

PAGES OF BRITISH HISTORY.

Historical Battles—Noteworthy Events in
the Story of the Creation of the
British Empire.

Under the above heading THE ANGLO-SAXON purposes to devote space in future issues to an account of British battles and leading events in the history of the creation of the Empire. Under the existing school system of Canada, the future generations of Canadians are in danger of growing to man's estate ignorant of the noteworthy features of British prowess on land and sea.

The ANGLO-SAXON proposes to do its part towards supplying the deficiency, in order that the Sons of Englishmen, Scotchmen and Irishmen in Canada may learn how their fathers fought, conquered and died for their country and the Empire, and won and bequeathed to us their heirs this fair Dominion of ours.

CHAPTER II.

THE BATTLE OF THE STANDARD, 1138.

(Continued from our last.)

The next great battle fought on English ground is very remarkable from the circumstance that in the component parts of the invading force were represented nearly all of the various races which are now welded together as the British people; and it is of this field that, in Scott's splendid fiction, Cedric the Saxon boasts so justly that the war-cry of his subjugated race was heard as far amid the ranks of the foe as the *cri de guerre* of the proudest Norman baron.

When Henry I., one of the most accomplished princes that ever filled the English throne, died by an unlucky overgorge of lampreys, in 1135, at St. Denis, in Normandy, England had again the prospect of a succession to be disputed in blood. By will he left his kingdom to his daughter Matilda, widow of the Emperor Henry V. of Germany; and as the nobles of England and of Normandy had sworn fealty to her, she had every reason to expect the inheritance as queen of both states. But the fierce feudal barons had an aversion to female succession; the feeling was so strong that it prevailed over their oaths and their good faith, and prepared the way for the usurpation of Stephen, Count of Blois, third son of Adela, daughter of the victor of Hastings, who claimed the vacant throne in opposition to Maud, urging that he was the first prince of the blood, and that it was disgraceful for men to submit to a woman's rule. His brother, Henry, Bishop of Winchester, gained for him the leading clergy, and he was joyfully received by the citizens of London, after he had escorted the embalmed body of Henry to the Abbey of Reading, where, on the interment day, he lent his shoulder to bear the leaden coffin.

The first to draw his sword for Maud was her uncle, David I., King of Scotland. Thrice in one year he ravaged with great severity all Northumberland, which he claimed as his own, and on the third occasion he marched as far as Yorkshire. On the approach of Stephen with an army, he deemed it advisable to fall back on Roxburgh, where he took up a strong position, and prepared to give battle; but Stephen, on discovering that some of his nobles had a secret understanding with the enemy, avoided the snare that was laid for him, and, after laying waste the Scottish frontier, retreated south.

In March, 1138, David re-entered Northumberland, urged, it is supposed, by letters from his niece, the Empress Maud, the justice of whose claim to the throne of England he felt keenly, as she was the only legitimate daughter of King Henry. At the same time, curiously enough, he was uncle to the queen of Stephen.

England was at this time in a very deplorable condition, and the inhabitants of her northern countries had few other resources on which to rely than their own valour and the good policy of Thurstan, the aged Archbishop of York, who, in his decrepit form, displayed all the energy of a youthful warrior. Stephen was so pressed in the south of England, where many of the barons had risen in opposition to his government, that he could raise no army of any consequence to oppose the invading Scots, who mustered 20,000 men; and the only succour he could send to the north was a body of lances under Bernard de Baliol a Yorkshire baron, whose descendants were afterwards to bear a prominent and ignoble part in Scottish history. But Thurstan had already assembled the northern barons, exhorting them "to fight for their families and their God; he assured them of victory, and promised heaven to those who might fall in so sacred a cause." Aged, and unable to appear in public on account of many infirmities, this noble old prelate deputed an ecclesiastic named Ralph Nowel, whom, in the exercise of his usurped authority over the Scottish Church, he had named Bishop of Orkney, to act as his representative. The archbishop issued an order for all the ecclesiastics in every parish of his diocese to appear in procession, with their crosses, banners, and relics, and enjoined all men capable of bearing arms to repair to the general rendezvous of the northern barons at Thirsk, in defence of Christ's Church against the barbarians. Three days were spent in fasting and devotion; on the fourth Thurstan made them swear never to desert each other in the coming strife. He promised victory to all who were penitent. At York he heard the confessions of the barons, and delivered into their hands his crozier and his metropolitan banner, which was dedicated to St. Peter. The chiefs who came were William, Earl of Albemarle, Robert de Ferrars, William Percy, Roger de Mowbray, Ilbert de Lacy, and Walter L'Espee, an aged Norman warrior of great experience.

Meanwhile the Scots were coming on with sword and with flame. David detached his nephew, William, at the head of a body of Galloway men, into the West of England, where, on the 4th of June, he defeated a considerable force near Clitheroe, and carried off much spoil. The king by this time had laid siege to the strong castle of Norham, which Ralph Flambard, Bishop of Durham, had erected nineteen years before to repress the inroads of the Scottish borderers; it was surrendered, and dismantled by David, who marched south through Northumberland and Durham without opposition, till he came to Alverton, now called Northallerton, in the North Riding of Yorkshire, on the 22nd of August.

The English army was drawn up in array of battle on Cutton Moor, close by this place. It was then a wide waste of purple heather, dark green gorse, and stunted bushes. There they had erected a remarkable standard, consisting of the mast of a ship securely lashed to a four-wheeled car of wain. On the summit of this mast was placed a large crucifix, having in its centre a silver box containing the consecrated host, and below it waved the banners of three patron saints—Peter of York, Wilfred of Ripon, and John of Beverley. Hence the name of the conflict, the "Battle of the Standard."

At its base, sheathed in armour, with his helmet open, old Walter L'Espee harangued his followers; and at the conclusion of his speech, gave his ungauntleted hand to William, Earl of Albemarle, exclaiming, "I pledge thee my troth to conquer or to die!"

A June Anniversary.

Twenty-six years ago intense excitement prevailed throughout Canada. The Niagara peninsula had been invaded by a Fenian horde under command of one "General O'Neil." For some months previously the government of Canada had been aware of the designs of the leaders of that organization upon this country, and made the necessary preparations for resisting it. The proposed invasion was favorably regarded by the lower class of American politicians, many of whom made speeches expressing sympathy with the project. On June 2, 1866 "General" O'Neil and his followers, picked up in the worst parts of Buffalo and other cities, polluted the soil of Canada with their presence. A fight took place at Ridgeway between the Fenians and the Queen's Own and 13th battalion of Hamilton. One officer—Ensign McEachren—and six privates of the Queen's Own were killed, and four officers and nineteen privates wounded. Some of whom afterwards died from the wounds received. A gathering of Fenians took place later on at Odensburg, but the presence at Cornwall of a force of volunteers and regulars interfered with their programme.

On the 8th of June about 2,000 Fenians assembled at St. Albans, crossed the frontier and took up a position at Pigeon Hill, three miles from the border. They contented themselves with plundering the neighborhood, but upon the appearance of volunteers at the scene of their depredations, they retired to the country whence they came, and were disarmed by General Meade.

A monument stands in Queen's Park, Toronto, in honor of the patriots who fell at Ridgeway.

THE ANGLO-SAXON IN INDIA.

Bishop Hurst on the Results of British Rule in Hindostan.

India: The Country and the People of India and Ceylon. By John F. Hurst, D. D., L.L.D., 8vo., pp. 794. New York, Harper and Brothers, Toronto: William Briggs.

Bishop Hurst, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, paints his picture of modern India upon the historic background of the past, discusses with philosophic acumen the races, languages and institutions of this old land, and describes with graphic pen its marvellous development in civilization. One of the most striking features in India is the government of 250,000,000 of Indians by less than 1,000 men, members of the Covenanted Service of India, the entire English population, civilians and soldiers, being only 140,000.

Egypt is the gift of the Nile, it has been said, but you could lose all Egypt in the plains which are the gifts of the Ganges. It would require 350,000 thousand-ton ships to freight the fertilizing material carried down by the Ganges every year, or 7,000,000 railways cars, making a train 67,000 miles long.

TO THE CREDIT OF THE ANGLO-SAXON.

Bishop Hurst pays the strongest possible tribute to the beneficial effect, on the whole, to the British Government of India. Notwithstanding its complicity with the opium trade and the drink traffic, and its connivance at idolatrous practices—heavy blot upon its escutcheon—"yet," says the Bishop, "there still remain incalculable advantages to the country which must be placed to the credit and honor of the Anglo-Saxon in India." The suppression of sutteeism, of infanticide, of thugism and many other evils are directly due to British influence.

THE VICTORIES OF PEACE.

"England," he adds, "has never achieved grander victories on Waterloo or at Quebec than those which belong to her quiet and peaceable administration in India. The day has not yet dawned when it is possible to measure the whole magnitude of England's service to the millions of India. Generations must elapse before this can be done. When the hour comes it will be seen that the English rule has never been wiser or more humane on the Thames or the St. Lawrence than on the Ganges, the Indus and the Godavari.

England's conquest has been less by steel and gunpowder than by all the forces which constitute a Christian civilization. One of these striking benefits has been the unification of India. The land was one great tangled skein of races, languages and regent governments. Century after century rolled by, and still the war of strife and bloodshed went on. This is all now subdued by the strong firm hand of England.

THE BARS ARE DOWN.

The Bishop exclaims with enthusiasm, "India is now open to missionary work; all the Indian gates are down, the bars are shattered into small fragments, the locks are ground into fine dust; every stream sings a welcome to the evangelists of peace! The king of nations is entering! England has learned that the Christian religion is the real and only basis of a permanent tenure of the country."

SIR E. BRADDON ON AUSTRALIA.

190 Million Pounds Sterling British Capital Invested in Australian Enterprises.

At the last meeting of the Foreign and Colonial Section of the Society of Arts, held at John-street, Adelphi, London, Sir Edward Braddon, Agent-General for Tasmania, read a paper on "Australasia, its progress and resources." Sir Robert G. W. Herbert occupied the chair. The lecturer mentioned that assisted emigration had now ceased in all the Australasian colonies except Western Australia, Queensland having discontinued it only a month or two ago. From first to last those colonies had spent upon this system £10,600,000, mostly out of revenue. But could it be said that Australasia was fully populated even now, when upon its 3,075,736 square miles it carried a population of a fraction over the unit per square mile?

AUSTRALASIAN PRODUCTS.

Referring to the meat trade, he said that New Zealand had shown how this could be carried on profitably, and year by year had increased the number of sheep exported until she had reached something like 2,000,000 a year.

In 1851 the gold raised in Victoria was of the value of £580,548, in 1852 it rose to £10,953,900, and in 1853 it reached the maximum annual yield of £12,600,000, whilst for the nine years 1852-60 the annual average was £2,298,000. The total value of the gold raised in Australasia up to 1880, at a price slightly less than 14 per ounce, was £343,000,000.

BRITISH INVESTMENTS.

In some directions now Australasia had begun her career as a manufactur-

ing country. The British public had put some £190,000,000, into railways and other undertakings in Australasia, and had encouraged the Australasians to push on with a vigorous progressive policy, which had worked wonders already in increasing the national wealth.

FAITHFUL TO THE FLAG.

Australia was English to the core and loyal by choice, and, in spite of the empty talk of fifth-rate colonial politicians and the equally vacuous babble of certain English critics, he believed that loyalty and that brotherly love to be enduring.

In the course of a discussion which followed, Sir Saul Samuel, referring to the financial crisis in Australia, said that some strange insane alarm had been created and people were not so ready to invest in colonial stock as they were a few years ago. He had no doubt that the Australian colonies would meet all their engagements, and the time would come before long when they would be able to borrow money with the same facility as they did a few years ago. He knew of no better investment for the English investor than Australian stock.

Sir John Bray, Mr. Munro (Agent-General for Victoria), Sir Philip Cunliffe Owen, the chairman, and others took part in the discussion.

Kanaka Labour in Queensland.

The Right Rev. W. Saumarez Smith, Bishop of Sydney and Primate of Australia, in an interview on the renewed importation of Kanaka labour into Queensland, said he would not object to Kanaka labour being utilized in cultivating sugar if adequate control was exercised over the recruiting of the labourers, and that the terms upon which they engaged themselves were rigorously supervised.

The Paris *Temps*, commenting on the Queensland Bill reintroducing Kanaka labour, says:—"If there is a country which thinks itself entitled to invoke with pride long traditions of active beneficence it is England. The public complacently parade the great names of Wilberforce, Buxton, and so many others. They are particularly strict, not to say intractable, towards the faults they readily attribute to other nations. Yet it is England who is on the eve of committing, or allowing in her name to be committed, one of the most serious scandals which have ever sullied the reputation of mankind in our time.

When material interests conflict with the most elementary notions of humanity it is easy to foresee which will prevail."

British Art at The World's Fair.

Great Britain is not generally regarded as a prominent art producing centre, yet she stands third on the list of nations taking wall space in the Fine Arts building, Chicago, for the hanging of pictures, to be exhibited at the World's Fair. The list is as follows:

	Linear feet.	Hanging space sq. feet.
United States.....	2,475	34,636
Great Britain.....	1,401	20,325
Canada.....	193	2,895
France.....	2,082	33,393
Germany.....	1,338	20,100
Austria.....	866	11,564
Belgium.....	835	12,318
Italy.....	810	12,410
Norway.....	550	8,462
Sweden.....	497	7,005
Denmark.....	272	3,980
Russia.....	554	7,725
Spain.....	550	7,807
Holland.....	658	9,337
Japan.....	206	2,919
Mexico.....	125	1,500

The space applied for had to be cut down in almost every case, for the simple reason, that the aggregate exceeded the total space that is available. In the space allowed France 4,192 feet will be devoted to French masterpieces owned in America.

A Big Deal.

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The brilliant reputation achieved by Dr. Williams' Pink Pills in Canada has not only extended to the United States, but has led to an important business transaction. One of the best known American proprietary medicine houses, the head of which is the president of a leading National Bank in New York state, has recently purchased a half interest in the trade mark of the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co. for the United States only, for which, we understand, the consideration was \$250,000. This sale is probably the first instance in which an American institution has purchased an interest in a Canadian remedy, and offers the very best proof of the sterling merits of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, as we may be sure that the American capitalists, before venturing so large a sum in the half interest of the trade mark, fully investigated and verified the claims made for the remedy. It is a tribute, too, to Canadian medical science, which has brought to perfection this remarkable medicine.

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