

POOR DOCUMENT

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ENGLAND AND EGYPT.

Speculation is rife as to what will be the outcome of the Egyptian complications. Mr. Gladstone has secured the Powers that he does not aim at the territorial aggrandizement of England, and it is not probable that the public sentiment of the English people would sympathize with an Egyptian protectorate, unless it is rendered inevitable by events, or the national honor becomes involved in the establishment of a permanent control of the government at Cairo, in either of which cases Mr. Gladstone would receive the support of the entire people in such measures as would tend to that end. It is plain that British influence must be paramount along the Nile, no matter what treaties may be made, or what resolutions Conference may agree upon. "The inexorable logic of blood and iron" has proved that British supremacy is not a diplomatic fiction, but a substantial reality. The Egyptian people will not for many generations forget how the sons of the North defeated the great army of Arabi, almost without firing a shot. Far into the desert will go the story of those men, who, in the grey light of the morning, stormed the entrenchments of Tel El Kebir. As the story travels, it will gain in all its interesting features, until in remote districts and among the ignorant of the people the British soldiers will be regarded as something more than human. Over the minds of the people British influence will of necessity be supreme. Upon the governing classes of the country the prompt bombardment of Alexandria, the speedy occupation of the country, the sudden and complete rout of Arabi, and the evident determination of the British government to take care of its own interests irrespective of the action of the other European powers, will have a potent influence. France fumed and fretted; but at the last moment stood inactive; Russia showed its teeth, but quickly covered them; Italy professed an intention of protesting, but thought better of it; Turkey refused to do as Lord Dufferin required on the part of his government, and ended on doing just as she was told. In every respect the policy of the British Government has been successfully carried through, so that Mr. Gladstone may congratulate himself, as an English statesman rarely has an opportunity of doing, upon a triumph, both of arms and diplomacy. Upon continental Europe, the evident ability and determination of Great Britain not to be imposed upon will produce admirable results. No European nation will care to quarrel with the British Empire; and if the demands of Mr. Gladstone are reasonable, they will be acquiesced in, even if they include a recognized control over the canal. We incline to the opinion that if the British Government stipulates for the sole protectorate of the canal the proposition will be accepted. Practically Great Britain has the control now. With Aden at the outlet of the Red Sea, and Cyprus shadowing the Mediterranean approach, it would matter very little to the rest of the world if Port Said and Suez were British naval stations and garrisoned by British troops. In time of peace every nation could use the canal. In time of war Great Britain would control it, no matter how many treaties forbade such an occupation. Such are some of the ideas which suggest themselves when we read the despatches from Egypt. We do not pretend to forecast the result.

We think the world has a good cause of complaint against Mahomet Achmet, the so-called El-Medji, or Mahometan Messiah. A month ago the correspondents of the leading English and American journals served up a pretty bill of fare in respect to this man. What has become of him? That there is such a man is clear enough because he defeated the Egyptian soldiers on one or two occasions. That he started for Cairo with an army seems equally certain, but that he has most absurdly failed to make schedule time is equally clear. He was due at Cairo three weeks ago.

THE KING'S ELECTION.

At the nomination in King's Dr. Taylor is admitted to have made an excellent impression. Private advisers speak very favorably of his prospects, although no one can be blind to the tremendous effort to secure his defeat. Mr. Flewelling, according to his speech as reported in the Sun, said "he would make no pledges, except that if elected he would work squarely for King's County." It would, however, be a mistake to suppose that by this he desired to be understood as not being a supporter of the Local Government. Mr. J. W. Smith took an independent view of matters generally and retired from the contest. Mr. Morton informed the electors that he would "pledge his word that no extra counsel cost would be entailed on the County (we suppose this ought to be country), by his neglect to discharge his duties, and if any such extras were incurred, they should be met out of his salary." He did not seem to take much stock in the Sun, for he said "he respected Mr. Blair for his legal abilities," which is just what the Sun has told the public no one ought to do.

TO THE "SUN."

The Sun charged the Herald with "disgraceful lying" about members of the Government. We challenged proof. It refers us to our "attacks" on the Attorney and Solicitor Generals. We have examined our files to see what those attacks consisted of. Our first reference to the Attorney General was on May 23d, when we said he was "highly respectable, but not a strong man in St. John." Our second reference to him was on July 5th, when we said, "It is felt to be an anomaly for Mr. McLeod to hold that office. He has neither the experience nor the sort of talent which a person should have who is invested with the important functions attaching to that portfolio, and he has no following in the House." The next reference to him was on July 12th, when we said he had "been made to feel that his room was better than his company." The next was on July 20th, when he was spoken of as "a gentleman entirely without political experience, or the kind of legal knowledge which the chief officer of the Crown should have." On September 6th, we said that "neither the Attorney General nor Solicitor General was capable of trying any important lawsuit." On September 9th, we said Mr. Morton was "a quiet, plodding lawyer, who devoted a good deal of his time to his farm," and we also said that "somebody else would have to do his work." On the 13th of September we spoke of him as getting a salary "for an office he cannot fill." We said any man, with a grain of common sense if these statements are of such a character that they can be called "disgraceful lies." Are they not in fact true, and are they beyond legitimate political criticism?

The Sun in effect admits the truth of our remarks about the lack of experience of the crown officers, but says: "The Crown business, as the editor of the Herald, who is a lawyer, ought to know, is not regarded as difficult business." By whom, may we ask, is it not regarded as difficult? And will the officers in question attend to it, as simple as it may be? Now the editor of the Herald does know something of Crown business, and it is because of that knowledge that he says that the present Attorney and Solicitor Generals, however eminently respectable, and of however high standing in these branches of their profession which they have devoted themselves, have not had the experience of the kind of talent which the prosecution of Crown cases requires; and we add that every lawyer in the country will admit that such a statement is not necessarily an imputation against the ability or the professional standing of those officers.

We suppose that it is as well to answer the Sun on the other points it harps upon, and first in reference to its personal attacks. It has named the editor of the Herald on several occasions, and has made many charges against him. In respect to its statements about the Madawaska election, in which county the editor of the Herald never was a candidate, so that the Sun and its imaginary correspondents are wrong again. Our contemporary has not the hardihood to deny that money and a seat in the Legislative Council were offered to Mr. Theriault. It cannot deny it truthfully. We repeat that the statement we made to that effect was made "upon the authority of the person best able to speak as to its correctness," and if the Sun will agree to publish the information exactly as we received it with the name of our informant, with fuller particulars of the settlement which Mr. Adams endeavored to bring about we shall give the facts in sufficient time for it to publish its usual column of abusive comment before the Kings election.

THE FUTURE.

The Toronto Globe thinks that the signs of a great inflation in wages and prices generally is at hand. It points out that the laboring men on railroads and public works are now receiving from \$1.40 to \$2.50 per day, and that skilled laborers are receiving greatly increased pay. It attributes this to the number of public works in progress and the demand made by the North-West for the skilled and unskilled labor. The lower provinces will not feel very much benefit from this. Its effect upon them must be to draw away a great many of the floating population, and unsettle very many who are supposed to have a stake in the country, as the phrase is. However we suppose no one should complain. We are in confederation and must make the best of it. Perhaps in the fullness of time the prosperity of the West will react upon the interior, and when the productions of the interior begin to flow to the seaports these provinces will realize something of what they anticipated in the year 1867. That the exodus from New Brunswick will be even greater next year than it has been during the current twelvemonth seems quite evident, and as much as we must all regret that so many of our most active men are leaving us, there is nevertheless some satisfaction in knowing that the majority of them express themselves well pleased with their prospects in the new country, and that New Brunswick's sons will occupy leading positions in the new provinces.

Mr. Isaac Wilkinson, member for Cokermonth in the British House of Commons and ex-amateur champion sculler of the River Trent, is in Toronto. Mr. Wilkinson greatly regrets the absence of Hanlan, as he expected the pleasure of a spin or two with him.

ENGLAND'S MILITARY POWER.

It has been the habit of critics to belittle the military power of Great Britain; but recent events seem to have shown that their disparaging remarks are unfounded. A nation which is supreme on the sea and cast within two months, if necessary, equip and send into the field at least 75,000 men of all arms commanded by generals, whose skill has been thoroughly tested, and all this without counting on the Indian army, which has shown itself on more than one occasion to be, when properly handled, nearly as good as a European force, is a power which need take a place second to no other. The success of Walseley, as we said yesterday, is principally significant because it shows a thoroughness of preparation and a completeness of organization, which people had come not to expect in an English force. There were many who said that the late army reforms had impaired the value of British soldiers; but this does not seem to have been the case. No men could have been better led and none could have acquitted themselves with more courage than those who in the early grey of the morning carried Tel el Kebir at the point of the bayonet. We are not surprised to learn that this victory is the great subject of discussion in all the European capitals. It places England in a very proud position, because it vindicates her claim to be considered a first class, if not the very first military power. It is more than doubtful if any other nation could have performed what England has done, that is in so short a space of time. European statesmen will not be so slow to understand the full significance of this triumph, and its effect upon the political questions now to be discussed must be very profound. England now holds Egypt, and if she chooses can keep it. There is no nation which would care to undertake the task of dislodging her. Mr. Gladstone will therefore be in an admirable position when the European Congress next meets.

The people of the province pay of unnecessary taxation nearly a million dollars, or within a little of the largest amount ever collected as a revenue by the Provincial government before Confederation; and yet the Finance Minister, who imposed this great burden, and boasts of his success in grinding money from the people, is the same man who pledged his reputation that the rate of taxation would not be increased by the union.

If these fifteen millions represented the whole burden which the minister had placed upon the people it would be bad enough; but it does not represent the whole, because for every dollar paid in surplus revenue at least another dollar is paid to the monopolists, in whose interest the government of Canada is conducted. So that Canadians will pay this year over thirty millions of dollars for the blessed privilege of the N. P.

This heavy burden presses with special severity upon the people of the lower provinces, who enjoy few of the so-called benefits resulting from a high protective tariff. Nothing has been added to the purchasing power of the people of these provinces by this tariff. On the contrary the expenses of living has been augmented without there being any corresponding advance in the wages. There is no remedy much to be written upon the subject. The country is helplessly committed to the tyranny of the monopolists, at least for the present. It is well however to keep before the public the salient facts, so that they may know of what value are the promises which are made by the Tory leaders, and have a just appreciation of the burdens laid upon them.

The Sun has made three or four references to an article in the Herald in reference to the False Prophet of Soudan. It is not a very serious matter if we were entirely mistaken in supposing that such a person existed. If we were, we blundered in good company, for journals of no less importance than the London Telegraph and the New York Herald and the Toronto Globe contained long accounts of Mahomet Achmet, his plans and achievements. Writers who professed to be informed upon eastern affairs, anticipated a junction between the forces of Achmet and Arabi, in which event, the work cut out for the British would have been much more serious than it proved to be. It appears, however, that the journals from which we gathered our information respecting Achmet were mistaken as to the probable result of his movements, and the Herald was quite as prompt in stating this, as it had been in mentioning his movements. Then this superlatively silly Sun repeats its nonsense about the Herald supporting Arabi, and commends its statements upon that head with the King's county election. Could anything be more ridiculous? The Sun must think the electors of King's are children to be deterred from voting for Dr. Taylor, because the Sun says that Mr. Blair, who favors his election, is in political sympathy with the Herald, and the Herald was guilty of saying that previous to the battle of Tel El Kebir Arabi held all points of vantage in the interior. It seems that Walseley was of the same opinion in respect to Arabi, since he telegraphed to England for reinforcements after the battle of Kassassin.

The Sun also comments upon the fact that the Herald has not devoted more space to the King's county election. The Herald said what it has to say upon that subject, and having said it, went on to deal with other subjects, and if its quarrelsome contemporary would follow its example, and not discuss questions long after it had exhausted all it had to say about them, it would not make such a ridiculous exhibition of itself, as it is in the habit of doing.

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A CHANCE FOR REFORM.

That a comprehensive policy of reform should be placed in local politics at an early day is admitted by all persons who give public affairs serious considerations, and it seems to be taken for granted that it need not be looked for under the present regime. It has been frequently pointed out that the government, of which Mr. Hanington is premier, is simply a continuation of the administration which was in power at the time of Confederation. The duty of initiating the reforms called for by the altered condition of provincial affairs clearly rested upon this administration, and has done so for fifteen years without the slightest effort being made in any way to discharge it. Indeed they have complicated and increased the expense of the conduct of the public business rather than simplified and rendered it less costly. Charges are annually incurred now which in the pre-Confederation days would have excited the alarm of the country. A belief seems to have grown up that the paying ability of the province is inexhaustible, while as a matter of fact, it is fixed and its extreme limit has been nearly, if not quite reached. Among the objectionable features of present system is the maintenance of departmental chiefs with large salaries and practically no duties. It never seems to enter the head of the salaried members of the government that it is their time and labor, not their political influence or ability to intrigue, that the country pays for. A Province like New Brunswick cannot afford salaried idlers. The heads of the departments should do something like a twelve months' work for a twelve months' pay, and they do not. One department of the public service requires special attention. We refer to the Crown business in the courts. To look after this there are an Attorney General, a Solicitor General, a Clerk of the Crown and his Deputy, and thirteen County Court clerks. Nor do these do all the work, because every year there are bills to pay to counsel which frequently run up into thousands of dollars. If the Attorney and Solicitor Generals were competent to discharge the duties of their office, they ought to be able to attend to the criminal business in the Supreme and County Courts. We grant that, with their other duties, this would keep them pretty busy. They would not have much leisure for intrigue; but we are not sure that the public service would suffer on that account. A lawyer, who aspires to a position of prominence in his profession, could ask no better stepping stone than would be afforded by an office which necessitated a visit to the different courts of the Province.

DECEASED WIFE'S MISTRESS.

A Quebec clergyman has drawn public attention anew to the much vexed question of marriage with a deceased wife's sister, by declining to perform the matrimonial ceremony in a case where the would-be bride was sister of the bridegroom's first wife. He based his refusal upon the ground that he was not bound by law to perform any marriage ceremony, and was therefore justified in declining to assist at those which were not in harmony with his conscience. From this proposition there will probably be no dissent, and although we may think that it would be better if clergymen of all denominations would recognize the wisdom of not setting themselves against public opinion in this matter, we do not know that the Quebec minister did not act entirely within his right. That the clergy who now dissent from such marriages will in time agree that they are correct, will be admitted by most persons who are familiar with church history. It is, perhaps, just as well that the tendency of all churches is towards conservatism. They act as a sort of balance wheel upon social progress, keeping it steady and uniform. It is now the law of the land that a man may marry the sister of his deceased wife, if she will have him, and if Mr. A. will not perform the ceremony, Mr. B. will, so that those ultra-conscientious people, who seem to regard antiquity as a tolerably sure indication of inspiration, will not prevent the law going into effect any more than the old woman could keep out the flood with her broom.

PROHIBITION.

Public sentiment in Ontario seems to be gathering a great deal of strength on the question of prohibition. Indeed throughout the whole interior of the continent the idea is fast gaining ground that something must be done to put down the traffic in intoxicating liquor and abate the evils which flow from it. The operation of the prohibitory laws in the States where they have been adopted will be watched with great interest. Owing to an omission on the part of the Iowa Legislature to pass any law imposing a penalty for illegal sales the constitutional amendment prohibiting the manufacture and sale of intoxicants is practically inoperative. This state of things cannot long continue. In Kansas prohibition is admitted to have proved successful, and in Iowa everything promises favorably to it. The State of Illinois is now being agitated upon the subject, and the temperance party are becoming very strong. It is impossible to mistake the significance of these things, or not to see that they must produce a powerful effect upon the people of Ontario.

Investigating a boiler after it has exploded is something. It shows a laudable desire for information on the part of the inspectors. What is really needed is an inspector who will point out the weak spot in a boiler the day before it can explode.

His name was Lynwood. "Get in Lynm," called his father from the buggy. "All right, sir," replied the embryo paragrapher, "I'll tumble—Lynm."

DOMINION NEWS.

The rates from Thunder Bay to Winnipeg are about \$40 per car.

The harbor revenue of Montreal for August was \$3,000 over last year.

The total amount of the Montreal treasury defalcation, as far known, is \$65,000.

The ship Contest arrived at Halifax yesterday with two cases of yellow fever on board.

Joseph Hurst and Michael Cullen were seriously injured at Belleville on Tuesday in a drain.

The annual convention of the Beekeepers' Association was held in Toronto on Saturday.

Two cargoes of steel rails for the Intercolonial Railway are being discharged at Levis, Quebec.

The St. John cricketers suffered a severe defeat on Monday at the hands of the Halifax "Wanderers."

The steamers Varuna and Prince Edward collided in the Belleville harbor on Tuesday. The damage was slight.

John Cook, of Markham township, Ont., while taking his supper last night, was choked to death by a piece of meat.

The formal opening of the Montreal Exhibition does not take place till Monday. The attendance so far has been slim.

Irene Portin, of Levis, 14 years of age, son of Mr. Cyrus Fortin, died at an early hour Thursday morning from the effects of a fall.

H. Sorby, of Guelph, left for the state fairs of Peoria, Ill., and St. Louis, where he will show 39 Cotswold and Southdown sheep.

The bookkeeper and cashier of a Montreal paper bag factory has absconded, after embezzling large sums from their employers.

A woman, 21 years of age, named Julie Latellier, of Levis, Que., jumped from a three-story window while in a fit and fatally injured.

Work on the Harvey railroad, Albert County, is about to commence. The contractor, Capt. Geo. A. Coonan, has advertised for 100 men.

The conductors of the city passenger railway, Montreal threaten a strike for \$12 instead of \$7 a week, and the driver for \$10 instead of \$7.

A young man named Henry Phillips was knocked down by a Toronto street car on Saturday, while drunk, and his arm literally torn off.

Mrs. Frank Bencroft, of London West, was horribly burned on Saturday last in consequence of her dress taking fire. She is not expected to recover.

Dr. Giard, for 34 years Secretary of the Quebec Education Department, has been appointed an officer d'academie by the President of the French Republic.

The \$90 imported Berkshire sow of Mr. John Werner of Guelph, Ont., which took the first prize at the Toronto exhibition, died yesterday. The owner suspects it was poisoned by some rival exhibitor at the show.

It seems that a large portion of the town of Levis is built upon the Jesuits' estates property, for the restoration of which throughout the Province a regular claim is confidently expected to be set up shortly.

The British war ship Phoenix is ashore on East Point, P. E. I., and full of water. All her materials, guns, etc., were taken off. None of the ship's crew was lost by the wreck. The ship is now offered for sale as she lies on the beach.

Among the visitors to the Toronto Exhibition yesterday, were Sir John and Lady Macdonald, His Honor Lieut Governor Robinson, Sir Leonard Tilley, Hon. E. Black, Hon. McK. Bowell, and a number of other prominent gentlemen.

The remains of the late Howard J. Kennedy, the unfortunate young man who met his death by falling of the picnic train near Pettoicville station, on Wednesday last, were buried in the Methodist burying ground at Berwick, on Friday last.

While passing along the wharf in the rear of the South wharf, a day or two ago, an "American citizen," as he styled himself, slightly under the influence of liquor, fell and broke one of his legs near the ankle. He was sent to the hospital to be cared for.

At Escuminac, last Sunday, Mr. David Savoy shot a big bear and killed one of her two cubs with an axe, the other escaping. Travellers passed several men and boys, armed with guns, all on the warpath, who had been called to arm by reports of bruin's appearance in different places.

The American canal boat Earl & Skinner, from Hoboken, with coal to Messrs. Bennett & Co., has been seized by five customs authorities at Quebec for some infringement of the custom's regulations. It seems some of the vessel's cargo was sold on the passage down, and no report made at the custom house.

The Roman Catholic Church at Dalhousie, was partly destroyed by fire on Monday. The building is so far destroyed as to be useless. There was no insurance on the building. The fire is supposed to have originated from a cigar stump, as no stoves were in the building nor any fire around the Church.