

The Christian Messenger.

Hallow, N. S., August 2, 1882.

THE WAR IN EGYPT.

"Carrying the war into Africa" has long been a figurative expression, but it has now come to be the sad literal fact. But how long is it to last? and what does it mean? are questions often asked without receiving any very satisfactory reply.

At the risk of repeating what many of our readers already know, we will try and give an outline sketch, as far as the brief space at our command will allow. It is of course largely a financial matter.

Egypt is subject to Turkey and the Khedive (pronounced Ked-ee) the head of the government at Alexandria receives his appointment from the Porte (the government at Constantinople).

Arabi Pasha was the head of the Department of war, but instead of encouraging loyalty to the Sultan he used every opportunity of encouraging the Egyptian party with whom the Arabs sided, against Turkey, until the army consisted almost wholly of the national party who adopted the cry of "Egypt for the Egyptians."

The following taken from several sources may be regarded as a fair synopsis of the history of this matter:

In 1805 Mehemet Ali became master of Egypt, increased in power, and in 1840 gained a treaty whereby Egypt became a self-governing province, with order of succession vested in Mehemet's family, and subject only to a yearly tribute payable to the Sultan. When Ismail Pasha succeeded to rule in 1863 he wanted to be King instead of Governor-General, and Turkey agreed to this on condition of his increasing the yearly tribute from \$1,880,000 to \$3,375,000.

Why did the British bombard Alexandria? Because Arabi began to strengthen the harbor fortifications. Admiral Seymour gave warning that the fortification must cease, or firing would begin. Arabi kept at work, and Alexandria lies in ruins, with a fearful story of slaughter and pillage.

So fertile is the soil of Egypt from the regular overflowing of the River Nile, that it is capable of sustaining a large population now as it was in the days of the Pharaohs. It contains many cities but the two principal ones are Cairo and Alexandria. The latter has received greater prominence of late being the centre of commerce.

Europeans had furnished Ismail with means to saddle Egypt with a debt of over \$525,000,000, and were receiving from the Control from 7 to 10 per cent, interest; the 60,000 to 100,000 Europeans resident in Egypt lived tax-free while the natives were the most heavily and hopelessly tax-oppressed people on the face of the earth; and it is not strange the Egyptians should have little love for the foreigners, who stood as the cause of much of their misery and representatives of a growing tyranny.

This was the position last year, when certain reforms were proposed in the

army. The chief officers of the army by the way, were Europeans. But there had been gradually rising in influence and rank an Arab, Arabi Bey (or Colonel) as he was then. It was a rule that the officers should be Turks, but Arabi had pushed his way up it spite of obstacles, and achieved a dangerous popularity among the native soldiery. The attempted army reforms deprived Arabi of his regiment. The regiment revolted, and he was reinstated at its head. Subsequently court-martialed, he was rescued forcibly by his regiment from the custody of the Minister of War. His power increased rapidly, and he was successively made General and Pasha. Then he overthrew the ministry of Cherif Pasha and formed a new one, himself taking the post of Minister of War. His policy was to expel the Europeans from the public offices, and to reform the General Government. Among other things a House of Representatives was formed, composed of the Notables of the different provinces.

We come now to the immediate cause of the present outbreak. The Khedive had yielded to a power he did not see how to resist. But a crisis came. A plot to assassinate him was suddenly discovered last March, and Arabi denounced as its originators a number of the highest officers, had them court-martialed, and sentenced to exile to Soudan, which was virtually to death. These men were of most influential families, and the Sultan interfered, ordering the Khedive to commute the punishment. Thus the poor Khedive was placed in the position of a man who would be condemned if he did, and condemned if he didn't. He must either fall out with Arabi or with the Sultan, and he chose to heed the Sultan. Arabi threatened to depose the Khedive if he did not carry out the sentence, England and France then interfered, on the ground of protecting the European residents and interests, said they would support the Khedive, and demanded Arabi's deposition and exile. May 26 Arabi resigned. May 27 the army rose and demanded his reinstatement as Minister of War. He was reinstated, in order to save the lives of the Europeans; for though England and France had issued an ultimatum to the Khedive, and promised him support, the support was not at hand. Vacillation on the part of the two Governments filled Arabi's following with contempt for them, and an effort to exert pressure upon Arabi through the Porte resulted in the riot and massacre of Europeans at Alexandria on June 11. Then the Europeans began to flee and the English fleet to gather. Arabi was forced to admit that he could not control his command, which had been inflamed beyond all control by the foreign interference. This was the last thing fanaticism and hatred needed to produce anarchy, and, driven to the wall between his own ambitions and plans and the demands of the Sultan and Europeans, Arabi broke with the Khedive, cast the die, and became a defiant rebel against all established authority, standing for nationalism, and announcing his determination to fight till death for Egypt's independence.

The very intelligent "Letter from India" on another page, and the letter from our brother Churchill, in our present issue, will open up to our readers a new phase or two in the matters of government in that vast portion of the British Empire. There is a great work to be done in India in the way of giving to its millions the liberty as well as the other benefits they derive from British connection. The elasticity of the British Constitution renders it more suited for the various stages of enlightenment among the people, with which it has to deal, than that of almost any other country in the world. There is just now a movement being made to give the teeming millions of that country, a voice in their local government greater than they have hitherto enjoyed.

The press of Great Britain has recently given expression to the opinions of those who are interesting themselves in this great work. The London Times of May 22nd, said: "We recently commented upon a very cautious and tentative proposal by Sir Ashley Eden to introduce local self-government into Bengal by the formation of consultative councils, to be composed of natives chosen by the Government. But the exceedingly important telegram of this morning from our Calcutta Correspondent shows that the matter has now been taken up in earnest by the Central Government, which is at present absorbed in the task of elaborating a comprehensive yet elastic scheme for erecting local representative boards throughout the whole of India, upon the lines laid down in its resolution of last September.

The local governments will be called upon to organise district boards wherever the requisite material can be found, and to these will be intrusted definite duties and the control of definite funds. The area of their jurisdiction will as far as practicable be so limited as to insure the necessary community of interests among their members, and make them real administrative units. It is evidently foreseen that this principle must be limited by the necessity for avoiding the creation of an excessive number of small independent bodies. The chief aim of the new system is to educate the people to take an intelligent interest in their own affairs, and this aim would be frustrated by any system tending to foster the intensely insular character of Indian communities. It is therefore intended to group the small local boards into administrative bodies of somewhat larger scope by instituting divisional Councils to which they will send delegates. The distribution of functions between the local and the divisional boards cannot be effected by any hard and fast rule. On the contrary, it will tax to the uttermost the tact and administrative ability of the district officers. Conditions vary so widely that even the fundamental principle of election cannot be universally applied. In the larger towns there will always be natives able and anxious to take part in local government. But the smaller towns of India are frequently mere groups of hamlets in the midst

of which men plough and reap and drive their cattle to pasture. In such cases it will not always be easy to find men fit for the novel duties of electing, or acting as representatives. In the more backward rural districts, where even the name of a town is wanting, the difficulty of constructing a local board will frequently be insurmountable, whether by election or nomination. It is obvious, therefore, that the greatest elasticity is required in the rules laid down by the central Government. The proposal to give this self-government to our India possessions is not favored alike by all. Some seem to think that the native mind is not yet quite prepared for even the amount of controlling influence over their fellowmen, that it is proposed to give them. The giving of good government is evidently one of the missions of England, for which she has had so large a portion of the world placed under her control. This would go far in breaking down the superstitions by which they have so long been ruled, and keep the way open for Christian work being done by the missionaries from Europe and America.

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Questions will now arise, what is to be the outcome of all this? Will England conquer the rebel Arabi Pasha, or the army under him? What are the probabilities of our securing the objects sought? Is it worth while for the European Powers to expend their blood and treasure in bringing him or Egypt to submit to Turkey again? These are questions which it is impossible at present to answer. We shall have to wait and watch the operations on land of our troops preparing for the conflict.

The following from the Daily Herald published in Fredericton on Wednesday last, July 26th, will throw some further light on the present condition of the fund which has been looked to by certain parties in St. John, N. B., as the foundation for a new Baptist seminary in that city:—

THE BAPTIST SEMINARY.—The Baptist denomination in New Brunswick have always taken considerable interest in educational matters, and nearly fifty years ago organized an Education Society for the purpose of maintaining a Seminary of learning at Fredericton. In 1873 the Seminary was closed and the land and buildings sold to the Fredericton School Trustees for \$5,000, which was invested in School debentures. The interest of these now amount to nearly half the principal, and is held by Mr. Charles F. Clinch, of Musquash, St. John, who acts as Treasurer of the Education Society. The debentures are in the name of the Trustees of the Seminary, of whom Mr. A. F. Randolph is one.

An effort has been, and is now being made by certain persons in St. John to procure the appropriation of these funds to the establishment of a Seminary in St. John. In 1881 an attempt was made to get a vote of the Education Society for that purpose; but it was prevented by a protest from some leading members of the church in this city. In order to settle the matter Mr. R. H. Phillips of this city, who was for many years a Director of the Education Society, and its Secretary, has filed a bill in Equity asking for an Injunction to restrain the appropriation of the funds to a Seminary outside of Fredericton and for a decree that the funds be held in trust for the establishment and maintenance of a Seminary in this city. On Monday an interim Injunction was granted by the Chief Justice, which will remain in force until the 15th of September, at which date an application will be made for a further injunction on notice to the parties interested. Mr. Charles H. Lugin is the Solicitor for Mr. Phillips.

The St. John News of the 27th, also contains a long article on this subject.

HONORARY DEGREES.—We learn from the N. Y. Examiner that over 10,000 degrees are conferred every year in the U. S. States. Of these 7,000 are conferred by Colleges and 3,000 by professional schools. About 200 D.D.s and 106 LL.D.s are made every year. A correspondent of that paper thinks that the bestowment of these honorary titles is becoming an unmeaning farce as they have ceased to be a distinctive mark of men who have produced works of literary merit and permanent value. He facetiously suggests that it might meet with more general approval if every alumnus of a college received the talismanic letters at the expiration of a certain number of years spent in the ministry, or they might give the degree to every member at forty years of age, who has not been sent to States prison or fined in the criminal courts! "Protests are being made by various scientific and educational societies against the conferring of the degrees of Ph. D. (Doctor of Philosophy) and S. D. (Doctor of Science) honoris causa, i.e., as mere honorary appendages. The degrees of D.D. and LL.D. are recognized as honorary degrees, but the two specified above have been conferred hitherto only after a course of study and satisfactory examinations in philosophy (including literature) and science.

If this reckless scattering of degrees goes on much longer, John Smith will be a more honorable name without appendage of any sort than a whole alphabet of added capitals could make it."

THE SABBATH SCHOOL CONVENTION OF THE MARITIME PROVINCES will hold its first meeting at 7.30, on Friday evening in the Presbyterian Church, Dartmouth, Hon. Dr. Parker in the chair. Rev. P. M. Morrison will give the address of welcome. There will be three meetings, at 9.30, a. m., 2 p. m., and 8 p. m., on Saturday and Monday. Morning and afternoon meetings in the Baptist Church, and evening meetings in the Presbyterian Church. At the closing meeting on Monday evening, addresses will be given by Revs. Dr. Burns, Dr. Welton, and S. B. Dunn.

Delegates to the Convention who are not met on arrival in the city are requested to report to the Secretary of Y. M. C. A., at his office in the Association building, corner of Granville and Prince Streets.

Our space has of late been in great demand. We regret that we have been obliged to defer several communications from Rev. E. J. Grant, Rev. A. W. Bars, and others, as well as editorial articles on matters of interest.

News of the World.

Her Majesty sent a message to the House of Commons, on Tuesday last, announcing the calling out of 10,000 of the reserves. It was under consideration the following day, and an address of thanks for the same was adopted without division. During the discussion on Thursday, Lord Northcote accused the Government of vacillation, hesitation and neglect alike of the interests of the Khedive and of the Porte. He declared that if the Government had dealt with Arabi earlier the recent events might have been avoided. The Government had delayed action until the last moment, and in the meantime had done all it could to irritate and offend the Sultan. But Northcote felt sure that the vote about to be given would adequately represent the wishes of the English people.

Mr. Gladstone said the landing of troops could not have prevented the fugitive army from firing the town. Nothing could be more complete than the concord between Great Britain and France.

The motion for credit was carried, 275, to 19.

A report was current in the House, that the Sultan of Turkey had made overtures to Great Britain looking to the latter's acquirement of Egypt on the same terms as those on which Cyprus changed hands.

Lord Childers said that of the 10,000 reserves just called out 3,000 will be sent to Egypt. Another 3,000 will form a reserve corps, and the remainder will be drafted into a regiment at home. He hoped and believed that the campaign would be closed in three months.

The Government has chartered of the Cunard Steamship Company upwards of ten thousand tons of shipping. A strong expedition will start on Thursday evening to siege and occupy a position on the railway within two miles of Arabi's camp.

A despatch on Friday, dated 12.45 p. m., said: "A sound of heavy firing is heard in the direction of the Aboukir forts. In the meantime Arabi Pasha has sent a train to the Junction, and an armed engine and tender were sent out to meet it, and a few shots exchanged.

An unconfirmed report was received that Arabi Pasha had proposed terms of peace, his conditions being voluntary exile and retention of rank and pay of colonel for himself and nine of his colleagues.

The News has the following despatch: "PORT SAID, July 28.—Do. Lesseps in the belief that England aims at seizing the Suez Canal continues to oppose every plan for assuring its safety.

The Khedive receives daily intelligence from the interior that apart from the military element the civil officials and respectable classes have not wavered in their allegiance to himself. He is convinced that as soon as the military terrorism is broken the nation will gladly rally around his authority. The Khedive now recognizes the impossibility of granting any terms to Arabi short of unconditional surrender.

The Daily News' Alexandria despatch says that a tremendous conflagration broke out in Alexandria, at 2 o'clock, on Thursday morning. As seen from the harbour, the fire seemed to be larger than any since the bombardment.

At Cairo leading Egyptians declare that if the troops only arrive by the latter end of August, Arabi meantime

will have ample opportunity to consummate the ruin of the country.

The War in Egypt is the great subject of interest in Europe and indeed the world over at present. The rebel army under Arabi Pasha, after setting fire to Alexandria turned off the water from the Canal, which gave it its supplies. On Thursday last it was reported that the water in the canal continued to fall at such a rate that the city and troops in a week would be dependent on the wells, cisterns and condensers.

The Infelixible went on Thursday to summon the Aboukir forts to surrender and to bombard them if they did not.

A very important seizure was made on Thursday of secret correspondence which passed prior to the bombardment between the military party and French officials. It is said to prove incontrovertibly that all suspicions entertained as to the military being secretly supported by the French were well founded.

Arabi Pasha has written to the Sultan as follows:—"I trust it is false that, as enemies of Islam assert, the Ottoman troops are coming to Egypt, as I should have to oppose them by force."

It is believed that the Aboukir forts would be bombarded on Monday, if the garrison did not surrender.

Reinforcements are arriving at Port Said every night from Fort Guemil. The Governor considers that delay in occupying the town will be fatal, as the Arabs are becoming stronger daily. The British corvette Orion arrived, bringing instructions which completely modify the situation. DeLesseps protested against her entering the canal, but she entered without paying dues.

The British guns on Ramlah completely command the neck of sand, and will render the Egyptian position untenable when they open fire.

The attendants of delegates from Kair El Dewar state that there is great want of food in Arabi's camp, and that many of the troops are tired of war. The troops had a long interview with the Minister. They said they had come to express the resolution of the whole country to resist foreign aggression to the end.

Moukhtar Pasha has made an arrangement which will enable the Porte to despatch twenty thousand men to Egypt in successive detachments.

The Times' Alexandria despatch says that the dam across the Malmaoudieh canal is strongly made, and is wide enough to admit of the passage of four carriages abreast. The position is strongly fortified with more than one hundred guns, some of them being Krupp cannon.

The latest news from the interior, is to the effect that the chiefs of the Bedouin tribes, who previously favored the legitimate government, have submitted to the rebels, and a perfect understanding exists between them. It is said the Bedouins have undertaken to furnish sixty thousand men, the chiefs remaining as hostages in Arabi Pasha's hands.

It is stated that Mr. John Parnell brother of Chas. Stewart Parnell, has applied to orangemen to reap his crops, and that they complied with his request.

A desperate but unsuccessful attempt was made to assassinate the Recorder of Dublin, at the Green Street Court House. A tutor named Fitzpatrick, who was non-suited as plaintiff in a civil bill process, fired at the Recorder with a revolver in the open court, but fortunately was seized by the defendant and a policeman.

It is reported from St. Thomas, W. I., that one of the assassins of Lord Cavendish and Mr. Burke, has been arrested at Puerto Cabello, Venezuela. He gives the names of his accomplices. It remains to be seen whether there is any truth in the story or whether it is an attempt of some fellow to get a free passage to England and some notoriety.

The Vienna press states a conflict occurred on the railway between peasants and laborers at Deln Bova Brega (district of Deln), and fourteen persons were killed.

The French Ministers have resigned and a new cabinet is being formed.

Perhaps we know more in these days, of church revivals than of remarkable personal revivals. It may be that the latter are not sought for as diligently as in former times. This is pre-eminently the age of corporations; and if in religion, as in business, any great work is to be attempted, the first impulse is to form a joint-stock company for its accomplishment. A union prayer meeting, an international fast day, or a powerful combination in a tabernacle or a hippodrome—these are some of the methods to which we turn in times of great desire for God's blessing on souls. We make no criticism on such plans, only referring to them as illustrations of our tendency to seek individual blessing through corporate action—the conversion of souls through the combination of churches. And yet we do not forget that the individual Christian is the prime factor in all spiritual movements; and that we cannot possibly have the ecclesiastical tens and hundreds unless we first have the ecclesiastical unit. Twenty-horse power is a possible force in mechanics, we admit; but a twenty-church power is something that we know nothing about. We cannot mul-