

EGYPT.

A DARING RECONNOISSANCE.

Alexandria, Aug. 15.—Lieutenants Smith and Dorian, of the Invincible, and Hamilton, of the Alexandria, on Monday night waded across the Mahmoudieh Canal and Marout Lake. The water was only ankle deep. They advanced within 600 yards of the enemy's line and then retired to report upon the result of the enterprise. The report is as follows.

"Lieut. Hamilton and myself, after proceeding cautiously about seventeen miles without escort, arrived at 2.30 o'clock Tuesday morning within three hundred yards of the enemy's cavalry camp. The night was very dark. We were unable to get details of their position, and therefore decided to find a point which would enable us to see the camp when daylight broke. We had not moved thirty yards when the enemy's picket saw us, and showed a bright light, which was directly answered all along the line. We ran about a mile, and entered the lake about a hundred yards. The enemy pursued us and spread themselves along the lake, completely cutting off our retreat. Their horses were afraid to face the water in the dark. The enemy's system of signalling with lights is excellent, our movements being flashed by the nearest man and answered along the line. I presume the enemy did not fire in order not to alarm any forces we might have near. We tied a white handkerchief to a pole in expectation of being captured, but afterwards decided to make another attempt to escape. At four o'clock in the morning we went a hundred yards further into the lake, and lay down in two feet of water. The enemy losing sight of us retired. At 4.45 we rose, having made a long detour, and returned to the English camp."

SKETCHING THE ENEMY'S POSITION.

Alexandria, Aug. 15.—Col. Gerard rode out this morning on a reconnoissance, and succeeded in making a sketch of the enemy's position. Major Gordon, Chief of Police, handed over his office to the native authorities. The European residents consider the proceeding unwise.

A Constantinople despatch, received in New York, says it is now announced that the Porte has declared its intention to send no troops to Egypt, and issued instructions countermanning all preparations in that direction. The Sultan is preparing a formal protest for presentation to Dufferin and the Conference, in which he energetically opposes the occupation of Egypt by British troops. The proclamation declaring Arabi a rebel, has not been promulgated, and there is no likelihood of the decree being carried out. The forthcoming protest against English occupation creates a profound sensation.

THE FIRING COMMENCED.

Alexandria, Aug. 19, 4.40 p. m.—Heavy firing in the direction of Aboukir has just begun. By information from headquarters, a prominent person has been discovered to be in constant communication with the rebels. He will be confined on an Egyptian man-of-war. It is reported the person is Hossam Pasha Cherei, Minister of Works. Generals Wolseley and Adye accompanied the transports in the despatch boat Salamir. Admiral Seymour will hoist his flag on the ironclad Alexandria to-day.

THE AMERICAN CONSUL ATTACKED.

Long, the American Consul, was

attacked yesterday, inside the Gabani gate, by about forty natives. Some of the soldiers arrived and dispersed the crowd. The ringleader assaulting the party was arrested. It appears the natives had attempted to stop Long as he was driving. He became annoyed and urged on his horse, inflicting injuries on some of the party.

NICHOLSON DENIES.

Washington, Aug. 19.—Admiral Nicholson, in a letter to a prominent officer of the Navy Department, denies the statement that when the bombardment of Alexandria began he notified the Egyptians if they fired on his vessel he would return the fire. He also denies that after the action he steamed around the English fleet and cheered the vessels upon their work.

SUNDAY'S BATTLEFIELD.

On two occasions in modern warfare Aboukir has been rendered famous and historical. It is probable that before long Aboukir will be famous and historical a third time. Following the railway line which skirts the Mediterranean shore from Alexandria, the traveller proceeds through Ramleh and thence past several insignificant fishing villages, the chief of which is El Mandra, until he reached the point of Aboukir, and a distance of between thirteen and fourteen miles, from what was once the Grande Place of Alexandria. Close to the promontory stands the village of Aboukir, and not far from that somewhat squalid spot of habitation the inquisitive traveller may find the ruins of the ancient Canopus, though few strangers ever take trouble to find these, notwithstanding that once upon a time they formed a conspicuous feature of the former Delta. From the promontory of Aboukir the bay of the same name stretches in a north-easterly semicircle, and terminates in a sharp horn at the rosetta mouth of the Nile. The bay is not a pleasant place now days for the navigators of big ships. Its waters are clear and blue, and in the more open portions of the bay contain a depth varying from six to eight fathoms; but here and there are treacherous shoals, which, to avoid, require the mariner's skill and caution. Running in shore, not far from the village of Aboukir, there is a formidable sandbank; then, again, there is a reef of rocks known as the Culloden reef, and the next obstacle is an island, sometimes called Aboukir Island and sometimes Nelson's Island. This island is now strongly fortified, and at intervals around the circumference of the bay there is a line of four forts and several new earthworks.

It was in 1798 that the British fleet set out to look for Napoleon Bonaparte. Lord Nelson, then Sir Horatio, hoisted his flag in the Vanguard, seventy-four guns, and was despatched by Lord Vincent from Gibraltar to Toulon, where Napoleon was believed to be fitting out his expedition for Egypt. On the way the Vanguard was disabled in a gale; had weather continued, and Rear Admiral Brueys was enabled to escape successfully from Toulon, together with Napoleon and his troops. Nelson set off in chase, along the Mediterranean, accompanied by the ships Culloden, Goliath, Minotaur, Defence, Bellerophon, Majestic, Zealous, Swiftsure, Alexander, Orion, Theseus, Audacious, and Leander, all 74-gunners. The chase was a long one, but on the 1st August, 1798, the English Admiral came up with his French antagonist at Aboukir, though not in time to prevent the landing of Napoleon with his troops close to Alexandria. Admiral Brueys was unable to enter the coveted harbor of Alexandria, so he brought his ships, consisting of one first-class,

three second-class, nine 74-gunners, and four frigates, to an anchor in the Bay of Aboukir. Both fleets made ready for action, and at six o'clock on the night of the 12th of August there commenced in these same waters of Aboukir, which ere long will be resounding with British cannon, one of the most desperate battles known in the annals of modern naval warfare. By noon on the 13th the French fleet was badly crippled. One ship had blown up, eight had surrendered, two had set sail and bolted, and two were aground, one of which was immediately destroyed by fire by its own gallant crew. The ship blown up was the Orient, and Brueys and many of his officers were hurled into destruction with her timbers. The French Admiral, before his death, was wounded three times on the face from a long range shot. Nelson himself received a severe wound. The British ship Culloden grounded near the island to which it has since given its name, close to Aboukir village. This was the celebrated Battle of the Nile, almost as celebrated in song as it was through its results. Aboukir, in but a few months after witnessing this sanguinary struggle in her bay, was destined to see another desperate battle fought in her vicinity on shore. Here, on the 23rd of July, 1799, Napoleon, fresh from his great victory over the Mamelukes at the Pyramids, encountered the Turkish army under Mustapha Pasha, who had 18,000 men under his command. The Turks (who were full of a righteous indignation and enthusiasm at Napoleon's audacious invasion of the territory of their sovereign, the Sultan) had entrenched themselves close upon the sea line of the bay. At one time during the battle Mustapha Pasha's force threatened to be successful. Full of confidence they sallied out of their intrenchments with so much impetuosity that they fell into disorder. This was the chance which the great tactician of the age desired. He rallied his men, drove back the promiscuous Turks in front of a wall of bayonets, and let loose his cavalry (of which the Turks had none) among the scattered crowd. The result was that the Moslems were forced back into the entrenchments, where such a terrible slaughter ensued that many of the Turks desperately threw themselves into the bay and perished in a vain attempt to reach their ships, which were riding at anchor on the spot where in the previous year Nelson had destroyed the French fleet. The water was said to be covered with turbans and tinged with blood, and 10,000 men perished there at Aboukir either by the bayonet or the equally inexorable sea. The remainder of Mustapha Pasha's force surrendered. Shortly after this victory at Aboukir the French General escaped from Alexandria, evaded the English cruisers which had gone to Cyprus, where he was not, and arrived safely in the Gulf of Frejus, in the vicinity of Toulon.

THE EGYPTIAN PREMIER.

The Khedive has decided to entrust Cherif Pasha with the Presidency of the new Ministry.

THE ATTACK ON THE AMERICAN CONSUL.

Alexandria, Aug. 19.—Long, the American Consul, when attacked by natives was unarmed, but seized a large club and, backing into a corner, made such an effective defence that none of the assassins cared to get near enough to hurt him. The ringleader, who had been arrested, assert they have been lying in wait for Long several days and nights, and meant to kill him. They allege as a reason for the

attack that Long recently drove over and seriously injured several Egyptians who were in the way of his carriage on the street, and who refused to get out of his way as quickly as he insolently ordered them.

Long asserts he never was guilty of the outrage alleged by his assassins. He says one day, while driving toward the Grand Square, he was surrounded by a rabble of natives who attempted to stop his carriage. He ordered them to desist, when they refused and pressed more closely upon him. He whipped up his horse to escape what he believed to be mortal danger. He acted purely in self defence.

THE SUPPORTS.

Alexandria, Aug. 19.—Generals Willis and Graham and the Duke of Connaught have gone to Aboukir. Of the whole fleet of ironclads, the Invincible and Inconstant alone remain. The 49th, 75th and 79th regiments at Ramleh will probably support the movement at Aboukir by an attack on the left flank of the enemy.

ARABI'S POPULARITY IN TURKEY.

Constantinople, Aug. 19.—The Sultan is understood to be more averse than ever to the assurance of the proclamation against Arabi and acceptance of the proposal for a military convention. The fanatics are for the moment in the ascendant. The growing sympathy of the people here with Arabi is daily causing the Palace increased anxiety. Several arrests have already been made of persons slightly too outspoken in support of Arabi. Inflammatory religious preaching has been prevalent in the mosques, notoriously in Sofia, during Ramazir, or the annual Mahomedan Lent, which is now being observed.

A COMPROMISE.

A special cabinet council was held to-day at which Assym Pasha was present. It is understood that the Porte is willing to modify the Turkish draft for a military convention by the addition of the following three clauses: First, an English general shall be attached to the Turkish camp, to facilitate interchange of communication between the Turks and the British. Second, manoeuvres of English and Turkish forces shall be mutually carried out in such a manner as to avoid interference of one with the other. Third, a date shall be fixed for the evacuation of Egypt by the English forces. It is believed that England also has consented to certain modifications in her draft for its convention, and an understanding between the two governments is therefore regarded as probable. It is stated that Said Pasha the Turkish prime minister, intends to resign.

A WARM RECEPTION.

General Wood and staff made a reconnoissance from the outposts at Ramleh to-day without any intention of engaging in serious military operations. When near Arabi's outposts the enemy sent a steady shower of bullets, accompanied by rockets and shells, amongst our men from batteries masked by trees. Ironclad trains proceeded to Mahalla Junction and opened fire with a forty-pounder, pitching four shots into the enemy's quarters. It is reported that four English soldiers were wounded during the afternoon.

THE TWELVE-TON GUNS.

Alexandria, Aug. 19.—The firing heard in the direction of Aboukir this afternoon, was the British twelve-ton guns.

ARABI TO BE ATTACKED TO-DAY.

Alexandria, Aug. 20.—It is rumored that Arabi's outposts will be attacked Monday morning at six o'clock.