

# Cable Gossip

**The Nile Expedition Will Be No Picnic--  
France Burning Her Fingers in the  
Egyptian Matter.**

**Queen Victoria in Good Health, But Uncomfortable  
on the Riviera—Activity of the Socialist Element  
in Germany—Trouble Among the Teutons Over  
Their National Debt.**

## NO PICNIC.

London, March 22.—In spite of the cold front put upon matters here there is a feeling in Great Britain that the Nile expedition is likely to turn out to be something in the nature of disturbing a hornet's nest. A Russian traveler, Eliseleff, who is thoroughly familiar with the situation, estimates that the forces at the disposal of the Mahdi number about 200,000, of which 40,000 are Bagdads, all trained and disciplined. The Mahdi is believed to have 10,000 rifles; but it is said they are, as a rule, of an obsolete character, and that only 20,000 Remingtons, which form part of his store of arms, are serviceable. So far as artillery is concerned, it is not believed that he has more than the guns captured on the occasion of the defeat of Hicks Pasha; but it is intimated that like King Menelek, of Abyssinia, the Mahdi has been purchasing arms and ammunition for some time past, and it will be found that his troops are quite as well armed as the Negus; that the capture of the Sudan will not be accomplished without the expenditure of much blood and treasure, and that the end will not be attained without drawing largely upon the British-Indian troops as well as upon the British troops now in England. In fact the more the matter is looked upon, the more serious the outlook appears, and anything in the shape of a picnic or walk over need not be anticipated. The Mahdists, as is well known, can fight with terrible determination, skill and ferocity, and they can endure hardships beneath which the best European troops would speedily succumb. The Mahdi's chief lieutenants are Cherif and Vachelouh. The Khalifa's flag is black. Cherif is green, indicating that he is a direct descendant of the Prophet Mohammed, and Vachelouh is red.

## FRANCE BURNING HER FINGERS.

France, it is generally believed here, is burning her fingers with the Egyptian question. The French Government, it is asserted, expected the cooperation of Germany, but found she had been anticipated by Great Britain, as the Marquis of Salisbury assured himself that he had the support of Emperor William in the matter, and the latter is said to have informed the British Premier that Great Britain could rely on the support of Germany and Austria if she aided Italy. The Marquis of Salisbury, it appears, also consulted with the Czar, and the State authorities before announcing the Government's decision. France consequently found herself confronted with a plan prearranged and, it is stated, she now shows a disposition to "climb down" from the attitude she assumed when the Government issued its note on Wednesday last, saying that the advance up the Nile was a great surprise to the Government of France, and would smother the anti-English feeling in that country at a time when a better understanding was promised, and adding that Great Britain's explanation that the advance is necessary in the interest of Egypt is viewed with skepticism and the wording of this note is now said to be the Premier, M. Bourgeois, who, it is asserted, issued it without consulting the rest of the Ministry.

## OPPOSITION USELESS.

The opposition in France to the use of the Egyptian reserve fund to defray the expenses of the expedition to Dongola does not avail, for, as the British, under secretary of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Curzon, explained in the House of Commons, there are two funds controlled by the Egyptian debt commission. One of these, the largest fund, is derived from the conversion of the Egyptian debt, and it requires the unanimous consent of the powers to authorize the expenditure of the whole or any part of it, but the second, and smaller reserve fund, amounting to about \$12,500,000, can be used with the consent of a majority of the commission, and Great Britain has a majority of the commission on her side even if France and Russia refuse their consent, for the approval of Germany, Austria and Italy to the use of the reserve fund has already been obtained. Then again French newspapers argue that Egypt has no right to repel the Dervishes, taking the ground that if she does so they will be driven south and may disturb the French, German and Belgian possessions in Central Africa. Such an argument naturally does not carry much weight here, and the British newspapers report that everybody must protect himself.

## SUPPRESSION OF INDECENT EVIDENCE.

Much interest is manifested in legal and other circles to the bill introduced at the instance of the Lord Chancellor, Lord Salisbury, for the suppression of indecent evidence. This measure was read for the second time in the House of Lords on Friday. By its provisions a judge is empowered to order evidence, which he thinks would be prejudicial to public morals, not to be published. The Lord Chief Justice, Baron Russell, of Killowen, is known to be opposed to the bill, and it is quoted that the master of the rolls, Baron Esher, president of the Divorce Court, is of the opinion that the law is already strong enough, and that if the proposed measure becomes law it will practically establish a censorship of the press. Lord Glenshek, proprietor of the Morning Post, contended that the tendency of the press was quite against the publication of such details, and asserted that he had read more offensive things in recent novels than had ever been found in the newspapers. Although the bill has been read for the second time in the House of Lords, it is doubtful if it will be adopted by the House of Commons.

## SELLING CHICAGO DEGREES.

Rev. J. Rogers, of Chandos street, Strand, styling himself "Professor of the National University of Illinois," according to Truth, which heads its expose "Academic Honors from Pork-

opolis," has been doing a thriving business in bogus university degrees. In a circular he claims the National University of Illinois to be "one of the best-known universities in the United States, and specially chartered to confer all collegiate degrees." The scale of prices for a B. A. degree was \$50; M. A., \$75; D. D. and LL.D., \$105. The circular also describes the beautiful hoods lined with pale blue silk, which the successful candidates will be allowed to wear.

## THE DIVIDED BOOTH FAMILY.

The American line steamship St. Louis, which sailed from Southampton Saturday took among her passengers Mr. and Mrs. Booth-Tucker, of the Salvation Army. The newspapers here say that a desperate attempt will be made to win back Ballington Booth by promising him his old position in New York if he will consent to a short transfer outside of America. Gen. Booth is greatly provoked at the attitude of the American newspapers, and refuses to see any American reporters or to allow the Booth-Tuckers to talk.

## ALEXANDER ENGAGED.

It is now stated that King Alexander of Serbia is engaged to the oldest daughter of the King of Greece. Incidentally, the Serbian monarch has been reported upon the point of entering into matrimonial alliance with so many princesses that people are not prone to believe this latest report.

## PLANNED SOME TIME AGO.

London, March 22.—The statement made in the House of Commons by Mr. Chamberlain that the advance of the expedition would be regulated by the extent of the resistance offered by the Dervishes, seemed either designed to befog the House, or to carry the idea that the Government had no definite plan of campaign. What the Ministers refused to disclose can be found by collecting the reports from reliable sources. The facts are that the expedition was projected last autumn when Gen. Kitchener, the sirdar of the Egyptian army, was in England. He then bought the materials necessary to complete the railway from Wady-Haifa to Akasheh; ordered a company of light-draught steamers built to carry stern-fire guns, and the assistance of Lord Salisbury to the preparations. Though the date of the campaign was not then fixed, Gen. Kitchener made no secret of the fact that some big scheme was being hatched.

Speaking at Leamington on Wednesday, Earl Russell stated that he had personal knowledge that the expedition had been decided upon, but it had been postponed, because it was thought inexpedient. It was the view taken of the matter until the defeat of the Italians afforded the Government an opportune excuse for the dispatch of the expedition. He added that, according to the plan originally decided upon, Gen. Kitchener's first objective point was to be Dongola and then Berber, with a simultaneous advance on Suakim on the Red Sea. A railway was to be built to link Dongola and Berber before a march was made upon Khartoum.

## A SUMMER CAMPAIGN.

According to the Times Dongola may be reached in three or four weeks. The military authorities at Cairo, however, calculate that that place will not be reached before June. The van of Egyptian troops, consisting of 1,200 men, of which number 500 are cavalry, ought to occupy Akasheh by today. They are not expected to get in touch with the Dervishes there. They will remain at Akasheh until, by reconnoitering, they learn the strength of the Dervish outpost at Fika, and are likely to remain until the Akasheh railway is completed. The main Egyptian force is now put at 10,000 men, 3,000 of whom are Sudanese, who are light fighters. They will reach the first line of advance before the end of April. The march upon Dongola will depend upon the strength of the Dervishes, who are concentrating there. Their number is placed at 10,000. Col. Calmont, who commands the camel corps in the Khartoum expedition, says that the troops ought not in the meantime to push forward beyond Akasheh, and that it is now too late for a spring campaign in the desert for black troops.

## SOMEBODY BLUNDERED.

Lord Salisbury has requested the leading permanent officials of the Foreign Office to make a report explaining how the errors occurred in the statement of the British case relating to the question of the boundary between Great Britain and Venezuela as embodied in the blue book recently presented to Parliament. There has been a violent discussion within the Department as to who is responsible for the errors, but such a crowd had a finger in the business that it is impossible to place the responsibility for the blunders on any particular person.

## ACTION OF RADICAL LEADERS.

Henry Labouchere, Sir Charles Dilke and Philip Stanhope, the radical leaders, refused to attend the approaching conference of the National Liberal Federation. Mr. Labouchere says he will neither directly or indirectly recognize the federation, and that the conference can adopt any and every resolution it pleases. This tone of contempt cannot be based upon a consequent strength on the part of the Labouchere clique. The great mass of the Radicals still adhere to the federation.

## SNUBBED THE PRESS.

The Reichstag jubilee banquet Saturday night was almost wholly ignored by the leading German newspapers, owing to the fact that they have been snubbed and slighted by the responsible officials. No one of the few editors and correspondents invited to attend accepted the invitation, and the Berlin Press Club passed resolutions, expressing its indignation at the manner in which the press has been treated.

The first popular collection towards an increase in the strength of the German navy was started by the pl-

Deutscher Verband on Sunday last, and it has turned out to be a signal failure as it yielded but 7,717 marks throughout Germany, showing that the nation does not favor the scheme.

The model battle-ship of the new type suggested by Emperor William, is to be built at Kiel. The chief variation from the existing types is the placing of numerous heavy guns in several stories of turrets.

## AGAINST AMERICA.

The agrarian debates in the Prussian Diet on Wednesday last was venomously directed against America, and one of the Conservatives inquired what steps the Government intended to take in order to exclude American infected meat and cattle. Herr Mendel, another Conservative, declared that diseased cattle were killed at Chicago, the sanitary provisions there being, he claimed, defective, and demanded that the import of American cattle be absolutely prohibited, and that a strict bacteriological department be created.

## THE QUEEN'S HEALTH.

The health of Queen Victoria is becoming so much better at Cimiez, in the south of France, where she is at present sojourning, that she has arranged to go to Coburg to attend the marriage of her granddaughter, Princess Alexandra, to Prince Hohenzollern-Langenburg. The rumor that Emperor William will visit Cimiez is discredited. He could only visit that place by stealth, because should his presence be known it would undoubtedly cause serious demonstrations against him by the French.

## THE QUEEN'S OUTING.

Queen Victoria is not comfortable on the Riviera this year, and it is not unlikely that she will cut her visit short. She had been informed before hiring the Grand Hotel at Cimiez, where she stayed last year, that the chief views had been cut off by a big hotel in course of construction, but as her landlord lost money by her last year, she, out of kindness, decided to return this year. He had not to carry out the improvements and alterations which last season swept away his margin of profit. The Queen did not understand the extent of the changes in her surroundings until she arrived on the spot. The new hotel is 300 feet long, and stands within 60 yards of the Grand Hotel, cutting off light as well as views, while the dust and noise of the building operations penetrate the royal apartments. The Queen is not a philosopher in such matters, and nobody who knows her would be surprised to hear that she had suddenly moved to some other part of the Riviera.

## GERMANY'S NATIONAL DEBT.

Berlin, March 22.—A conflict between the Bundesrath, Reichstag, Count von Posadowsky, Secretary of the Imperial Treasury, and Dr. Miguel, Prussian Minister of Finance, has arisen out of the Motion of Dr. Laffer, the Clerical party leader, to divide the national debt, which has arisen from nothing in 1876 to two millions of marks. Count von Posadowsky vigorously opposed the proposition, thinking the opportunity favorable, as the imperial budget now shows a steady surplus of 25,000,000 marks. But the Bundesrath opposes the matter because the surplus now goes to the treasury of the different states and Dr. Miguel opposes it because he is jealous of Count Posadowsky's growing influence in finance and the Reichstag, and he also brought the emperor to the views. The Reichstag, however, adopted Dr. Lieber's motion by a large majority, and so it is thought there may be trouble all round.

## FAVOR THE NILE EXPEDITION.

The Abyssinian and Egyptian questions are the subject of a great deal of negotiations on the part of the Dreihund. Germany, in response to Italy's representations, supports Great Britain, although the bitterness manifested by the former towards the latter country is not hidden. The German newspapers, however, generally support the Nile expedition. It becomes known today that France, through M. Herbetie, the French ambassador here, sounded Germany during the week, as to whether the idea of a European conference to regulate the Egyptian affair would be acceptable. But Marschal von Bieberstein, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, replied that the evacuation of Egypt was considered a strictly English affair, and must be settled between the interested parties.

## THE SOCIALIST ELEMENT.

Five thousand Socialists, Anarchists and ultra-Radicals celebrated the Berlin revolution of 1848 and the Paris commune on Wednesday last. The graves of the so-called martyrs of 1848 were visited at Friedrichshain, and thousands of decorated wreaths and scarlet ribbons, some of them bearing revolutionary mottoes, were seized by the police.

The Vorwaerts, organ of the Socialists, issued a special number, which was unusually aggressive, and it was seized by the police, who also seized a special edition of the same paper on the same occasion by the Anarchist organ, the Sozialist.

The Socialist Labor Associations of Germany are going to hold a congress in Berlin on May 4, with a view of forming a central body to regulate systematic assistance of the unemployed.

## CABLE NOTES.

The New Virtue, which was published last week, is calculated to raise a storm of discussion. It is a story of three generations, and turns upon the fate of the education of a girl in that ignorance which was once fondly regarded as being synonymous with innocence.

Mrs. Oscar Beringer has written a book which promises to be much discussed. Her name hitherto has been exclusively identified with the stage. It was under her management that "Little Lord Fauntleroy" was produced at Terry's Theater some seven or eight years ago.

The new Gilbert and Sullivan opera continues to draw crowded houses at the Savoy. The consensus of opinion is that while neither book nor score is up to the standard of the joint authors' former successes, still the work is sufficiently bright, useful and well-mounted to secure a long run.

An American miniature artist who has painted several prominent New York women and the Armours and others of Chicago, is repeating her American successes here. She has done Ladies Dudley and Chelsea, and other fashionable people.

The Wesleyan Methodist Church has received under the will of the late Sir Francis Lyttel the sum of £14,000 for the purpose of erecting chapels.

The huge Bismarck monument, the cost of which was defrayed by public subscription, is being erected on the shore of Lake Bavaria.

Emperor William has purchased three handsome wrought-iron gates, which formed the portals of the German section of the World's Fair. The price paid was \$0,000 marks.

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## LABOR MATTERS.

Wage Scale for Iron and Steel Workers to Be Rearranged.

Chief Arthur Denies the Amalgamation Story—A Fatal Fight.

Cleveland, March 23.—Grand Chief P. M. Arthur, of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, denies the story sent out from Erie that the big meeting of railroad men to be held there on Thursday is for the purpose of effecting a federation of the several railway employees' organizations. "It is simply a social meeting, or 'love feast,'" said Mr. Arthur, "of the various railroad orders of this district. The employees of the different railroads will meet for an exchange of ideas. I do not think the question of federation will come up at the Erie meeting. However, a clique of men may be figuring on presenting the matter, but I do not think any recommendation will be adopted."

Pittsburg, Pa., March 23.—The call for the national convention of the Amalgamated Association of Iron and Steel Workers to be held at Detroit was issued Saturday by President Garland. Many questions of importance will be discussed at the convention, which begins May 19 at continuous sessions of several weeks. The most important action will be that which is taken on the scale. There is almost sure to be a change in the base rate of both the bar and sheet scales. Some dissatisfaction over the present basis of computation has been engendered by the operation of the present scale, as it is thought that it exhibits too great a tendency to keep the men at work at a low minimum rate. In the rolling scale especially, in which the base rate is \$4, there is likely to be considerable change. A large delegation is expected at the convention—in fact, the officials say it will be the largest since the memorable boom year of 1891.

Indianapolis, Ind., March 23.—A riot broke out Saturday night between the non-union men employed in the iron works of Chandler & Taylor and a number of strikers and their sympathizers. Three men, Wm. Watson, Walker Davis and Hook Lee, were shot, Davis fatally, and a number of men were more or less injured by flying stones and bricks. The trouble originated over the fact that a number of non-union men are employed in the works, taking the places of the members of the union. Last night the officers started to take the non-union men to their homes, when they were set upon by the mob. It is estimated that no less than 2,000 persons were in the neighborhood at the time, many of them taking part in the fight. The non-union men opened fire first, after they had been pelted with bricks and stones. The fire was returned by the strikers. The men shot were all bystanders, and had nothing to do with the trouble. One policeman was also seriously injured by being struck with a brick.

Amherst, N. S., March 23.—The Jaggins mines strike has been settled. The men will return to work at once, after being out for three months. They accepted practically all the reduction in wages which the company proposed.

The great lung healer is found in that excellent medicine sold as Bickle's Anti-Consumptive Syrup. It soothes and diminishes the sensibility of the membrane of the throat and air passages, and is a sovereign remedy for all coughs, colds, hoarseness, pain or soreness in the chest, bronchitis, etc. It has cured many when supposed to be far advanced in consumption.

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