

If They Should Meet!

Anxiety Over the Situation in Africa—French Forces Advancing Toward the British Legion—The Latter Prepared to Fight—A Wretched Duke—Temper Tried at the Queen's Reception—Sir Frederick Leighton's Recovery Assured.

London, May 20.—The Government was questioned in the House of Commons several times last week respecting the Anglo-French situation in Africa, and the replies have been cautious to the point almost of mis-statement. Parliament and the public have been led by this official reticence to assume that everything is going on well, whereas all trustworthy news from the spot received in London and Paris shows that the state of affairs is serious, if not actually dangerous.

There are really two areas of disturbance, one in the Niger region and the other north of Uganda, on the Upper Nile. The former is within reach of the telegraph, and if the English and French and their native allies should come to blows the fighting could be stopped before it assumed dangerous proportions. But orders take a month's time to reach the Upper Nile region, and the English might wipe out the French, or vice versa, and establish their predominance long before the news could reach Europe.

Nobody whose duty it is to make inquiries at official quarters can fail to be struck with the anxiety which prevails there. The lovers of peace take comfort from the fact that a civilian has just been appointed Governor of Uganda, but the history of British India shows that ambitious, masterful civilians can become very military indeed, when occasion requires, and in any event there are several young English officers now in Uganda in various capacities. The forces at their command are far from dispirited. Emin Pasha's little army of Sudanese soldiers furnished a good foundation for the English officers to work upon, and native warriors have been enlisted and sedulously drilled. Moreover, the British have machine guns and plenty of arms and ammunition generally, all collected ostensibly for use against Arab slave raiders, but really for the set purpose of maintaining the British position in the Upper Nile region against all intruders.

When the curtain was last lifted, two French expeditions were moving steadily toward the country, for the retention of which these young Uganda officers will fight as long as they have a cartridge left, well knowing that that is what is expected of them, no matter what their nominal instructions may be. Their guns and well-drilled men would give them an immense advantage over the Frenchmen, and their victory would cause such a prodigious potter in France that the diplomats would require all their skill and patience to keep the two nations from coming to blows.

That is the real situation, and that is why the great men of the earth, who recoil with dread from the bare prospect of a war between England and France, have their eyes anxiously fixed upon Egypt and Central Africa.

A WRETCHED NOBLEMAN.

The late Duke of Hamilton has estates in four Scottish and English counties, comprising perhaps hundreds of thousands of acres, and with a tenantry of probably two score thousand souls or more. The power for good or ill of a great country landlord over the happiness, morals and physical progress, and, in fact, almost every detail of the daily life of his tenants is almost illimitable. To this vast responsibility there succeeds today a young man of 33, a remote cousin of the late nobleman. What are his habits, his character, his antecedents, his views of life and of his responsibility, and the probable use he will make of it, not only in relation to his tenantry, but in his succession also to his hereditary legislative duties, are questions of obviously momentous importance to this realm, yet not a single London newspaper tells us anything more of this young man than that he was born in 1862 and was once a lieutenant in the royal navy. The great Times gives two lines to him, the Telegraph four, imagining that the death of a character occurring with us, and how instantly and adequately the American papers would respond to its great import.

The story of the late duke's wretched and useless life should be used to point a moral of the utmost importance. He seems to have had no comprehension of his duties or responsibilities. His reckless life once brought him to the verge of bankruptcy, which was averted only by the shrewdness of his business agent, and his tenantry were probably, therefore, the severest sufferers. He had for years almost abandoned English society, shunned London, and was only seen occasionally at the Newmarket races or on his yacht at Cowes.

Among the many wild exploits of his youth I am told he was concerned in a night brawl in the London Haymarket, which resulted in the death of a policeman. Some time since he developed symptoms of heart disease, and placed himself under a noted specialist for the treatment of his corpulence, as he had been advised that his only chance of prolonging his life was to reduce his weight. The specialist ordered him to stop all drink beyond a half pint of wine, whereas the duke had been accustomed to take seven or eight bottles of the finest claret daily. He could not stand the specialist's regime, and reverted after a few weeks of abstinence to his former habits, and had a renewed and acute attack of gout, which went to his heart and killed him.

The Duke of Hamilton was a noted gourmand, and the story goes in London society that he and Mr. Wilson, the husband of the sister of the Duke of Fife, who was divorced from her husband, Adrian Hope, were wont to sit down together to a roast sucking pig and a large suet pudding, both of which they invariably finished. The Duke of Hamilton was a miserable man, and he was given to lamenting that though he had six palaces he had no home. His sister was married in 1869 to the Prince of Monaco, but in 1880 the Pope annulled the marriage on the ground that it was procured by duress by the agency of the Empress Eugenie.

The Duke of Hamilton had squandered

as much of his fortune as he could control, and some years ago dispersed the Hamilton Palace collection, one of the most magnificent private collections in the world, to meet his extravagant expenditures. The famous Beckford Library, indeed, went to Germany.

IN HONOR OF VICTORIA.

Next Friday Queen Victoria will have reached her 76th birthday, and all over the United Kingdom preparations are being made for an appropriate celebration of the event. It is noteworthy, however, that in the midst of the rejoicings over the continued life of the venerable sovereign there is a looking toward the future, for a London poet has improvised an additional verse to the National Anthem, which will be sung at all the school children's celebrations throughout the country. It runs this way:

When at some future day
Albert this Isle shall sway,
God grant us that he may
Rule like our Queen.
May he defend our laws,
And ever give us cause
To sing with heart and voice,
God save the King.

equivalent to presentation to the Queen herself, there was much grumbling among young women who had spent days in practising how to bend low and kiss the monarch's hand with the minimum amount of awkwardness. Then, following upon a week of warm, summer-like weather, drawing-room day was cold and cheerless, with a high wind which drove dust through the most carefully closed carriage windows, spoiled dresses, ruined complexions, and caused an amount of untimely sneezing that was distressing to witness unless to brutal, scoffing spectators.

The number of presentations was comparatively small, but the Princess was ten minutes late and there were several waits and hitches which, had the Queen been present, would have got the court officials into serious trouble. The general verdict was that the Marchioness of Londonderry, who presented the Dowager Duchess of Marlborough on her remarriage, wore the finest diamonds, and that the most striking dresses were that of Lady Jane Lindsay, the material of which had been sent all the way to China to be embroidered with sprays of strange flowers.

CYCLING DRESS FOR WOMEN.

Profound interest is caused by the announcement that some beneficent genius has at length invented a perfect costume for lady cyclists which gives all the freedom of male garments without detracting from the natural grace of the lovelier sex. The woman declares the proud inventor may henceforth ride about the country without fear of exciting the flippant remarks of townspeople or the coarser jests of yokels, and cycling will receive an immense impetus out of which the manufacturers of machines will make fortunes. As far as is known the new costume has not yet been placed on the market, but from information received, the New York Sun reporter is enabled to say that the leading feature of it is a weird arrangement of straps, the manipulation of which will, apparently, convert the riding garb into an ordinary walking dress. The reporter is unable to say what will happen if any of the straps go wrong when the conversion is in progress.

LEIGHTON'S RECOVERY ASSURED.

Sir Frederick Leighton's recovery at Algiers now seems assured, and no news could be more welcome to the profession he adorns or to the public of London, who rightly regard the president of the Royal Academy as not only a great painter, but as the personification of all that is elegant and accomplished in English polite society. Sir Frederick would have been emboldened in any calling. In addition to being a great draughtsman and a fantastic colorist, he is a scholar, an orator, a linguist, a man of business, a man of the world, with a "speaking acquaintance" with everything that embellishes life. Like the American Roscoe Conkling, his admirers see in him a striking personal resemblance to the Apollo in a swallow-tail. His hyacinthine locks—time is thinning them a little—have furnished inspiration to many a cartoonist, and moved the artistic nature of many women to tears.

HIGH JINKS AT WARWICK.

The historic glories of Warwick Castle have been revived this week by the present Earl of Warwick and his wife. The latter will be easily recognized by her former name, Lady Brooke, a friend, as all the world knows, of the Prince of Wales. The castle has been full of brilliant company, including his Royal Highness, and the highest of high jinks have been going on. The Prince and Princess of Wales left London within an hour of each other, but the Prince went west for Warwick and the Princess proceeded east for Sandringham, which was exactly what the world expected. For a lady usually so amiable as the Princess of Wales, it is hardly remarkable how often and how striking she manages to let the people know there is no love lost between herself and the Countess of Warwick, formerly Lady Brooke.

THE AMERICAN DUCHESS.

The fact that the Duchess of Marlborough was again presented at court this week was because of the invariable rule that a second presentation must be made after the marriage of either a maid or widow. When she was first presented after her marriage with the Duke there was much discussion because of the war friendship between the Queen and the duke's divorced wife. But the Dowager Duchess of Marlborough came forward as sponsor. This time the duchess was presented by the Marchioness of Londonderry. The presentation would have been made by one of the late duke's sisters, but they are still in mourning for Lord Randolph Churchill. Though a duchess retains her rank and title in society when she marries a person of lower rank, she is recognized at court only by the name of her new husband. Thus the court presentation card of the Duchess of Marlborough set forth her title as "the Lady William Beresford, formerly the Duchess of Marlborough."

The Dowager Duchess of Marlborough

is shortly going on a visit to the duchess at Deep Dene and, in fact, the Churchill family lost no opportunity of testifying their continued regard for the duchess since her marriage. She entertains a large party at Deep Dene for Derby week, after which she accompanies her husband to Ireland to visit his brother, the Marquis of Waterford, at the family seat, Curraghmore, in county Waterford.

STANLEY'S LATEST BOOK.

Two books which are bound to attract attention here and in America are Mr. Stanley's "My Early Travels and Adventures," just published, and Mr. Escott's "Life of Lord Randolph Churchill," which will be published in the course of a few days. Since Mr. Stanley's failure to get himself elected to Parliament at the last general election, he has kept in comparative retirement. His method of occupying a large part of his time is now apparent. His first volume deals chiefly with his early experiences as a special correspondent among the American red men; the second recounts interesting details as to his earlier missions to Africa. Mr. Stanley ought now to give us an account of his brief excursion in Spain in 1869 and then the circle of his publications would be complete. The present work is beyond dispute one of the most notable autobiographical works of the year. Its style may lack the firmness of his "How I Found Livingstone," but there is greater spontaneity and perpetual charm.

KISSING THE MONARCH'S HAND.

The debutantes at last Wednesday's drawing room had a good deal to try their temper. The Queen shirked her work, with the result that the Princess of Wales had to take it in hand almost at the last moment, and although presentations to her Royal Highness were by the royal command considered

THE CURRENCY QUESTION.

English politicians and financiers are watching closely the progress of the free silver discussion in the United States. This is considered to have far more important bearings upon the early future of British and American trade than disputes as to Hayati and Nicaragua, or the situation in the Asiatic coast. The conflict itself is variously accounted for—by some as a mere partisan controversy, by others as the result of a rivalry between the interests of the Eastern and Western States, by a few—and only a few—as a serious struggle between the friends of a sound system of currency based upon laws that cannot be ignored with impunity and the mistaken advocates of a free silver system that is false in theory and would prove highly pernicious in practice.

The advocates of monometallism are just now very active. They are planning a demonstration in London, the date to be fixed when Sir William Vernon Harcourt shall have appointed a committee to receive their deputations. The latter, it is said, will consist of the governor of the Bank of England, several private bankers of great authority in the financial world, and a dozen members who will be chosen to represent the outspoken monometallists. The Chancellor of the Exchequer is believed to be preparing for that occasion an important speech on the necessity of maintaining the present system of currency.

EARTHQUAKES IN ITALY.

Great Destruction of Property in Florence, Attended by Loss of Life.

Florence, May 19.—The population of this city was thrown into a state of panic last night by a series of earthquakes that did much damage here and in other places. People who were in their houses when the first shock came ran terror-stricken into the streets, and many who were out in the open were where. The shocks were so violent that houses swayed like ships in a seaway, and in a number of cases roofs fell in, injuring persons who had not sought safety in flight.

The wildest scenes were at the theaters, where performances were going on as usual. The first shock caused those in the audience to look wonderingly at each other. Then the earth swayed, and amid shouts of "Earthquake!" the crowd made wild rushes for the exits. Mad with terror, no respect was shown for the women, weak or aged, and the crush was deadly hurt. Upon reaching the streets the crowds from the theaters met those who had fled from their dwellings, and the excitement that ensued made the confusion worse confounded. At Grassano, a suburb of Florence, the shocks were very violent. The extent of the earth movement may be judged from the fact that a hundred columns, which had been erected for the purpose of supporting a bridge over the Arno, were completely wrecked. An investigation was made today by the municipal authorities of Florence, who estimated that 2,000 houses were damaged.

Shocks were felt at Siena, Pisa, Livorno and Bologna concurrent with those in this city.

A HORRIBLE DISCOVERY.

Valparaiso, Ind., May 20.—A horrible discovery was made by Editor Bowser, of Chesterlin, and Emerson Bowser, of this city, yesterday afternoon on the beach of Lake Michigan in the northern part of this county. They found parts of the remains of a woman and a little babe. The bodies of both were nearly gone, having been eaten by fish. Numerous pieces of flesh were found along the beach. Half of a dress and a hat were picked up. The remains were gathered up and taken to Chesterlin. Within half a mile of the spot a half dozen mysterious murders have occurred in the past few years, none of which has ever been unraveled.

T. C. THORNHILL, optician, jeweler, watchmaker, engraver, general repairing. Lawn mowers sharpened and repairing. A call solicited. 402 Taibot street.

The Earth Shakes!

Three Thousand Houses in Florence Damaged.

And a Number of Persons Killed by an Earthquake.

Bitter Cold Weather, With Snow, in Central Italy.

Anomalous Condition of Political Parties in Great Britain—Grand Trunk Affairs—Hon. Edward Blake's Plans.

PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS BURNED.

London, May 19.—A dispatch from Buenos Ayres states that a telegram received from Santiago De Chili, announces the destruction by fire of the Parliamentary Buildings in that city. The Government archives and the valuable congressional library were burned.

HON. EDWARD BLAKE'S PLANS.

London, May 19.—A rumor of unknown origin which has crossed the sea is that Hon. Edward Blake intends to resign his seat in South Longford to enter Canadian politics and devote himself to his profession. It is learned here that there is positively no foundation for such a story.

WILDE AND HIS WIFE.

London, May 19.—Oscar Wilde will appear in court on Monday for his new trial, very much improved in health. His wife joined him immediately after his release, and since that time both have been staying in seclusion at Kensington, seeing only the few friends who still believe Wilde more eccentric than guilty. It is said that he is hopeful of acquittal.

SENSATIONAL CONFESSION.

London, May 19.—The People publishes a sensational statement by the Tichborne claimant which is the virtual confession of his fraudulent attempts to obtain the Tichborne estates and title. He admits that he is Arthur Orton, the son of a butcher of Wrapping. The statement is accompanied by a sworn affidavit by the claimant attesting the truth of his confession.

SNOW BLOCKADES IN EUROPE.

Berne, May 18.—Several of the Swiss mountain railways have been compelled to suspend their recently opened summer services owing to the heavy snowfalls. The carriage roads and the passes are blocked with drifts. The cold is moderating now.

Rome, May 18.—Bitter cold weather accompanied by snow prevails in Central Italy. The people are suffering much from the unseasonable weather.

GRAND TRUNK AFFAIRS.

London, May 19.—Diligent inquiry here has failed to confirm the rumor which it seems has gained currency in Canada, viz., that the Canadian headquarters of the Grand Trunk Railway would be transferred from Montreal to Toronto. Nothing is apparently known at the G. T. R. offices here of any such change, and when the question was put to Mr. Jos. Price, one of the directors, that gentleman stated that it was the first he had heard of it, and certainly such a thing had not been mooted among his colleagues so far as he was aware.

POLITICAL PARTIES IN A QUEER MESS.

Ballard Smith cables from London to the New York World: The English political situation at this moment is peculiar. The Government majority, in consequence of the loss of Walworth, is reduced to nine. Under ordinary circumstances it would be the obvious policy of the Opposition to bring forward a vote of censure and thus force a dissolution. But the Opposition is paralyzed by acute differences in its own ranks—between Mr. Chamberlain and the old Tories—and it cannot face a general election in the present condition of things. Mr. Chamberlain's efforts to take the leadership of the Opposition out of Mr. Balfour's hands have resulted disastrously for himself, and there is strong feeling in the Tory ranks that if the general election is deferred Mr. Chamberlain will have so completely destroyed his reputation as a tactician that he can be kept out of the next Unionist government. The bulk of the Tories are frantic with anger because his attempt to remain a member of the House of Commons after his accession to the peerage, that action being an obvious blow to the continuance of the House of Lords, whereas Mr. Chamberlain fancied that he would be accomplishing a great stroke for the peers if he could establish for them the right of option of sitting in either house.

DISSOLUTION RUMORS AGAIN.

London, May 20.—The delay of the departure of the Queen for Balmoral and the return of Lord Rosebery to London are associated in the public mind with the known differences among the Ministers on the question of dissolution. A Cabinet council has been summoned for Thursday.

THE BELL COMPANY WIN.

Boston, Mass., May 19.—The United States Circuit Court of Appeals yesterday handed down a decision in the Bell Telephone-Berliner case declaring the Berliner patent valid. This is a decisive victory for the Bell Company.

INVESTIGATION shows that the common sunflower exhales twelve ounces of water in twelve hours, and an oak tree, with an estimated number of 700,000 leaves, would in the same way give off something like 700 tons of water during the five months it carries its foliage.

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Read the Advertiser.

A 15-word situation ad in the ADVERTISER costs I5c It will secure employment—See next page

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We've been using all diligence to make the selling force and the working force big enough to show the appreciation we feel for the ever increasing business you're bringing us. Such millinery selling is entirely without precedent—and so were the preparations we'd made, or you'd have been disappointed.

No touch of foreign style is lacking—no dearth of ready-made headgear from the foremost milliners of the world—at home and abroad.

Shall the Summer Bonnet be from the hundreds and hundreds now ready, or shall we make it your notion?

Perhaps you'd be interested in knowing that you can get a French Pattern Hat at one-half the price they were a week ago. Only 30 left. Some very special lines in Untrimmed Hats too.

Black Crepons.

Over forty styles of these billowy, foamy dress fancies are on the counters to-day, probably four times greater in assortment than can be shown elsewhere. There is a perfect light for black goods here which the public thoroughly appreciates. Our constantly increasing stream of customers educate and help us to know the wants of Crepon buyers, then we study to obtain the correct weaves. Perfect blacks, right weights and good widths are here.

Dundas and
Carling Sts.