

the numerous fields we have inspected, and the samples we have already seen, that the disease is spreading.

European News.

From the London Pictorial Times.

THE KAFFIR WAR.

A private letter was received in Southampton from Port Elizabeth, dated May 1, which gives some interesting particulars of the Kaffir war. The writer states that the war has broken out in earnest; and so far it has proceeded, it has been attended with disastrous results. I cannot describe to you the state of the country. Every thing is at a stand. Nothing meets the eye or ear but what is connected with war. The Kaffirs are a fine warlike people, and can muster at least 30,000, some say 60,000 fighting men. Against this number we have, perhaps, between two or three thousand troops, including some Hottentot soldiers, the last are equally or more effective than English soldiers for the kind of fighting necessary in this country. The Kaffirs are too wise to come out in the plains; they confine themselves to the bush, where regular troops cannot follow them, and then select their object, and with overpowering numbers bear down on it. Not a waggon can travel through any part of the country without a strong armed escort. The whole country is under martial law, and are all obliged to undertake the duty assigned to them. The whole of the frontier is in a dreadfully alarmed state. In all the towns regulations have been issued, and signals fixed on, in case of a night attack, which is the thing to be expected from such an enemy. Places of refuge for women and children are appointed. We have about forty men every night patrolling round the town. You will, perhaps, be surprised that a town so far removed, from the frontier as this is, should have anything to apprehend, but you will understand it when I tell you that there are probably at this moment thousands of the enemy in the bush, within fifty or sixty miles of us, many much nearer, and we have a large powder magazine here containing several tons of gunpowder; and it is said that the enemy is getting short of ammunition. We have certain intelligence that the Kaffirs have determined on attacking Graham's Town to get the powder there, though they should lose a thousand men in the attempt. We have been threatened, likewise. All the male population here, between sixteen years of age and sixty, are enrolled, armed and divided into companies. These in the day time, are expected to meet for drilling, and for ball practice, and in their turn take the night patrol duty, escort, &c. For the last fortnight I have been obliged to leave my peaceful occupation to be the adjutant or captain of a Fingo company. I have about a hundred Fingoes enrolled and armed under me. I have succeeded so well, that they will vie with most of the English companies. I have obtained 2000 rounds of ball cartridges for their use. On the day that they were supplied, I observed many long faces among the inhabitants, who were very doubtful of the propriety of placing arms in the hands of a people so closely resembling the Kaffir as not to be distinguished the one from the other but by those intimately acquainted with them. I, however, know them perfectly; and, at a public meeting called by Col. Johnson said—"Give them arms by all means." What a change in public opinion respecting these people has a few days produced. The last accounts from the frontier speak in the highest terms of the bravery and good faith of the Fingoes. They have met the Kaffirs singly and in numbers, and have rendered good service.

Two days ago a body of Hottentots, and to-day a company of the English, went off to the seat of war in compliance with a demand from head-quarters. I observed to the magistrate, "The Fingoes are anxious to go to." His reply was, "Yes, but I shall not let them go, if I can help it; they are useful men, and if we should be attacked they will be of service to us."

The Fingoes and Kaffirs, though speaking in the same language and evidently to be regarded as two distinct branches of the same family, are implacable enemies. The former were always cruelly oppressed by the latter until protected by the English. The Kaffirs have threatened to drive the inhabitants of Port Elizabeth into the sea. Their war has altogether been provoked by them. The English have, in no case been the aggressors, but have desired to live amicably with them as neighbours; there has been no endeavour to deprive them of their territory, anything else; but on the other hand, we have for years been subject to pillage and

murder. Every year the Kaffirs have become more and more audacious, until it could be borne no longer. The very occasion of the war was one or two cruel murders committed by them. They refused to give up the murderers, and war was the alternative. The governor, Sir Peregrine Maitland, came up from Cape Town about a month ago, and proceeded to the frontier. We learn that he arrived at Fort Beaufort, where he may be said to be besieged by the Kaffirs, as the communication between that and the other town is completely cut off by swarms of them; so that at present he must remain until a force can be sent there to liberate him. Excepting that from this place to Graham's Town, most of the communications are cut off by the enemy, and even the mail from this place can only be conveyed by a strong armed escort. You will, without doubt, be anxious to know what is the real state of Port Elizabeth as regards its security. It is difficult to say. Our powder is a tempting prize, and the Kaffirs would doubtless hazard much to obtain it; but much will depend on their success or defeat in the more immediate neighbourhood of the frontier. They could certainly reach this in a day and two nights. Much will likewise depend on our vigilance. We have for our defence 100 English, 100 Fingoes, and 50 Malays, with two or three small pieces of artillery, sufficient, I should think, to oppose successfully more than 1000 armed Kaffirs. But still we must not forget that it would be a night attack, and must endeavour to prevent its being a sudden surprise or the consequences may be most disastrous. You can scarcely imagine a scene like that presented daily to us. Every inhabitant armed; every waggon leaving the town with an escort, and persons continually arriving who have abandoned their homes with all they contain for the greater security of the town. We had an arrival the other day of a number of troops. They were on their way home from Ceylon, but the vessel touched at the Cape for water, and an embargo was laid on them, and they were ordered here directly. Poor fellows, it must have been a sad disappointment to them, after being so long in India, and in the midst of their hopes of reaching England, to find a fresh scene in which, no doubt, many of them will be cut off. Another company of the same regiment is daily expected. I am sure they are much required. It is said that a regiment from Monte Video is also expected, which with those from India, would be an accession of strength of about 1500 men.

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TERRIFIC STORM OF THUNDER AND HAIL.

On Saturday last the metropolis and its suburbs for miles round were visited by one of the severest storms of thunder, lightning, and hail, accompanied by heavy rain, that has been experienced for several years past. For three or four days previously the heat had been most intense, accompanied by a strong wind from the east, and a cloudless sky. Saturday morning broke very hazy, but as the forenoon advanced it cleared away, and between nine and ten o'clock the sun came out with intense power, and from that period the heat continued to increase. After the haze had cleared away, clouds appeared in the S. S. E., and although the wind remained in the N. E., they gradually extended themselves over the heavens. From two o'clock distant peals of thunder were distinctly heard, but the storm did not begin with any violence until about twenty minutes after three, when it burst over the metropolis and the western suburbs with exceeding violence. The lightning was remarkably vivid, and the flashes followed each other rapidly. The peals of thunder were also heard with great frequency; many of them resembled the sudden discharge of heavy ordnance, the reverberation of which was heard for some minutes. The rain was particularly heavy, and accompanied at intervals by hailstones of a very large size and irregular shape, many of them picked up weighing from an ounce to an ounce and a half. The storm was at its greatest fury between four and five o'clock, and from twenty minutes past three until half-past six. Amongst the public buildings which have suffered most severely from the fracture of skylights and domes by the hailstones are Buckingham Palace, Somerset House, Burlington Arcade, the Bazaar (Baker Street,) and the Paddington terminus of the Great Western Railway. The Horticultural Gardens, Chiswick; the Botanic Gardens, Kew; and those in the Regent's Park have also suffered severely.

Buckingham Palace, the Parks, &c.—We are unable to state positively what portion of Buckingham Palace has suffered most, so general was the destruction. It appears that the Royal Picture Gallery is lighted by a skylight, consisting of a centre piece and sides. With the exception of a portion of the side pieces, which is composed of engraved plate glass, the remainder is the ordinary crown glass, but of such thickness that it was considered sufficient to resist the assault of any ordinary hailstorm. The next portion of the palace we have to refer to is the immense dome over the grand staircase, composed entirely of glass. Then

follows the scarcely inferior glass dome over the ministry staircase, and a variety of all these have been, so far as their fragile covering was concerned, utterly destroyed, the ruthless torrent of hail and rain, irrespective alike of palaces or huts, poured in with the force of a cataract, making the various staircases so many waterfalls; the basement floors of the palace were completely flooded. The Picture Gallery, in which are some of the most splendid productions of the old masters, was at one time in imminent danger. No time was lost in removing all those pictures that were liable to be injured, and we believe that in no single instance has damage been done to any one. To state the amount of damage done to the palace would at the present moment be impossible. Many thousand squares of glass are demolished, and at a rough calculation the loss in that article alone will be little short of £1800 or £2000. It is satisfactory to state that the Queen's decorators have closely inspected the royal apartments into which the water obtained access, and have not discovered that any material damage has been sustained by any of the costly embellishments.

The parade in front of the palace, extending from the foot of the Constitution Hill to James Street, Buckingham Gate, was one sheet of water, and so deep as to render it impassable to pedestrians. The deep barrel drain in the Green Park burst from the immense accumulation of water, and formed a complete river to the ornamental water in the enclosure of St. James's Park. Here the violence of the storm dismantled the flower-beds, tore up the paths, and so flooded the pastures, that it became necessary for men to wade up to the middle to rescue the sheep that would otherwise have been drowned. The water accumulated to that depth in Birdcage Walk that it was rendered impassable to pedestrians, and almost so to vehicles. At the metropolis police office, Scotland Yard, 300 squares of glass were broken. The Admiralty stables sustained great damage, and not a house in Whitehall Place Gardens escaped. Lord Liverpool's and Sir W. James's windows suffered most. Carlton Terrace has suffered very much, the vestibules of those houses which are glazed being considerably shattered.

Westminster.—At the Houses of Parliament fourteen men were employed the whole of Sunday merely cutting out the pieces of old glass left in the windows that were broken by the violence of the storm. It was expected that the House of Lords would be repaired by ten o'clock on Monday morning, and the Commons by noon. The total number of squares demolished in the two Houses of Parliament and Westminster Hall is upwards of 7000. The law courts at Westminster were completely deluged with water, and the various windows broken. At Westminster Abbey very little, if any, glass was broken, but the roof being under repair, the rain fell through in such bodies that several men were employed on Saturday night to bale it out. Upon inspecting the theatre of Westminster Hospital on Monday afternoon, the floor was found completely strewn with fragments of broken glass. The reading room of the same institution had likewise a number of squares demolished, and the room lay under water. The Westminster School of Medicine, in Dean Street, has suffered most severely from the storm. At Lady Rose's mansion, in Old Palace Yard, a chimney-pot was struck down by the lightning, and nearly fell upon a man's head who was seeking shelter in one of the doorways. At Messrs. Cubitt's factory, Millbank, the damage done is considerable. It is stated that from 12,000 to 14,000 squares of glass are demolished, independently of the damage that must of necessity have been caused by the rain falling into the premises. Messrs. Broadwood's pianoforte manufactory in Horseferry Road, Westminster, is likewise extensively damaged. One of the workmen informed the reporter that he believed nearly 8000 squares of glass were broken.

Lambeth.—The damage done on the Surrey side of the river is far more serious than on the Middlesex side. The Baptist chapel in Waterloo Road had upwards of three feet of water in it. The Pear Tree Tavern, in the New Cut, had the water in the cellar almost up to a man's armpits. The West of England engine was engaged nearly two hours pumping the water out. Mr. Knight, an oilman in the same thoroughfare, had a most valuable stock in the cellars spoiled by the water. The Surrey Theatre had the Skylights demolished, and the windows broken. The rain poured in in such a manner that the place was flooded. A notice was put up that in consequence of the damage done no performance could take place. The Nine Elms terminus of the Southampton Railway was extensively injured. Astley's Theatre was injured almost as much as the Surrey. In Bishop's Walk, Lambeth, it is stated that the lightning struck the wall of the Archbishop of Canterbury's Palace, and tore up a tree in the garden. The Victoria Theatre and Lawrence's miscellaneous stores at the corner of Webber Street, had several feet of water in the cellars. The neighbourhood of Fore Street and Princess Street had suffered to an alarming extent from the water.

The scene on the Surrey side, during the greater part of Sunday, was truly distressing. In many places the water had not gone down, and it was not at all an uncommon sight to see beds and tables floating in the water, and up to late in the evening the poor creatures were engaged in bucketing the rain out. The damage in the New Cut is believed will reach nearly 1000. Mr. James, a grocer, has sustained upwards of 2000 loss. The different wharves on the river had a most singular appearance at low water on Sunday. Immense heaps of sand and mud had been dri-

ven against the barges, &c., which almost embedded them, and a number of labourers were engaged gathering up the fragments of furniture and other things that had been washed ashore.

The Northern District.—Serious Accidents.—In no part of the metropolis did the storm rage more violently than in the northern parts of it the destruction of property being immense, and the loss principally falling on the poorer class. At Hampstead, Highgate, Holloway, &c., the rain rushed in such torrents down the hill as to completely destroy large portions of the path and roadways, and inundating the houses and cottages at the foot, the water being several feet in depth.

At Camden and Kentish Towns, and in the vicinity of the Regent's Park the storm raged with considerable fury, the damage being principally confined to the destruction of the foundations of a large number of houses recently commenced building. At the Colosseum, in the Regent's Park, and at the Zoological Gardens in the same locality, the damage by the breaking of glass is of a very extensive character.

The River above Bridge.—During the time that the storm was at its height, the rain, which was falling in such immense bodies, ran down the various gullies into the Fleet Ditch, which very speedily became filled. The outlet at Blackfriars Bridge not being sufficiently large to allow the water to rush out as fast as it entered the sewer, the extraordinary pressure of the water blew the iron crown off the covering of the ditch with such violence, that it made a noise like the explosion of a piece of artillery. At the same moment the water flew out with such impetuosity, that No. 3. Waterman steamer, which was going down the river, was driven against one of the piers of Blackfriars Bridge, and so disabled, that she was forced to put back, and land her passengers by means of one of the Citizen Steamers. The damage done to the banks of the Thames by the rush of water, especially about Chelsea and Millbank, is very extensive. Boats were forced from their moorings, and it required the greatest exertion to keep them from being washed away.

Destruction of Houses.—The neighbourhood of Vine Street, Mutton Hill, and Onslow Street, Clerkenwell, were thrown into a state of great consternation by the falling in of several houses in that neighbourhood, and the rumoured loss of several lives. It appears, about five o'clock, when the storm was at its height, the old Fleet Ditch, leading to the Thames, which ran under Vine Street and Mutton Hill, overflowed; the rush of water was tremendous, and being unable to find vent for its headlong career, carried away the whole of the back part of the three houses in Round Court, which were densely occupied by poor families, who with the greatest difficulty succeeded in making their escape. At eleven o'clock at night the poor people in the courts and alleys of the neighbourhood were busily employed in removing their little furniture, as many of the houses, in consequence of the water acting on and sapping the foundations, which are very old, have sunk several feet, and are rendered extremely dangerous. The authorities at Clerkenwell work-house gave a general order for the immediate admission of the poor people and the families who have been rendered homeless.

THE STORM IN THE PROVINCES.

In the neighbourhood of Reading, Oxford, Newbury, Farringdon, Cirencester, Wantage, &c., the storm was of a most awful description and the damage sustained by vegetation generally is incalculable. At Cirencester, two sheep and one ox were killed by the electric fluid; and at Wantage two sheep and a valuable horse were struck dead by the same powerful agency. At Oxford the electric fluid did great damage to building property, houses, and gardens. The roof of the house of Mr. Dudley, situate near the river, was struck by the lightning, and a part of the stone work fell to the ground, and when taken up it emitted a strong sulphurous smell. At Litcombe, near Wantage, the lightning entered the roof of a small cottage, shattered a bedstead, and threw a child that the mother had just laid in the bed on the floor, but unhurt. At Highworth, the servant of a Mr. Boyne got under a tree, with his horse, for shelter; the horse was killed, but the man miraculously escaped with a slight scorching on the forehead. At Henley-on-Thames the flashes were awfully vivid and forked. The house of Mr. Musgrove was struck by lightning. Mr. Musgrove and a portion of his family were at the moment standing in a passage, through which the bell wires passed, and were all struck to the ground, but happily without serious injury; the damages to his hothouses, plants, &c. contiguous to the dwelling-house, is very considerable. Some parts of Hampshire, &c. were also visited by the storm, and serious damage sustained. At the Swan inn, Inkpen, a small village about three miles from Hungerford, the paper on the walls was in many places completely stripped off.

The lightning then followed the bell wire to the kitchen, where the maid servant was at work; her clothes caught fire, but her screams speedily brought assistance and the flames were extinguished, and a boy who was standing in a barn near the house, was knocked down by the lightning, but escaped with a few slight scars on the cheek; a great portion of the barn, however, was destroyed by the electric fluid.

Fire at the Royal Exchange, Dublin.—About 12 o'clock on Monday night, a considerable portion of the left wing of the Royal Exchange was burned. Fortunately the noble central dome escaped injury.