

operator obeyed his summons, and transmitted to the *Herald*, in New York, a telegraphic despatch! In ten years Khartoum had become a city, wherein it was possible for civilization to exist, and a mart so important that nations were contending for its possession.

Mr. Southworth found the slave trade in full activity and carried on without any pretence of concealment. He was himself offered an Abyssinian girl of eighteen for a hundred dollars; and he gave freedom to another girl at an expense of one hundred and fifty-five dollars. She had been cruelly stolen from her parents, and his heart was touched by her artless story.

A railroad of three hundred miles would connect the Red Sea with the Nile below Khartoum. Mr. Southworth bears strong testimony to the capacity of the people, who are going to raise a portion of England's supply of cotton. He says: "I have been amazed at the keen intelligence and native wisdom of all the people along the banks of the Nile as high up as Khartoum. They need only the ordinary agents of civilization to place them among the thrifty peoples of the earth."

All this was known to the rulers of Egypt, particularly the late Khedive, who fully intended to do what the English are about to attempt. He assured the correspondent of the *Herald* that the Soudan could produce in boundless abundance everything that England now gets from India, including cotton and sugar. The Khedive exulted at the prospects of the province.

"The cultivable lands," said he, with enthusiasm, "is millions upon millions of acres! The soil is virgin, and once a railroad passes through it, interior commerce will spring up and a flood of emigration invade the Soudan!"

The Canadians who are at present on the Nile will meet with some strange people, and will witness some strange scenes, probably before their work is completed. The people are a mixture of different races, and their religion a mixture of different faiths, in which, among the ruling races at least, Mohammedanism predominates. And it is probable that the Mohammedanism of the Soudan is of the most fanatical type to be found in any of the lands of the Crescent. The people seem to have thorough confidence in their religion as the only true religion; and, of course, they regard as infidels those who do not entertain the same belief—infidels whom, if they obstinately refuse to accept Ma-