

Weekly Messenger

AND TEMPERANCE WORKER.

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The Weekly Messenger

THE QUESTION OF THE DAY.

The British want to know what to do with the Russians and the Arabs and the dynamiters. Here in America we want to know what to do with the Mormons and the Chinese, the Canadian Pacific Railway and the Tariff. But on both sides of the Atlantic, and not alone in countries where the English language is spoken, one question is forcing itself in front of all others,—“What shall we do with the drink trade?” and people are showing their common sense by looking this question straight in the face, and trying to find a wise and intelligent answer. We have, as our readers know, given much space to this matter. We now intend to collect on one page, in as lively and readable a form as possible, information on this subject gathered from all parts of the world. We have reason to believe that this will be appreciated by our readers; and we shall be extremely glad to receive their opinions and suggestions as to this and any other department of our paper.

ON THE RED SEA.

There has been hot fighting on the shores of the Red Sea since last week's *Messenger* was published. On Friday morning, the British army at Suakin marched out into the country to engage the rebel army under Osman Digna. A reconnaissance the day before had discovered that the rebels were strongly entrenched in the neighboring hills, and numbered perhaps 25,000 altogether. The enemy retired from the first hill when they saw the red-coats approaching, but the other positions attacked were only captured with difficulty. At one time a tremendous charge of Arabs took place on the British square, and for a time the ranks were thrown into confusion. After several hours of very severe fighting, strong positions were established by the British, after a loss of 21 killed and 42 wounded—seventeen of the slain being Indians.

On Sunday, a force of British and Indian infantry was forming a zareeba, or fortified camp, seven miles south-west of Suakin, at Hasheen. Suddenly a cloud of Arabs sprang from their places of concealment and rushed upon the British. The troops formed a square as quickly as possible, but the camels, mules and horses were driven back in confusion on the troops, causing a stampede, and, amid clouds of dust, the Arabs penetrated the south and north of the square. Meanwhile the Marines and the Berkshire regiment, who were on the east and west sides of the square, maintained a continuous fire, holding the enemy at bay, while a charge of cavalry and fire from the guns of the artillery at the Hasheen zareeba checked the onslaught of the Arabs, which at the outset threatened a serious disaster to the British. Gen. Graham reports the English losses, so far as known, as two officers and twenty-two men killed, and thirty-three men wounded. The losses of the engineers and transport corps and Indian troops are not reported. An

unofficial estimate places the British killed at fifty-two and wounded at eighty-five. Nearly all the casualties were due to spear thrusts, received in hand-to-hand encounters. The Arabs got between the transport train and the zareeba, speared the men of the transport corps, and killed the animals. They fought savagely, refusing to give or take quarter. Gen. McNeill, it is thought, did not take sufficient precautions against a surprise.

This attack began at three in the morning, and was not finally repulsed till four. The appearance of the yelling Arabs was so sudden that the whole assemblage of transport animals, mixed with the natives, became panic-stricken, and surged on the zareeba, making resistance hopeless. The scene was indescribable. The Arabs fired and crept in all directions among the animals. The Haddendowahs swarmed from the bush like magic and attacked the zareeba fiercely on all sides. The Soudanese coolies

able to penetrate their line. The sheikhs fought to the last gasp, but lost their banner, which was captured by the Marines. The British lost 5 officers and 51 men killed, and 170 wounded. The stench from the dead Arabs was so intolerable that the camp had to be moved. A decisive battle is expected this week.

SIR CHARLES WARREN.

When the air is full of rumors of a great war with Russia, not to speak of the campaign against the Mahdi, hardly a thought is given to the fact that another British force is at present under arms in South Africa. A number of Boers from the Transvaal had gone on a filibustering expedition across the frontier into Bechuanaland, had ill-treated and killed the Bechuans and robbed them of their land, and had among other things killed a British subject. As the filibusters were defiant, and seemed to be supported



COLONEL SIR CHARLES WARREN, K.C.B.

were mistaken for enemies, and many were killed by the British. The Berkshire regiment and the Marines stood firm and cool and fired volley after volley into the ranks of the enemy. The Naval Brigade inside the zareeba also opened a hot fire. The Indian troops held their own gallantly as soon as they were able to gain close square. Eventually, being unable to stand the rattling fire, the enemy disappeared as they came.

A later telegram says that the Arabs numbered 4,000. They rushed to what seemed certain death repeatedly without faltering. Hundreds of dead and wounded lay around the British square. It is believed they lost 1,000 men. The British, especially the Marines, behaved admirably. Desperate sheikhs waving their banners and with swords and spears charged the Marines before they had been re-formed, but were un-

dermined by the Transvaal government, a British force of 3500 men, with a number of volunteers, went to Africa to teach the Boers and their government a severe lesson. The government did not wait to be taught, but promised to hand over the murderers for justice, and has withdrawn its protection from the filibusters. These men have fled; the natives—among whom the venerable missionary Dr. Moffat worked for fifty years—have had their land restored to them, and some of the volunteers have been organized into a Mounted Police Force to see that no similar marauding occurs in the future. Colonel Sir C. Warren, whose portrait we give this week, is in command of the Bechuana expedition. He was born in 1840,—his father and grandfather having both been distinguished soldiers,—and he has seen a good deal of service before in the South of Africa.

A NORTH WESTERN REBELLION.

Louis Riel, who fomented a rebellion among the half-breeds of the North West of Canada some years ago, and afterwards fled across the frontier, has been at his old operations. The Government stores at Carleton, in Saskatchewan Territory, have been seized; and the officials themselves imprisoned. The mounted police there are besieged in their barracks. The telegraph wires have been cut, and it is believed the operators are under arrest. Reinforcements of mounted police are being sent, and the Winnipeg volunteers are under orders to proceed North West if required.

THE SCOTT ACT CAMPAIGN.

The 19th of March was another “Black Thursday” for the liquor sellers. There were four contests on that day. Missisquoi in Quebec, by a majority of forty, upheld the present license system. In Ontario, two counties and one city adopted the Scott Act. Lambton gave a majority of about 3,000, Elgin gave a majority of about 1,600, and even the city of St. Thomas gave a majority of eleven on the same side—the vote being 754 to 743.

Wellington votes on the 2nd April, and this contest is looked forward to with great interest. The liquor men announced that they would not publicly oppose the Act, but they are secretly working hard to defeat it.

In the first week of June a monster temperance picnic will be held at Chatham,—a sort of Scott Act jubilee for Kent, as well as for Elgin, Essex, Lambton and Middlesex.

The Hastings liquor sellers have had a secret meeting to organize opposition to the Scott Act in that county and the city of Belleville.

The temperance people of those counties which have adopted the Act, and where it will come into force in a few weeks, are preparing to see that the law is thoroughly carried out.

Ontario County, says the *Whitby Chronicle*, will in a few weeks rank with the temperance counties of the province. The *Gazette* thinks a vote will likely be taken in June, and agrees that the Scott Act party will probably be successful.

In the Province of Quebec, Chicoutimi votes on the 9th of April. A convention for Huntingdon has decided to begin a contest in that county. Conventions for Chateaugay and Beauharnois are being held this week at Howick and Valleyfield respectively.

LORD HARTINGTON, British Secretary for War, states that recruiting is exceedingly active, and the fighting strength of the army is 40,000 more than in 1883. The regular army numbers 184,000, besides 208,000 volunteers and 70,000 in the reserves ready for immediate service. Ten men-of-war can be got ready in Devonport dockyard in a fortnight.

PROFESSOR WIGGINS, of Ottawa, prophesied a tremendous storm for the 18th of March, which turned out, in many places that should have been affected, a remarkably calm day.