

## THE CRISIS IN ITALY.

### EXPEDITION AGAINST MENELIK ALMOST ANNIHILATED.

Three Thousand Soldiers Said to Have Fallen—Resentment Against the Government—Material Interest Which This Country Has in Cuba.

#### Routed in Abyssinia

Italy has sustained a staggering blow in her operations in Abyssinia. One report has it that 3,000 of the Italian soldiers were killed, and that among them were Gens. Albertone and D'Orbomonti, who commanded two of the three columns. Another rumor says that Gen. Baratieri, when he became aware of the full extent of the disaster, wrote a letter to his successor, Gen. Baldassera, and then committed suicide by shooting him.

**FRANCESCO CRISPET** died by shooting himself through the heart with a revolver. Full details of the battle had not been received in Rome at the time this is written, but it appears that the defeat of the Italians was complete. The Italian army was divided into three columns under Gens. Albertone, Arimondi and D'Orbomonti, with a brigade under Gen. Ellegaard as a reserve. The Italians captured the passes leading to Adowa, the capital of Tigre, and Gen. Albertone's column then advanced on Abberberima. It was soon afterwards attacked by the Shoa army and compelled to retreat. The other columns were unable to render any assistance, as they were shortly afterwards engaged in defending themselves against large numbers of the enemy and eventually retired behind Bellega. Half the Italian artillery and all the ammunition and provisions were lost. Other advices report that 3,000 of the Italian soldiers engaged in the battle were killed and that among them are Gens. Albertone and D'Orbomonti. The number of wounded is not yet stated.

#### Entire Army Reserve to Be Mobilized

It is reported that the entire army reserve of the class of 1872 is to be promptly mobilized and that the Government is taking steps to charter a number of extra steamships to send reinforcements to Massowah.

The probability seems to be that Gen. Baldassera will have to suspend operations for some time while awaiting reinforcements from Italy, although including the troops killed, the Italian forces at the disposal of Italy in that part of Africa is now about thirty battalions of infantry, five battalions of the famous Bersaglieri riflemen (probably the best infantry in the Italian army), about 1,000 Alpine riflemen, about 1,000 ordinary riflemen, two batteries of artillery, marking about sixty pieces and some 2,000 men, two quick-firing batteries, twelve guns and 400 men; six mortars, with 200 men; three companies of engineers, three baggage trains with about 1,500 men, or about 40,000 men in all in addition to the native troops, numbering about 6,000 men, which raised the entire force to some 46,000 men. Besides this force the Italians had in their employ about 2,000 Arab scouts.

A rumor spread that Gen. Baratieri became aware of the full extent of the disaster, wrote a letter to his successor, Gen. Baldassera, and then committed suicide by shooting himself through the heart with a revolver. At the Ministry of War, however, the rumor was discredited. As the evening wore on and the very worst news of the Italian defeat was confirmed, the feeling of despair which first seized upon the inhabitants gave way to one of the greatest excitement and rage against the Government. Bands of young men began parading the streets shouting "Down with Crispel!" but they were promptly dispersed by the police.

#### LI IS COMING TO SEE US.

The Distinguished Chinaman Writes that He Will Visit America.

When it was announced some days ago that Li Hung Chang the famous Chinese statesman and for many years Viceroy, had been appointed to represent the Emperor at the coronation of the Czar and Czarina of Russia, at Moscow, in May, Hon. John W. Foster, of Washington, who was associated with Li as counsel in the peace negotiations with Japan last summer, invited him to visit the United



LI HUNG CHANG.

States en route to Russia. Mr. Foster has received a cablegram from Li, acknowledging the receipt of the invitation, and stating that he had decided to return to China from Russia by way of Europe and the United States. No date was fixed for his coming, but a visit to this country may be expected from the distinguished Chinaman some time during the summer.

Lieut. Col. Edwin B. Dow, of the lieutenant general's staff, military order Knights of the Golden Eagle at Boston, has confessed the embezzlement of about \$3,500 from the Martin & Brother company, rubber web manufacturers of Chelsea, whose confidential bookkeeper he was. The money, he says, he expended in advancing himself in the order.

The strike of the painters and decorators of Pittsburgh and Allegheny for uniform wages of \$3 per day, nine hours a day and 50 cents an hour for extra work, has been virtually won.

#### HAD NO USE FOR MONEY.

How a Texas Farmer Preserved the Integrity of His Chicken Coop.

A farmer who lives about four miles from Houston noticed a stranger in his front yard one afternoon last week, acting in a rather unusual manner. He wore a pair of ducking trousers stuffed in his boots and had a nose the color of an Elgin pressed brick. In his hand he held a sharpened stake about two feet long, which he would stick into the ground, and after sighting over it at various objects would pull it up and go through the same performance at another place. The farmer went out of the house and inquired what he wanted.

"Wait just a minute," said the stranger, squinting his eye over the stick at the chicken house. "Now, that's it to a T. You see, I'm one of de advance corps of engineers what's runnin' de line of de new railroad from Columbus, Ohio, to Houston. See? Dat's what I am. De other fellers is over de hill wid de transit and de baggage. Dere's over a million dollars in de company. See? Dey sent me on ahead to locate a place for a big passenger depot, to cost \$27,000. De foundation will commence right by your chicken house. Say, you charge 'em high for dis land. I gives you a pointer. See? Dey'll stand fifty thousand. 'Cause why? 'Cause dey's go de money and dey's got to build de depot right where I says. I has an uncle what ain't doin' nothin' but buying up all de stock in de road that he can. Say, he's over dere wid de surveyin' gang now. He's a big man wid a diamond ring on his left hand. See? Say, I've got to go on to Houston to record a deed for a right of way and I never thought to get 50 cents from de treasurer. He's a little man wid light pants. You might let me have de 50 cents and when de boys come along in de mornin' tell 'em what you did and anyone of 'em'll hand you a dollar. You might ask 'em fifty-five thousand, if you—"

"You throw that stub over the fence and get the ax and cut up exactly half a cord of that wood, stove length, and I'll give you a quarter and your supper," said the farmer. "Does the proposition strike you favorably?"

"And you are goin' to throw away de opportunity of havin' dat depot built right here and sellin' out—"

"Yes, I need the ground for my chicken coop."

"You refuse to take \$50,000 fer de ground, then?"

"I are. Are you going to chop that wood or shall I whistle for Tige?"

"Gimme dat ax, mister, and show me dat wood, and tell de missus to bake an extra pan of biscuits for supper. When dat Columbus and Houston Grand Trunk Railway runs up against your front fence you'll be sorry you didn't take up dat offer. And tell her to fill up de molasses pitcher, too, and not to mind about puttin' the dish of cookin' butter on de table. See?"—Houston Post.

#### Tamerlane.

The beginning of the fifteenth century witnessed the beginning of the military operations of Tamerlane, or, more properly, Timour Lenk, Timour the Lame. Europe in 1400 was rather more disturbed than usual, being in the midst of war between England and France, this conflict being known as the hundred years' war. There were also wars in Italy and the empire, but of no great consequence when compared with the struggle between the English and French for supremacy in Western Europe. All these conflicts, however, pale into insignificance when compared with the unparalleled devastation wrought in Asia by Timour. To profound military abilities he joined the bloodthirsty disposition of an oriental savage. His only idea of war was the massacre of all who opposed him; he effected conquests only to destroy every living thing in the boundaries of the provinces he entered. He did not establish a State, he simply went to and fro on the earth as a destroyer. At Damascus, by his order, the entire population was put to death and a pyramid of 70,000 human skulls was built as a memorial of his victory. After the storming of Bagdad by his army, one pile of 90,000 human bodies was made in the great market place, and others, having smaller numbers, in other parts of the city. No such human scourge had visited Western Asia and to this day in many rural districts in Asia Minor, Persia and Mesopotamia, his name remains a terror-word with which mothers frighten their children. His career of conquest began in 1395, continued for many years, and was succeeded by series of destructive though less extensive wars between the rival chieftains who, after his death, aspired to emulate his example.

#### Not Complimentary.

A lady looking at a painting in an art gallery was observed by a very small, "homely" man who stood near, to have a beetle crawling on the back of her dress. The small man stepped up from behind the lady and said, quite abruptly:

"Beep pardon, ma'am, but you have a little animal at your back."

The lady jumped, more at the man than at the beetle, and then said, apologetically:

"Oh! I didn't know you were there!"

#### Good Advice to Correspondents.

When you make a mistake in the manuscript you send to the printer do not correct it by writing directly on top of the error, for when the ink dries one is just as plain as the other and it results in many mistakes. Write dates and proper names so they can be easily read, use pen and ink, write on one side only and use as good paper as when addressing a friend, for it is all to be made public in print.

#### She Knows Her Business.

Queen Victoria has never refused her assent to a bill.

## SUPPOSE WE SMILE.

### HUMOROUS PARAGRAPHS FROM THE COMIC PAPERS.

Pleasant Incidents Occurring the World Over—Sayings That Are Cheerful to the Old or Young—Funny Selections That Everybody Will Enjoy Reading.

Off with the Hounds.

The Hon. Millicent—Poor Charley Oxer had a bad fall with the hounds yesterday. I hear.

Capt. Bullfinch—Yaaas, poor chap. Broke his wishbone or something, I hear.—Detroit Free Press.

Always the Way.

"Plenty of presents up at your house, I suppose? What ones did your boy like best?"

"Those that our neighbor's boy received."—Exchange.

#### Queer.

"Papa," said Jimmieboy, "you are the best man in the world."

"And you are the nicest boy in the world," said his father.

"Yes, I guess that's so," said Jimmieboy. "Isn't it queer how we both managed to get into the same family?"—Harper's Round Table.

#### Its Chief Merit.



Your new automobile carriage is very swell. But they tell me it does not go?"

"Yes. It is the only one of its kind which is absolutely safe for passengers."—L'Illustration.

#### Ask Papa.

George (nervously)—I'd like the best in the world, Kitty, to marry you, but I don't know how to propose.

Kitty (promptly and practically)—That's all right, George. You've finished with me; now go to papa.—London Tribune.

#### A Cheap Duke.

In her impotent rage her grace could only scowl at the duke, her husband. "This!" she bitterly exclaimed.

"What a woman gets by buying what she doesn't want just because it's cheap?"—Detroit Tribune.

#### Horse Talk.

Wickwire—There can be no doubt that the horse is rapidly passing.

Mudge—Mebbe, but the ones I bet on isn't seem to pass anything very much.

—Indianapolis Journal.

#### Hadn't Asked Her.

"Er—I want some sort of a present for a young lady."

"Sweetheart or sister?"

"Er—why—she hasn't said which she will be yet?"—Cincinnati Enquirer.

#### Moisture.

"Did the missionary bring tears to the eyes of the natives?"

"No, but he made their mouths water."—Detroit Tribune.

#### The Brute.

"My dear," said a wife who had been married three years, as she beamed across the table on her lord and master, "tell me what first attracted you to me? What pleasant characteristic did I possess which placed me above other women in your sight?"

And her lord and master simply said: "I give it up."—London Tit-Bits.

#### The Men to Blame.

"What makes some girls look young so long?"

"The man are to blame. They won't propose."—Exchange.

#### In Society.

"What tiresome affairs those are at Miss Oldond's!"

"Yes, I understand she is giving a series of afternoon tease."—Detroit Free Press.

#### There Are Others.



He—Of course, ladies are much handsomer than men.

She—Naturally.

He—No, artificially.

#### Victim of Balloon Sleeves.

Miss Kittish—Well, Stella had to give up her elaborate church wedding after all.

#### Good Gaskell—Why?

Miss Kittish—They measured the church doors and found they weren't wide enough to let her in with her going-away gown on.—New York World.

#### For Woman's Rights.

Tramp—I ain't lazy. I'm willing to work, but I don't find anything to do in my line.

Gentleman—What is your line?

Tramp—Running for office on the women-suffrage ticket.—Judge.

#### Made Him Her Foot.

George—You would marry the biggest foot in the world if he asked you, wouldn't you?

Ethel—Oh, George, that is so sudden.

—Tit-Bits.

#### His Winter Girl.



"He is my warmest friend."

"Yes, I heard you were wrapped up in him."

#### Their Christmas Present.

She—What a beautiful salad-bowl! It would look well on our table, would not it?

He—It would look very well, indeed, but it is too expensive for us.

She—We might club together and buy it for a Christmas present to each other.—Harper's Bazaar.

#### It Depended.

Wilson—I suppose they make it very lively for you at your club, don't they?

Stilson—Yes; it all depends on how much you owe—of course, the more the livelier.—Exchange.

#### Strictly Biz.

Miss Astorbi—Have you spoken to papa yet?

Lord Forgivuz—In a matter of this magnitude I file sealed proposals in duplicate.—Exchange.

#### Too Loud.

What do you think of these trouzers, Parker?

"Simply deafening, my dear boy."—Harper's Bazaar.

#### A Picture System.

Old man Bliggins must be awfully fond of his wife. I have often noticed him taking her picture out of his pocket and looking at it as he rides along in the cars."

"Yes, that's a system he has. It reminds him to stop in and order the groceries."—Indianapolis Journal.

#### A Modification.

Husband (furiously)—Here's my best meerschaum pipe broken! How in the name of sense did that happen?

Wife—I don't know, except that when I got up this morning I found your meerschaum pipe in the front hall and your overshoes on the parlor mantelpiece.

Husband (mildly)—Oh, well, aee! It will happen. I presume there has been an earthquake or something.—New York Weekly.

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