

Weekly Messenger

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The Weekly Messenger.

WAR IN THE SOUDAN.

Lord Wolsley has denounced the evacuation of the Soudan by the English Government. He says that on the withdrawal of the troops from Dongola, in Lower Soudan, the whole country will be given up to marauders and will at once become a barbarous country again. He says, also, that he believes the Mahdi will become powerful once more on the English troops leaving and will in a few years attack Egypt. If this be true England's best policy would seem to be to attack the Mahdi at Khartoum whilst his forces are yet small. The Mahdi has large numbers of Egyptian prisoners and rather than support them or kill them he is letting them go. More than eleven thousand have already returned to their homes. Suakim is a hard enough post to hold for European troops through the summer months even though there were no enemy except the climate to contend with. The position is made doubly hard by the extra duty which the troops have to perform in repelling the attacks which are made nearly every night by Osman Digna's men. Osman Digna is evidently trying his best to fulfil his threat and drive the whole garrison of Suakim into the Red Sea.

A MOB ATTACK PROHIBITION.

A great row took place on Friday of last week in Springvale, Me. Trouble which has been brewing for some time over the enforcement of the prohibitory law culminated in the organization of a mob, armed with revolvers and stones, who made attacks upon a number of houses, in which windows were smashed and other damage done. The gang went to the house of William H. Frost, about a quarter of a mile from the village, and sent a shower of rocks through the windows, accompanied by a volley of bullets from revolvers, fired in reckless disregard of the sleeping family within. Taking the direct road to the village, the mob next stopped at the house of John W. Frost, a trial justice. Three shots were fired into the house, where women, children and an old man were sleeping. Fortunately no one was hurt, but the windows were demolished. The house of G

H. Roberts was next visited. Here, also, the windows were smashed and the furniture damaged. The residence of Wilson Cheney, a prominent clothing dealer, was also treated to a volley of rocks. The final effort of the mob was made against the office of the *Advocate*. The editor of this paper sleeps in the office. A perfect fusillade was kept up, and the bullets rained into the room. By what seemed a miracle he escaped injury. The raiders then disbanded. Much excitement has of course resulted from this row and steps will be immediately taken to punish the offenders. This incident does not, as some people would like to make out, show that prohibition is productive of more evil than license, but shows what a lawless set the advocates of whiskey are and what great need they have of strong legislative measures against them to make them learn how to live as peaceable citizens. This crowd of roughts will find that it has been trying to put its back through a stone wall.

dare to force a war which may be prevented. Will the members of the New Cabinet, who called so loudly for war whilst they were in the Opposition, still strive to bring about bloodshed? We think not. They will at least go about it quietly, for to show the people that war had resulted from their efforts would cause their downfall.

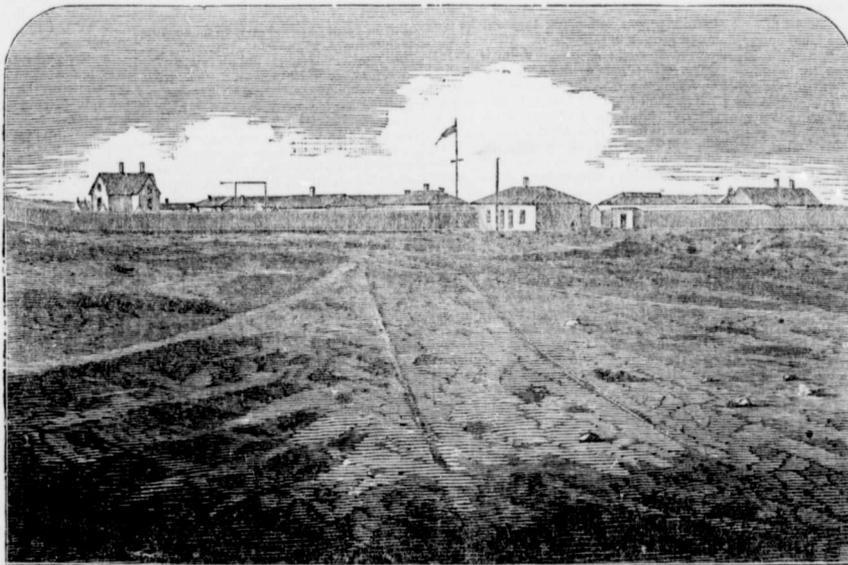
BATTLEFORD.

Battleford, owing to the kind exertions of Mr. Poundmaker, who is good enough to designate himself *not* the chief of the Crees, is now the centre of a very wide district in which, though there is much real estate there is no personal property, and it is famous in the annals of the war as the spot which was for some three weeks closely invested by Indians, who never got a shot at it, though they got within its hot. The town itself is the capital of the Saskatchewan district, and was for a long time the residence of the Lieutenant-Governor of the

A NEW GOVERNMENT.

The probabilities for the forming of a Conservative ministry have engrossed public attention in England this week. The whole European press express the greatest surprise at the sudden collapse of the British Cabinet. Many papers dwell on the enormous difficulty of assuming management at this time. Her Majesty sent for Mr. Gladstone to come to her residence, Balmoral, Scotland, to confer with her concerning the resignation of his ministry. It is said that when he did not go, pleading ill-health, the Queen telegraphed to him requesting him to reconsider his decision to resign. Some feeling is expressed at the Queen's attempt to compel political leaders, even when they are men of advanced age and delicate health, to make a journey of several hundred miles to save her a little trouble. Nothing has yet been definitely settled and things will remain as they are till the Queen's return to Windsor. Mr. Gladstone has announced

that his resignation of office has been accepted by the Queen and that Her Majesty had summoned the Marquis of Salisbury to form a new ministry. A doubtful story comes from Marseilles. It says: "The Duke and Duchess of Connaught and suite arrived here, yesterday, and left for Paris. On landing the Duke heard the first news of Mr. Gladstone's downfall. The entire party seemed delighted and gave a loud hurrah." The Duke is reported to have exclaimed:—"There will be much champagne drunk over this in India," and it is said he went so far as to have thrown up his hat in the air. It is still possible that the Cabinet may not persist in resigning.



BATTLEFORD BARRACKS.

WHICH POUNDMAKER ATTACKED AND WHERE HE IS NOW A PRISONER.

STILL SUSPICIOUS.

The Afghans have been greatly excited over the rumor that the Ameer had been assassinated through the influence of Russia. This rumor seems to have originated in St. Petersburg, from which place it has been twice telegraphed to England. The Afghans are still continuing to prepare for war being suspicious because of the delay in laying down the Afghan frontier. The boundary commission is proceeding with its explorations and is everywhere met with goodwill and civility from the natives. The overthrow of the Gladstone Ministry has caused some fear in Afghanistan that a war will be forced upon Russia. It remains to be seen whether the new ministry will

Territories. The village had, before the outbreak, a population of some three or four hundred, and was prospering. The fort, of which we to-day give an engraving, is built upon a high plateau-like tongue of land between the Battle and Saskatchewan rivers, and although its defences were but a fence of poplar poles lashed, through the exertions of the garrison, by a little earth, they were quite strong enough to resist for an indefinite period the attack of the Indians.

GREAT EARTHQUAKES have occurred in the Eastern Caucasus, Russia. One town was completely swallowed up and a large tract of country was disturbed.

The Liberals generally hope it will, for a few months of Tory rule, they believe, would insure a Liberal triumph in the general elections to take place this Fall.

THE CHICAGO health officers are endeavoring to secure large appropriations to put the city in a good sanitary condition, in anticipation of the early appearance of cholera. Of ninety thousand buildings, twenty-five thousand need watching. It has just leaked out that four years ago there were 6,200 cases of small-pox in the city, and 2,500 deaths from the disease. The health officers suppressed the facts to prevent panic and serious injury to trade.