

A Girls' School at Khartoum.

What marvellous changes a few years bring about. As one reads the following paragraph from the "Scottish Church Chronicle," and reading remembers that it was but a few short years ago that Khartoum was a strong-hold of the Slave Dealer, and its inhabitants tributary to the Mahdi, one cannot help feeling that the blood of the heroic Gordon was not shed in vain—nor the genius and prowess of Kitchener wasted—in their splendid efforts at bringing order out of chaos, and forcing barbarism to give way to a Christian civilization: "The foundation-stone of a new girls' school, now being built at Khartoum, was recently laid by Bishop Morley, Archdeacon of the Church of England in Egypt, and formerly Bishop of Timnevelly and Madura. A few British and a rather larger number of Egyptian officers, and a good number of Government officials and employees, and several Greeks and their priests were present. The Bishop gave an address on the need of education for the women of the Soudan, giving his experience of life work in India, and praying that this school might prove a great blessing to the country, influencing the sisters, wives, and mothers, and children, both in present and in future times. He also reminded his hearers that this school, which now numbered over 100 members, was started two years ago by the Rev. L. H. Gwynne, with twenty-three scholars. Under the stone was placed a little tin box containing a small New Testament, a copy of the 'Daily Mail,' and of the 'Soudan Times,' the first time, no doubt, that these papers have been put to such a use in the Soudan."

Defender of Ladysmith on Patriotism.

The thoughts of a good and gallant man always command respectful attention. Sir George White in his Empire Day address at Gibraltar, amongst other things said:—"In my last Empire Day speech I dwelt on the Empire as my keynote. The fact that it covered one-fifth of the face of the earth, and contained one-fourth of the population of the world, should evoke enthusiasm and responsibility in everyone. Mr. Choate, the United States Ambassador, warned us that a missing link in our education was the early cultivation and education in patriotism amongst our children. I agree with Mr. Choate; hence my address to-day. The United States is a most favoured land, the population dwell in peace and security, their 80 million inhabitants, and their wealth—and mark well, wealth means the sinews of war—is unequalled, and is still in its early stages. Notwithstanding this, the practical President of the United States neglects no opportunity in cultivating patriotism. The children of all classes learn military exercises and marching, and how to honour their flag. The great, and in many quarters unexpected, success of the Japanese have drawn special attention to their methods of education, which they have so marvellously developed. When I was Commander-in-Chief in India, about the time of the Chino-Japanese War, a Japanese Colonel visited me, and asked permission to study our system of pack transport for hill campaigns. After giving permission I chatted with him on instances of the patriotism and devotion of Japanese women. * * *

Patriotism Taught in Japanese Schools.

The colonel said that such incidents were frequent. I asked him what made the Japanese put the interests of State before the most sacred of personal affections and sentiments. He replied: "We teach it in our elementary schools." I was inclined to laugh at so simple a means of arriving at so far-reaching and so world-compelling an end. Anyone following the history of the present war must see how

gloriously their system of education has worked out to the salvation of their country. A specimen of their great patriotism is shown in Okasakis Brigade, which early in the present war left their home 4,000 strong. After seven months' severe campaigning, they had lost only four men from disease, and there were only three rank and file left of the original 4,000. All the rest had been killed or wounded. They had borne the brunt of thirteen decisive battles, and still claimed the front. It behooves us to keep our civilization virile. Is the highest civilization compatible with the highest fighting efficiency? Judging from Rome, Greece, Carthage, Macedonia, Persia, Egypt, etc., the answer seems no. Let us, while imitating the virtues and manliness of their civilization avoid their luxuries and emasculating tendencies. I see only in my short career weakness masquerading in the garb of higher humanity, which beautiful ideal is too Utopian for this fighting and grasping world, in which wars are as constant as old, and more bloody than ever. "When a strong man armed keepeth his house his goods are in safety." A good beginning along the line suggested by Sir George White's speech has been made in our public schools by Mr. Hughes, and in another way by the Daughters of the Empire. The "Cadet Corps" and "Navy League Branch" of St. Alban's Cathedral School also deserve especial mention. Let us learn a great lesson from the Japanese, and begin to teach patriotism in all our elementary schools.

Scotch Church Bill.

In introducing this remarkable Bill in the House of Commons the Lord Advocate said the Government proposed by this Bill to appoint an Executive Commission, consisting of five members, the names of whom would be given at a later stage, and this Commission would be empowered to deal with all Church property belonging to the United Free Church at the date of the Union in October, 1899. The Commission would be free to allocate the property between the two churches in such a way as seemed to them fair and equitable, and would make provision for infirm ministers, widows, and orphans, supplementing congregational contributions towards the stipends of ministers of the Free Church. For this purpose they would deal with Church property as they thought fit. Their proceedings would not be subject to a revision by courts of law. The Church of Scotland asked power to relax its formula as to the confession of faith to be freed from the strict terms of the Acts of 1693 and 1797, the former describing the precise terms of formula of subscription from a minister on admission to the Church. The Government had given the matter full consideration, and they thought the whole subject should be dealt with at the same time in one Bill, and proposed that the Free Church should be given the property, subject only to its being applied to the purposes of the Free Church. They also proposed that the United Free Church, with power to alter her standards, should receive the property allocated to her, subject only to this condition, that it shall as far as possible remain in the hands of the United Free Church in the same manner as it was now appropriated. Otherwise there were no conditions at all. The Church of Scotland should also be empowered to substitute for the existing formula of ministers such formulas as might be prescribed by the General Assembly of that Church. In conclusion, the learned speaker said the Bill dealt with this whole question in many respects generously, in all respects justly, and he hoped it would conduce to a settlement. It will be observed that the Bill not only deals with the Church's property, but with the Church's declaration of faith as well. Surely Parliament cannot go much further. Is not this a rather free rendering of the Latin saying, "The voice of the people is the voice of God."

King Oscar.

In thinking of the troublous times which have come to Norway and Sweden, it is consoling to bear in mind that blame cannot be laid at the door of the monarch who has ruled these two jarring countries so long and so well. A well-informed writer has this to say of him:—"King Oscar II., who has a world-wide reputation as one of the wisest, most gifted, and most popular of reigning monarchs, has reigned over the two nations since September 18th, 1872, and confessedly Norway had no real quarrel with the Sovereign. But he, and he alone, represented the Union, and only by the course they have now taken could the Norwegians cut themselves adrift from Sweden. King Oscar has acted as a constitutional ruler, and for the first seven or eight years of his reign the attitude of Norway was conciliatory. The Storting voted the expenses of his Majesty's Coronation at Trondheim, and he in return agreed to the abolition of the Vice-royalty, which they regarded as in some sort a mark of inferiority; they accepted a Zollverein, or Customs union, with Sweden; acceded to the currency convention, and the bill of exchange convention. But a new epoch began in 1880, when the Norwegian Radicals, mostly elected by peasant votes, came into power, and since then, from one cause or another, and despite the efforts of the Crown and the best men of both countries, contention between the two States has been almost incessant." The King has borne himself with kingly dignity, and has ruled with constitutional fairness. The quarrel between the two countries is none of his prompting or seeking.

A Well Won Victoria Cross.

The stuff out of which heroes are made does not cease to grow in the Old Land. Not infrequently it issues forth from some quiet rectory, where peace and good will grow side by side with greatness of soul and invincible courage. We all remember that of "Barnam Thorpe, Norfolk," immemorable, as the birth-place and boyhood home of Nelson. The Naval and Military Record tells the stirring story of how a son of the Vicar of St. Erth, Cornwall:—Lieut. H. A. Carter, of the Somaliland Field Force of last December won the cross of valour. We are confident that our boy readers, old and young, will peruse it with unusual interest: "Lieutenant Carter was sent from India to Somaliland at the outbreak of the war with the Mullah, and the incident which gained for him the coveted Victoria Cross occurred on the 19th of December. He accompanied a small reconnoitring party, under the command of Colonel Kenna, V.C., and after a ride of about 100 miles during the dead of night they arrived at a place called Jidballi. There they discovered what was at first thought about 200 of the enemy, and shots were exchanged. It was soon found that they were only the advance guard, and the little band of English troops, composed almost entirely of natives, was attacked by a force fully three thousand strong. With indomitable pluck they faced the fanatical foe, and twice were driven back, eventually being compelled to retire before the fierce onslaught of the enemy. At this stage Lieutenant Carter saw a Sikh lying on the ground, and galloped to his assistance. The poor fellow was surrounded by about 20 of the enemy, who were pricking him with their spears. Lieutenant Carter, dashing into the midst of them, fired, and the chief of the party fell, and, surprised by the sudden attack, the remainder retreated about twenty yards. From that distance they kept up a murderous fire on the gallant young officer who seemed to have a charmed life. Bullets pierced his helmet, and fell all around him, but marvellously to relate, he escaped without being wounded. Three times he raised the wounded Sikh, and got him on his