

# THE MORNING GUARDIAN.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1898.

## EDITORIAL NOTES.

The French are making a lot of trouble these days. What with Menier driving Canadian settlers out of Anticosti, French fishermen attacking Newfoundlanders, and Marchand posting himself at Fashoda, there seems good reason for John Bull showing a little irritation.

That Canada was once the home of the mammoth appears to be established by the finding of a skeleton recently near St Thomas, Ont. The specimen is a remarkable one, showing that the huge creature stood fifteen feet high, and was armed with tusks ten feet long and teeth as big as a man's head.

Shanghai has become unfavorably known as a most unreliable news centre. It is from that place that the repeated reports of the assassination of the Emperor of China have come. Hence there is always doubt of the correctness of any despatch dated from Shanghai.

A recently published return shows that Britain's production of coal is still slightly greater than that of the United States. These two countries produce two thirds of the world's coal supply and among the larger producers of the remaining third is Canada. The Anglo Saxons have possession of the great coal beds of the earth.

It is ninety three years since the battle of Trafalgar. The British fleet under Nelson at that time numbered 27 ships of the line and four frigates, while the French-Spanish fleet included 33 ships of the line and five frigates. The allies lost twenty ships and Nelson was killed, as was also the Spanish admiral Gravina. Villeneuve, the French admiral, was made a prisoner.

The cable despatches in the evening dailies of the city presented a strange contrast yesterday afternoon. Those who read the Examiner only would be told that the French will evacuate Fashoda and there will be a peaceful solution of the troubles between Britain and France. The Patriot's despatches declare that nothing but a miracle can prevent war. The latter view seems in a measure supported by Lord Rosebery's remarkable speech at Perth.

Harold Frederic, the noted correspondent, who died recently in London, was born in Utica, New York, in 1856. He was of poor parentage, and though recently earning large money is said to have died poor. He leaves a widow and two children. Frederic, in addition to his journalistic work, was the author of a number of works of fiction and wrote quite extensively for the magazines. He was a believer in Christian science and in his last illness refused to take any medicine, thus possibly becoming a victim of his peculiar creed.

The increasing indebtedness of the larger Canadian cities has been the subject of much newspaper comment. Toronto has a debt of over \$16,000,000 and Montreal's debt exceeds \$20,000,000. The Globe of the first-named city, has, however, hit upon an idea that somewhat relieves the sombre picture of civic indebtedness. It is able to show that the population has increased much faster than the debt and that whereas the debt per head of the population of 1893 was \$98.08 it is now only \$89.58. Montreal Herald finds comfort from the same method of reckoning. It does not make the indebtedness any less in the aggregate, but less to the individual tax payer. Percentage and per capita always figure in the minds of great financiers when they desire to make a big debt appear smaller than it is.

Yesterday was the anniversary of the famous charge of the Light Brigade at Balaklava, Oct., 25th, 1854. Of 670 horsemen under Lord Cardigan who rode into the "valley of death" only 198 returned. The almost equally famous charge of the Heavy Brigade under General Scarlett took place earlier the same day, also near Balaklava.

A revival of United States shipping is predicted as a result of the war with Spain. How greatly such a revival is needed is pointed out by the Scientific American. That journal directs attention to the fact that in 1859 sixty seven per cent of the imports and exports of the country was carried in United States ships, while in 1897 all but eleven per cent was carried in foreign vessels.

Generals Luard, Herbert, and Gascoigne each in succession fell into some measure of discredit while at the head of the Canadian militia. Each in turn on leaving Canada received promotion at the hands of the imperial authorities. General Gascoigne has been given a high command in China. It has been jokingly explained that a bout with the Canadian politicians is an excellent means of developing the grit and endurance which are excellent qualifications in a general officer.

Archbishop Ireland at the Chicago Peace Jubilee, in his great oration wasted no words in regret for Spain. Among other things he said: "To do great things, to meet fitly great responsibilities, a nation, like a person, must be conscious of its dignity and its power. The consciousness of what she is and what she may be has come to America. She knows that she is a great nation. The elements of greatness were not imparted by the war; but they were revealed to her by the war, and their vitality and their significance were increased through the war. To take its proper place among the older nations of the earth, a nation must be known as it is to those nations. The world today, as never before, knows and confesses the greatness and the power of America."

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## TRADE AND SHIPPING

PORT OF MONTAQUE. Oct. 22. Arr: Lydia A. Mason, Mason, Tangier; Annie M. Belle, Brannan, Pubnico; Green Leaf, Julian, Halifax; North Star, Cooper, Senora; Maggie May, Philis, Halifax; Nicanor, West Haver, Lunenburg; Alm H., Mitchell, Halifax; Era M.B., Bonay, Halifax; Vesta, Evans, Chester. Oct. 20: Agile, McLenn, Hubbard's Cove; Lotie S., Dory, Hubbard's Cove; Jubilee, Butler, Pictou.

Twenty-one vessels are in port loading produce for Nova Scotia. The following will be loaded and clear this evening: C A Earnest, Hubb, Halifax; Lillie H. Crosbie, Julian, Halifax; Moulter, Fraser, St Mary's.

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## Horrors of Soudan Warfare.

Now, there is no braver, kinder man in the world than the army doctor. In his extemporized field-hospital, often under a heavy fire, with a hastily thrown up cover of canvas, a pack-saddle, water tanks, or whatever came handy, he performed miracles; he was ready to minister to the want of all wounded men. He was anxious to minister to the wounded dervish whenever one might be brought in. But no wounded dervish ever was. It was as much as any one's life was worth to go near a wounded dervish. He would lie on the ground, gazing about like a wild beast. Approach him, and out came his curved, ham-stringing knife. With it he would make vicious sweeps, any one of which would maim you for life.

It is not possible in the terrific stress of Soudan warfare to detail fatigue parties to overcome the resistance of wounded men and bear them to the field hospital. Hundreds died of their wounds as they lay on the battle-field, and those who did not die of their wounds had to be put out of their misery. Terrible stories are told of this dire necessity. Those know best who have been engaged in battle with the dervish what happened after the fighting was over, and how the problem of dealing with the enemy's wounded was solved. In the campaign of 1885, parties of English soldiers, commanded by Egyptian officers, used to go out to kill the wounded. One private prodded the helpless body between the shoulders with his bayonet. If there was no movement the party went on; if the dervish proved alive and equipped, another private instantly blew his brains out.

Another story was current in those terrible days how an officer going up to a group of surgeons round a wounded dervish, and inquiring what was the matter, was told that nothing could be done for him, no one could approach him. He lay there with his knife out ready with one of those sweeping ham stringing cuts for anyone who dared to come near. Whereupon the officer, still under the blood-madness of the fight, and seeing red, whipped out his own knife, avoided the rapid sweep of the wounded man's weapon, and drove his own to his heart.

Such are some of the incidents of Soudan warfare. As said above, the dervish has learned to know us better, and has become tamer; but the problem of dealing with his wounded must still remain. Was there any mention of dervish wounded after the battle of Atbara this year? And are there many of them in the hospitals in the rear? The correspondents have always remained strangely silent upon this subject. It has been denied in Parliament, we believe, that ever such things as we describe, took place. Well, ministers are not less hypocritical than the rest of us, and possibly some of them knew that these things did happen. Whether they knew it or not, there are dozens of men, like the writer of this article, who know that they happened—because we were there and saw them. They do not make pleasant reading. But our military commanders in Egypt cannot be blamed for them; they are the cost of going to war with such a people.—London Saturday Review.

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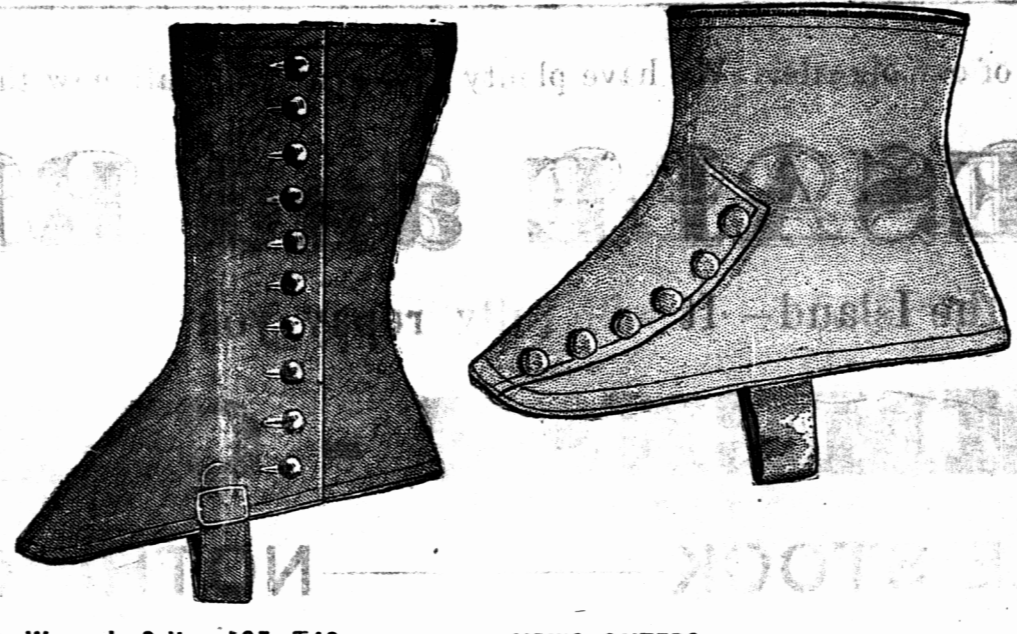
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