

RESCUE OF GORDON.

Description of One of the Bloodiest Engagements With the Arabs by a Participant.

THE BLACK WATCH AT ITS BEST.

Incidents of the Butchery and Deeds of Valor in Hand-to-Hand Conflicts on the Hillsides.

MARCHING OVER THE BURNING SANDS.

How General Earle Met His Death and the Awful Revenge of His Command.

"Geordie, I cannot go any further. I am done up completely."

"Look here, McNeill, you must go. If you fall behind now, these d—d Soudanese friendlies will murder you. Here, try this," and he handed me his water bottle containing a little—a very little—tea. I drank, and was immediately refreshed, for like the young soldier I was, I had thoughtlessly drained my own supply of water some hours before, and that meant for me torture from thirst until the following morning, when our bottles would be replenished from the commissariat again.

I was private in that well-known regiment of Highlanders, "The Black Watch," and we were then in the desert of Khartoum, a part of the force, which under the generalship of Lord Wolseley, were proceeding to Khartoum for the relief of General Gordon. We were under the command of General Earle, a thoroughly brave and experienced officer, who had risen from the ranks. We were somewhere on the desert between Amara and Kheibar. All day long we had been pestered by the heat, and the Arabs were close upon us. We were marching in square and that made it worse for us, and I was just going to give up when General Earle gave me his last drop of tea. Geordie Terris, my comrade, was a well-built Highlander, possessing the strength of two ordinary men and the caution of a dozen.

An Attack in the Night.

On we staggered through that desert, sinking ankle deep in the sand at every step, until about 3 in the morning, when we got the order to halt for the night; but our work was not over, for we had to go and cut wood from the scrub to form a zereba or stockade round the camp. All day long this was done, I threw myself down on the hot sand, too tired and exhausted to eat the hard biscuit that Geordie offered me.

I had slept about three hours when I was awakened by the report of a rifle close by me. In an instant all was uproar. "Black Watch, man the zereba," shouted our Colonel, Jamie Green, and as we had laid down in our ranks all round the zereba, this was not difficult to do. The men of the Stafford Regiment were blazing away on their side of the zereba, and at the moment all was confusion, for the darkness was intense. The firing ceased almost as suddenly as it began, and then there was silence except for the orders from the general to his staff. Some tried to escape by the terrible yell of the Arabs, and the sudden rush which we knew too well, but none came. Two hours we stood waiting. Then several were sent in all directions to see where the enemy was.

It Was a False Alarm.

When they came back and reported no enemy in sight, we were allowed to lie down again. It was a false alarm, but there was a long sleep for that night. My comrade had been struck to their stumps. When morning came, I went over to the company orderly corporal to get Geordie's ration and my own for that night. My comrade was ready before Geordie awoke. After breakfast we fell in and marched out of the zereba towards some hills that lay about seven miles in front of us. The camel corps was sent away ahead to reconnoiter.

It was a beautiful morning, and the sun had not yet risen. We were all in capital spirits, laughing and chatting with each other. Some soldiers in the leading company commenced singing, "Maxwellton Braes Are Bonnie," and before they had reached the second company the song was taken up by the company after company until the whole Regiment of Highlanders joined in "Where early falls the dew; and 'tis there that Geordie Terris gave me his promise true, even our stern old Colonel starting on his horse to start the air over and over again.

The Hills Full of Arabs.

When within a short distance of the hills we formed into fighting order again, and just in time, too, for a little later a shell burst quite close to us. The hills were teeming with Arabs. General Earle sent an officer of his staff with a dispatch telling the Soudanese to get ready to pass peacefully and we would not harm them. The marcher rode away with a white handkerchief tied to the end of his sword, waving the token of peace to attract their attention. The Soudanese ceased firing until he came close to them, when all at once they opened fire on him, but he seemed not to heed their bullets, for he rode straight at them. When close to their position, he threw the dispatch at them; then, turning his horse quickly, he galloped back to our lines, pursued by about 100 mounted Arabs. He reached us in safety.

During this piece of play our troops had not been idle. Three companies of my own regiment had been dispatched along with the marines to the other side of the hills, for the purpose of outflanking the enemy; then the Staffords moved forward to the "attack," forming their own supports.

We were to be the attacking party, and we had hitherto fought in square, in a defensive. The soldier who has once fought in square does not wish for a repetition of its horrors—crushed together until one has no room to use his weapons, enveloped in smoke until he can't see anything in front of him, with the yells of the Arabs on all sides rising above the incessant roar of musketry. If one has to die in battle, it is far better to die attacking than to be butchered in square.

The Colonel Gets Angry.

Our regiment was advancing slowly round the base of the hill, when a regular storm of bullets swept among us, killing some and wounding many. "Lie down, laddies!" commanded Colonel Green, but he still remained on horseback himself a good mark for the enemy. There was a huge rock alongside Colonel Green, and a well-aimed volley struck this rock, causing the chips to fly all over him. The Colonel evidently thought that some malicious soldiers were throwing stones at him, for, turning angrily to us, he roared: "Who's that poppin' stones?"

This set us laughing, which was, after all, what the Colonel wanted, for, smiling, he turned to watch the Soudanese again. The Staffords had by this time reached their position, and we met the order to advance. We moved but slowly, firing volleys occasionally, until we reached an elevated portion of ground, where we lay down and poured volley after volley into the dense crowd of Arabs, so as to cover the advance of the Staffordshire regiment. The Staffords advanced, taking advantage of every crevice of cover, until they came within 150 yards of the enemy, when their bugles sounded the charge, and then, with a cheer, they rushed up the hill. But the terrible fire of the Arabs drove them back to their cover. Twice they tried and failed, and as they were resting for their third attempt General Earle galloped over to us and shouted: "Men of the Black Watch, Forward!"

A Brave Comrade's Death.

Now that the supreme moment had arrived, I felt a strange tightening of my chest, and my heart seemed almost to stop beating. So much did this feeling oppress me that I felt as weak as a child. "Now, Will," said Geordie, "don't fire off your rifle until we come up to them, for you will need it then."

As we advanced from our place of shelter, I shook hands with him, and even as he was shaking my hand a bullet struck him, and he fell lifeless. Sorrow at his supposed death made me heedless of the bullets that whistled all round me, and I pressed on with my regiment wildly desirous of revenge.

In a very short space of time we came within charging distance of the Arabs, and then we halted, and kneeling, poured such a destructive individual fire into the enemy's ranks that it seemed to waver. Seeing this Earle gave us the command to charge, and charge we did, the pipers playing "The Campbell's Are Coming."

Up the rocks we scrambled somehow. When near the Arab I found myself in front of a great boulder, on the top of which Ronald McKenzie, a piper, was playing as if his life depended on it, though thousands of Arabs were within a few yards of him. He was one of the first to reach the top. When we got to the head of the hill we passed a second to get into line again, and then, with General Earle himself at our head, we dashed at the Arab.

Surprised From the Rear. Of what followed, I cannot with certainty tell. I have only a vague recollection of firing at a black face that stood in front of me, as if there was something in the air through the Arabs—and they were getting the best of us, too—when suddenly I heard great cheering, and dimly saw through the smoke the marines and Highlanders had been sent round the hills to outflank them, coming charging down on the Arabs. Taken by surprise, in front and rear, the enemy broke and ran, pursued by the few, the very few, cavalry that remained to us.

About a hundred of the Soudanese took refuge in an old stone building close by us. We were under the command of General Earle, a thoroughly brave and experienced officer, who had risen from the ranks. We were somewhere on the desert between Amara and Kheibar. All day long we had been pestered by the heat, and the Arabs were close upon us. We were marching in square and that made it worse for us, and I was just going to give up when General Earle gave me his last drop of tea. Geordie Terris, my comrade, was a well-built Highlander, possessing the strength of two ordinary men and the caution of a dozen.

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HARRY DAVIS' FIFTH AVENUE MUSEUM AND THEATER. The Amusement Home For Ladies and Children. COMMENCING MONDAY, FEB. 2. POSITIVELY LAST WEEK!

Nature's Grandest & Greatest Marvel, JONATHAN BASS, THE Ossified Man! VISITED BY 33,000 PEOPLE 33,000 IN SIX DAYS.

YOUNG SAMPSON, THE STRONGEST MAN ALIVE, who breaks heavy bars of iron with his teeth and snaps rope wrist-thick as if it was twine.

THE MUSICAL MARVELS, LEW AND DELLA WALTERS, Introducing many curiously constructed instruments.

A Colony From Madagascar. Brothers and Sisters With Hair Like the Driven Snow.

THEATORIUM. MACKIN AND CURDY, The Leading Exponents of Black Face Comedy.

QUEEN OF THE LYRIC STAGE, MISS EMMA BELL, Introducing Most Pleasing Ballads.

THE PANTOMIME CLOWN, MORRELLO, And his Troupe of Trained Spaniels. Eight of the most beautiful and intelligent canines in the world.

A TRUE IRISH HEART, JAS. MEERY, WITHOUT A PEER, ED. E. EVANS, In his great trick performance with the Indian Clubs.

THE SOCIETY SKETCH ARTISTS, MAGINLEY & MARTIN, One week more--The greatest of all refined Irish Comedians.

FITZGERALD AND KELLY. ADMISSION, TEN CENTS.

HARRY WILLIAMS' ACADEMY, Monday Evening, Feb. 2. First Time This Season.

THE ORIGINAL QUEEN OF BURLESQUE, Miss Pauline Markham, Mr. Sam Benard, The 2 Nibbles, Dave Foster, Miss Fanny Lewis, Frank Clayton, Miss Ray Vernon, Miss Rheme Nelson.

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ONE WEEK, COMMENCING Monday, February 2, Farewell tour of America's Beautiful Daughter, Miss ANNIE BELL.

Who one year ago created such a sensation in England by her remarkable beauty and symmetry of form. She is 21 years of age, her height is over 6 feet, her weight is over 400 pounds. Her graceful form is in keeping with her weight and size. A most beautiful young lady, whose handsome form and graceful manner captivated one of England's noblemen whom she is on her way to marry and retire to domestic happiness. Miss Bell's beautiful and costly wardrobe is a treat for the ladies to see.

The Pyramid Equilibrist, C. H. Sweeney The Sweeney SPOTTED FAMILY. THEATRE: AKIMOTO'S TROUPE OF Japanese Acrobats.

Their first appearance here, having arrived from Japan July 9, 1890. Their performance consists of acrobatic and other specialty performances seldom if ever witnessed in this country.

ADMISSION, 10 CTS. CHILDREN, 5 CENTS. NEXT WEEK—Frank S. Davidson's Comedy Co. in "HANS," THE GERMAN DETECTIVE.

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