

SIR SAMUEL BAKER'S EXPEDITION.

The Alexandria correspondent of the *London Telegraph*, writing on the 9th of October, supplies the following details of the above-named expedition, additional to those already reported:—

"Three several parts of Sir Samuel Baker's expedition have already left for the rendezvous at Khartoum. The first departure took place about three months ago, when 1,200 soldiers started for Cairo. This party will be joined by other troops, and on its arrival at Khartoum will form part of a small army of 2,000 infantry, 250 irregular cavalry, or Bashi Bazuks, and three batteries of guns. The infantry will have to perform the whole journey on foot, by short stages along the banks of the canal, and may be expected at Khartoum in December. This party was followed shortly afterwards by a quantity of merchandize, 400 camel loads that was sent by the Korosko desert to Khartoum, to be used for barter with the natives. In the middle of August a flotilla of 35 large barges and seven large river steamers, nearly empty, left Cairo, with orders to push on as fast as possible, so as to be able to ascend Dongola cataract before the waters begin to diminish. Last week news was received here that the flotilla had succeeded in ascending the formidable cataract, and will ere this have reached Khartoum. If these vessels had not succeeded in ascending the cataract, the expedition would have been delayed till next year, for from Khartoum to Gondokoro the ground is all marshy and perfectly impassable for troops; the vessels are, therefore, intended to convey the expedition between these two points. There yet remain here two other portions of the expedition, which will leave as soon as the two steel steamers built by Mr. Samuda arrive from England. The first party, under the direct command of Sir Samuel Baker, whose firm name styles him, 'Governor-General of all the Provinces of Central Africa that he may succeed in annexing to Egypt,' will leave here for Sonakin, and from thence across the desert on dromedaries to Berber, where he will take steamer to Khartoum. Sir Samuel will be accompanied by Lady Baker, Lieutenant Baker, R. N., (nephew of Sir Samuel) and Dr. George. He also takes with him some rockets and light guns for mountain warfare. The other part of the expedition, under the temporary command of Mr. E. Higginbotham, civil engineer, who also has received a firman from the Viceroy, ordering all persons between Cairo and Khartoum to afford him every possible assistance, will take the Nile route as far as Korosko. Mr. Higginbotham is styled 'Engineer in Chief to all the Provinces of Central Africa about to be annexed to Egypt.' He takes with him the two steel steamers, six English and forty Arab mechanics, and the rest of the baggage and merchandize for barter, and will have to ascend the Assouan cataract, which at the present moment is an easy matter on account of the high Nile; but if his departure is delayed much longer he will find it difficult to drag his heavily laden boats above the cataract. At Korosko Mr. Higginbotham will find about 2,000 camels waiting, and he will at once strike across the desert to Alm Hamad, a journey of about eleven days, and thence by Berber along the banks of the river to Khartoum, sixteen days. At Khartoum Sir

Samuel will resume the command of the whole expedition, and go by the river to Gondokoro, up to which point there are luckily no rapids or falls. On the top of a mountain about fifteen miles south of Gondokoro, there is a large plateau, where Sir Samuel means to form his grand depot and first station. The position is very healthy, and the expedition is provided with a quantity of corrugated iron roofing, on account of the periodically heavy rains that fall in this region. Here the real difficulties of the expedition begin, for a few miles further on commences the Territory of the Barry tribe. The tribe is very warlike, jealous of strangers, and difficult to treat with. There is no practicable road through their country, and the hill from this point to about ninety miles further up is impassable on account of the number of the rapids and falls that abound there. It will, therefore, be necessary to make a road through this inhospitable country, and this will be the work of Mr. Higginbotham, while Sir Samuel Baker tries to bring the tribe to reason. Arrived at the point where it is supposed the rapids cease, one of the steel steamers will be put together, and Sir Samuel will proceed on an exploring expedition as far as the lakes. If he finds the river navigable, the other steamers will be constructed on his return,

and he will proceed with a certain number of men to the lakes. He will establish fortified posts at every available spot, and set to work to subjugate the different tribes, and make them pay tribute to the Egyptian Government. In the meantime other troops will be forwarded from Cairo till he has enough men to man all these posts. At every post there will be a commercial depot established under the management of a Copt, who will have to enter into relations through barter with the natives. All the soldiers chosen for the expedition are agriculturists, and they will have to cultivate farms round about the forts. They are provided with several qualities of cotton seed.

INTERESTING EXPERIMENT.

The *Boston Journal of Chemistry* says:—"Procure four glass tumblers or common glazed tea-cups, and having wiped them as dry as possible, hold them over the fire to evaporate any moisture which may still adhere to their surface. For if there is the least moisture it makes a connection and spoils the experiment. Place them on the floor in a square, about one foot apart, and place a small board upon them, and have a person standing upon it. This person is now completely insulated, the glass being a non-conductor of electricity. Now take a common rubber comb, and having wound a piece of silk around one end of it, rub it briskly through your hair, and draw the teeth parallel to the insulated person's hand. The result will be a sharp cracking noise, and, if dark, there will be seen a succession of sparks. Repeat the process until the phenomenon ceases. The person is now 'charged' with electricity the same as a Leyden jar. To draw off the electricity, approach your knuckles to the person's hands or nose, (being careful not to allow any portion of your body to come in contact with his), and there will be a loud snap and the sparks will be very brilliant. If a cat be held so that the charged person can place his knuckles in proximity to the animal's nose, it will suddenly appear as if it were in contact with an electric battery. A glass bottle may be used in lieu of a comb, but it is not so well adapted to the purpose. Much amusement may be derived from this extremely simple experiment, and some of our numerous young readers will hasten to try for themselves.

NOT A HUNDRED MILES FROM WESTMINSTER.—In the account of Prince Arthur's visit to Canada we are told that "Ottawa, though justly proud of that magnificent pile of buildings which accommodates the Parliament of the Dominion, is also proud of its great lumber establishments." Perhaps it was as well to make this clear distinction between the Parliament buildings and the great lumber establishments, for there are people profane enough to think that even in Parliament Houses "lumber" may sometimes be found.—*Punch*.

THE TURCO-EGYPTIAN QUESTION DEFINED.—Pasha-nate outbursts on both sides—each thinks the other is in-SULTAN his dignity.—*Judy*.

JUDY perceives that the authoress of the "Lady Byron" article has not answered her critics. She evidently regards their comments with Stowe-ical indifference.—*Ib.*



THE LETTER. (From a sketch by our Artist.)

THE LETTER.

(BY THE LOWE FARMER.)

I.
Beside her window Bessy stands,
Pretty, graceful, wicked Bessy;
My own a charming view commands,
Our dwellings opposite and nigh.

II.
Young Bessy's eye is dark and bright,
And bright and dark is Bessy's hair;
In truth, it is a pleasant sight
To gaze on Bessy standing there.

III.
The sunshine brighter round her grows;
She toys with flowers—how fair they seem!
A voiceless music round her flows,
She stands, a dreaming lover's dream.

IV.
Soon merry thoughts steal o'er her mind,
Swim on her lips and in her eye;
And dimples circle unconfin'd,
Where roguish smiles half-hidden lie.

V.
A serious moment's coming now:
But never lovelier than then,
Those ripe lips press'd and knit her brow—
She starts, and snatches up a pen.

VI.
She searches round, and soon is seen,
Of rosy hue, a tinted sheet;
Then kneels—her lips the pen between—
And makes her desk the window seat.

VII.
A moment more to thought is lent:
Her pretty head rests on her hand;
Then, o'er the unstain'd page is bent,
While truant curls forsake their band.

VIII.
She writes—there's something ails her pen—
But soon remov'd the vagrant hair,
Her fingers fleetly fly again,
And words and gentle thoughts lie there.

IX.
Again, a ling'ring pause to muse;
And fancy, gaily crown'd by love,
The future scans, the past reviews,
And all is fair, around, above!

X.
A bright idea meets the case,—
And Bessy all its influence feels:
Her eye lights up, and o'er her face
Sufus'd a mantling colour steals.

XI.
More swiftly now her task she plies,
Page follows page each other on;
Fast as her pulse her pen it flies—
The task is o'er! the letter's done!

XII.
Stop! 'tis a lady's scroll we trace:
The postscript! ah, 'tis there, be sure;
Sweets of the sweet will find a place,
And all that's brightest, best, and pure.

XIII.
But that is done, and done is all!
The sheet is closed—the seal a rose—
Then down the shielding curtains fall,
And then—and then sweet Bessy goes.

Is that sheet for friend—for lover?
(Whoever, happy he must be,
Fortune! aid me to discover,—
Alas! I know 'tis not for me.