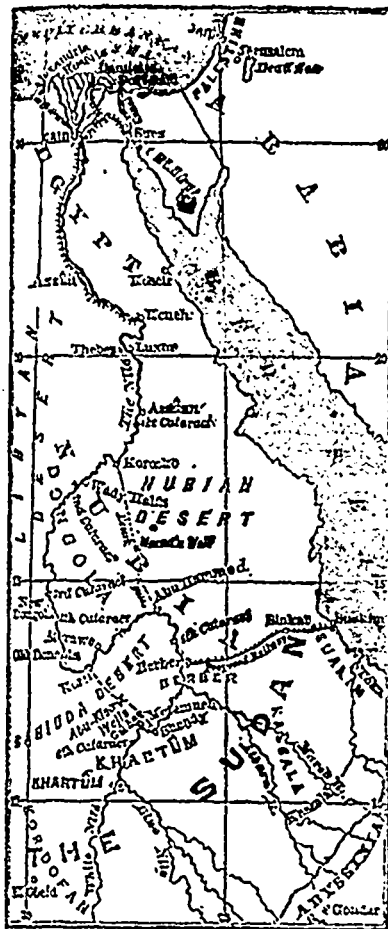


England on... by the Depart... India... matter... general... lately... before... follow



The Soudan.

The news from the war in Egypt is of such interest each day that a good map of the country is indispensable. We have, therefore, taken the pains to procure an excellent engraving of the very best map obtainable...

"The Soudan," writes Sir S. W. Baker, himself a noted explorer in Africa, "now embraces the whole of that vast region which comprises the Desert of Nubia, Libya, the ancient Meroe, Dongola, Kordofan, Drifur, Senaar, and the entire Nile basin, bordered on the east by Abyssinia, and elsewhere by doubtful frontiers. The Red Sea upon the east alone confines the Egyptian limit to an unquestionable line. Wherever the rainfall is regular the country is immensely fertile. The Soudan may be divided into two portions—the great deserts which are beyond the rainy zone, and consequently arid, and the southern provinces within that zone, which are capable of great agricultural development.

Khartoum, the scene of Gen. Gordon's heroic efforts during the past year, it will be seen lies, at the junction of the White Nile and the Blue Nile, 13 degrees north of the equator. How to reach this point as easily and speedily as possible with an army of relief has been the great question for some time past. There were two proposals, one to go to Suakim, a port on the Red Sea, and then across the desert, a distance of 145 miles to Berber, and about 200 miles from that to Khartoum. This route was thought to be not as feasible as that up the Nile, in consequence of the dangers, heat, and other difficulties of the desert march, but this route will no doubt be adopted for the most of the future of the campaign.

It is proposed to build, as speedily as possible, a narrow guage railway from Suakim to Berber, which will prove of vast military importance and permanent commercial value. Let the fertile section of the Soudan become once well opened to the sea board and under a stable government, and a vast cotton producing industry will soon become developed.

The route passed by General Wolsely and his army has been up the Nile from Cairo to Korti. It was in going up the rapids and dangerous sections of this river that our Canadian boatmen rendered such valuable service.

From Korti to Metemneh, overland across the Bayuda Desert, is nearly 200 miles. It was in making this march that General Stewart, with his 1,500 men, fought so bravely. General Earle started with 2,000 men to go round the great bend of the river. How both these brave and honored soldiers came to their end is now well known.

Berber, Metemneh, and Shepdy are all clearly laid down in this map, and can be easily traced out. Probably these places will be historic in the future as the great battle ground between Britain and those who now so misgovern the great country. The events of the next few weeks will probably largely affect all the future of Egypt as it is now composed.

There has been a terrible outcry about the waste of water throughout the city this winter and it would be a just punishment on the citizens if they had a taste of a water famine for a week or so. It is all very fine for people to say, "Oh! water's plentiful; water's cheap." To such I would say that they are mistaken as to water's cheapness, as they will find out if they buy a six-ounce bottle of medicine from some druggists. Say the value of the drugs in it comes to fifteen cents; they are charged fifty. Therefore water is worth about six cents an ounce, but some folks don't look at these things in the way I do.

I came across the following passage the other day in a volume of Chamber's Journal of the year 1845; "The gibbet has not fifteen year's life in it. If in 1860, fifteen years hence, there shall be a death punishment existing, if we shall still be in this world together, reproach me with being the falsest prophet, the veriest fool, that ever presumed to talk of the advancing spirit of the times.—Lord Nugent." To this the publishers of the Journal append the remark; "we cordially agree with Lord Nugent, and undertake a share of the hazards to which he here exposes himself."

The above shows how much faith we should place in the "forecasts" of prophets, whether wise, weather-wise, or otherwise. Here we are in 1885, twenty-five years after the limit set by his lordship and the Messrs. Chambers, for the existence of the gallows, and capital punishment is not done away with yet. Lord Nugent was supposed to be longheaded and able to see as far through a mill-stone as any body, but he has shown that he could certainly see no further.

A story comes wafted from the States of a plumber who grew rich at his business, but who relinquished it and opened a drug store. In less than a year he failed. This shows that the conscience of even a plumber will not allow him to charge as a druggist charges.

Special attention is directed to TRUTH prize competition No. 14, the particulars of which are given on page 22 of this issue. The competition is now open and every reader is invited to enter. There are no blanks this time.

Truth's Contributors.

THE WORLD'S METROPOLIS.

Some of the Famous Historic Points in London.

BY REV. MANLY DENSON.

London is the largest city the world has ever seen. It covers nearly 700 square miles, and has a population larger than the entire Dominion of Canada. Its growth of population is computed to be 75,000 annually, with 202 new souls added to the population daily, making a birth rate of one every four minutes, and one death every six minutes. Among the population there are 100,000 of foreigners from every part of the globe. There are 75,000 prisoners in the jails, and 100,000 neglected children, in a fair way of training for dens of lawlessness and ruin.

There are in London more Scotchmen than in Edinburgh, more Irishmen than in Dublin, more Jews than in Palestine, and more Roman Catholics than in Rome. There is consumed daily by the people of London 1,100 oxen, 4,110 sheep, 300 calves, 700 swine, 22,000 poultry, 118,000 lbs. of fish, 1,400,000 lbs of oysters, 3,015 lbs. lobsters, 8,250 lbs. salmon. The value of butchers' meat sold in one day is estimated at \$684,930.

THE TOWER OF LONDON.

The Tower is historically the most interesting spot in all England. The recent dynamite explosions within its massive walls will add much to its historical interest in the future. For above eight centuries this Tower, with its grim walls, from six to eight feet thick, has been standing, occupied at times as a palace, a fortress, a prison, and now as an arsenal. In it we are pointed out the armour of the time of the Norman conquest, cannon from the East Indies, a spear head from off the Plain of Marathon; a mounted knight of the time of Henry VIII., horse and rider incased in steel; armour worn during the time of the Stuarts, cannon taken by Wolf at Quebec, and the cloak on which the hero died.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY

is the well known glorious resting place of kings and heroes, poets and philosophers, such as the nation delights to honour. We here see all that remains of earthly greatness—a tomb, and the dim windows, fretted pillars, lofty ceilings, and long colonades of Westminster. To be buried within its walls is considered the last and greatest honour the nation can give to her most deserving children. The pavement on which we stand besides it is 620 years old. Here the centuries of England's national life lies linked together. Time, the avenger of men's wrongs, and the interpreter of men's merit, has given a place among the greatest of the earth to those who were imprisoned, mobbed and persecuted for righteousness sake.

"Life may open in the sunshine, Or may open in the shade; It may blossom in the palace Or within the forest glade. It may grow upon the mountain Or beneath the valley spray, But 'twill be just what we make it,— What you make it day by day."

LONDON BRIDGE.

the scene of one of the late dynamite explosions, and make a few observations. This famous structure is nine hundred feet long and fifty six feet wide, the two centre piers being twenty-four feet thick. It was seven years in building, and cost \$7,291,555! Daily 150,000 people and 22,000 vehicles pass over this great bridge. Tunnels at this point run under the Thames to relieve the pressure of travel from the bridge. One might spend hours wandering along the grand public way, the Victoria Embankment, following the easy curves of the famous river, with the great Houses of Parliament at one end and the grand old St Paul's Cathedral at the other, and all the time in sight of "the river of ten thousand masts" which divides the city in two parts, the dark waters of which have often and often closed over

"One more unfortunate Weary of breath, Rashly importunate Gone to her death.

Further on let us stand on

WESTMINSTER BRIDGE.

Turn westward and there is before you the House of Parliament, St. Thomas' Hospital, Kerr

and the great Albert Embankment, four-fifths of a mile long. Beyond this still is the Lollard's Tower, where Wycliff's followers were imprisoned and tortured, and Lan'eth Palace, for six hundred years the residence of the Archbishop of Canterbury. No turn to the eastward and first to meet the eye is the fine Victoria Embankment, then the railway bridge at Charing Cross, scores of spires of churches, with St. Paul's overtopping them all.

[The foregoing are but gleanings of an interesting descriptive lecture, which occupied about an hour in its delivery, given in the Central Methodist Church, Bloor street, Toronto of which the lecturer is the pastor. —EDITOR.]

Bible Publishing.

BY COL. D. WELIE, BROCKVILLE.

The research for early copies of the sacred scriptures is a most interesting subject, and has engaged the close attention of a great many eminent literary men. It is said that the first important specimen of printing was the celebrated Bible of 637 leaves with large cut metal type, executed between Gutenberg and Faust, in 1450. This edition is known by the number of its leaves to distinguish it more accurately from other editions without date, and was printed between the years 1450 and 1455. This is the first Bible ever printed, and is an edition of the Latin Vulgate. It forms two volumes in folio, and is printed in the large Gothic or German characters, and is said to be "justly praised for the strength and beauty of the paper, the exactness of the register, the lustre of the ink, and the general beauty and magnificence of the volume." It is without date, a circumstance which has occasioned considerable dispute as to its priority to other undated editions executed about the same time. This edition is generally known under the appellation of the Mazarine Bible, as De Bure first discovered a copy in the library of Cardinal Mazarin, belonging to the College des quatre Nations, and no production of the press has attracted more of the attention of bibliographers. To commence printing an edition of the Bible at this early stage of the art, is acknowledged by all as a most astonishing undertaking, and no wonder that it should take seven or eight years to complete.

Previous to the dates mentioned above there was in existence the "Bible of the Poor," said to have been executed in manuscript about 1430. The few copies of this work still in existence, are either imperfect or in very bad condition. This is not surprising when it is known that the work is a sort of catechism of the Bible, executed for the use of young persons and the common people, and hence its title, *Biblia Pauperum*, or the Bible of the poor. This was the only part of the sacred book, at that time, with in the reach of the community, a complete Bible in manuscript being then worth a hundred pounds of our money. This probably is one good reason for the imperfect state of the few copies now in existence. The work consists of forty leaves of a small folio size, each leaf containing a cut in wood, with extracts and descriptive sentences referring to the cuts. Each page contains four busts, two at the top and two lower down, together with three historical subjects. The two upper busts represent certain prophets or other eminent persons, whose names are added beneath them. Of the three historical subjects, the chief type, or principal piece, is taken from the New