

They swept all before them, and at length made a sudden dash at Montreal, marking their advent with flame and blood. They seized about two hundred prisoners, and victoriously retired unmolested to their native fastnesses. On their way, however, they came upon the cabin of the solitary Frenchman, whom they treated to a grand senné, tom toming and yelling in a manner more calculated to startle than assure. They then paraded their prisoners before him. A sad spectacle they were, bound, bleeding and foot-sore, in the utter abjectness of terror and misery, whose only hope was a speedy award of death. The Indian, magnanimous in many ways, had no sympathy or mercy for a prisoner. There are, certainly, a few examples of their having liberated a conquered enemy, but they are few, and only show more effectually the horrible cruelties they practiced. An incident of this kind, which occurred about that time, is worthy of mention. A missionary who dwelt among the Iroquois, and had induced the chiefs to attend the council of the treacherous Denonville, but who was innocent of any participation of the crime of his fellow countrymen, was seized by the offended tribe, who, after considering the matter, came to a determination which was nobly expressed to him by an ancient warrior before the assembled tribe:

"Thou hast been a brother and our friend, but now thou art our enemy, thou and thy people. We have held council, and resolved not to kill one we have loved, and whom we believe to be innocent of this wicked thing, and hating it as much as ourselves. We will not be unjust. Depart from amongst us; for when our young men sing the war song, we may not be able to protect thee!"

And the missionary sadly departed from the lodges of his magnanimous enemies.

The misanthropical hermit although he had separated from his people, could not look upon this sad array without feeling keenly their dreadful condition; he implored Kondikosh to spare their lives with all the eloquence he could command, but in vain; and as their provisions were getting short, they determined upon completing the sacrifice ere many days, by murdering their prisoners according to their custom. The only boon they allowed him was the lives of two, whom he might choose, a squaw, as Kondikosh expressed it, to cook his food, and a man to bear tidings of the fate of the others to Montreal. He sadly surveyed the double hecatomb of human victims, none of whom he recognized, till his eye lit upon a woman, a heap of rags and misery, crouching upon the earth. Then his heart grew faint, while memory recalled another and far different scene, laid in a distant land, when that form, arrayed in all the graces of youth and beauty, came to his bosom, a glad and beautiful bride. He approached and undid her bonds, saying, as he bent over her, only the words, "Where is he?"

Knowing the tone of that voice, she started and looked upon him—the man she had betrayed and deserted. Mechanically she answered his question, divining by instinct whom he meant, "He is here." Again he surveyed the unhappy assemblage, and at last found the enemy who had inflicted upon him the deadliest of injuries. As he had done with her he did with him, and, having cut his bonds, he led them before the chief and said:

"Give to your white brother, O Chief! the lives of these two."

The prayer was granted, and the Iroquois departed. Then, turning to the wretched pair whose lives he had saved, he said:

"Go, return whence you came, and may God, who has given me my revenge to-day, forgive and turn you from your sin! Go! I may not look upon you and live! The shadows are growing long, and the night cometh!"

Some time after, a party went in search of this strange man, but they found his hut in ashes, nor was there any trace of where he had gone, or what had become of him; and nothing was ever more heard of the solitary hunter.

#### THE EXPEDITION TO ABYSSINIA.

##### THE TROOPS ORDERED ON SERVICE—PREPARATIONS FOR THE CAMPAIGN—OUTFIT OF THE EXPEDITION, &c., &c.

The *United Service Gazette* says it has at length been resolved to despatch a large army force to punish the obstinate cruelty of the Monarch of Abyssinia, and the utmost expedition is being used to organize and make it ready for the field. The troops will proceed from Bombay. The Admiralty is using every exertion to procure steam transports to carry the troops from thence to the Abyssinian coast; but it is not at all improbable that some portion of the troops will be sent from England. The new troopships will have arrived in India in time to take part in the expedition.

The *Morning Post* says:—"This expedition, which is now decided upon, is to take place as soon as the necessary transports reach India. The forces employed will comprise all branches of the service. The infantry will consist most probably of two of Her Majesty's regiments of the line, one of which will be a battalion of the 2nd Queen's Own, and eight regiments of native Punjabee infantry. The cavalry will be composed of about six regiments of Indian irregular troops, while the artillery will include, besides mountain guns, two batteries of Royal Artillery. It is reported that His Highness the Viceroy of Egypt has been requested to provide 5000 camels for the necessary transport of the troops, and Government is also taking measures for the collection of mules suitable for the service of the expedition. We hear that the two European regiments are not as yet furnished with the Snider rifle. We trust this opportunity will not be lost for the practical trial of our new weapon. It is likely that Mr. Clements R. Markham, F. R. G. S., will accompany the expedition in a civil capacity.

The *Times* says:—"On Monday the departments in Woolwich Arsenal received instructions to occupy themselves in the arrangements for furnishing the expedition, which is to be despatched from India with the slightest possible delay. The members of the Ordnance Select Committee continued their investigation of the pack saddles and mountain transport, and urged the necessity of carrying out the proposal of Captain Fenn will all reasonable haste. A number of mules and bat animals, it is stated, are to be purchased at Malta and Gozo for the mountain service. A large amount of stores of every conceivable kind necessary for the campaign, to be despatched in transit to Malta, will shortly be in readiness for shipment at Woolwich, including 7 pounder rifled guns, with complete equipment and stores, the efficiency and abundance of which the country has reason to be well satisfied with. Colonel Campbell, superintending the royal gun factories at Woolwich, has, moreover, been instructed to prepare two additional batteries of steel guns as adjuncts to the brass batteries in course of preparation on the approved system alluded to. The new batteries will fire the same species of projectile—namely, a 7 lb. shot. Twelve carriages, also of steel, for their equipment, are to be made in the royal carriage department at Woolwich. Captain Gordon, superintendent of the military stores, was on Sunday in consultation with Sir John Pakington and the various officials of the War Department in Pall Mall, and was instructed to urge the matter forward without delay."

The Government has placed fifteen steamers under survey at Liverpool, with a view to their employment in the transport of troops and material for the proposed Abyssinian expedition.

The statements (says the *London Times*) which have appeared in some of the papers respecting the Abyssinian expedition are not quite correct. The expedition will be organized in India, under the command of Sir Robert Napier, Commander-in-Chief at Bombay, who is to be intrusted with the chief political as well as military authority. Sir Charles Staveley, has been selected as second in command. A quantity of steam transport has been taken up, and will start for Bombay immediately, so as to be there in the course of November; but the Bombay Government has also provided a quantity of transport for themselves. Officers have also been despatched to various places to purchase camels and mules. Massowah will probably be selected as the base of operations, but this point is not finally settled. Three steamers have been provided, which are fitted up as hospital ships, and will be furnished with appropriate stores. Medical officers will be appointed to them. The whole of the arrangements are under the direction of the India-office, in order to secure unity of action; but the expense will be borne by imperial funds.

"Nobody," writing to the *London Times*, under the title of "Wars in Africa," says the details of a military expedition directed to regions beyond the Mountains of the Moon are being prepared at Woolwich. That such an expedition, against such a savage as Theodoro of Abyssinia, should be undertaken no one with a heart will deny; but what every one must have anxiously before his eyes is, that the humanity of the Government, so long restrained, should not be frustrated by the climate of the country through which English troops will have to pass.

"You say that an Abyssinian war ought not to be so difficult or so deadly as an Ashantee war, and yet we have managed Ashantee wars more than once."