

WAR IN EGYPT.

The following calendar of the most important events in the short, sharp, and decisive war in the Land of the Pharaoh's, may be interesting:—

July 11, 1882—Alexandria bombarded by the English fleet.

July 13, 1882—Alexandria occupied by the British.

Aug. 3, 1882—Suez occupied by English marines.

Aug. 20, 1882—Port Said and Ismailia occupied by British.

Sept. 13, 1882—Tel-el-Keber taken by Sir Garnet Wolseley.

Sept. 14, 1882—Cairo surrendered and the Egyptians lay down their arms.

The war lasted nine weeks. In the war of 1801 when the British wrested the ancient country from the French, the principal events were:—

Aug. 1, 1798—Nelson defeats the French in Aboukir Bay.

Mar. 8, 1801—British effect a landing at Aboukir.

Mar. 21, 1801—Abercrombie defeats the French at Alexandria.

Aug. 30, 1801—Cairo surrendered to the British War ends *

In the late war the decisive action was the Battle of Tel-el Kebir, when a British army of 12,650 soldiers and marines drove Arabi's force of 28,500 men with 70 guns from his strongly entrenched position, putting them to flight and killing 2,000 Egyptians. The desperate and deadly character of the short struggle is well told by the correspondent of the London Standard who says—referring to the Highlanders advance—a body of men apparently always chosen to lead the advance of all great and serious engagements:—

“Cheering loudly they pressed forward, carrying one redoubt after another, shooting and bayonetting the foe as they ran. * * * * * The resistance, though unavailing, was desperate, the Egyptians being caught as in a trap by the rapidity of our advance, and defending themselves to the last. At these points the enemy lie dead in hundreds, while only here and there a Highlander lies stretched among them, lying face downwards, as if shot in the act of charging. But few of them were hit in their advance towards the first trenches; it was after these were carried that the greater part of their casualties occurred. A few feet only in front of one of the bastions six men of the 74th were lying, heads and bayonets pointed forward, while just in front of them, shot through the head, was the body of Lieutenant Hume Somerville, who was evidently leading them on when a volley laid them all low.”

Nevertheless the “butcher's bill” will be, for the British, a small one, not comparable even with the campaign in Afghanistan, where 99 officers and 1,524 men were killed, or in Zululand, where the corresponding figures were 58 and 1,328. What the savages' loss was cannot be stated as to these two wars, but we have been told by English sources that 2,000 Egyptians were killed in a single battle. As to the cost there are some significant hints. The charges of the Suez Canal for the passage of transports already exceed £100,000, and the cost per day for such of these as were chartered vessels amounts to \$2,000 each on an average. In this respect the war will be no mean competitor of the Afghan and Zulu campaigns, which cost respectively £19,500,000 and £4,000,000. These are considerable figures, but are yet nothing as compared with the Franco-German war, which cost 13,939,000,000 francs, or the American War of the Rebellion which cost directly and without continuing items, \$6,796,792,509. The French campaign in Tunis cost 592,342,045 francs, an amount frightful in comparison with the damage of the Kroumers, which was the ostensible cause of the war, and which assessed only at 178,954f.

*NOTE.—A large detachment of Indian native troops arrived via the Red Sea, under General D. Baird, as the war closed.

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