

PAGES OF BRITISH HISTORY.

Historical Battles—Noteworthy Events in the Story of the Creation of the British Empire.

Alexandria, 1801.

(Continued from last issue.)

The British now began to fortify their new position by means of heavy cannon brought from the ships. A defensive warfare on the part of an invading force always assumes a sinister aspect; and this became still more so when the forces under General Menou were increased to more than 13,000 men.

On the 21st of March, an hour before daybreak, the French were in motion, but the British were not taken by surprise, as it was Sir Ralph's practice to have the troops under arms by three o'clock every morning; and thus they were ready by the dawn of the 21st, when the enemy came on with the intention, as the General Orders of Menou had it, of "driving the British into the lake Maadi."

Amid the silence that prevailed, and ere dawn began to steal over the sandy scenery, a single musket-shot was heard; the explosion of three pieces of cannon followed, and all held their breath in suspense, till a volley of musketry, far away on the British left, streaking the gloom with red, announced that the event so long wished—the moment of battle—was at hand.

Silence again followed. "General Moore, who chanced to be general officer of the night, and who, on the first alarm, had galloped towards the left, was but a few moments returned to his brigade, when a wild broken hurrah rising from the plain beneath warned him of the approach of the enemy; and a volley of musketry thrown in with steady effect proved that the great and final game of war was about to be played."

The sound of the first shot had brought Sir Ralph Abercrombie galloping to the menaced redoubt. There he found the right of his army fiercely engaged; for the French, after driving in the pickets, assailed with incredible fury the redoubt.

The 28th poured in a fire against which all valour proved vain; while the 58th, under Colonel Crowdy, manned the breaches in the ruined wall, and after three rounds of ball cartridge, rushed on the enemy with the bayonet, supported in their charge by the noble Welch Fusiliers; while the 42nd repelled a very superior force, which endeavoured by sheer dint of numbers, to overwhelm them; and the 40th, coming up, rendered more complete the victory on the right by a steady and well-directed fire, which cut down whole sections of the now disordered enemy.

The darkness was still intense, and the smoke that curled along the ranks, were told, "rendered all objects at arm's length from the eye totally invisible." Favoured by this gloom and obscurity, a fresh column of infantry, all grenadiers, designated, on account of past exploits, "The Invincibles," preceded by a six-pounder, stole silently along, and penetrated unseen between the two wings of the 42nd, which were drawn up in parallel lines. The instant they were discovered, Colonel Stewart, who commanded rushed forward with charged bayonets and captured the gun; while the rear rank of the left wing, facing about, rushed also with the bayonet to its new front. Maddened by this double attack, the enemy pressed on in the face of a murderous fire from the 28th, stationed in a ruined palace of the Ptolemies; and dashing at the broken walls, made good their entrance. The officer who bore their embroidered standard was heard to shout again and again, "Vive la Republique!" ere he fell pierced by a shot.

Desperate was the struggle with bayonet and butt-end that now ensued within these ancient ruins. The 40th and 58th received the French in front, while the 42nd hung upon their rear.

"The Invincible Legion resisted until 600 of them had fallen, when the survivors, about 250 in number, threw down their arms, delivering up their standard to Major Stirling, of the 42nd who gave it in charge of a sergeant, with directions to remain close to the gun which the regiment had taken from the enemy."

The boasted "Invincibles," thus disposed of, just as day was breaking the 42nd issued from among the ruins, and formed line in battalion on the flat, with their right supported by the redoubt; but again the French infantry came furiously on, and ere the formation was complete, General Moore

ordered them to advance, while their enthusiasm was at the highest pitch.

"My brave soldiers," cried Sir Ralph Abercrombie at that moment, "remember our country—remember your forefathers!"

The troops responded by a wild shout to this brief address; and rushing on with most heroic ardour, they hurled the French en rout and confusion far across the sandy plain.

The French attacks were chiefly confined to the right and center of the British position. The Guards in the latter place conducted themselves with singular bravery and coolness; and the conduct of Major-General Ludlow who fought at their head, as well as of Brigadier Moore, who was wounded while leading on the reserve, was beyond all praise.

Menou, finding all his attempts unsuccessful fell back, after a last attempt to carry the position by a terrible charge of cavalry, led by Brigadier Roize, supported by General Regnier, with the divisions of Rampon and Friant, but the brigadier was killed, with many other gallant officers, and the French cavalry was completely broken and destroyed.

During this terrible conflict, Sir Ralph Abercrombie had ridden from point to point unattended by aide-de-camp or orderly, cheering the men and exhorting them to be steady. While thus occupied, two French dragoons rode furiously at him, and endeavoured to darg him away prisoner; but the gallant general refused to yield. On this, one of the troopers made a thrust at his breast, and passed his sword with great force under the arm of the general. Though severely bruised by the guard of the weapon, Abercrombie grasped it and wrenched it away. He then turned to meet the other dragoon, who at that moment was shot dead by a corporal of the 42nd Regiment.

After our troops had expanded their ammunition, "it constitutes a remarkable feature in this sanguinary action," says Gleig, "that while the enemy still hung in their front, the British troops stood on the defensive with their bayonets alone—an act of cool and manly courage such as no soldiers belonging to any other nation have ever been known to preform."

(To be continued.)

Armenian Affairs.

Mr. Gladstone recently delivered an impassioned address at Chester, on the Armenian outrages, and his glowing words may be considered as the expression of the general English sentiment of the question. He reasserted the responsibility of the Turkish Government for the unspeakable crimes committed, as he declared, not only in Sassoon, but almost daily since—which he summed up "in the four awful words plunder, murder, rape, and torture." The question, he pointed out, was not a party question; it was not even, strictly speaking, a religious question. Both the general responsibility of the Powers and the peculiar responsibility of England under the Berlin Treaty are plain. Mr. Gladstone urged: "First that the demands of the powers should be moderate; second, that no promises of the Turkish authorities should be accepted; and, third, that the Powers should not fear the word 'coercion.'"

Turkey seems to be more favourably disposed than before to accept the reforms urged by the Powers; but unless these proposed are directly enforced by the Powers, the Porte may follow the old policy of promise and indefinite procrastination. In the House of Lords the Marquis of Salisbury uttered a solemn warning to the Sultan. He remarked, in his most impressive manner, that the Porte would make a grave and calamitous mistake, if, for the sake of maintaining its formal independence, and resisting possible encroachment on its normal prerogatives, it refused to listen to the advice of the powers and put an end to anarchy in its dominions. Seldom has such menacing language been used by an English statesman. The Sultan will undoubtedly pay more attention to a responsible prime minister than to a retired statesman speaking at Chester, but advice he is accustomed to disdain, unless there is the shadow of a club behind it.

Meanwhile, the situation of affairs in Armenia are heartrending. Famine has followed the sword, and, though terrible enough now, threatens to be worse in the coming winter.—Evangelical Churchman.

Clement Spelman, of Narburgh Recorder of Nottingham, who died in 1679, is immured upright, inclosed in a pillar in Narburgh church, so that the inscription is directly against his face. This must surely be the one solitary instance of burial in a pillar, although there are many other instances of burial in an upright position.

THE PEOPLE MARVELLED

AT THE RESCUE OF MR. METCALFE OF HORNING MILLS.

Badly Crippled With Sciatica and an Intense Sufferer for Years—For Two Years Was Not Able to Do Any Work—Dr. Williams' Pink Pills Restores Him to Health.

From the Shelburne Economist.

The completion of the local telephone service between Shelburne and Horning's Mills by Messrs. John Metcalfe and W. H. Marlatt, referred to in these columns recently, was the means of bringing to the notice of a reporter of the Economist the fact of the remarkable restoration to health some time ago of Mr. Metcalfe, the chief promoter of the line. For about two years Mr. Metcalfe was a terrible sufferer from sciatica, and unable to work. While not altogether bedfast, he was so badly crippled that his bent form, as he occasionally hobbled about the streets of Horning's Mills, excited universal sympathy. The trouble was in one of his hips and he could not stand or walk erect. His familiar attitude, as the residents of Horning's Mills can



"Walked in a Stooped Position."

vouch, was a stooped over position, with one hand on his knee. Mr. Metcalfe says:—"For about two years I was not able to do any work. Local physicians failed to do me any good, and I went to Toronto for treatment, with equally unsatisfactory results. I also tried electrical appliances without avail. I returned home from Toronto discouraged, and said that I would take no more medicine, that it seemed as if I had to die anyway. My system was very much run down and the pains at times were excruciating. I adhered for several months to my determination to take no more medicine, but finally consented to a trial of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills strongly recommended by a friend. Before I had taken them very long I felt a great deal better, my appetite returned, and the pains diminished. After using the pills for some time longer I was able to stand and walk erect and resume my work, in the full enjoyment of my health and strength. People who knew me marvelled at the change, and on my personal recommendation many have used Pink Pills. This is the first time, however, that I have given the facts for publication."

On being asked if the sciatica had ever returned, Mr. Metcalfe stated that once or twice, as the result of unusual exposure, he had experienced slight attacks but he always kept some of the pills at hand for use on such occasions, and they never failed to fix him up all right. Mr. Metcalfe, who is 52 years of age, is in the flour and provision business, and, as proof of his ability to do as good a day's work as he ever done in his life, we may state that the most of the work connected with the erection of his six miles of telephone line was performed by himself. Mr. Metcalfe also mentioned several other instances in which the users of Pink Pills derived great benefit, among them being that of a lady resident of Horning's Mills. The Economist knows of a number of instances in Shelburne where great good has followed the use of this well-known remedy.

The public are cautioned against imitations and substitutes, said to be "just as good." These are only offered by some unscrupulous dealers because there is a large profit for them in the imitation. There is no other remedy that can successfully take the place of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and those who are in need of a medicine should insist upon getting the genuine, which are always put up in boxes bearing the words "Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People." If you cannot obtain them from your dealer, they will be sent post-paid on receipt of 50 cents a box, or \$2.50 for six boxes, by addressing the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont., or Schenectady, N.Y.

FOR RICH AND POOR.

Every member of the Sons of England, rich or poor, should be insured in the beneficiary. You cannot get it for nothing, and we do not desire members who want it for nothing. In investment for yourself.

AIMS OBJECTS, AND BENEFITS

OF THE

SONS OF ENGLAND

BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

Organized in Toronto, December 12th, 1874.

To Englishmen and Sons of Englishmen:

The mission of the Society is to bring into organized union all true and worthy Englishmen; to maintain their national institutions and liberties and the integrity of the British Empire; to foster and keep alive the loving memory of Old England, our native and Mother land; to elevate the lives of its members in the practice of mutual aid and true charity—caring for each other in sickness and adversity and following a deceased brother with fraternal care and sympathies, when death comes, to earth's resting place.

Great Financial Benefits, viz.: Sick pay, Doctor's attendance and medicine and Funeral Allowance are accorded. Healthy men between the ages of 18 and 60 years are received into membership. Honorary members are also admitted. Roman Catholic Englishmen are not eligible.

Reverence for and adhesion to the teachings of the Holy Bible is insisted on.

Party politics are not allowed to be discussed in the lodge room.

The Society is secret in its proceedings to enable members to protect each other and prevent imposition—for

which purpose an initiation Ritual is provided, imposing obligations of fidelity to the principles of the Society on all who join it.

The Society is making rapid growth and has lodges extending over Canada from the Atlantic to the Pacific shores, having a membership upwards of 13,000 at present, the ratio of increase being far greater as the Society's influence and usefulness is better known. Lodges have been started South Africa and will soon probably be started in England, etc.

The Beneficiary (Insurance) Department is providing insurance to the members for \$1,000 or \$2,000 as desired, at the minimum cost, unsurpassed by any other fraternal Society in Canada, and is conducted on the assessment system. The assessments are graded. A total disability allowance is also covered by the certificates in class "A." There are no disability claims in class "B." No Englishmen need join other organizations when the inducements of this Department are considered.

Englishmen forming and composing new lodges derive exceptional advantages in the initiation fees, and 12 good men can start a lodge.

In our lodge rooms social distinctions are laid aside and we meet on the common level of national brotherhood, in patriotic association for united counsel and effort in maintaining the great principles of our beloved Society. As such we can appeal to the sympathetic support of all true Englishmen—asking them to cast in their lot with us, thereby swelling the grand roll of those bound together in fraternal sympathies and in devotion to England and the grand cause of British freedom. Any further information will be cheerfully given by the undersigned.

JOHN W. CARTER, Grand Secretary. Shaftesbury Hall, Toronto, Ont.

POST OFFICE GUIDE, OTTAWA.

OCTOBER, 1895.

Table with columns: CLOSE, Arrival and Departure of Mails, DUE. It lists various mail routes and times, including West-Toronto, Hamilton, London, Peterboro, and others.

Letters for registration must be posted fifteen minutes previous to the time of closing the last mails. Post Office, Ottawa, October, 1895.

Office hours from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Money Order, Office and Saving Bank from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. J. A. GOUIN, Postmaster