

War-time Farmer.

FREDERICTON, N. B., February 18, 1885.

Baseless Charges.

The Moncton Times says it is in receipt of a letter, evidently written by some person accustomed to writing for the press, but unaccompanied by any name, making charges of a very serious nature against the internal management of the deaf and dumb school at Fredericton, and that if one quarter is true of what is alleged in the letter concerning the personal habits of teachers and pupils, this institution is little, short of a moral pest-house.

The Times need not feel alarmed. There is no scandal in connection with the Fredericton Deaf and Dumb Asylum. The FARMER received a similar communication to that mentioned by the Times, and it was promptly dropped into the wastebasket. The writer's identity is known, however, and another such scurrilous letter, if sent to the FARMER, will be the means of unmasking the rascal. The man who would make such charges as contained in the letters of this individual, is scarcely fit to remain unbound. His objection is to drag others down to the very low level which he himself has reached.

The Soudanese War.

The details of recent events in the Soudan are given elsewhere. These include the confirmation and particulars of General Gordon's death, the terrible butchery of the garrison at Khartoum, a decisive battle fought by General Earle's division, in which that gallant officer was killed, and sketches of the military careers of Gordon and Earle. The tragic story of Gordon's death, and the outrages committed at Khartoum, have aroused a spirit of great bitterness, and a stern desire for revenge, in the breasts of all loyal Britons. The preparations for a vigorous campaign in the Soudan, are being pushed with all possible speed, and early in March it is expected that there will be an English force in the Soudan, sufficient in strength to crush the rebellious Mahdi, and compel him to sue for peace. Meantime the British forces already in the Soudan, are rallying around Metemneh, the second in importance of the cities held by the rebel Arabs. It was to have been attacked on Sunday, and possibly before these words will have reached many of our readers, the wires will bring news of the conflict before that city.

The prolongation of the war has induced Col. Williams M. P., for an Ontario constituency, and well known in military circles, to offer to raise a Canadian regiment for service in the Soudan. Col. Williams on Monday received a letter from Gen. Wolsey, stating that the War Office had communicated with the War Office about the offer of Canadian troops and that he hoped to see a Canadian force at Khartoum before long. In this connection the Marquis of Lorne has written a letter to the London Times, urging the acceptance by the government of the proffered service of Williams' Canadian corps, the men to be allowed to either take the places in England, of those sent to Egypt, or go to the front themselves.

The British Army.

The events of the war in the Soudan, have naturally called attention to the condition and numbers of the British army. From the latest official compiled statistics, it is effective strength is shown to be about 182,000 all arms, and stationed in almost every portion of the British Empire. This number is made up of 31 regiments of cavalry, 24 batteries of Royal Horse Artillery, 76 batteries of Field Artillery, 96 batteries of Garrison Artillery, 72 regiments of infantry, two divisions, one troop and 40 companies of Engineers, besides Commissariat and Transport, Medical Staff, &c.

The command in England and Wales is divided into nine districts, and consists of 12 regiments of cavalry, 65 batteries and seven divisions of artillery, a division, troop, and 14 companies of Engineers, about a dozen companies of the Commissariat and Transport Corps, and 98 battalions of infantry, or about 60,000 of all ranks. The average strength of the army in Scotland, is 3,000 men, which are comprised in one cavalry regiment, one battery and a division of artillery, two and a half battalions. Ireland is divided into three military districts, and is garrisoned by nearly 24,000 men, comprising six regiments of cavalry, 13 batteries and two divisions of artillery, two companies of engineers, four of the Commissariat and Transport Corps, and 26 infantry battalions. In the Channel Isles, there are three batteries of artillery and two battalions of infantry, or about 2,000 officers and men. In the West Indies, two batteries of garrison artillery, besides a line battalion, and some colonial corps; in Canada, three batteries, a company and section of engineers, and a line battalion; in Bermuda, two batteries, five engineer companies, and a battalion of infantry; Malta has seven batteries of British artillery, two companies of engineers, one line battalion, and a division of artillery; Gibraltar, seven batteries, four engineer companies, and four line battalions; and Cyprus is garrisoned by the headquarters of the 1st West Kent and a company of engineers. At the Cape and Natal, irrespective of the irregular corps organized for special service in Bechuanaland, there are two cavalry corps, four batteries of artillery, two companies and a section of engineers, nearly five battalions of infantry, and some detachments of the Commissariat and Transport Corps. At St. Helena, there are a battery of artillery, and some engineers infantry, and the West Africa Settlements and the Gold Coast colony are garrisoned by colonial corps. In the Mauritius, there are a battery of artillery, some engineers, and three companies of infantry, a detachment of engineers, and a battalion of infantry. Hongkong and the Straits Settlements have two batteries of artillery, a detachment of engineers, and two line battalions. A large portion of the British army, however, is stationed in India, the force there consisting of 60,000 men of all arms, which are apportioned as follows: Bengal, seven regiments of cavalry, 42 batteries of artillery, a company of engineers, and 31 battalions of infantry; Madras two cavalry corps, 10 batteries of artillery, a company of engineers, and nine battalions of infantry; Bombay, one cavalry corps, 19 batteries of artillery, one company of engineers, and nine battalions of infantry; total, cavalry, 10 corps; artillery, 77 batteries, engineers, three companies, infantry, 49 battalions.

These figures with respect to the apportionment in the different parts of the Empire, are subject to some changes since the outbreak of the Soudan campaign, but in the main they are correct. Powerful adjuncts of the regular British army, however, are the Reserve and Volunteer forces, which are well drilled, and may be called upon at any time to do garrison duty, or even go to the front if their services were urgently required.

The Barristers' Society have appointed Messrs. Barker, Hanington and Trauman a committee to urge on the Senate of the University the advisability of establishing a legal chair in connection with the University.

OUR OTTAWA LETTER.

Preparing for the Conflict.—The Premier's little thrust at Peter Mitchell.—P. E. Island's Annual Of-fer.—Blake's Station with the Frenchmen.—Too Transparent Device for Vote Catching.

(From our own Correspondent.)

While the House of Commons is quietly and smoothly disposing of a lot of preliminary routine business, and the grave and reverend Senators are concentrating their mighty intellects upon the appalling list of divorce cases which will furnish them with vast amusement and scandal ere they are all finally dealt with, the current of parliamentary life slips so placidly along, that an inexperienced onlooker might well imagine the Capital to be a political lull land.

But never were appearances more deceitful. Peace and quiet there is no doubt, but it is the peace that precludes the conflict; the internal parties appear to be arrayed in deadly antagonism as silently preparing for the fight, laying up their ammunition, and seeing that their weapons are all duly polished and sharpened.

It is very evident that the Opposition intend some legislation in connection with the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, and are determined when it does appear to oppose it *à tout prix*. The order paper of every day is principally taken up with questions and motions from Mr. Blake and his lieutenants upon this subject. Every possible enquiry as to the past, present and future of the Company and their work is being fired off, and it will take

A SMALL ARMY OF CLERKS to prepare replies to the returns asked in connection with this subject.

So far, nothing definite has been elicited as to the plans of the Government, altho' it seems to be taken for granted on all sides, that the Company are in urgent need of assistance, and that something will have to be done for them. The most generally accepted suggestion is, that the land granted to the Company is to be redeemed by the Government as much as possible, but this is only a guess, and it is not likely the real truth will be known until just upon the eve of that being done, which is to be done.

So very closely do our worthy legislators stick to business, that there is almost as complete an absence of fun as there is of fighting, but now and then a ray of humor does burst through the clouds and brighten up the day's proceedings. Thus on Friday afternoon last, there was quite a brilliant exchange of verbal musketry between the ever-ready Premier, and the

IRREPRESSIBLE HON. PETER MITCHELL.

It came about in this way. Sir Richard Cartwright had been complaining of the lack of room accommodation for the Opposition in the Parliament Buildings, and asking that some four or five more rooms be allowed them. Sir John in reply, stated that the matter would be looked into and every possible accommodation provided for both sides of the House.

Forthwith spoke out the Hon. Peter somewhat as follows:— "The right hon. gentleman seems to forget the fact that there is a third party in the House. When he speaks of dividing the rooms between the two sides, he ought to forget that there is a little bit of a room occupied by my hon. friend opposite and myself, from which a good deal of the thunder of the third party is fulminated."

Without a moment's hesitation came the Premier's reply. "I would point out to my hon. friend that there is a Government side of the House—they have one side; there is also an Opposition side; and then there is the outside of the House, occupied by my hon. friend."

This brilliant rally, the aptness of which no one failed to catch, of course brought down the House, and it was sometime before the ex-Minister of Marine could be heard saying, that he was glad the Premier was beginning to realize that he (Mr. M.) occupied a good deal more interest outside the House than he had heretofore been credited with. It is very probable that the Hon Peter will henceforth have conferred upon him the self-claimed title of

MINISTER OF THE EXTERIOR.

Almost ever since the "right little, tight little island" of Prince Edward became a partner in the Confederation, the members representing her, have been wont to occupy an afternoon each session in discussing the question of winter communication between their constituency and the mainland. They, as a steady, and not baseless contention is, that the promise of such communication being regularly established, was one of the chief arguments which induced the Island to join the Confederacy, and they maintain that faith has consequently not been kept with them, inasmuch as the problem of the navigation of the Straits is still unsolved, the same methods being now employed which were in use twenty-five years ago. The annual debate on this subject came on rather earlier than usual this session, and although the Island members could hardly have been blamed for the display of more than ordinary warmth in view of the terrible experiences recently endured by those who sufferings are now familiar to all, yet to their credit be it said, that they were

STUDIOUSLY MODERATE IN THEIR REMARKS.

Dr. Jenkins made an excellent speech on the subject, in the course of which he perpetrated an amusing blunder, by saying that it was a burning question with the people on the Island. Sir John suggested that it was rather a freezing question, and the Premier, altho' joking aside, however, the question is a very momentous one, a solution for which must be sought with increased zeal, and if it is soon found, the victims of the late disaster will assuredly not have suffered in vain.

There was a time when even Mr. Blake's opinions would hardly have found all claim to common candor and consistency in the discharge of his responsible duties as leader of Her Majesty's loyal opposition, so loudly and persistently has these virtues been ascribed to him by his followers and devotees. While his great and successful rival was painted in the darkest colors, and sought to be overwhelmed beneath a ceaseless shower of epithets, all tending to make him out a perfect Machiavel, the Hon. Edward was lifted up on high, as a pure souled, spotless patriot, who would rather meet with success, than do so at the expense of the smallest concession to expediency or deceit. Also for the frailty of human nature! Admitting for the sake of argument, that Mr. Blake was once upon a time a Nazarene, indeed, in whom no guile might be detected, his course of conduct during the last Session, and already in this, has hopelessly torn away the veil and revealed him in his true character as

A PLOTTER AND SCHEMER OF THE MOST DANGEROUS TYPE, as a man who in his passionate thirst for power does not hesitate to stoop to the most reprehensible methods to gain a desired advantage. As is known to all, one of the most oft-repeated charges hurled against the Premier by Mr. Blake and his party is that Sir John did under French domination. Yet what did Mr. Blake do last session? On the occasion of the debate on the C. P. R. loan his organ, acting on his behalf, and on the occasion of the Orange Bill debate he himself out of his own mouth, made deliberate, undisguised bids for the French vote in a man-

ner whose audacity was only surpassed by its shamelessness. And what did he do yesterday when the appointment of a Deputy Speaker was under discussion? Why the very same thing in an even more daring and unmistakable fashion. After having brought forward various objections to the appointment being made at all, the leader of the Opposition taking the granted that the member of Mr. M. B. Daly, the genial and popular member for Halifax, being elected to the office, was correct, proceeded to attack the selection of this gentleman as a breach of good faith with the French portion of the House, arguing that since the Speaker was an Englishman, the Deputy Speaker should be a Frenchman. As the Premier in replying to him characterized this flimsy pretence of desire for fair play in a manner that could not be improved upon, I cannot do better than transcribe his words:—

"And then the hon. gentleman, above all things, is so anxious that my friends from Lower Canada shall have their interests protected. The hon. gentleman has thought that he

MIGHT INTRODUCE A LITTLE SECTIONALISM, that he might set English against French, and French against English. The thing is obvious—he gets such a support from the French Canadians that he feels he must defend their rights, and prevent their being trampled upon. The hon. gentleman's motive is kind—it is patriotic. The hon. gentleman's motive is not, however, his fellow-men, and especially for his French-Canadian fellow-men, makes this proposition, because he has heard that a gentleman, who is not a French Canadian, may probably be proposed. It is rather unworthy, this, of the hon. gentleman. It is not very dignified, and I am quite sure that the shaft will fall of its own weight. It is to him, my French Canadian friends understood this. They understand the object and motive too well to pay much attention to the hon. gentleman's new-born philanthropy and French Canadianism."

To bring down upon himself such a castigation was bad enough, but it must have been even more galling to find his little game fall so flat, that he did not even dare ask for a division, when he had so far proceeded, and the latter's election was consequently unanimous.

The State Ball came off at Kildan Hall last night and was a very elaborate success. There were some 800 persons present, and the festivities were prolonged until an early hour in the morning. This is probably the only State Ball that will give this season.

G. M. A. Ottawa, Feb. 13, 1885.

THE WAR IN THE SOUDAN.

Gordon Treacherously Murdered at Khartoum.

A Sketch of the Dead Hero's Life.

Gen. Earle falls in Battle.

Further details of Stewart's Victory.

General Notes of the Campaign.

Great Britain's interest in the Soudan war, has deepened since the fall of Khartoum, and the murder of Gordon, and the new campaign will be pushed vigorously. The news of the recent disasters were learned by Col. Wilson, whose steamer was almost within gun shot of Khartoum, when they were first received. On the day after the news of the fall of Khartoum, the British steamer, which was Sunday, the Mahdi's army landed on the island and urged the British to surrender. On Sunday evening Hamed Bey, two skippers and sixteen natives deserted the steamer. The steamer Sofia, with Lord Charles Balfour on board, arrived at the island on Tuesday. During an engagement with the Mahdi's army, the steamer was struck by a shell and a great explosion occurred, followed by a rush and roar of steam.

After a temporary patch had been fixed on the boiler, the S. passed the enemy's walls under a heavy fire, and emerged containing Col. Wilson's baggage. The nigger grounded 600 yards below the fort. The night was spent in trying to get her. Perfect silence was maintained on board the steamer, which led the Arabs to believe that it had been abandoned, and they stopped firing and commenced beating drums. Just before daybreak the Mahdi's army, which was in the rear of the steamer, and had been struck by a shell and a great explosion occurred, followed by a rush and roar of steam.

Opened a Heavy Fire

On the vessel. The steamer replied effectively and soon passed out of range. It is estimated that the enemy numbered 4,000. They had three Krupp guns. Col. Wilson's force on the island was two killed and 20 wounded of the Egyptian troops and four wounded of British. The Soudanese allies fought well until they heard of the fall of Khartoum, when they became demoralized. The Mahdi caused the massacre of Gordon's men, together with their wives and children. General Gordon was killed on the morning of the 27th.

There is now no longer room for doubt that Khartoum has fallen and that Gordon was killed in the hands of the Mahdi. The day of the capture of Khartoum, which was variously stated as the 26th and 27th of January, Gen. Gordon's attention was attracted by a tremendous explosion on the street. He left the so-called palace on the street, in which he had made his headquarters, to ascertain the cause of the disturbance. Just as he reached the street he was struck by a shell, which killed him. His wife was killed by a shell which struck her as she was passing by. The Mahdi's forces at daybreak on the morning of January 26, Gordon was killed by a volley from rebel rifles, while he was making his way from his headquarters to the Austrian consulate. The Austrian consul was killed in his residence and the Greek consul was killed in his residence. A fearful massacre of the garrison followed. The scenes of slaughter are described as surpassing the Bulgarian atrocities and the worst horrors of the Sepoy mutiny. The Mahdi's army of Egyptians were captured in their flight and put to death with most fiendish tortures. Some were transfixed with spears and left to bleed to death. Most of the victims were mutilated in the most horrible manner. Eyes were gouged out, noses slit, and tongues torn out by the roots. In many cases the mutilated bodies were thrown into the street and thrust into their mouths while they were still living. The massacre included many non-combatants, and Egyptian women were

Subjected to Shameful Indignities.

More than a hundred women and young girls were given over to the Mahdi's followers to be used as slaves. After the slaughter, many Arabs were seen rushing about the streets with the heads of Egyptians impaled upon their spears. The next night was spent in a storm of fire and shot. The Mahdi's forces repaired fortifications and has made it his permanent headquarters, and is said to have the advantage of guns, small arms and ammunition.

General Earle Killed in Battle.

Gen. Earle was killed on Tuesday during the storming of the enemy's position near the Standard correspondent, with Earle's column, sends the following dated Dulka Island, Tuesday:—"The British troops advanced to attack the enemy who held a strong position on the hills. After some fighting the enemy was completely surrounded. Finding it impossible to dislodge the rebels from their fortified position, Earle ordered the British to retire. The British troops were leading the attack. The Black Watch Regiment captured the positions at the point of

the bayonet, the cavalry taking possession of the enemy's camp. Gen. Brackenbury, upon the fall of Earle, assumed command, and ordered the British to retreat to the Standard to be reformed. The troops acted promptly, made a gallant attack, and soon captured all the enemy's positions. The fighting lasted for about an hour, the most slaughter among the enemy. Those who survived escaped by swimming the river."

Another account of the death of Gen. Earle.

Gen. Earle was killed in action on the 10th inst. The

Fight Occurred near the Nile.

A few miles above Dulka Island, the Arabs had fortified the pass and had built a small fort on the left bank of the river. When the British column advanced it was met by a steady and well directed fire from behind and on the flanks, which composed the Arab force of the advance party, and the men were killed. Gen. Earle again ordered his men to charge and put himself at the head of the column. He was killed during this charge. The British column advanced it was met by a steady and well directed fire from behind and on the flanks, which composed the Arab force of the advance party, and the men were killed. Gen. Earle again ordered his men to charge and put himself at the head of the column. He was killed during this charge. The British column advanced it was met by a steady and well directed fire from behind and on the flanks, which composed the Arab force of the advance party, and the men were killed. Gen. Earle again ordered his men to charge and put himself at the head of the column. 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