

QUEEN VICTORIA'S LETTERS TELL STORY OF HER REIGN

Most Remarkable Series of State Documents Ever Issued Say Her Biographers

Her Majesty's Home Life—Grief at the Death of Prince Consort Pathetically Told—The Crimean War and Indian Mutiny Weighed Heavily Upon Her—Wellington the Greatest Man Britain Ever Produced—The Resignation of Palmerston Received With Joy.

(Special cable to Toronto Globe.) London, Oct. 20.—Queen Victoria's Letters, edited by A. C. Benson and Lord Esher, and published this week, are stated in the preface to form "what is probably the most extraordinary series of State documents in the world." They are a monument of history and an enduring testimonial of devotion to the cause of right and a powerful stimulus to patriotism. Never before has the country been taken in to the confidence of a monarch with such frankness and lack of restraint. The letters published in these three bulky volumes cover the period of 24 years that elapsed between her accession in 1837 and the death of the Prince Consort in 1861. There are some letters referring to the queen's early life, in which the writer refers to Uncle Leopold I, King of the Belgians, as providing the "brightest epoch of my otherwise melancholy childhood." On June 19, 1837, the then Princess Victoria wrote to her uncle, informing him of the imminence of the death of William IV. In speaking of her expected accession she said: "I look forward to the event, which it seems, is likely to occur soon, with calmness and quietude, and not alarmed at it, and yet I do not suppose myself quite equal at all. I trust, however, that with God's blessing, I shall be able to do my duty as well as I can."

The Crown Hurd. There are some remarks in a long description of the coronation, which the queen wrote in her private journal, in which she writes that she will guide and support me in whatever situation and station it may please Him to place me." The Crises and the Mutiny. There are many letters referring to the Crimean war, which she describes as "a dreadful and uncalculable consequence of war weighing upon my heart." Another quotes Shakespeare's words, "Beware of entrance to a quarrel, but being in heat, let it be your anger that shall be aware of the heat of an Englishman."

Albert an Angel. The day after her marriage (February 11, 1840), the queen wrote to King Leopold from Windsor Castle: "I am the happiest, happiest being that ever existed. Really I do not think it possible for anyone to be so happy as I am. He is an angel, and his kindness and affection for me is really touching. To look on those dear eyes and hear, sunny and so full of life, and to hear him say what I can do to make him happy will be my greatest delight and independent of my great personal happiness."

King Edward's Childhood. A letter written soon after the birth of the present king ran as follows: "Our little boy is a wonderfully strong and large child, with very large blue eyes and finely formed, but with a somewhat large nose and pretty little mouth, I hope and pray he may be like his dear step father. He is to be called Albert, and Edward is to be his second name." Queen Victoria, although she confessed on occasion to a King's sorrows, she refused to dislike politics, closely followed every political question. She thus refers to Sir Robert Peel's bill to increase the grant to the Roman Catholic College at Maynooth: "Buckingham Palace, April 15, 1845. "My Beloved Uncle,—Here we are in a great state of agitation about one of the greatest measures ever proposed. I am sure poor Peel ought to be blessed by all Catholics for the many and noble ways in which he stands forth to protect and do good to poor Ireland. But the bigotry, wicked, and blind passions it brings forth is quite dreadful, and I blush for Protestantism."

TWICE ASHORE ON ONE TRIP CAUSED CAPTAIN TO SUICIDE Master of Steamer Bermuda Couldn't Stand His Streak of Hard Luck. Montreal, Oct. 23.—T. S. McCarthy, the shipping agent, received word today that Captain Henderson, of the steamship Bermuda, the boat which distinguished herself recently in the St. Lawrence by running aground twice while bound by Quebec to Green Bay, Wisconsin, had committed suicide on his arrival at Green Bay by hanging himself in his cabin. Captain Henderson was well known to and from Quebec and Montreal to the upper lakes for some years. Of late he has been in ill health and it is thought that, in addition to this, he grew despondent over the accidents which had overtaken his boat on the last voyage from Quebec. The Bermuda went ashore in Lake St. Francis and had to be lightered. No notice was taken of her and proceeding on her voyage than her rudder chain broke and the vessel again went hard aground near Farren Point at Cat Island. Again she was lightered and was sent from Kingston, and they succeeded eventually in pulling the Bermuda off. These troubles would appear to have preyed so much on the mind of Captain Henderson that he committed suicide.

A. R. Ayres, of North Doreau (N. H.), has marketed this season five squashes whose aggregate weight was 400 pounds, one tipping the scales at 125 pounds.

FRENCH COLUMN HAD CLOSE CALL

Timely Arrival of Reinforcements Saved Them from Being Wiped Out

HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT General Drude Stole Up Unperceived on the 5,000 Tribesmen and Charged, Sabring Them Right and Left—Moors Exhibited Desperate Courage.

Casablanca, Oct. 20, via Tangier, Oct. 22.—The timely arrival of General Drude with reinforcements alone saved Colonel DePretay's reconnoitering column from annihilation yesterday near Taddert. The troops, which were sent out to search for the body of a Frenchman named Kuntzer, who wandered from the camp and was murdered, consisted of a detachment of cavalry, two companies of infantry and a section of a rapid fire gun battery. On arriving at Alvarez a group of sixty Moorish horsemen was seen on top of a mound. Col. DePretay ordered a squad of irregulars to give chase and a hot pursuit was kept up for about three miles, when suddenly the hills beyond were seen to be swarming with horsemen. The Algerian troops retired slowly. Col. DePretay occupied a position behind the walls of some marabout tombs. The Moors began a circling movement with the object of turning the French position, but were checked. The situation was growing critical, fully 6,000 Moors were seen to be threatening to overwhelm Colonel DePretay's column, when General Drude, who arrived upon the Moorish flank, unperceived, with two companies of infantry, two batteries of field guns and another section of the rapid fire gun battery, opened on the enemy. The Moors were taken by surprise and General Drude quickly launched his cavalry in a furious and brilliant charge, resulting in a close hand to hand fighting, the French troops and Algerian irregulars sabring the enemy right and left. The Moors broke and fled. The French losses, which were all sustained during the charge, were Captain Iher, killed while leading his squadron, and two privates with nine men wounded. During the night the French troops were reinforced by General Drude's Moors.

AMERICANS FIND A WAY TO EVADE NEWFOUNDLAND LAW Halifax, N. S., Oct. 22.—Two topmast schooner James R., from St. Pierre for Cheticamp, was driven ashore yesterday afternoon on McQueen's Ledge, Big Cape Bay. The crew got ashore with much difficulty. Schooner Frank left St. Pierre for Cheticamp in company with the James R. and was last seen by the latter on Saturday night and news of her is anxiously awaited. Both schooners were owned in Cheticamp. Captain Aucain, who owned the James R., told our correspondent he left St. Pierre Saturday morning. About two hours out he struck the rocks and the hull was so damaged that he was obliged to run ashore before dark. She was driven high up near the cliff and an attempt was made to send the vessel ashore by the use of a derrick. This failed and a bucket and line were used. The line was fast to the rocks and the captain and crew got safely to shore after a thrilling experience, the cook the last man to be landed. The vessel was hoisted ashore by a line fastened around him and his face was bruised by being struck against the cliff.

SPRINGHILL MINERS DECIDE TO FIGHT TO A FINISH Springhill, Minn., Oct. 22.—Pioneer Lodge, P. W. A., met today to continue the strike and fight the issue with the coal company to a finish. A special meeting to consider some correspondence from the department of labor convened this afternoon. It had been resolved at a previous meeting that the department of labor be communicated with and the government shall be asked of conciliation to decide upon certain districts in the mine could be obtained. The replies were not satisfactory to the miners and the board did not decide the real question, and instead advised that the men return to work. If at any future time an application was made to a board of conciliation, the board would decide whether such matter was dealt with by a former board. The application would be submitted to the department of justice for settlement. This beating around the bush, the miners say, annoyed them. They allege that the board did not decide the districts outside of 35 and No. 9 on the 20 and 32 feet level, but that these were left open questions. The workmen say they are tired and disgusted with this juggling performance, as they call it. Pioneer hall was packed to its capacity today, when speeches were made on both sides of the question. The meaning of a lost case was pointed out and conditions which would be likely to follow were urged upon the meeting. On being put to a final vote it was unanimously resolved to stand out. Nearly twelve weeks has passed since the strike began, and the miners say they are more determined than ever. It is their intention to appeal to all labor unions and to all others who sympathize with labor for assistance.

MOTHER'S MESSAGE CAME TOO LATE Gloucester, Oct. 22.—The death occurred today at Marconi town of Edward Hankey, of the engineer staff, after an illness of about three weeks. A pathetic feature connected with his death was the receipt, a few minutes before his demise, of a wireless message from his mother and sister, who reside in London. They expressed their sympathy and love. The message was at once conveyed to him, but he was unconscious and did not regain consciousness to hear its contents.

COLUMBIA TO OPERATE RICH EMERALG MINE

Government to Take Hold and Produce Precious Stones for Its Own Benefit NEVER PROPERLY WORKED

Store of Buried Wealth Undervalued Until Brought Into Public Notice by Recent Revolution A Report despatch to the New York Herald says: The German minister here has sent to his government a detailed report on the emerald mines of the province of Boyaca. These mines have undergone many vicissitudes. They were discovered by Spaniards in the sixteenth century and worked for their benefit in an indolent sort of way. Then the national government laid claim to them and they were shuttled worked by various concession holders. Until the most recent revolution no pains were given to the workings of the value of the stones. Now they have been leased to a Colombian syndicate for five years and a right of option for the next ten years has been granted. It is the intention of the administration to have the mines taken up by the government for its own account. From the mining village a narrow path leads to the mines, about 50 feet up the side of a steep mountain. The open air shows a great variety of rocks and minerals, slate and quartz being the most prominent. The emerald veins are in a siliceous limestone which shows in gray streaks among the darker rocks. The Spaniards used to get at the gems by driving adits into the hills. From the mining village a narrow path leads to the mines, about 50 feet up the side of a steep mountain. The open air shows a great variety of rocks and minerals, slate and quartz being the most prominent. The emerald veins are in a siliceous limestone which shows in gray streaks among the darker rocks. The Spaniards used to get at the gems by driving adits into the hills. From the mining village a narrow path leads to the mines, about 50 feet up the side of a steep mountain. The open air shows a great variety of rocks and minerals, slate and quartz being the most prominent. The emerald veins are in a siliceous limestone which shows in gray streaks among the darker rocks. 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