

THE FASHODA AFFAIR.

Events Leading Up to the Crisis Between Great Britain and France.



clear understanding of the situation at present.

In the Egyptian Sudan, south of Khartoum and north of Equatoria, lies the Bahr-el-Ghazal, which is the territory in dispute. This land was formerly a province of Egypt. In area it is about five times the size of England. It is covered with forests and mountains, and possesses fine valleys which are subject to inundations. The great river, or Bahr-el-Ghazal, flows through it, with numerous tributaries, which form a labyrinth of streams.

Fashoda is situated to the north of this labyrinth, on the Nile proper, and commands access to all the streams that feed the Ghazal. It is the capital of the Shilluk country, and was annexed to Egypt half a century ago. Sir Samuel Baker, in 1869, conquered the country as far south as Uganda, and General ("Chinese") Gordon ap-

When the British forces of General Kitchener arrived they found Marchand and his expedition encamped there. The cable reported cordial meetings between the rival forces, but the news, previously sent, of Marchand's arrival at Fashoda created intense excitement in London and Paris. The reports received in London were further to the effect that only the Egyptian flag was raised by Kitchener, and that the British union jack did not figure in the assumption of control. It was also reported that no indignity was shown the French flag, which Marchand kept unfurled during



FASHODA, AS SEEN FROM THE BLUE NILE.

of enlarging their own markets, first at the expense of the French, and latterly by maintaining the "open door." The historic meeting of Kitchener and Marchand at Fashoda is possibly the last occasion on which the French and English will meet for the division of a continent. The result will be the same on the Nile as it was in India when Clive met Duplex; in Canada when Wolfe met Montcalm; in Australia when Governor Phillip was enabled to lay the foundations of a great English nation in consequence of the wreck of the French expedition under La Perouse; at Trafalgar when Nelson met Villeneuve, and gave to the British eight years' start in the race for trade and empire; and lastly, in Cairo when Lord Cromer, in the teeth of fifteen years of almost intolerable provocation from successive French residents, founded an Egyptian empire, over which our flag will float as long as it floats over the Tower of London.

The meeting of the Sirdar and Marchand has done credit to both. Lord Kitchener acted wisely and with tact, while Major Marchand behaved like a gentleman of France. Nothing would have been easier than for Kitchener, by the tyrannous use of overwhelming force, to have hurried England into her twenty-fifth war with France by wounding the susceptibilities of the brave soldier explorer. Kitchener's language to Marchand was prescribed for him by Lord Salisbury. Annoyance to England was the sole motive of the Marchand expedition. To send an armed party of Frenchmen absolutely without a base to occupy Egyptian territory and defy the joint power of England, Egypt and India—for Indian forces could land at Suakim within ten days from the date of an order from London—is so wild a scheme that it can end in nothing but futility. When the Fashoda incident is settled, the French power of annoyance in Egypt will probably be considerably curtailed before the coming winter is over. The French, aided by the Russians, who have no interests in Egypt, block the way by opposing grants being allowed for the Egyptian War Department by the Caisse de la Dette. In January next the existing international arrangements will be modified.

In English Government circles it is maintained that everything has passed off at Fashoda exactly as was anticipated, and that the French flag at Fashoda meant no more than the display of a British union-jack from the window of an English shop in Paris. Close observers will note that England at the present juncture is specially polite to France, and the latter would be well advised to remember Mr. Kipling's hint—

"But oh! beware of my country when my country grows polite."

A young Texas girl ate the heads of 212 parrot matches in an attempt to commit suicide. When she repented she swallowed a lot of lard and bacon as an antidote. The combination was fatal in a few minutes.

There are quite 100 roads of one kind and another over the Pyrenees between France and Spain, but only three of these are passable for carriages.

circumstances, becomes specially interesting, because it is probably the final episode in the long struggle between England and France for the trade belonging to the great river valleys of the world. Fashoda belongs historically to the great struggle with France which began under William of Orange and was erroneously supposed to end with the battle of Waterloo. For one hundred and twenty-six years, from 1689 to 1815 the British were engaged in seven great wars. These wars either began as wars with France or soon became so. There is, therefore, some reason, apart from the folly of kings, which forces the English continually to be in conflict with the French. These wars were caused by the instinct of self-preservation—the strongest instinct of humanity. They were mercantile wars, and the fundamental reason for each of them was that the English were afraid that the French would take from them the colonies they had, and enclose their markets; and they also saw a good chance

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CHILDREN'S COLUMN.

The Tiny, Little Girl.
Mother says she's awful bad,
Gets so cross it makes her mad,
Wants to know if I can't do
Something, little girl, to you;
Thinks I bet I whip you well,
Says you're good and bad a spell,
I ain't home all day to see,
So don't know how bad you be,
But I couldn't bear to whip her,
When I saw her sweet lips curl,
For she's such a very little,
Such a tiny, little girl.

"Wouldn't mind a word today?"
"Spect that's what her ma will say;
'Just as bad as bad could be,'
'Cep't in little spells, you see.'"
Mother tells me that there child
Sets her sometimes almost wild.
Won't I punish her a bit?
Thinks she's better after it.
But I couldn't bear to whip her,
When I see her sweet lips curl,
For she's such a very little,
Such a tiny, little girl.

Think in of her all day long,
With her laughter and her song;
But you mother says it's true
Bad man's got a hold of you.
How about it, little Miss,
With the rosy lips to kiss?
Couldn't I punish her a bit,
And that just clean settles it.
No, I couldn't bear to whip her,
When I see her sweet lips curl,
For she's such a very little,
Such a tiny, little girl.
—The Beantown Bard, in Bath News.

Hints for Shy Boys and Girls.
Bashfulness is only another name for self-consciousness, and girls and boys are apt to suffer from it. When entering a room move slowly. The distance will seem twice as long to you if you hurry. And try to get over the idea that every one is looking at you or talking about you. This is not likely to be the case unless you are particularly awkward or ungraceful. Always speak in a low voice, but distinctly, and do not laugh or giggle with every remark you make.

Cultivate pleasant manners and always treat your elders with respect, and most decidedly do not make fun of any one's peculiarities. Take an interest in the conversation round you, and if you cannot make an intelligent remark on the subject under discussion make none whatever. If the conversation is addressed directly to you and you do not understand the subject, say so. You will be thought much more of than if you make a stupid reply. You can always win the person's approval by asking him to explain the subject to you.

Bats and Owls.
The bat is about two and one-half inches long, and the body is rather like that of a mouse. Its wings are really a continuation of the skin round the body, all except the head. Its ears are like those of a mouse, and the body is covered with short fur, the same color, tinged with red. With the lesser toes of its four feet it keeps the wings expanded.

This little animal comes out about dusk, and sometimes it is seen to skim over the surface of a small piece of water. It feeds on gnats and nocturnal insects. The bat sleeps all the winter.

There is one thing that renders the owls different from all other birds—namely, their eyes are constructed to see better in the dark than in the light. It is not on the darkest nights that they see best, but in the morning and evening dusk. The white, or barn, owl has such piercing sight that in the night when the barn door is shut and all light excluded it can see the smallest mouse.

The owl seldom issues from its retreat in the day time, nor does it make any sound, but when it comes out in the dusk it is by no means silent. The screech owl makes a hideous noise, and some people when they hear it conclude that some great calamity is soon to descend upon them.

Sometimes an owl will stay out until the morning light, not having had success in finding its prey. The light is too strong to enable it to return to its retreat, and it takes refuge in a tree. Soon its enemies come and tense it in every possible way, and not knowing where to make an attack it keeps still, making ridiculous gestures with its head. The great horned owl is often taken for an eagle. It is brown, the horns being nothing but a few feathers sticking up behind the ears. It has transparent eyes, encircled by a yellow iris.—Trenton (N. J.) American.

Turning Ink Into Water.
With a little practice any boy may learn to perform a few simple tricks in magic. It is very easy to learn to turn a goblet of ink into a goblet of water, having artificial fish swimming in the liquid. The fish can be cut out of a piece of cork and colored. Ordinary house painter's colors when allowed to dry will not come off in the water. Of course the goblet is not really filled with ink. Instead a piece of black rubber cloth has been placed about the inner surface of the goblet and the water then poured into it. To the rubber cloth a fine, white silk thread is attached. Tied to the end of the thread is a small piece of cork. The thread and the pieces of cork must be turned away from the audience. Naturally any one understands that these arrangements are made before the goblet is brought before the audience.

When the card is returned he manages to substitute the inked card for the other. Immersing it in the water as deeply as the ink has been put on, he lifts the card from the glass with the inked side turned towards the lookers on. He shows it to them, taking care that it does not leave his hand, as the circumstance of its being inky on but one side will arouse suspicion. With a spoon, on the bowl of which has been fixed a few particles of black aniline dye, he slips out a few spoonfuls of the water into a saucer. The water in the spoon is instantly colored black.

The next step is to borrow a ring from some one, pretending that he means to drop it in the goblet. Instead and apparently by accident he drops it into the saucer. Lifting the ring from the saucer and apologizing profusely, he says: "I will not attempt to drop the ring into the ink after all, as I do not care to stain my hand with the ink. I will change the ink to water."

He takes a handkerchief from his pocket—it should be a large one—and spreads it over the goblet. Then he lifts the handkerchief from the glass, taking care to have grasped it in such a way that from the position of the cork under his fingers he knows he has hold of the string to which the rubber is attached. This removes the rubber from the goblet, and the water is shown to the audience.

Something to Love.
A French convict, under sentence for life, was a troublesome prisoner. At times he was very violent, and in the intervals of his violence he became so sullen that the wardens were always on the lookout for trouble.

One day they saw a change in the man's face. Its sullenness had disappeared. The prisoner looked almost happy. The ghost of a smile hovered about his lips. His eyes now and again turned downward, and it became evident that something was hidden in his breast.

The wardens were uneasy. Had he some weapon concealed beneath his clothing with which he would seek to surprise them and regain his liberty? They must find out.

They watched their opportunity, and two of them suddenly fell upon him from behind, each seizing an arm. Then they began to search him. They found that for which they sought, but it was not a knife nor other dangerous weapon. It was nothing more harmful than a fine large rat.

When it was discovered the distress of the prisoner was intense. He broke down utterly, fell upon his knees, and in agony of fear and desperation cried, "Don't kill that! Beat me if you like, chain me; but if I may not keep him let my poor rat go free."

The stern guards were moved to pity. They had never seen this man subdued before. Every trace of fierceness was gone. Instead of hurting the rat, they let it drop to the floor and disappear. Then the man rose and went to his work. The light had all gone from his face. His pet was lost to him.

A few days passed, and then, while the convicts were at work in the yard, moving wood, the prisoner Jose felt something tickle his cheek. He turned quickly and uttered a cry of joy. There, on his shoulder, was the only friend he had in the world, his rat, which had found him out and come creeping up to his face.

With eager hands he put it in his breast as before, and turning to the head jailer, said, "Sir, if you will only let me keep this rat I solemnly promise to submit to you in every way, and never to disobey you again."

KEYSTONE STATE NEWS CONDENSED.

LEAVE FOR THE SOUTH.

Pennsylvania Volunteers Break Up at Camp Meade—Girls Disguised as Soldiers Arrested and Placed in Jail.

The Fifteenth Pennsylvania regiment struck its tents last week and moved southward. Each man had three days' travel rations and five days' field rations. The long train was made up of three sections, the last one having a hospital car attached. While at the station some of the privates attacked an officer and one of them was stabbed. His name is Buerdick, and he is said to be a noted distiller of moonshine in the Tennessee mountains. The Fourteenth Pennsylvania and the Ninth Ohio battalion left Camp Meade Sunday for Summerville, S. C. When the Second Tennessee passed through Camp Meade two girls from Middletown were discovered attired in soldier uniforms on the train. They were going to follow their soldier lovers to camp, but they were arrested and placed in jail.

The following pensions were granted last week: Jackson Daniels, Harrodsville, Somerset, \$8 to \$12; Stephen Randall, dead, Pittsford, Erie, \$6 to \$12; Henry Edwards Ginter, Penn Yan, \$8 to \$12; Patrick McNulty, Sharpshooter, \$5 to \$10; Peter W. Struble, St. Marys, Elk, \$6 to \$8; Elizabeth Smith, Titusville, \$8; David Kinney, Jr., New Brighton, \$10; Henry Gregg, Phillipsburg, \$8; Simon Bacon, Wellsboro, \$8; Stephen Miner, Beaver, \$8 to \$10; James Miller, Altoona, \$6 to \$8; Philip Trouman, Leota, Butler, \$6 to \$8; Augustus Hawn, Huntingdon, \$8 to \$10; William Snyder, McWilliams, Armstrong, \$8 to \$10; Jacob Koch, Bellefonte, \$10 to \$12; George S. Adams, Altoona, \$6 to \$12; Huzar McFadden, Battiguan, Butler, \$12 to \$17; John Dewalt, Scottsdale, \$6 to \$8; A. Starr, West Brownsville, \$8; Noah Fink, South Bend, Armstrong, \$6 to \$8; William H. Freeman, Scottsdale, \$6; Thomas G. Kelly, Westford, Allegheny, \$8; Charles E. Kerr, West Union, Adams, \$6; James McMurtrie, North Clarendon, Warren, \$8 to \$10; Henry Hamma, Carnegie, \$10 to \$14; John M. English, Driftwood, \$4 to \$8; Thomas Thompson, Hollidaysburg, \$8 to \$10; William H. Shiner, Sharpshooter, \$8 to \$10; John Porter, Emontion, \$12 to \$24; Frederick A. Wright, Myrdsdale, \$6 to \$8; minors of James L. King, Butler, \$12; Sarah E. Guy, Jeannette, \$8.

The recent discovery that limestone found on Rough run, Winfield township, near Butler, is susceptible of taking a good polish and making an excellent quality of marble may lead to a new source of wealth in this county. In at least half of the townships of this county similar stone is found, often near the surface. Pittsburg parties are making an experiment with the stone, which promises to prove successful.

Barney Gilmer, aged 65, was burned to death in his home at Columbia the other night. Coal oil had been sprinkled at different places in the house and the cork of a coal oil bottle was found near his body. Mrs. Lawrence, who lived in the house, ran past the first neighbor that entered. Gilmer's head was burned from his body. The coroner's jury found a verdict of accidental death.

Richard C., 15-year-old son of Richard McMurray, was instantly killed at Altoona the other day by falling from a freight train, on which he was stealing a ride. He was on the lookout for a policeman, and was walking from one side of the car to the other on the bumper, when he slipped and fell between the cars. His head was completely cut off and his left arm torn from the socket.

Louis Loeffler, alias "Dutch Louis," wanted for shooting Officer Bowers, of the Pennsylvania railroad, committed suicide by shooting himself in the morning in a barn at Beaver station. The barn was surrounded by officers, and rather than be taken Louis placed a revolver in his mouth and blew off the top of his head.

Dennis Donovan, a prosperous farmer of Spring Garden Mills, near Newtown, was instantly killed a few days ago by being thrown from his wagon. His horses took fright at excavations along the new trolley road. Workmen who witnessed the accident hurried to him, but he was found lying dead on the ground.

Two prominent farmers of Jackson township, Butler county, died within a few hours of each other from the effects of accidental injuries received a few days ago. They were James Galaher, aged 33 years, for many years a teacher in the public schools of this county, and Daniel Rape, aged 49 years.

Wilson Ringle, a Pennsylvania railroad engineer of Derry, and his son were hunting chestnuts when the boy ran into a den of snakes. His father investigated and discovered four rattlers and a blacksnake. He killed one of the rattlesnakes. It had 10 rattlers.

When about to start on a rabbit hunt at Mauch Chunk the other morning, Harry Weaver, aged 20, stopped to talk to his mother through a window of his home. His gun was accidentally discharged, and the young man fell dead, the left side of his head being blown away.

Mrs. John Brady, of Madison, near Greensburg, wife of the first soldier in the Tenth Regiment who fell in the battle of Malvern, July 31, has made application to the Government for a pension. Mrs. Brady has six children to provide for.

Mrs. J. F. Cope, of Ellwood, has received word of the death of her aunt, Mrs. Leland, of Wilmington, Ill., who left a fortune amounting to about \$10,000 to be distributed among four heirs.

—Mrs. Cope, her father, uncle and aunt.

The coroner's jury investigating the Exeter mine accident at Wilkes-Barre, returned a verdict, placing the blame on Engineer Price and brakeman Anthony. They had charged the coal cars which fell down the shaft and killed eight men on the carriage.

The home of Harper Johnson, near Greenville, was burned to the ground a few nights ago with all its contents. Mrs. Johnson and her two little children narrowly escaped with their lives. Tramps are suspected of setting it on fire.

Mrs. John L. Beer, aged 73 years, of Greensburg, fell into an open grave last week and was burned to death.

James Daley, aged 20, was shot through the right leg by his brother Nicholas, aged 12, a few days ago at New Castle. Nicholas was examining the gun and did not know it was loaded. Amputation may be necessary.

Alfred L. Hench, a resident of Greenwood, near Altoona, was held up by a negro and two white men and robbed of \$7.13 at the point of a revolver.



Map showing how if France had held Fashoda she would have had a belt of empire across Africa from the Senegal River to the Blue Nile, and would have defeated Great Britain's "Cape to Cairo" project.

protect French interests in the Upper Ubangi." An expedition was organized, and Colonel Montell placed at its head. M. Liotard was appointed Government Commissioner in the Upper Ubangi province.

In January, 1896, Captain Marchand proceeded up the Ubangi to aid Liotard. He passed through much danger and hardship and met Liotard with his forces at Meshser-Rek, within easy distance of Fashoda.

ject in view she has obtained from Menelek concessions to build a railway right across Abyssinia, the line being already in construction. It is essential to the scheme that this line should be carried through to Fashoda.

But it is equally essential that we should retain Fashoda, both for the prevention of the plan—which would be a severe blow to British interests—and for the establishment of that Cape to Cairo communication which will give us supremacy in Africa. The issues at stake are so vital to both countries that a conflict between them is more seriously threatened than most people are disposed to think.