

THE CITY OF KHARTUM

CAPITAL OF THE SOUDAN IS A WIDE AWAKE TOWN.

London Journalist Describes the Great City of Central Africa—Grave of Gordon.

Sidney Low, writing in the London Standard, gave the following account of the city of Khartum—the grave of Gordon—now capital of the Sudan:

Your first emotion over Khartum yields to a sentiment of surprise as you begin to look around you, a surprise abundantly justified when you recall the recent history of the place. Nine years ago, when it fell into the hands of the victors of Kerri, Khartum was a heap of ruin and rubbish. Founded by Mehemet Ali in 1834, it had been a town of some importance and pretension as the centre of Egyptian rule in the Sudan.

UTTERLY DESTROYED.

For that reason, as soon as Mohammed Ahmed, the Mahdi, got possession of the town he set about to destroy it utterly. The public buildings were burned, the private dwellings, mostly of mud, were dismantled, the inhabitants, or such of them as had escaped massacre, were commanded to transfer themselves to Omdurman, some three miles away on the opposite bank of the Nile.

This village became an immense human warren, and, under the Khalifa, it was probably the largest town, measured by population, in all Africa. Within sight of its festering alleys Khartum crumbled to dust in the sun. When Kitchener entered it, on September 3, 1898, to hold the funeral service over Gordon and hoist the Two Flags on a wrecked battlement of Gordon's palace, it was lifeless and vacant. An entirely new city had to be created.

A FAIR START.

So far this was an advantage. The builders had no hampering vestige of the past to deal with. They were not encumbered by the hopeless ground plan of an Eastern town, nor were their efforts after light and sanitation thwarted by the existence of a nest of twisting lanes and interlocking courts.

They would start fair and lay out their streets and open spaces with a mathematical symmetry for which municipal reformers at home sigh in vain. This is typical of much else in the Sudan.

The administrators are more fortunate than these who are concerned with countries thickly grown over with the tradition and inheritance of the past, such, for instance, as India and Egypt. War and revolution had cleared the ground for them, and they could lay their own foundation and work from them.

A GROWN-UP TOWN.

Khartum reveals the results of a bold and far-sighted ambition. Its second founders were convinced from the outset that they were the holders of a young city. Though it is so new and young, it bears the aspect of a capital; it seems to be preparing itself for a great future.

I confess that when I considered the situation of Khartum and the swiftness with which it had sprung up out of the dust of its own decay, I expected to find it makeshift and provisional. I figured it to myself as a sort of frontier camp, or, at the best, like some of the civil stations in India, where everything has a hasty appearance, as if prepared for people who were not life-long residents, but only temporary sojourners under alien stars.

But there is nothing of that transient feeling about Khartum; it has no rawness, despite its youth, and, though

FROM BONNIE SCOTLAND

NOTES OF INTEREST FROM HER BANKS AND BRAES.

What is Going On in the Highlands and Lowlands of Auld Scotia.

Elgin Smallpox Hospital has now been completed. It has cost \$7,250. During the past month the customs revenue at Aberdeen amounted to \$111,965.

The \$10,000 necessary to establish a mining school in Cowdenheath has been secured.

Forfar Town Council, with a view to popularizing the town, have appointed a Sports Committee.

A clerk in Dundee's Shore Dues Office has been dismissed. His delinquencies are estimated at \$10,000.

The Lyceum Theatre, Govan, was recently entered by burglars and about \$200 in money was stolen.

Mr. J. Matheson, teacher, Gladdach, Kirkcubbin, has been presented with a purse of sovereigns on his retirement.

About fifty men are employed doubling the North British Railway between Inverkeelby and Lunan Bay.

The Scottish Coast Mission continues to do splendid work amongst the fishing communities in Arbroath and neighbourhood.

The late Dr. McEwan's Inverness Gaelic Dictionary has been out of print for some time, and a new edition is to be published.

Clydebank enjoyed the sensation of the other day of seeing a real live Russian baron, driving a motor car, pound into a plebeian sweeping machine.

It is stated that the late Marquis of Eute offered to restore Holyrood Chapel, but Queen Victoria disapproved of the proposed restoration.

Major Mowbray, of Otterston, has given an abatement of rent amounting from 10 to 25 per cent., to his farm tenants because of the bad harvest.

One of the licenses applied for in Glasgow this year is to empower a shop to be opened in the Gorbals for the sale of Jewish wines under Jewish laws.

Mr. W. D. Wilkinson, licensed grocer, Crossgate, Cupar, who is a deacon in St. John's U. F. Church, has surrendered his license to sell intoxicating liquors.

Sir Henry Littlejohn has been appointed consulting medical officer of health and surgeon of police in Edinburgh at his former salary of \$3,750 per annum as chief.

The parish church of Eskdalemuir was recently re-opened after extensive renovation and alteration of the interior. A pipe organ was used in the service for the first time.

The sanitary inspector at Patrick has taken exception to the floors of the city's new slaughter-houses at Merklands being washed out with polluted water drawn from the Clyde.

The death at Stonehaven is announced of Captain Wm. Stephen, late of the merchant service, whose grandfather, Alex. Stephen, fought under Nelson at the battles of the Nile and Trafalgar.

Dr. Alex. Crum Brown, who is retiring from the chair of chemistry in Edinburgh, after having occupied it for 40 years, is a half-brother of the late Dr. John Brown, author of "Fad and His Friends."

The Carnegie University Trust proposes making the following grants this year: Edinburgh University, \$11,600; Glasgow University, \$11,100; Aberdeen University, \$8,600; and St. Andrews University, \$7,500.

IN MERRY OLD ENGLAND

NEWS BY MAIL ABOUT JOHN BULL AND HIS PEOPLE.

Occurrences in the Land That Reigns Supreme in the Commercial World.

Not since 1884 has there been such a decrease in British shipbuilding as within the past year.

The King has granted the Imperial Service medal to 102 retired members of the Home Civil Service.

Two masters of French trawlers were fined \$25 and \$5 at Dover for poaching in British waters.

Lord Gwydyr, father of the House of Lords, recently celebrated the ninety-eighth anniversary of his birthday.

The Bishop of Kingston has just confirmed at Richmond an old man of eighty and a woman of about the same age.

Earl Cadwor has resigned the chairmanship of the Carmarthenshire Quarter Sessions, which he has held for 23 years.

Mrs. Priscilla Cress, aged eighty-five, who has been employed as letter carrier at Blandford for thirty years, has just retired.

A woman named Carter, who had been an inmate of the local workhouse for some years, died recently a few days in her 101st year.

Mr. Andrew Carnegie has promised to give \$300 towards a scheme to form small libraries for the elementary schools and villages of Dorset.

William Smith Sloper, on whose body an impost was held recently at Liverpool, died from blood poisoning caused by sitting on a needle.

Tiny, soft-coated dogs, not much larger than kittens, at the dog show recently held in London were valued in several instances at \$1,000 each.

Upwards of a million people—1,750,000 to be exact—visited the National Gallery and the National Gallery of British Art at Millbank during last year.

A syndicate, it is said, proposes to establish a shipbuilding yard on the Wyre at Fleetwood, a growing Lancashire port much frequented by trawlers.

A Birmingham laborer named Richard Cleal, who lost the power of speech six weeks ago in consequence of a fit, had it restored again recently after another fit.

A loaf of bread, a brick, fried herrings, poker, and a frying-pan were the weapons most often at West Ham recently as having been used in a family squabble.

Lady tourists arriving in London this season will find near the Haymarket a travel bureau and conductors' association organized and staffed entirely by gentlewomen.

Liver disease, caused by the wet weather, has broken out among flocks of sheep on the north of the Gower Peninsula, near Swansea. Several hundred animals have died.

At the old City church of St. Mildred, Bread street, in which the poet Shelley was buried, the organ recital the other day for business men.

The Admiralty announces that Admiral S. E. Holland has been placed on the retired list at his own request, and that Vice Admiral Sir C. Drury has been promoted to the rank of admiral.

Chased by the Mad-Kent Stag Hunt, a deer ran into an inn at Charing Health. About a month ago the same public house in a neighboring village. Of \$20,000,000, the total amount of requests to religion, charity, hospitals, and education, said Sir William Preco before the Royal Society of Arts, probably only 1 per cent. was devoted to education.



ONCE, when things went by contraries,
Goblins ruled the tiny fairies,
Who were whipped by these bad elves;
Over-discarded bruises crying,
Fairies, in strange way replying,
One and all goblins defying,
Into violets changed themselves.
So that now this shrinking flower
Hides itself in leafy bower,
From its foe;
And its blue and purple raiment
Warning is of future payment
For each blow.
'Fore the goblin babes went sleeping,
'Round their elders came a-peeping

of provisions on the Sunday by visitors to the scene.
For the third year in succession a blackbird has built its nest in a chandelier in the centre of the North Berwick Parish Church Hall. The bird flies in and out of one of the windows, and is quite undisturbed by the presence of people in the building.

An Occasion for Rejoicing
RECENTLY the usual morning exercises of a school were interrupted by a knock at the door. After reading a note which had been handed in, the principal announced that one of the teachers would be unable to be at school for several days, owing to a slight illness. Immediately two boys began to whisper. Upon asking what the trouble was, the boys said they were only talking about the selection of a hymn.
'And what would you like to sing?' said the teacher.
'Our "our blessings,"' was the quick response.

LIKE TO BE COAXED.
Some days I sit and wish that I
Were rated as a millionaire,
For then I would have coin to buy
My wife the clothes she wants to wear.
But other days I'm very glad
I have no ready coin to blow;
For every new thing she has had
'Gone' with love and coax me so.

Brother—"You can't think how nervous I was when I proposed." Sister—"You can't think how nervous she was until you did!"

PHILLY PENO AND KOKO GIVE PAPA A BAD SCARE

