

Baker Pasha's Defeat.

According to the latest news received in London, Baker Pasha has been completely defeated by the tribes under control of the False Prophet. Two thousand of his men have been killed or wounded, and he himself is reported to have taken refuge on an English gunboat lying at a point on the shore of the Red Sea, whither he and the remnant of his forces retreated. The fight which ended in this disaster appears, from the account of the last few days, to have taken place while he was proceeding to the relief of Tokar, a fortified but sorely beleaguered city some fifty miles distant from Suakin.

The immediate result of Baker Pasha's defeat, the account of which seems to be authentic, will probably be the surrender to the Mahdi and his followers of the garrisons of a number of towns situated at various distances from Suakin, and which have for some months figured in the accounts from the Sudan as being in greater or less extremities. Its other consequences will be of far greater importance, and will serve to present a near view of several contingencies which, when presented recently in a letter to the Sun from a well informed correspondent in Constantinople, had the appearance of being much more remote.

The gloomy foreboding of Gen. Gordon, uttered before he had any idea of accepting his present perilous mission to Khartoum, and when the news had reached him of the destruction of Gen. Hicks and his army, have been accurately fulfilled. Knowing more about the Sudan than any other European, and having an influence and a prestige with its wild tribes only surpassed by the power of the Mahdi himself, his opinions had a significance which is now only too fully apparent. The defeat and massacre of an Egyptian army commanded by British officers was a fatal blow to British prestige among a people who were only too quick to ascribe to it the proportions of the annihilation of an entire British army. Gen. Gordon pointed out that the expedition was hopeless, that Gen. Hicks' handful of an army would be powerless against the fanatical hordes flocking to the standard of the Mahdi, and that a disaster to British supremacy was inevitable. No lesson appears to have been learned from either the warning or the catastrophe, and the commission given to Baker Pasha can have been but an expedient to gain time until the English Cabinet should decide whether to assume the full responsibility of the situation in the Sudan or to retire in favour of the Porte, and, while deliberating, await the chance of a favourable turn in affairs ensuing from the extraordinary mission undertaken by Gen. Gordon.

All calculations are upset by the summary defeat of the second army of the Sudan, an event which greatly endangers Gen. Gordon and practically nullifies any efforts he might make to conciliate the tribes and arrange for the withdrawal under proper conditions of the Khedival authority from the interior. The impression that it will produce with thirty millions of Moslem subjects who own allegiance to Great Britain is of the utmost importance, and if the Mahdi should ever cross the line which divides a rebel from a conqueror, and aspire to the sacred Caliphate of the Mecca, which is the hereditary and traditional right of the family to which he belongs, or to which he claims to belong, he will represent the Pan-Arabic or Pan-Islamic movement, the success of which would involve the extinction of the Ottoman empire and a general remodelling of the affairs of mankind, so far as English interests in Asia are concerned.

Whatever be the solution of the singular movement of which he is the head, and of which history presents many counterparts for instructive consideration, the present state of affairs is of the gravest importance to the English Government. The shortsightedness and folly of the Egyptian policy can no longer be in any way disguised. In the present humiliating position of the Government, it becomes apparent to all observers that the sacrifice of a patriot like Arabi, the Egyptian, and the suppression of a great popular effort on the part of an oppressed people to gain its freedom—all because of the selfish interests of a handful of British owners of Egyptian bonds—was a fatal error. It had been wiser to have let Arabi have his way. He headed a movement which those who know best identify with that now controlled by the Mahdi. Had Arabi succeeded, England could have made her own terms with him, and her supremacy in the East would have remained unimpaired. With what interest must not that unhappy hero of an unlucky cause watch the career of the powerful fanatic who had followed him, and who threatens the peace of a continent as if he were another Alaric?

Special Notices.

SELLING OFF BOOTS AND SHOES.—A discount of 10 per cent. on the present low prices will be given at J. B. Macdonald's Boot Store. Go there for a bargain. [Feb 9 wky her pres

SKATING BOOTS, the best and cheapest at J. B. Macdonald's Boot Store. dec 29

A SELENDID lot of China, Glass, and Earthenware, to be sold cheap at COLWILL'S. aug 8 tf

WELL DONE BROWN.—If the next Dominion Exhibition is held in Charlottetown, Brown says he will make a piece of machinery such as was never seen at any exhibition in the world—and that is a solid gold steam engine—made perfect in every respect, and so small as to sit on a twenty dollar gold piece, and run by steam. [Jan 26 wky.

THE cheapest Ready Made Clothing in town is at J. B. MACDONALD'S. dec 29

FIVE pound tins Tea just the thing at BEER & GORF. dec 29

NOTICE TO THE CARNIVAL SKATERS.—We have every facility for taking those in carnival costume; and it is our intention to make a grand combination group. We invite all those taking part in the carnival to come and have their photos taken.—G. H. COOK & Co., over Apothecaries' Hall, entrance by Queen Street. [Jan 18 f

ISLAND FLOUR and Cracked Oats at R. K. BEAK'S. [dec 27

If you want a Fur Cap cheap go to J. B. MACDONALD'S. dec 29

DINNER SETS, Tea Sets, Chamber Sets, in great varieties and cheap, at COLWILL'S. aug 8 tf

WINTER GOODS slaughtered at J. B. MACDONALD'S. [Jan 12

EVERY part of a gun or a sewing machine made at Brown's shop, on corner of Prince and Grafton Street, Ch'town. [Jan 26 wky.

METHOD PREACHER'S PLAN can be had at GEORGE CARTER'S, Great George Street, or at G. H. HAZARD'S, Queen Square.

JOHN NEWSON is at the top of the ladder in furniture. Long experience, best quality, greatest variety, and best workmanship. He does not need to advertise that "he is a live man." The public know it. Go and get real bargains, "Newson's Building," opposite Post Office. [Oct 18 f

ANOTHER large quantity of Crockery just received and will be sold cheap at COLWILL'S. aug 8 tf

NEW TWEEDS just received at J. B. MACDONALD'S. dec 29

CHAMPION CREAMERS.—Those parties who have not yet paid for their creamers will have to do so before the end of this month, or their accounts will be handed over for collection. [Jan 23

If you want to be suited with a Tea Set, a Dinner Set, or a Toilet Set, go to COLWILL'S. aug 8 tf

We offer, as an inducement to those in carnival costume, cabinet and panel photos, at half-price.—G. H. COOK, over Apothecaries' Hall. [Jan 18 f

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MAKE NEW RICH BLOOD, and will completely change the blood in the entire system in three months. Any person who will take 1 Pill each night from 1 to 12 weeks, may be restored to sound health, if such a thing be possible. For curing Female Complaints these Pills have no equal. Physicians use them in their practice. Sold everywhere, or sent by mail for eight letter-stamps. Send for circular. I. S. JOHNSON & CO., BOSTON, MASS.

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1883-4. Winter Arrangement. 1883-4. ON AND AFTER MONDAY, 10th DECEMBER, 1883, trains will run daily as follows (Sundays excepted):—

Table with columns: TRAINS DEPART.—FOR THE WEST, STATIONS, No. 1, No. 3. Includes stations like Charlottetown, Royalty Junction, North Wiltshire, Hunter River, Bradairene, County Line, Freetown, Kensington, Summerside, Misonouche, Wellington, Port Hill, O'Leary, Bloomfield, Alberton, Tignish.

Table with columns: TRAINS ARRIVE.—FROM THE WEST, STATIONS, No. 2, No. 4. Includes stations like Charlottetown, Royalty Junction, North Wiltshire, Hunter River, Bradairene, County Line, Freetown, Kensington, Summerside, Misonouche, Wellington, Port Hill, O'Leary, Bloomfield, Alberton, Tignish.

Table with columns: TRAINS DEPART.—FOR THE EAST, STATIONS, No. 5, No. 7. Includes stations like Charlottetown, Royalty Junction, York, Bedford, Mount Stewart, Cardigan, Georgetown, Mount Stewart, Morell, St. Peter's, Bear River, Souris.

Table with columns: TRAINS ARRIVE.—FROM THE EAST, STATIONS, No. 6, No. 8. Includes stations like Charlottetown, Royalty Junction, York, Bedford, Mount Stewart, Cardigan, Georgetown, Mount Stewart, Morell, St. Peter's, Bear River, Souris.

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GEORGE W. DEBLOIS, GENERAL AGENT. March 16, 1882—cod

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