

## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

GENERAL GRAHAM has once more met the enemy, and gained a brilliant victory. The troops of Osman Digma fought with obstinate vigour and succeeded in killing one hundred, and wounding one hundred and fifty British soldiers. The stubborn resistance of the rebels at one time threatened to change the fortunes of the day, but the steadiness of the British line proved to be too much for the wildness of the Arabs. Osman's camp was taken and burned and his standard is in the hands of the British soldiers. Osman fled to the hills and the Arabs sullenly retired, defeated but not routed. The rebels loss is estimated at 4,000 killed and 6,000 wounded.

WHAT is to be England's next move in the Soudan? It is plain that the Soudan has not yet been pacified and that the war is assuming somewhat the character of the Fench trouble in Africa. In order to save the canal and English bond holders, England sent her troops to Egypt. This burden brought increased responsibilities, and now in order to save Upper Egypt, England must repeat in the Soudan what she did at Tel-el-Kebir. But where is it to end? English tax-payers, after the flush and excitement of the victory are over, will ask the question in full seriousness; for it is too plain that the tax payer is paying a large military bill not so much for the honour of England or the prestige of her army as for the protection of men with long purses who have preyed on the poverty of the Egyptian Exchequer. Finance is the ruling motor of this war.

THE extent to which trade is affected in Egypt by political and military operations was brought out very clearly by the Chairman of the Bank of Egypt at its annual meeting last week. The following table shows the effect of Arabi's rebellion, and the unsettlement inevitable from the transition period through which we are passing, more clearly than anything else:—

Exports.	Imports.
1879.....£14,270,000	1879.....£6,589,000
1880.....14,239,000	1880.....8,532,000
1881.....13,518,000	1881.....8,910,000
1882.....11,268,506	1882.....7,042,000

THE French have occupied Bacninh. The Chinese displayed but little courage on the occasion and were completely demoralized by the turning movements of the French General. The Chinese suffered severe loss. The place itself is of small importance, but its capture will be regarded as a declaration of war by France against the Chinese nation.

It takes some time to learn the inner workings of diplomacy, and to find the true germs of history. An instance of this is seen in the startling story just published by Dr. Busch. He says that a fortnight before the declaration of war between Austria and Germany, in 1866, Prince (then count) Bismarck caused the following proposition to be made to the Emperor Francis Joseph:—"Let us remain friends and you shall have the command of the South German troops and we will take command of those of the north. We have between us at the present time 1,000,000 men on a war footing. Let us face about and fall together on France, who is unprepared for war, we from the north and you from the south, and take Alsace from her in the same manner as she acquired it." "This proposition," says Dr. Busch, was by no means unwelcome to the Austrian Emperor, but

was not favored by the Ministry. The Minister of War was especially desirous of trying conclusions with Prussia, and the Minister of Finance counted upon a victory at Sadowa and a ransom of 500,000,000 florins to fill the exchequer of the empire."

THE commercial situation in Cuba is very critical. The low prices of sugar, the tightness of the money market and general distrust are accelerating a crisis that will involve all branches of business. Several of the large banking and mercantile firms have failed and especially firms connected with the exportations of sugar. The market is very much depressed.

SOME idea of the extent of the ice fields of the Atlantic may be had from the fact that Captain Williams of the steamer Norseman, which recently arrived at Boston, states that from lat. 43.30 to 42, long. 47 to 50, he steamed along a solid wall of ice for a distance of 110 miles. At the same time a large number of icebergs were in sight extending as far as the eye could reach, some apparently being 100 feet high.

A terrible coal-mine explosion took place last week at Lynchburg, Pa., and about 150 lives were lost. Fire damp is supposed to have been the cause of the horror which has sent desolation to many a home, draped the town with mourning, and thrown a heartfelt depression over the surrounding mercantile community.

THE American Copyright League has drawn a most important declaration from Mr. Frelinghuysen, the Secretary of State. After stating that negotiations for a treaty have practically fallen through on the difficulty of domestic manufacture, says:—"I think the foreigner owning a copyright here should have the same privilege as our own citizens, provided our citizens have in the foreigner's country the same rights as the natives thereof; and thereupon I would leave to the mutual convenience of the holder of the copyright and the publisher the adjustment of their contract, and leave to the tariff the task of protecting the paper-makers, typefounders, printers, and other artisans who join in producing the book as a marketable article.

YOUNG America was in full bloom last week in one of the public schools near Philadelphia. A teacher in the school undertook to punish a refractory pupil, the boy drew a revolver and threatened to "clear out the whole school." Search was made, and on the persons of seven other scholars revolvers were also found. An investigation was held, when it was elicited that the youths were members of a secret organization known as the "Philadelphia Cow Boys." John Kaylor, aged 10, was captain, and had assumed the name of "Schuykill Jack." The result of reading sensational trash and lack of proper parental discipline in the home.

THE English Government have been advised to institute criminal proceedings in the United States against some of the leading Fenians for conspiracy to murder. An eminent criminal lawyer in an interview says the laws of the State of New York are, as he understands, wider than the British as to murder, including accessories before the fact as principals. The English detectives in New York are busy working up the case. Whether such a prosecution would succeed or not, looking to the large Irish element to be found in the American judiciary, is a question, but it would bring to light

the ramifications of the conspiracy in the United States, and probably arouse peaceable citizens to the necessity of having some guarantee that a presumably friendly country will not silently become the hotbed of the foulest human species in the world.

THERE is high talk of a threatened fenian invasion of Manitoba and fenian committees from the States are reported to be engaged in concentrating immense quantities of fire arms near the frontier. Canada need not be afraid. The treasuries of the local committees need replenishing and there must be some show of belligerent activity or murder before the money can be wrested from the purses of hard working girls and of ignorant Irishmen.

WE are to enjoy the blessings of a reduction in taxation and we hope that ere long the government will find its way clear to a still further reduction. The following condensed account gives the reduction of last year:—

Tea duty taken off.....	\$ 884,016
Coffee duty taken off.....	74,313
Tin, &c., duty taken off.....	91,719
Stamps duty taken off.....	200,000
Postage on papers.....	50,000
Tobacco duty taken off.....	700,000
Scrap iron.....	1,000
Periodicals.....	14,250
Wire, &c.....	50,000
Other articles making a total of.....	2,300,000

IN the House of Commons last week both the mover and the seconder of the temperance resolutions must have been surprised at the touching token of gratitude sent them by the Women's Christian Temperance Union. While the speeches were in progress two baskets laden with fairest flowers were placed before the speakers. This was no empty sentimental compliment, but was the outward expression of the heartfelt prayers and gratitude of Canadian mothers, wives, and sisters for the success of the advocacy of the temperance champions.

IT is proposed to bridge the St. Lawrence at or near Quebec, and the government has given its sanction to the scheme. A company has been formed and proposes to build a bridge which shall be a modified reproduction of the bridge now being built over the Firth of Forth. The total length from shore to shore is placed at 3,100 feet, the superstructure at 2,800 feet, the two shore spans at 550 each, the two cantilever post sections 150 feet each, and centre span 1,400 feet. The lengths of the superstructure of the Forth Bridge are about one-fifth greater. The cost of the bridge is estimated at \$4,000,000.

IT is understood that Col. Middleton, at present Governor of Sandhurst, will shortly be gazetted Major-General in the Imperial service, and subsequently be named successor to Major-General Luard. Col. Middleton has had some experience in Canada, and married Miss Doucet, a resident of Montreal. Major-General Luard and family have gone to England.

THE *Canada Gazette* contains the following:—"The Queen has been graciously pleased to give directions for the following appointment to the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George:

"To be an Ordinary Member of the First Class of Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order—

"The Most Honourable the Marquis of Lansdowne, Governor-General of the Dominion of Canada."