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### A Cockney Hero.

One morning, as we were breaking up camp, a hard scream that we knew well rose on the heavy air, and a black, rapidly moving mass swept over the ridge of a line of hills half a mile away. The outposts had ridden in an hour before, so we were not altogether unprepared. In an instant the camp was in a state of upheaval. The Tommies grabbed their guns and scrambled to their feet, officers shouted, corporals swore; camels were kicked on to their legs; on all sides sounded the rattle of accoutrements. A square was hastily formed.

Bettles was very facetious. "For Gaud's sake, corporal, put me at the back!" he whined in an ecstasy of mock terror. "For the Fuzzies ha' brought their ladies with 'em, an' my trousers ain't half respectable enough!" "I do hope," said Bander, "they won't hit me where I keep my dinner. Anywhere else, but not there, for my belt is aworkin' inside my tummy as it is." "I'd rather have good cow-hide inside o' me nor a' ounce o' lead," said Bettles. "But ain't good cow-hide enough," said Bander. "What a fust quality man you are!" said Bettles.

The enemy had halted at the base of the hills, and one of them, a chief presumably, began to make a speech. "Bloomin' mugs!" said Bettles with large contempt. "They always fool about like that instead o' gettin' one home quick." He wrinkled his broken nose. "Lawd lumme!" he cried. "Ow that blue mud do stink! 'Pon my sivy, it's wuss'n Drury Lane on Sat'dy night!" "Good old Drury Lane!" said Bander. "I wonder whether we shall ever go to the 'Mo' together again!" "Ere they come!" said Bettles.

There was a moment of tense silence broken only by the heavy thud of the on-coming horses' hoofs and the busy patter-patter of bare feet. Then, as the poor black wretches hurled themselves against our bristling front, the guns spoke, and a pandemonium of yells, shrieks, and curses rent the air. A few of the enemy had muskets—old-fashioned, long stocked affairs, with pin-triggers and chased butts. A bullet from one of them took Bettles under the chin. He fell back through our shivering line of infantry, and we picked him up and laid him among the baggage behind the camels.

He asked me, "Is it domino, doctor?"

"Shut up, you young fool!" I said, for I was very busy, and his talking hindered me, besides being precious bad for him.

"Can't I have jest one more cut at 'em, doc?" he said.

"If you stand up, you'll die!" I told him. "Close your head and be still! Do you think I can waste all my time on you?"

He grinned at me, spat out a mouthful of blood, and fainted.

Two men rolled through the disordered line and fell across Bettles's feet. One of the men was a long-limbed Arab, the other was Bander. Bander's hair was stiff with gore and sweat, and blinding blood was bubbling from a gash across his forehead. It was a bad moment for Bander. The Arab had thrown him over and was kneeling on his stomach, throttling the life out of him. He heard Bettles yelling at the Arab, and sobbing, shouting out, "Bander's done! poor ole Bander's done! Hi, somebody, come an' kill the Fuzzy!"

But there was no one to heed Bettles's appeal. I was over on the other side of the camp; and the correspondents were there, too, unfortunately, for their "copy." One poor, half decapitated wretch and Bettles were all who knew what was happening. Bander's eyes began to bulge. The Arab felt for his knife.

"O Gaud, I can't stick this no' ow!" said Bettles. He got up dizzily and stretched out his hand, and got a broken bayonet. The curling steel cut his hand to the bone. He leaned forward, seized the Arab by the nape of the neck and drove the impromptu weapon deep into his leathery back. Bander said, "Thanks, old man," and then they both fainted, and fell across each other on the hot red sand.—*Hongkong Telegraph.*

### Death of a Hawaiian Centenarian.

Sunday morning, May 22 last, at Puuikaula, Pauloa, in the vicinity of the entrance to Pearl Harbour, there died an old Hawaiian woman named Kealiipunui (the big bellied chief) at the home of one of her grandsons, Mr. Jno. DeFries. She was descended from high chiefs of the Island of Hawaii, but was born at Kaupo, on the Island of Maui.

From herself it was learned that she was born about the time of the "battle of Kepuwahaula (the red-mouthed cannon) or Kawai (the water), fought by the combined forces of Kahakili and his brother Kaeo, king of Kauai, against Kamehameha I., at the Pali Hulaana, near Waimanu, Hamakua, Hawaii." It was a sea-fight in which Kamehameha I. was victorious. This battle was noted as being the first one in which a cannon (from the foreigners) was used to deadly effect. Our noted chronicler, the late Judge Fornander, has set this time to be about 1791, and which would place the old woman we are speaking of to be 107 years of age.

She was the mother of 22 children, 15 of whom came naturally. Only two sons survive her, the youngest and her last child is about 35 years of age. From one of her daughters she has four grand-children surviving her, namely Henry DeFries, John DeFries, Hiram DeFries (now of Salt Lake City) and Mrs. W. B. Rice. And from these grand-children, she has 23 great-grandchildren surviving her.

During the time when Mr. R. C. Wyllie was Minister of Foreign Affairs, on account of her being very prolific, a special silver medal was made for her, which she highly prized. In this connection, it must be mentioned, she was only married once. The medal is now in the possession of her eldest grandson, Mr. Henry DeFries, the well-known carpenter.

### The Old Government.

W. C. Peacock & Co. Ltd. are agents for the celebrated "Old Government" Whisky, which is pronounced perfection by all connoisseurs. It is served in the "Royal" where the boys drink it and think of the "Old Government" under the Unicorn and Lion.

In the Pacific the perfection whisky will remind the "boys in blue" of their glorious, great Republic, and in the Cosmopolitan tears will be shed when "Old Government" is poured out in honor of the Emerald Island.

Here we go boys! Take another sip of "Old Government" whisky.

### BUSINESS LOCALS.

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Do your shopping this week at Sachs.

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Persons requiring tombstones should apply to Fred. Harrison who has a choice lot of new designs on view.

Three nicely furnished rooms at No. 9, Garden Lane, (formerly No. 4).

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Ex-Zealandia, the California Fruit Market received in Camarinos' refrigerator all seasonable fruits, fish and fresh California block butter. Call and inspect them.

Good eyesight restored by having a good practical optician examine your optics, and S. E. Lucas is the only oculist that can do it well at the Love Building, Fort street.

To appear respectable is to be decently shaved, which can only be attended to at the European Barber Shop, Chas. Molteno, proprietor.

Sheetings, Pillow Casings, Table Linen and Napkins will be the specialties at L. B. Kerr's this week and great bargains will be offered in these useful lines.

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