

THE KAFFIR WAR. A SOLDIER'S LETTER.

The following extract from a letter, written by a young soldier now serving in Kaffraria gives a good idea of the work in which our troops are engaged, and of the hardships and difficulties which they have to encounter. The date of the letter is November 12, 1851. It is addressed to the father of the writer, who resides in Liverpool.

"You must bear in mind that our enemies the savage Kaffirs and the rebel Hotentots, never show themselves, but always keep in the bush, so that, if we have not cover, we serve as targets for them. They then can see us, but we cannot see them. When we retire to go home at night, then they come out; but they generally keep out of range. Bravery is not of much use in this kind of fighting. The only way we can beat them is by cunning and surprise. From the 14th to the 29th, the 74th Highlanders had incessant fighting in endeavoring to drive the Kaffirs from their stronghold in the renowned Waterkloof, or, as we may since these operations call it, the slaughter-house for that fine regiment. During the fifteen days' fighting we only lost about forty killed and wounded. This was out of a force of about 4000 men. But on the 3rd of this month we went with rations to a post relief, where our wounded men were lying, when we saw the enemy in thousands. Accordingly, we attacked them on the 6th at day-break, with a salute of spherical shell from two 12lb howitzers, which scattered them. Our gallant colonel (Fordyce) advanced us into the bush, supporting our flanks with Fingoes and our rear with the 12th and 91st regiments. We saw nothing at first entering but a few huts, which we destroyed, having first plundered them of the articles left behind by the Kaffirs, on their being scattered by the shell. Our colonel entered the bush, and was giving us orders how to act, when, I am sorry to say, we received a volley killing our colonel. We then charged, with a British cheer, to drive them out, when a lieutenant named Cary, fell, two sergeants, two privates, and fourteen men wounded. Another officer was shot through both thighs while endeavoring to save a sergeant. Our loss was one, col., two lieutenants, two sergeants, twelve men killed, and sixteen wounded. All the wounds, except one, are through the body, so you may say that they are mortal.

"The war has scarcely commenced yet. We have had the 60th Rifles with us one day; but the governor has sent for them again. They did good work for the short time they were with us. The Kaffirs often come looking about for our lead; but the green jackets, when they tried it, made them bite the sod at 800 yards, which surprised them greatly. The Kaffirs call them black men from the sea, with long hair. We should all have rifles. Our charge of 4 1-2 drams often falls far short, as they are so fond of keeping their distance. Their balls tell pretty well, as they put in three times as much powder as we do. We are not contented. Many a pound of buck shot has been purchased by our men, and balls cut in four make good work for the bush. I should like to be back again, if this is not soon over. We are worn out, lousy, and hungry. For forty-seven days we have had our clothes on, and never off marching from four a. m., to five or six p. m. No Sunday here—every day alike. We march on the 17th for the Kei river, where we shall have some heavy work to do. We cannot clear the enemy out of the colony, so we are going to their country to take their cattle, and it is expected they will come out then. You would pity soldiers here if you saw them. We are ragged and wretched-looking. Jim-crow hats, red nightcaps—anything at all serves us. I wish the war was over. It is a fine country. I have seen one of our men get an enormous price—35s. for lettering a small board in a plain manner, with the words "Savory, draper;" and he could get much work as would employ two or three men.

PRISONERS.—The Indiana Penitentiary at Jeffersonville, opposite Louisville Ky. was entirely destroyed by fire on the 27th. No particulars have been received.

The war has been resumed on the Rio Grande. It is reported that Caryajal has captured Camargo, and it is also thought he has taken Matamoros.

COMMUNICATIONS.

[FOR THE CARLETON SENTINEL.]

MR. EDITOR.—In a late number of the Sentinel I observed a communication from a person signing himself "An Elector," concerning a man in Richmond, who he says got a grant of money to make a road from his own house to the public road, he himself being appointed Commissioner; and that he let the job at a rate that did not require all the money, that the work is not done, and that the money was drawn from the Treasury, and the surplus not returned; and stated that he got this information from a man living in the same settlement. Now, Mr. Editor, I believe those assertions to be decidedly false and calumnious, I therefore challenge the libellant to come forward and substantiate the same, or otherwise submit to the lie being put to his communication. Also in the next number of the Sentinel he (as I believe "An Elector" and "Woodstocker" to be one and the same person), comes forward to apologise for the false statements he had formerly made, so as to get a hit at another respectable individual in the same settlement, but whose character stands too high to be stained by his corrupt communications.

Your above mentioned correspondent considers it a mean act in any person applying to the Legislature for money to make or improve roads to their own houses, and through their own lands, and stigmatizes it with the shameful practice of begging. Now, Mr. Editor, there are various ways of obtaining money besides the honest practice of begging. Some of those ways by which some persons have obtained money, both public and private, I had intended to describe, but I will forbear at present.

Yours, &c., A LOVER OF TRUTH.

Richmond, March 10, 1851.

We give insertion to the following communication for the sake of the writer, but we at the same time must say that it is entirely unnecessary. The old 104th is too well known in this Province to require newspaper paragraphs to raise its fame. Our friend had better, for the future, allow such remarks to go for what they are worth, they can do no harm.

To the Editor of the Carleton Sentinel:

SIR.—Will you have the goodness to insert the following in the Sentinel, and oblige several besides myself.

A meeting of the inhabitants of this place was recently held at the house of Robert De Merchant to take into consideration the utility of adopting the Municipal Act; several speakers endeavoured to show that the people of this Province were oppressed, trodden down, and kept in the lowest state of degradation and bondage; one in particular went on to show that a great number of disbanded soldiers were located throughout the country, who having been used to render the most implicit obedience to the despotic tyranny of their officers, have no more sense of freedom than if they had been born Russian Serfs, and that they endeavoured to inspire their children with like slavish principles. Now, Mr. Editor, these old soldiers possess one merit not understood by such dissatisfied, shiftless characters as the speakers above alluded to, they are strictly loyal, and what is more both they and their offspring can teach such bullying orators what constitutes true rational freedom.

Yours, &c., AN OLD SOLDIER, late 104th Regt. Kent, March 4th, 1852.

To the Editor of the Carleton Sentinel:

SIR.—As I understand that it is the opinion of some that I was the writer of the communication in yours of the 2nd inst., signed "An Impartial Observer," I beg permission through your columns to correct such an error in the public mind. I never saw that article till it appeared in print, neither have I the slightest knowledge of who the author is.

Yours, &c., GEORGE STICKNEY. Wakefield, March 9, 1852.

One of the most horrible tragedies caused by rum that it has ever been our duty to record is the following—

In Baltimore, 5th inst. James White, a shoemaker living in East street, while under the influence of liquor cut the throat of his daughter, aged 15, and his son, aged 3 years. He then set fire to the house and then cut his own throat. All three were burnt to a crisp. His wife left him on Saturday. The children's throats were cut with an axe, and the boy's skull was also crushed.

THE CARLETON SENTINEL. WOODSTOCK, MARCH 16, 1852.

RAILWAYS.—The St. Andrews Standard in speaking of the Railway debate says he regrets to learn that the Carleton members have shown a disposition to bolt. Mr. English did say that he would oppose the Bill if the road did not go to the Grand Falls, on the west side of the river, but the Bill has now passed and we believe both Carleton members voted for it, it is at present before the Council, and will doubtless pass that body, so that the friends of the measure have nothing to fear. Many are dissatisfied because the particular line was not mentioned in the Bill. We do not conceive this was absolutely necessary at the present time, nor until the loan is effected, for whether the particular route is selected by the government, House or a Commission, it is but Hobson's choice.—The Valley of the St. John has been settled upon, and through this Valley there is but one route. Sane men cannot be prevailed upon to carry a line over broken ground, through a wilderness, carefully avoiding all the towns, and cities, in the Province, and every place where there now is, or ever likely to be, a trade carried on. We cannot conceive that any argument is necessary to prove the western side of the St. John the proper place for the great trunk line. The cry that the British Govt. would not guarantee a loan to build the line on this side of the river is now hushed up, and we are told by Earl Grey that the British government look upon the construction of a Railway from Halifax to Quebec, of so much importance that they would sanction the measure, even though it should not follow the line which appears to them to be the most advisable. The opposition set up by some few of our contemporaries we look upon as nothing but factions, they object to the government having the management of the work, and cry out for companies, when they well know that companies cannot be found able or willing to carry on the work unless they receive three times what it is worth, or what it can be done for under the present arrangements. Govt. will borrow the money, and will let out the work by contracts, this is all that can be done, and all that should be asked for, if we wish to have the road. We like the legislation of the northern members, it is so purely selfish. While they thought the great Trunk line was to go by the North Shore, they would run any risks, and incur any amount of debt to build it, but the moment the route is changed, they change too, and the whole thing is a humbug. They have opposed the passage of the Bill through the House in every possible way, and now that it has passed, they wish to secede from the rest of the Province, and retain their own revenues. They have taken lessons from North Carolina, and the next thing we expect to hear will be a Northern Republic. Another class of persons fear that the change of Ministry at Home will operate against us, and that we will not obtain a loan so readily under the present, as under the late administration. We look upon the change as the very best thing for us that possibly could have happened. It is well known that it is a part of the Conservative policy to foster the Colonies, while the Whigs complain of them as expensive and of no benefit to the Mother Country. We therefore look upon the loan as much more certain now than if the change had not been made. We know nothing of the Colonial Minister, Sir John Pakingham, but we believe there is not a man in England more friendly to the Colonies than is Earl Derby, and we hail his advent to office as a harbinger of good to the whole Colonial possessions.

Our Representatives may possibly think we are disposed to give their speeches in the Legislature, the go by, but it is not so. We seldom see any of them, and when they do come to hand they are a week or ten days old. It is our wish to keep the readers of the Sentinel well posted up in all matters coming before the Legislature, particularly with the sayings and doings of our own members, and when we fail in doing so it is because we have nothing to give them. We will continue to do the best we can, and hope for the future to receive the debates with more regularity.

We have received the two first numbers of a new paper, "THE INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL," published weekly in Boston at \$2.00 per annum. It is an excellent Paper, devoted almost exclusively to the interests of the Colonies, and to the question of reciprocity between the United States and the Provinces. Whether we obtain reciprocity or not a Journal of this description is much required, and the one in question is calculated to do a vast amount of good. The people of the United States, like those of England, are but little acquainted with the natural resources of these Provinces. The first look upon us as little better than slaves, without trade or the means to create any, and bound down by British oppression and misrule. The object of the International appears to be to place us in our true position before his countrymen and to show them that much is to be gained by a fair system of trade with the colonies.

The following is the conclusion of a lecture delivered by the American Consul at Pictou, and published in the Journal: "If the people of the United States and the British Colonies will only entertain such views as these, soon would a change take place in the great operations of business, highly beneficial to both countries, and lead to that mutual interchange of good feeling, which is so necessary to the welfare and happiness of every people." We sincerely hope this journal will receive a wide circulation in the Provinces; it deserves, and should receive every encouragement amongst us.

MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS.—The House of Assembly has altered the time for the election of Councillors from July to the first Tuesday in May, and thereafter to December in each and every year. But little time is now allowed for the electors to select from among themselves such men as will in their opinion attend to the business of the County; all now depends upon who will fill the different offices, if a judicious selection is made all will be well, but we again repeat, that if men are suffered to elect themselves, they will first help themselves, and fleece the County at every turn. Application was also made to the House for the privilege of electing Road Commissioners, this was not granted, but we have reason to believe if they are elected and recommended to Government, they will be appointed.

RAILWAYS AGAIN.—This question came before the Council on Saturday and will doubtless pass that body by a large majority. The Railway may now be looked upon as a settled thing, and the Hon. Mr. Chandler will leave for England in the course of the week invested with full powers to negotiate our share of the Loan. The Hon. Mr. Hincks has gone from Canada, and the Hon. G. R. Young from Nova Scotia on the same mission.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—"A. A. D." New castle, containing remittance, is received, for which we tender our thanks. "Minna May" must bear with us a short time, until the Legislative hurry is a little over—we will correct the error pointed out—substituting the initials for the full signature, was an oversight. The young Gentleman who has kindly taken upon himself the office of "Censor," will please pay the postage the next time he writes.

As we are determined to have all our accounts settled up previous to the close of the present volume, June next, we would suggest to those who intend to pay in Wood or grain, the propriety of taking advantage of the present good sledding, as the evil day may come when perhaps they will not be so well prepared now.

A ROASTER FOR THE HEAD QUARTERS.—We have long promised the Head Quarters a roaster, and we now have it for him. Mr. James Bradley, of Buttermilk Creek, killed a little pig last week which weighed when dressed 945 lbs. Another killed at the same time weighed 667 lbs. Better give up beat.

The old Gentleman who cribbed two Sentinels, by mistake, from our office, while inquiring for blank leases, will do well to enter his name as a subscriber, it will save him some trouble, and perhaps quiet his conscience. We are also directed to inform him not to call again, for Mr. Phillips' paper.