

The Battle Near Suakim. TERRIBLE FIGHT AGAINST OVERWHELMING NUMBERS—THE BRITISH TROOPS SURPRISED—PERILS OF A WAR CORRESPONDENT—A HEROIC CLERGYMAN.

(Charles Williams, in London Chronicle.) It is impossible to disguise the fact that we were most completely surprised, and that only the superb courage of our troops saved us from an overwhelming disaster.

Not a man of us had any idea that thousands of rebels were quietly stretched amongst the scrub, and behind boulders and hillocks, quietly watching us as we innocently and jovially worked at our zarebas. A few pickets were out, and a squad of cavalry officers as well—I believe eighteen all told—so we were content.

Suddenly there was a great cry of alarm, rising loud above the din of the fighting parties and the accompanying bustle of a great camp, and then hoarse cries from the officers, "Stand to your arms men!" Never was word of command more promptly obeyed. But the men were scattered, many of them a considerable distance from their arms. The brave fellows did their best, however, to get into their allotted positions.

As the square formed, the eighteenth cavalry scouts came rushing in—crashing through our own lines—and then we saw and heard the leaping, roaring, fantastic, yet terrible looking wave of black forms, which we knew was the enemy in strong—in overwhelming force. Then came the terrible stampede of baggage animals—horses, camels, mules, in one struggling, screeching, helpless, confused mass. The roar was terrible, and must have been demoralizing to any but the most highly trained troops. I was just on the edge of the marine square, and was caught in the storm, my horse being swept bodily to the ground, pinning me to the earth. As I lay with other prostrate animals above and around, struggling frantically to rise, I received a nasty kick on the head, which, however, caused me only temporary inconvenience. Regaining my feet, I found myself inside the marines' square. Panic even in those few moments seemed to have disappeared, and the brave fellows were firing steadily and well. I should think some fifty or sixty rebels got inside the square in the first terrific rush, but not one lived to recount his exploit, every one being either shot or bayoneted. Outside, away from the square, a number of men on fatigue duties, such as cutting brush for the zareba makers, were cut off from the main body.

Undaunted and resourceful they quickly improvised a square yard by the field kitchens. Their promptness saved their lives. Conspicuous amongst them were to be seen Major Alston and the Rev. Mr. Collins, one of our chaplains, fighting back to back, the reverend combatant having seized the nearest available weapon, which he wielded vigorously as if to the manner born.

Here, I am sorry to say, I must some what qualify my previous praise, of the Seventeenth Loyal Poorbeens—not, however, in respect to their actual fighting which, as I have said, was splendid, but they were sadly unsteady and in their excitement not amenable to discipline, the display of which was so conspicuous by the marines. The bugles were repeatedly sounded for them to cease firing, but they did not heed the command, and continued firing at perilous random, especially to the little square under Alston. As the bugles were ineffective the Rev. Mr. Collins volunteered to cross the bullet-swept ground intervening and convey the orders to cease firing. Stepping forth, calm and collected in demeanor, the chaplain walked, his life in his hands, across to the Indians, and then returned as calmly to the little square which he had just left. His reception must have been some compensation to the risks he had run. The men, struck with his heroism, raised cheer after cheer, and sticking their helmets on their bayonets, frantically waved them in their enthusiasm.

Meanwhile fearful havoc was being wrought amongst the animals. Scarcely one transport camel or mule outside the square escaped. Scores and scores of them were hamstringed by the enemy and many more were killed by the fire from our own squares. The Berkshire square all this time had its hands full. Double as many rebels managed to get inside as was the case at the marine square, and their was some desperate hand-to-hand fighting, but the result was the same, and that afternoon after the fight was over we found 120 corpses on the ground inclosed by the flimsy brushwood parapets. The Berkshire men deserve, and have reason to be proud of the praise, unstintingly lavished upon them for their splendid courage and steadiness. They fought under the eye of Gen. McNeill, who himself had the narrowest possible escape from death.

When the alarm was raised first he was on horseback just outside the zareba. As soon as he saw the enemy he gave the necessary orders, and then attempted to jump the brushwood barrier—an easy enough feat, but his horse shied and backed from the zareba. It was a critical moment, for the rebels were rushing down at full speed and were close upon him.

Fortunately the general's aide-de-camp, Lieut. Charteris, saw the peril of his chief, and gallantly rushed to his

rescue. And not a moment too soon, for the rebels were at close quarters. One Arab had his gun pointed straight at the general; but Charteris turned the shot, and then quickly turning, cut down another assailant with his spear. As Charteris was thus engaged he was attacked with the greatest fury by a little young Arab—a mere boy, in fact, not more than 16 years old. The youngster fought like a tiger, and succeeded in spearing Charteris through the arm before he himself was shot. He was a gallant little fellow; he fought with all the courage of a man, and suffered a man's fate. I fancy Lieut. Charteris will hear more of that little incident, for he saved his general's life.

Special Notices.

SPRING stock of picture mouldings just received, and will be made up as in the past, the cheapest in Charlottetown—Mark Wright & Co. [May 1] 1w

ALL wool tweeds at J. B. Macdonald's. [ap 30]

REPAIRING, Re-upholstering and Painting charges moderate. House cleaners take notice—Mark Wright & Co. [May 1] 1w

RED CURRIANT JELLY, 25 cents per pound at Beer & Goff's. [ap 9]

FOR sale one second-hand Cylinder Desk, American make. This desk is as good as new, cost \$140, will be sold at a bargain—Mark Wright & Co. [May 1] 1w

Lot of new goods now opening at J. P. Macdonald's. [ap 30]

FIVE CASES HATS opening at D. A. Bruce's. [ap 25]—ff.

CHRISTIE, BROW & Co.'s Soda Biscuits, Fresh, at Beer & Goff's. [ap 27]

NEW BOOTS and shoes opening at Dorsey, Goff & Co's. [ap 27]

GEO. DAVIES & Co., are now opening their spring stock of Men's Silk, Felt and Fur Hats. [ap 25]

NEW HATS! New Hats! just arrived at L. E. Prowse's. [ap 24]

FELT hats, Large stock, new styles at prices that cannot be undersold, at J. B. Macdonald's. [ap 30]

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FRESH ORANGES, Lemons and Maple Sugar at Beer & Goff's. [ap 24]

FOUR thousand seven hundred and fifty New Hats at L. E. Prowse's. [ap 25]

BOOTS! Boots!! Boots!!!—The greatest bargains this spring will be given at Dorsey, Goff & Co's. [ap 27]

New stock of men's and boy's clothing very cheap at J. B. Macdonald's. [ap 30]

BEST VALUE you ever got in Hats at D. A. Bruce's. [ap 25] ff.

BUY your Hats at D. A. Bruce's. [ap 25] ff.

ONLY about seventy barrels apples left. Send in your orders in time.—BEER & GOFF. [ap 20]

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The greatest show of New Hats in the city is at L. E. Prowse's. [ap 25]

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These PILLS are compounded of vegetable substances only, and are absolutely free from calomel or any other injurious ingredient. A sufferer from Headache writes: "AYER'S PILLS are invaluable to me, and are my constant companion. I have been a severe sufferer from Headache, and your PILLS are the only thing I could look to for relief. One dose will quickly move my bowels and free my head from pain. They are the most effective and the easiest physic I have ever found. It is a pleasure to me to speak in their praise, and I always do so upon occasion of friends."

W. L. PAGE, of W. L. Page & Bro., Franklin St., Richmond, Va., June 3, 1882.

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Mexia, Texas, June 17, 1882.

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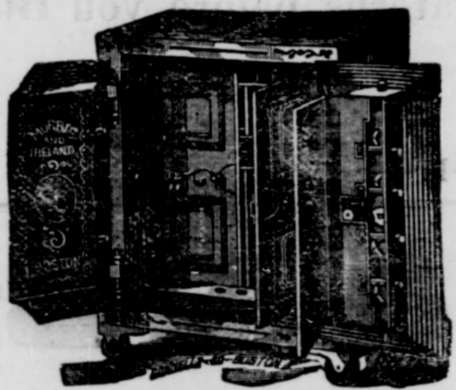
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C. ROBERTSON.

Ch'town, Feb. 6, 1885.

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Table with 4 columns: STATIONS, No. 5, No. 7, STATIONS, No. 6, No. 8. Rows include Charlottetown, Royalty Junction, Bedford, Mount Stewart, Georgetown, Mount Stewart, Moreil, St. Peter's, Bear River, Souris.

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All that tract, piece or parcel of land, situate, lying and being on Lot or Township number Thirty two, in Queen's County, in Prince Edward Island, bounded and described as follows, that is to say: By a line commencing on the west side of the North River Road, at the south-east angle of a farm of land in possession of Hugh McEwen, and running westerly along the southern boundary thereof to the southwest angle of said Hugh McEwen's farm, thence running south five chains, thence east to the North River Road aforesaid by a line parallel with the said Hugh McEwen's southern boundary, thence north along the western side of said road to the place of commencement, containing thirty-five acres of land, a little more or less.

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For further particulars apply to Messrs. McLeod, Morson & McQuarrie, Solicitors, Charlottetown.

Dated 17th day of April, A. D. 1885.

JOANNA CARROLL, Ch'town, April 18, 1885.—aw ti sale sat

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Ch'town, Feb 18'85.—ly col wky

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April 23.