Current Events

ITALY AND ABYSSINIA.

Without at this late date, going into the parti-culars of the territorial trouble between Italy and Abyssinia, it may be interesting to our young readers to know just how the matter was settled. Most of our readers are probably aware of the fact that the Italians suffered seriously in their engagements with the soldiers of King Mene ik, engagements with the soluters of Knig Mene is, the crowning disaster being the capture of 3,000 Italian soldiers by Menelik's forces. These pris-oners were held as hostages for some time, and in the terms of settlement Italy agrees to pay 2,000,000 francs as compensation for their sus tenance by King Menelik. King Menelik also demands that the bounds of Italy's colony, Erythrea, be definitely fixed and that the Italians do not overstep these limits.

SPAIN'S COLONIAL WARS.

As if Spain had not sufficient trouble in Cuba, an uprising has taken place in the Philippine Islands in the East. Spanish rule in these islands has been even more oppressive than her rule in Cuba. As the latter found in the United States a sympathizer, so the Philippine Islands have found one in Japan. In each case there is, of course, no active participation in the troubles by the two countries mentioned; there is simply a friendly hand extended to the children in their struggle for liberty. Though Spain has sent to Cuba löu, o00 soldiers, the latest reports are, that General Weyler is hard pressed by the rebels under their leader Gomez and his lieutenant Maceo. Troops have also been despatched to the Philippine Islands where the insurgents are daily gaining ground.

Spain's population is 17,000,000; Cuba's, 1,630, 000; while the Philippine Islands have 7,00,000. A third of the exports of Spain go to these two colonies. This colonial trade is very important to Spain, owing to the fact that the tariff regulations are all favorable to Spain.

Distance, climate and financial troubles unite to make the war problem a difficult one for Spain.

THE ANGLO-EGYPTIAN EXPEDITION.

The Mahdi who gave England so much trouble a few years ago is dead, but a more brutal successor now rules the Soudan in his stead. So long as there is bad government of the Soudan, there is little hope of security in Egypt. This was evident a few months ago during the struggle between Italy and Abyssinia, when Osman Digna. the chief Mahdist general, marched against the Italian possession of Kassala with the object of either taking the place for his master, the Mahdi, or of aiding the Abyssinians in their struggle with the Italians. It would prove a menace to Egypt if the Mahdi should secure possession of Kassala, and thus England was brought once again to face the Soudan question, after an abandonment of the country for twelve years, or since the date of Gordon's death at Khartoum. England was forced to grapple with the question as the Mahdist expedition against Kassala was but one of four moving against the Europeans in north-eastern Africa.

To divert the Mohammedan attack upon Kas-

sala, the Anglo-Egyptian expedition moved south

from Wady Halfa, on the Nile (see map). These tactics had the desired effect. The mounted dervishes of the Mahdi withdrew from Kassala to give their attention to the Anglo-Egyptian army.
The opposing forces met at El Hafir, thirty miles north of Dongola. The dervishes were dislodged from this place and retreated southward to El



This place was also taken after a hot errim. This place was also taken after a not engagement, after which there was a race for Dongola. The steamers proved too fleet for the dervishes, and when the latter arrived at Dongola, they found it in possession of the Anglo-Egyptian

At the time of writing this article there comes a telegraphic report that Sir H. H. Kitchener, the commander of the expedition, has left Cairo for London to confer with the British Government in reference to an immediate advance on Khartoum. It may be remarked that the Anglo-Egyptian force consists of 4,000 British soldiers, 8,000 Egyptians under British officers, and 4,000 Soudanese negroes, giving a total force of 16,000 men. The Mahdi's forces are estimated at from 50,000 to 100,000.

Since the British withdrew from the Soudan twelve years ago, the Mahdi's rule has been one long period of wars and bloodshed. It is hoped that a period will soon be put to the career of the tyrant and the slavery of his kingdom.

QUESTIONS.

(BRIEF ANSWERS IN NEXT ISSUE.)

1. The next official map of the Dominion will not show a North-West Territory, but four new districts instead. Name these. 2. What are the five