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THE HERO OF KHARTOUM.

The "Journals of General Gordon at Khartoum" which have been published in London, make a volume of five hundred pages. The diary is a strange medley, but giving expression to Gordon's peculiar views, it is of intense interest at the present time when the heroic defence of Khartoum against overwhelming odds, is still uppermost in the minds of all. Gen. Gordon is very severe on the Government course. Speaking on this point, he says: "I do not judge the questioning of abandoning the garrison or not; what I judge is the indecision of the Government. They did not dare abandon the garrison, so they prevented me leaving for the equator with the determination not to relieve me, and the hope—well, I will not say what their hope was—there is my point of complaint. Heavy lumbering column, power strong, is now here in this land. Parties of forty or sixty moving swiftly about will do more than any column. I can say I owe the defeats in this country to having artillery with me, which delayed me much, and it was the artillery with Hicks which, in my opinion, did for him.

I altogether decline the imputation that the projected expedition has come to relieve me. It has come to save our national honor in extricating the garrisons here from a position in which our action in Egypt has placed these garrisons. As for myself, I could make good my retreat at any moment if I wished. I came up to extricate the garrisons and failed. Earle comes up to extricate the garrison and, I hope, succeeds. Earle does not come to extricate me. The extrication of the garrisons was supposed to affect our "national honor." If Earle succeeds the notional honor thanks him and I hope rewards him, but it is altogether independent of me, who, for failing, incurs its blame. I am not the rescued lamb and I will not be."

As for Her Majesty's Government keeping the Soudan itself, it is out of the question, and as for giving it back to Egypt—in a couple of years it would have another Mahdi. Therefore our choice lies between Sennar and the Turks. Therefore give the country to the Turks. Let 6,000 Turks land at Suakim and march up to Berber, thence to Khartoum. You can then retire at once."

Later on he adds "I am afraid to say what numbers have been killed through this present policy, certainly some 80,000; and it is not yet over. For my part I hope they will all run away. We have in a most effectual way restored the slave trade and slave hunting, for Her Majesty's Government cannot keep the Soudan and never will Egypt be able to govern it. The only thing to be done is to give it to Sultan. What an end to the diplomacy of Her Majesty's Government, and it was so easy when I left in January, 1880, to have settled it with decency and quiet. I want to get out of the affair, but with decency. I could write volumes of the pent-up wrath on this subject if I did not believe things are ordained and all work for the best. I have

done what I can, and one man can do no more than trust, now. What has been the painful position for me is that there is not one person on whom I can rely. I may truly say I am weary of my life. Day and night—night and day—it is one continual worry.

The near approach of the Mahdi has not troubled me. I have always felt we should meet face to face ere the matter ended. I am tossing up my mind whether, if this place is taken, to blow up the palace and all in it or be taken and, with God's help, maintain the faith, and if necessary, suffer for it. I think I shall elect for the last. If any emissary letter comes ordering me to leave, I will not obey it, but will stay here, fall with the town, and run all risks."

The last entry is on December 14th, and says: "Now mark this: If the expeditionary force (and I ask for no more than 200 men) do not come in ten days the town may fall. I have done my best for the honor of our country. Good-bye." The book has met with an immense sale in London and the ten thousand copies printed for the first edition were barely sufficient to meet the orders before publication."

RIEL'S DEFENCE.

Now that Riel is in the hands of the Government, from whom, after his double attempt to create a civil war in the Dominion, he can expect but little mercy, he is beating around in his endeavor to find all kinds of plausible excuses for his crimes. He recently sent a voluminous letter to one of his Quebec friends, Dr. Fiset ex. M. P. for Rimouski. Riel says that after Gen. Middleton's victory he might easily have escaped from the General, and taken a sufficiently round about route to get to the United States but he preferred to give himself up, though he was advised not to do so until he had something more explicit on the subject of his personal safety. The troops, however, were scouring the country and negotiations would have consumed two or three days. He was afraid that during this delay great harm would be done to the population and he therefore decided to surrender straight off to the General. The arch-rebel thinks that by voluntarily surrendering and being so good as not to cross over to the United States which, he says, would have kept the Dominion in some degree of uneasiness, he has thereby acquired a certain claim for public consideration. He also seems to think that the fact of his being good enough not to escape should have some weight to lead him to have his trial before the Supreme Court and in Lower Canada. Riel, after giving a long history of his actions, concludes by saying that if the Government knew the facts well, he was confident it would place no difficulty in the way of granting him his trial before the Supreme Court. Riel's object in securing a trial in Lower Canada is perfectly obvious, but the Government is not likely to be misled by any such propositions and the arch-rebel will have to stand his trial at the scene of his depredations. That he will be given all the justice he deserves will be the hope of the whole

Dominion. Preparations are being actively made for his trial at Regina. Latest advices state that he was formally handed over by the military authorities to the civil tribunals on Monday. The Stipendiary Magistrate, Mr. Richardson, read the indictment, consisting of six counts, to him and he was remanded till the 20th for trial. Riel looked healthy and was quite self-possessed during the proceedings.

CHOLERA SPREADING.

A cablegram from Valencia says: Cholera is still slaying its thousands and its ten thousands, nor is it sure that the epidemic has done its worst. The news from several afflicted districts is better, but this is partly attributed to the exodus which has half emptied Murcia. In Valencia the mortality, instead of diminishing, grows greater. During the day signs of death are kept carefully out of sight, but at night the roads are filled with the muffled sound of hearses rolling and feet tramping onward to the suburbs and cemeteries. All whom business or poverty does not tie to the city have left to avoid the plague. Those who are unable to flee go about as usual, but the crowded churches and the throngs which daily besiege the laboratory of Dr. Ferran tell their own tale; and, though the natural levity of the people saves them from a panic, the cholera is on every tongue, and every paper is full of the cholera. The effects of the plague have been most terribly alarming in the cholera stricken town of Murcia whose streets are nearly altogether deserted. Nearly all the shops in the town have been closed and hardly a house remains in which a cholera case has not occurred. The yellow covered stretcher, on which the cholera-stricken sick and dead are carried through the streets, is one of the commonest sights. Deaths have become so frequent that the tolling of the church bells usual there on such events has been forbidden. Beginning on June 5th, the cholera has since then attacked 3,215 persons, and of these 1,360 bodies have been already buried. Notwithstanding the fact that thirty thousand persons have fled from the city of Murcia one person in every thirty of the population has had the cholera. The doctors expect that before the fall at least 1,000 more deaths will occur which will make the death rate one in every fifteen of the population. The King of Spain visited Aranjuez to see for himself the condition of the cholera-stricken people of the town. This is objected to by his ministers who say he had no right to make the visit without their consent. If it were not that King Alfonso now has the public sympathy he would likely be put in an awkward position by his ministry. The King travelled incognito from Madrid to Aranjuez and no person was aware of his intention to make the journey. On his arrival at his destination he visited the hospitals and their cholera-stricken patients. In the meantime, the King's departure becoming known in Madrid, the Senate and Chamber of Deputies suspended their sitting and proceeded to the railway station, accompanied by the Queen, to welcome him back. On alighting from

the train he received a tremendous ovation from the vast crowd which had assembled. King Alfonso underwent the usual disinfecting process at the railway station on his return.

In Madrid itself the disease is spreading, and owing to the numerous officials who have to do with the burying of the dead being slow at their work there were 400 bodies left unburied for twenty-four hours.

THE MORMONS AGAIN.

The disciples of James Smith and Brigham Young seem disposed to resist the authority of the United States Government within their territory to as great an extent as they dare under the circumstances. An indication of this feeling was shown by an incident that occurred on the Fourth of July at Salt Lake City. When the sun rose the National flag hung at half-mast at the City Hall, County Court House, News office, the Mormon Tabernacle, John Taylor's residence, the Mormon Church offices and the Salt Lake theatre. No one could explain the reason, and a committee who went to the City Hall to see what it meant was told by City Marshal Phillips that it was the result of his personal whim. The city officials stated that the 4th of July was a day of mourning for them and "this people" whose best men were in the penitentiary by virtue of federal official perversion of all the principles of law and liberty. He stated that anyone who undertook to disturb the flag at half-mast would be shot. The Grand Army of the Republic Post then came to raise the flag. A committee of five was sent to demand of the Mayor that it should be done and in a few minutes the flag at the City Hall was run up to the masthead, and the same was done at the County Court House. Others, however, hung at half-mast in defiance until sundown. It is believed that the order for this insult to the United States Government came directly from the head of the Church.

CAPTURED AT LAST.

The capture of Big Bear, the Cree chieftain, which was effected on July 3rd after a long hunt, may be said to virtually end the North-West campaign. The troublesome chieftain was captured on Friday, July 3, near Carlton, by Sergeant Smart of the Mounted Police. His son and one of his counsellors were taken at the same time. Big Bear is reported to have said that his hand were on their way to Fort Carlton to surrender. They were eleven days without food, being afraid to shoot game for fear of being discovered. He holds that he tried his utmost to stop the mischief at Frog Lake, but says his men were uncontrollable. Seven more of Big Bear's band have been captured by Surveyor scouts, and Col. Irvine has taken seventeen. The remainder are surrendering to the Indian agents and giving up their arms. Now that the rebellion is over, the certainty that the chief promoters of this unfortunate event will be brought to speedy justice becomes more and more apparent.