

Summary of News.

THE Egyptian news has again this week absorbed all attention. It has been of a most alarming character, culminating on Wednesday morning with a confirmed report of the death of General Gordon.

The latest news which it was possible to insert last week was a telegraphic despatch to the effect that Khartoum had fallen and Gordon was made prisoner. The magnitude of the calamity was the theme of every newspaper, and the most sedate and sober journals discussed in no measured terms its influence upon England's enemies.

A Cabinet council was called at which it was decided to telegraph to India for the despatch of troops to Suakim, the garrison of which port also was to be immediately reinforced by drafts from England and the Mediterranean. The Ministry, it is asserted, were in favor of strong and vigorous measures, and determined to sanction any demand that Lord Wolseley might make.

Lord Wolseley himself, in his despatches to the Government, wrote in no sanguine mood, and averred that it was impossible that he could reach Khartoum before the expiration of five weeks.

London naturally was in a state of great excitement, and many remarks on the blameableness of Mr. Gladstone were expressed.

Gen. Wilson, who, it will be remembered, was despatched with three steamers, reached Khartoum on the 28th ult. He was attacked by the rebels; lost two boats; but succeeded in reaching Gubat with but the loss of a few men. On the 7th inst, Lord Charles Beresford with twenty picked marksmen from the Royal Rifles, started to attempt the relief of Col. Wilson's party. Despatches received in Canada on Wednesday last, gave the news that this expedition was successful.

A stormy meeting of the Cabinet was again held on the 9th, and lasted four hours. It is understood that orders were given during this session for the despatch of 10,000 troops for the Soudan. The number of reinforcements already ordered to Egypt is 8,000. Preparations have been completed for the transport of the commissariat and ordnance. Vessels are already loading at Woolwich. The Grenadier Guards have been ordered to hold themselves in readiness for foreign service.

Among the various suggestions was one that Lord Charles Beresford and his naval brigade, now at Gubat, be employed to make a dash on Khartoum for the purpose of cutting out the Mahdi's steamers.

We come now to the reports of the death of General Gordon. Although it has been said that these are authentic, it is difficult not to indulge the hope, that there may, after all, be some mistake. The *London Standard* has, however, accepted them as true, and on Wednesday morning, appeared in mourning. It publishes the following from Gakdul:—"The natives who escaped from Khartoum say Gen. Gordon was killed while leaving his house to rally the faithful troops. The latter were cut down to a man, and for hours the town was the scene of a merciless slaughter, not even women and children being spared. All the notables were killed except the treacherous pashas and their followers."

Details of the death of General Gordon, as received by telegram, are as follows:—On the day of the capture, which is variously stated as the 26th and 27th of January, General Gordon's attention was attracted by a tremendous tumult in the streets. He left the so-called palace or Government building, in which he had made his head-quarters, to ascertain the cause. As he reached the street he was stabbed in the back and fell dead. The tumult was caused by the Mahdi's troops, who had gained access to the interior of the town through treachery, and who were soon in complete possession of the place, including the citadel. A fearful massacre of the garrison followed.

Among all this melancholy news, it is pleasant to hear that Lord Charles Beresford succeeded in rescuing Gen. Wilson. He has returned to Gubat bringing Gen. Wilson and party. The rebels on the river banks kept up a constant fire. Shortly after the party had embarked a bullet pierced the boiler of the steamer, which rendered it necessary to anchor under fire and make repairs. The British fire, however, took effect, and the rebels were repulsed.

GEN. GORDON'S defence of Khartoum ended on his 52nd birthday.

BIRTI, Feb. 10.—Gen. Earle's advance to Berber commenced yesterday.

THERE has been a further fall of the Nile of three feet at Gubat, and navigation is dangerous.

It is believed that Gen. Roberts will command the Indian contingent ordered to Wolseley's relief.

KORTI, Feb. 10.—Wolseley started tonight to cross the desert to Gubat. Portions of two regiments remain here.

THERE are ten thousand British troops at the stations in the Mediterranean available for service in the Soudan.

PARIS, Feb. 6.—The Government organ says that the fall of Khartoum is a matter of concern to all Europe. Should England continue powerless to restore order in the Soudan the powers must do it.

SUAKIM, Feb. 10.—Five piers have been erected for landing troops and supplies for the Berber expedition. Three will admit large steamers. A railway has been built from the piers to the British camp, two miles inland.

The War Office and Admiralty have issued a number of important orders looking to the relief of the troops in the Soudan. It is reported an army corps of 10,000 men will be sent to Khartoum *via* Abyssinia, accompanied by a siege train.

LONDON, Feb. 8.—The Turkish Government has sent a formal protest to each of the powers which signed the treaty of Berlin against the occupation by Italy of Egyptian territory on the Red Sea coast. Turkey demands that the Italian troops sent to Assab and Massowah be withdrawn.

GEN. NEWDEGATE will command the Suakim expedition. Col. Greaves will be his chief-of-staff. The Suakim campaign will open about the 8th of March. Orders have been sent throughout the country bordering on the Red Sea for the purchase of camels for the expedition.

Notes and Comments.

A SCIENTIFIC knowledge of many natural phenomena is quite possible of attainment, even with very young children. The only requisite is an enthusiastic and wise instructor, with a love of nature, and a habit of observation, and possessing, too, a little tact in directing the observations of children. Mr. C. C. James, of C.bourg Collegiate Institute, an enthusiastic student of science, is preparing for the WEEKLY a series of papers which shall be helpful to teachers who wish to inspire their pupils with a love of nature. The series will comprise short conversational chapters on (1) Pebbles; (2) Snowflakes; (3) Ice; (4) Ice-rivers and Ice-bergs; (5) Rivers; (6) Temperature; (7) Effects of Temperature on Air and Water; (8) Formation of Sandstone; (9) Formation of Limestone; (10) Formation of Soils.

THE cleverest "hit" of the season in book-making is *The Buntling Ball*, a piece of satiric verse in mock heroic Græco-English phrasing.

The author is unknown; almost every important writer has been named as the only one who could have written the book:—Holmes, Boyesen, Dr. Hammond, Everett Hale, and so on. The interest in the unknown authorship is increased, of course, by the fact that publishers offer a cash prize of \$1,000 to the person who shall correctly guess the name of the writer, who is said to be one of the best-known of American authors.

We have in preparation a series of notes explanatory of the twelve lessons in the Fourth Reader which have been selected by the High School inspectors as subjects for the next examination for entrance into High Schools and Collegiate Institutes in July next. Further announcements will be made next week.

THE magazine from which we have taken Richard Grant White's "Why we Speak English" is the *Chautauquan*, a monthly magazine devoted to the promotion of true culture—the organ of the Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle; Theodore L. Flood, D.D., editor. Each number may be called a small book, containing, as it does, more than sixty pages of reading matter of excellent quality and varied interest. The name, Richard Grant White, is, of course, enough to stamp the magazine as one of the highest standard. To those to whom it is not known, an example of the contents may be interesting; in a number taken at hap-hazard we find: Studies in Kitchen Science, and Art; Sunday Readings; Glimpses of Ancient Greek Life; Greek Mythology; Temperance Teachings of Science; A Trip to the Yosemite; The Hospitalities of Nature; Alone with my