

LA FAMINE DANS L'INDE

UNE VISITE DANS LES DISTRICTS AFFLIGES

Bombay, 4-Klopsch, de New-York, éditeur du "Christian Herald," arrivé ici le 14 mai et parti immédiatement pour aller faire une tournée dans les districts où sévit la famine, est revenu, après avoir voyagé dans les parties les plus éprouvées de la présidence de Bombay, y compris Bujerat et Borala. Voici ce que dit M. Klopsch: "Partout j'ai été témoin des scènes les plus abominables et les plus révoltantes. Les malheureux affamés réunis dans les camps sont morts du choléra et de la petite vérole. Des furtifs atteints par le fléau, pendant qu'ils se sauvaient, ont été trouvés morts dans les champs et dans les fossés le long des routes. Le nombre des affamés qui se présentent à un seul poste de secours pour obtenir des vivres augmente en moyenne de 10,000 par jour.

"A Godhra, en quatre jours, il y a eu 3,000 décès causés par le choléra, et à Dohad 2,500 pendant le même temps. Dans les hôpitaux de Godhra et de Dohad le nombre des décès est de 90 pour cent.

"La situation des malheureux atteints du choléra est impossible à décrire. Une odeur intolérable de cadavre en décomposition se dégage de l'eau et se répand dans l'air. A Admedabad les décès à l'asile des pauvres ont été de 10 pour cent. Chaque jour j'ai vu de nouveaux malades placés en face des corps des défunts. Dans chaque lit sus-pendu il y avait un cadavre.

"Le thermomètre indiquait 115 degrés à l'ombre. Des millions de mouches voltigeaient autour des malades atteints de la dysenterie, qui étaient malpropres.

"J'ai visité, à Viragam, les quartiers où la petite vérole et le choléra exerçaient leurs ravages. Tous les malades étaient couchés sur le sol, car il n'y avait pas de lits. A part cela, les malades étaient bien soignés.

"J'ai pu parfaitement constater que des vautours, des chiens et des chacals dévoraient les morts. On a vu des chiens courir avec des bras ou des jambes d'enfants dans la gueule.

"Le gouvernement fait ce qu'il peut; mais les fonctionnaires indigènes sont impuissants à soulager tant de misère. Par suite de la famine, de la peste et du choléra, la situation dans la présidence de Bombay est maintenant plus mauvaise qu'elle n'a été en aucun temps dans le 19e siècle. Des familles entières ont succombé. Le peuple est abattu, et la situation s'aggravera dès que la mousson se fera sentir."

LES DIFFICULTES DE L'ANGLETERRE

New-York, 2.—Le correspondant du "World" de cette ville à Londres dit:

"Les difficultés de l'Angleterre ne font que commencer avec la fin de cette guerre inglorieuse.

"Le "Star" qui a été seul parmi tous les journaux du soir, de Londres, à dénoncer la guerre constamment, s'attend à la paix immédiatement, mais il ajoute:

"Les véritables difficultés de l'Angleterre sont encore à venir. La guerre n'a rien réglé. Le problème essentiel reste ce qu'il était en octobre dernier, la seule différence, c'est qu'il est énormément plus compliqué. Quel profit aurons nous obtenu, si en privant les Boers de leur

liberté, nous perdons notre propre patriotisme. Nos propres intérêts ainsi que notre honneur, nous commandent d'user de la victoire sagement, avec modération et clémence."

Les journaux jingo ne parlent pas de modération, mais ils insultent leur ennemi tombé.

La guerre a déjà coûté \$300,000,000, et avant que tout le territoire boer ne soit occupé—une opération qui prendra trois mois pour être exécutée, même en temps de paix—elle coûtera 150 millions de plus. La guerre a coûté beaucoup moins aux Boers, c'est-à-dire \$50,000,000, ce qui est un chiffre insignifiant comparé aux dépenses de l'Angleterre.

"L'Angleterre a maintenant 228,000 hommes dans l'Afrique australe, pendant que les Boers n'ont jamais en, en tout temps, plus que 35,000 hommes en compagnie. On porte leurs forces actuelles à 22,000 hommes.



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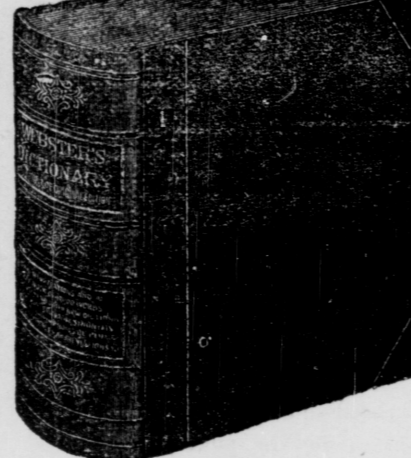
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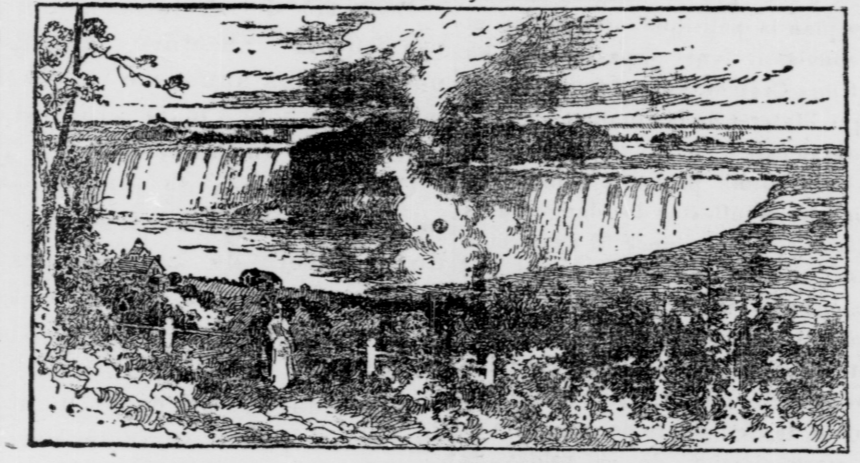
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