.

Sewing Machine Oil. Sewing Machines PHILIP BISH, WILL SHOW ON FRIDAY, the 24th of APRIL, 1868, Some of the Greatest Novelties in.

INSOLVENT ACT OF 1864 FOR SALE BY ASSIGNEE.

COLT STRAYED. STRAYED from the premises of the subscriber, Lot 11, 4th Con., Pilkington, on Monday the 20th inst., a bay mare colt, with a white star on her face, medium sized, three years old this spring. Any person giving such information to Joseph Bauer, proprietor Union Hotel, Guelph, as will lead to her recovery will be suitably rewarded.

INSOLVENT ACT OF 1864 AND AMENDMENTS. In the Matter of GEORGE ROYCE, of Dacota, in the County of Halton, an INSOLVENT.

WILL be sold by Public Auction, in the Market Square, Guelph, ON SATURDAY, 2nd MAY, 1868, By W. S. G. KNOWLES, Auctioneer, one span of Horses, without any reserve.

TO FARMERS. WANTED by a young man, a situation with a respectable Farmer. Enquire at THE EVENING MERCURY Office. Guelph, April 13, 1868. sw

Notice to Builders. ANY quantity of sand for sale at the Pit, next to the Cemetery, or delivered. WILLIAM CHIPCHASE. Guelph, April 24, 1868. daw 1m

JACKSON & HALLETT (SUCCESSORS TO JOHN L. LEWIS) No. 7, Wyndham-st., GUELPH. THE Subscriber having purchased from JOHN L. LEWIS the whole of his extensive GROCERY AND LIQUOR BUSINESS! ARE PREPARED TO CARRY IT ON IN ALL ITS BRANCHES. Having made the purchase on the most favorable terms for cash, they are enabled to offer SPECIAL INDUCEMENTS and complete with any house in the trade. Will pay particular attention to Country Trade, and will continue to do so, to any extent. Their Stock of Liquors will be found heavy, well selected and assorted. DANIEL JACKSON. Guelph, 24th April, 1868. J. HALLETT.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT! GRAND OPENING OF SHOW ROOM AT THE BRADFORD HOUSE PHILIP BISH, WILL SHOW ON FRIDAY, the 24th of APRIL, 1868, Some of the Greatest Novelties in.

PHILIP BISH, Ladies should Call at once and Examine the Pattern Bonnets and Mantles. The above Department is superintended by a first-class artist. Ladies can rely on having every attention by calling at the BRADFORD HOUSE, Guelph.

LOOKING UP! WITHIN the last few days trade has been looking up considerably, and A. O. BUCHAM is satisfied that his Spring Stock is such as will meet in every respect the wants of the community.

ATTRACTIVE DEPARTMENTS. Dress Goods, Straw Goods and Millinery, Jackets and Jacket Materials, Buttons and Trimmings in all the Newest and Leading Styles. Ladies are invited to call and inspect our Stock. Guelph, April 21, 1868. A. O. BUCHAM.

No. 1, Wyndham Street, Guelph. JAMES CORMACK, TAILOR AND CLOTHIER, HAS NOW RECEIVED at his New Store, next to John Horsman's, in Mr. Hogg's New Block, one of the Largest, Cheapest and Best assorted Stock of CLOTHS AND CLOTHING GENTLEMEN'S FURNISHING GOODS, &c., EVER OFFERED IN GUELPH. Large Display of Hats & Caps English, French and American Styles. And the Newest received Monthly. JAMES CORMACK, Guelph, 15th April, 1868. dw

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