

# Weekly Messenger

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## The Weekly Messenger

### THE SOUDAN WAR.

Some hopeful people still believe that Gordon is alive,—but Lord Wolsley has received what he considers undeniable evidence that the Hero of the Soudan fell almost as soon as the rebels entered Khartoum. He was coming out of Government House with some faithful followers, when a volley from a party of rebels destroyed the most grandly heroic life of this century.

The event of the past week was the capture of Birti, on the Nile, by the "Black Watch." The rebels were found in a very strongly fortified position on the top of a hill; but the brave Highlanders sustained the reputation of the regiment. Inspired by the notes of the bagpipes, they dashed up the slopes, stormed the earth works and captured the positions one after another by sheer force of arms. General Earle fell dead as he was leading the 49th in this great charge. Two companies of the South Staffordshire regiment at the same time attacked and stormed another strong post, and the victory was complete. The latter regiment also lost its commander, Lieut. Col. Eyre, during the charge.

The late Gen. Earle, whose portrait we give, was the second son of Sir Hardman Earle, of Cheshire. He entered the army in 1851 and served with his regiment all through the Crimean war. He was in Montreal from 1862 to 1864, and returned to Canada in 1867 as military secretary to the Commander of the Forces.

The Mahdi, whose picture also appears, on our page this week, is the son of a Soudanese carpenter, and was apprenticed to his uncle, a ship-builder. Running away, and entering a monastery at Khartoum, he became celebrated for his piety though not for any great powers of reading or writing. Enriched by the offerings of the faithful, he took a large number of wives, and is now giving himself out for a Messiah.

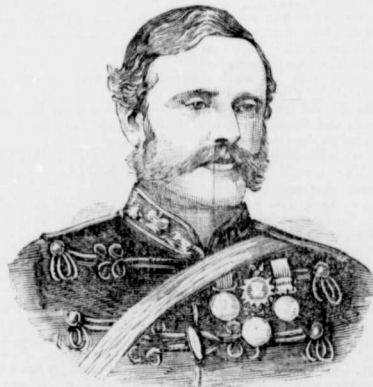
### THE NEW SLAVE TRADE.

The need of laborers on plantations in Queensland and the islands of the Pacific has led, ever since then, to atrocities almost equalling those committed by Arab slave-dealers in Africa. Natives have been kidnapped from their island homes by ships especially engaged in the business, on a feeble pretence that these men "have contracted" to labor where they are wanted. The following account taken from the *Australasian*, shows to what a depth of brutality the men carrying on this trade can descend:

"The case of murder committed in the course of the South Sea labor traffic, of which Neil M'Neil, second mate of the labor schooner *Hopeful*, has lately been convicted at Brisbane, is one of a cowardly, brutal, and wanton character. The case was that when the vessel was off Harris Island, in the d'Entrecasteaux group, several canoes came to the vessel to trade yams and coconuts. After they had done so and were

leaving, the prisoner armed himself with a rifle, and said, 'Let's go and round them up.' He had a boat lowered, and went into it with some men, and pulled up to one of the canoes. One of the sailors then, as directed by the prisoner, caught hold of the canoe, when one of the natives struck him with a paddle over the wrist, on which prisoner deliberately shot the native who had struck the blow. All the other occupants of the canoe, with the exception of a child, jumped into the water, and the canoe was left to drift with the dead body and child. The prisoner then called out for another boat to be lowered, and the two boats then went off in pursuit of the surviving natives, who were picked up and taken to the ship. Such is the case stated against the prisoner, and supported by the statements of a number of witnesses, and though there was a good deal of conflicting evidence, the jury considered it made out. M'Neil was accordingly convicted and sentenced to death. The signifi-

glass in Westminster Hall, but it will probably be less than \$25,000. On the whole \$100,000 represents the outside damage done by the three carefully planned explosions about which all the world has been talking. No one was killed, about a score men, women and children were slightly injured, two policemen have lost their hearing, and that is all. A wretched twopenny halfpenny affair it is to be sure, and one which ought to be most reassuring and even comforting to all those who have watched the progress of the struggle between society and the demons of dynamite. For what does it prove? This huge London of ours, in which are the nerve centres of the empire, the rulers of our world-encompassing realm, crowded as it is with vast and incalculable treasures of every kind, has been exposed for two years and more to the attack of conspirators who have the whole armory of science at the disposal of agents absolutely free from scruple or remorse.



MAJOR-GENERAL EARLE.

cant character of the crime seems to us to lie in its being utterly unprovoked. It seems to have been done in a spirit of utmost levity, as a commonplace and ordinary incident of a 'recruiting' exploit. There have been many acts more extensive in their consequences, in which several lives have been sacrificed, but we can remember none which seemed to testify more strongly to the hopelessly demoralising and brutalising influence of the labor trade than the cold-blooded murder of which the man M'Neil has just been convicted."

### WHAT HAVE THEY ACCOMPLISHED?

It is estimated, says the *Pall Mall Gazette*, that \$5,000 will cover the damage done by the explosion in the Tower. The explosion in the House of Commons did more injury to the upholstery, but even there it is estimated that everything can be restored for less than \$50,000. We have not yet heard how much it will cost to repair the broken

Never was so vast, so vulnerable a target exposed to the malice and ingenuity of the soldiers of despair. And now, after two years' campaigning, in the course of which they have made nearly a dozen different attempts, what have they done? Altogether they have not done more damage than \$500,000 would easily make good. They have not killed a creature, blocked a railway, destroyed a building or in any way checked for a moment the even flow of English life.

### CRIME HERE IS CRIME THERE.

The proposed new extradition treaty between Britain and the United States has been submitted to and approved by the Canadian Government. It will be a great advance on the present scandalous system, by which an embezzler in Canada can live at his ease in the United States,—and vice versa,—and will probably go beyond even the existing treaty between Britain and Belgium, which provides for ex-

tradition of criminals in the following cases:—1, murder (including assassination, parricide, infanticide and poisoning) or attempt to murder; 2, manslaughter; 3, counterfeiting or altering money or uttering counterfeit or altered money; 4, forgery, counterfeiting or altering, or uttering what is forged or counterfeited or altered; 5, embezzlement or larceny; 6, obtaining money or goods by false pretences; 7, crimes by bankrupts against the bankruptcy law; 8, fraud by a bailee, banker, agent, factor, trustee, or director, or member or public officer of any company made criminal by any law for the time being in force; 9, rape; 10, abduction; 11, child stealing; 12, burglary or house-breaking; 13, arson; 14, robbery with violence, including intimidation; 15, threats by letter or otherwise with intent to extort; 16, piracy by law of nations; 17, sinking or destroying a vessel at sea or attempting or conspiring to do so; 18, assaults on board a ship on the high seas with intent to destroy life or to do grievous bodily harm; 19, revolt or conspiracy to revolt by two or more persons on board a ship on the high seas against the authority of the master.

### "THE THIRTEEN CLUB."

There is a club in New York whose members have united simply to show their contempt for common superstitions. To begin with they always sit down "thirteen at a table." Last Friday, says the *Herald*, being the thirteenth day of the month, the club known as the Original Thirteen Club at thirteen minutes past eight o'clock in the evening sat down to their thirty-seventh regular dinner. Because the thirteenth happened upon Friday there was a general outpouring of members, who stretched their legs under the mahogany in Morelli's quaint dining-rooms in Twenty-eighth street. David McAdam, Chief Justice of the City Court, the newly elected chief ruler of the club, presided at the feast. The ladder with its thirteen rounds was passed under by each one of the diners to demonstrate their disbelief in the old superstition in that respect. The menu was printed on a coffin-shaped card. Letters of regret were read from several distinguished members of the club, including President Arthur, President-elect Cleveland, Congressman Cox and ex-Senator Roscoe Conkling. The festivities were kept up until a late hour.

### AN ASYLUM HORROR.

A terrible fire took place in the insane department of the county almshouse at West Philadelphia on Thursday night. There were 676 inmates, and when the fire was discovered the attendants did their utmost to save them, but the time was too short even to release all the lunatics from their cells, and it is feared that twenty-eight inmates perished. These were the more dangerous inmates, confined in cells on the third story. Attendant Schroeder describes the cries of the burning prisoners as heart-rending. The fire is believed to have begun in some old clothing.