



**I**T is a recognized maxim in strategical problems that a desert frontier is the one most easy to defend and most formidable to assault. Mountains, rivers and seas have their difficulties, and are serious obstacles for an invader to tackle, but for impracticability they do not compare with even a narrow zone of barren land, where food and water are non-existent and where bad ground makes transport either laborious or altogether impossible. Battlefields, like the sites of capitals, are not made by man, but are the outcome of geographical position. The chief lines of communication of the world, and consequently the warpaths of nations, are, in like manner, determined by the lie of the land and its physical features. So long, for instance, as Egypt and Palestine are not under one rule, and so long as there is a likelihood of a recurrence of hostility between the powers that control these two countries, the desert barrier that separates them will be the scene of conflict. Being a narrow neck of land joining two continents, and being the only link between two of the most fertile regions of the earth, it has always been, and will always be, an important line of communication. For the same reason it must retain its significance from a military standpoint. It chances that the link between Egypt and Asia is cursed by the blight of aridity. But the same providence that caused this area to be useless to man provided the more favored region of the Nile valley with an impenetrable protection from envious foes. A hundred miles of waste is a better guard against invasion than any other natural feature; it is far less costly than modern fortifications and probably more effective. Yet, in spite of nature's bulwarks, this area has probably been the scene of more hostility than any other desert in the world. Inexorably, as it were, the silent wilderness has been disturbed by successive waves of migratory hordes and by the continual passing of military expeditions. There is no rest for this land; it seems to attract tragedy.

The desert, Egypt's ancient barrier against intruding foes, has proved to be a formidable breakwater on to which many an enemy has hurled himself. Their efforts have been met with varying success. Although it has proved of no avail against determined and systematic attacks, it has caused a hostile advance on Egypt to be looked upon as a big undertaking. It would be foolish to treat such an obstacle lightly, but with sufficient initiative its difficulties can be successfully surmounted. It is noteworthy that desert frontiers to fertile lands also probably entail the responsibility of wild tribes to be kept at bay. The wilderness that fringed ancient China was a barrier against distant foes, but the nomads actually inhabiting that desert were the source of so much danger that they might be considered the direct cause for the building of the Great Wall. In the same way the early inhabitants of the Nile valley did not consider nature's battlements sufficient to repel the wild nomadic tribes that constantly swept in from arid Arabia to raid them. So they supplemented this barrier by lines of fortifications, which ran from the Mediterranean to the Gulf of Suez. Nowadays a still more effective barrier has supplanted the crude, though colossal

labors of the ancients, the hostile desert being backed by the canal, which has rightly been described as "the most formidable military obstacle ever constructed by man." Invading foes must accomplish the toil of the desert march, they must arrive in some sort of "fitness," attack carefully prepared positions, succeed in breaking the defensive and cross the canal before they can rely on getting food and water.

There is probably no newer method of dealing with the problems of supply on such a campaign than those employed by Alexander, Napoleon or Ibrahim Pasha. The more adaptable and the better acclimatized to the peculiar conditions are the forces in use the more simple does the problem become. To move bands of Bedouin to and fro across such country would be only asking them to live their everyday lives. No doubt many of the troops being employed by the Turks on the present venture are quite at home in such surroundings, can live hard and travel hard, but there cannot be a very great number of them. Numbers, it should be noted, have an abnormal influence in the East, where bluff plays such a large part in life. The Arab, in his own intertribal wars, depends largely upon giving an exaggerated idea of his numbers and strength. The issue of a desert engagement is often decided without a blow being struck, those in the minority giving in without resistance to those in the majority.

It seems doubtful that the true desert warriors—the Bedouin—are being employed in any large extent. Had the big tribes of Arabia been in perfect sympathy with the Turks they might have constituted a formidable array. But the children of Ishmael have not changed; they are still as "unstable as water." Even of those who have been commanded, with their camels, large numbers have deserted and disappeared into the heart of the wilderness. So the great reserve of desert soldiery remains unused. The successful issue of a desert campaign depends upon a phenomenal ability to tackle the problems of supply and of transport. The organization of these must be perfect in detail and absolutely reliable in action. In the old days, although military operations took much longer to come to a head than they do now, when the antagonists actually joined battle, the result was quickly decided. The decisive battles of the world have generally been decided between dawn and dusk. This is especially the case in Arab tactics. Sudden attack and swift retreat is the secret of desert warfare, for there is no time to waste. It may be recalled that in all former conflicts on the Egypt-Turkish frontier the issue has not long hung in the balance. Alexander entered Egypt a week after he left Gaza, a distance of 120 miles. Napoleon only spent six and a half days on the road between his base at Katieh and his arrival before Gaza. The advance guard of the Turks, in 1800, under Taher Pasha, left El Arish on April 2 and actually took Salahieh, on the farther side of the present canal, before the 12th of the month. But in that case, it is true, there was no serious opposition to their advance. Swift and decisive action is evidently the maxim of that particular military undertaking; by the mercy of Allah the prevalent creed of the present-day invaders is that "haste is of the devil." It is certain

that the retreat which followed on the recent attack on the canal is without precedent in the history of all former wars for the mastery of the eastern gates of Egypt. As regards the problem of transport, we have an object lesson in Napoleon's Syrian expedition of 1799. He concentrated about 14,000 picked men—13,000 infantry and 1,000 cavalry—he inured his troops to the hardships they were about to undergo, and he formed a special camel corps for scouting. He did not even attempt to move his artillery by land, but essayed to send it by sea. His plan for the transport of this comparatively small force entailed the services of 2,000 camels to carry water for the three days' journey between Katieh and El Arish, where the supply was to be replenished. Another 1,000 camels bore provisions for the 14,000 men and 3,000 horses for 15 days. Besides this, 3,000 mules were set apart solely for the conveyance of baggage. This was no light undertaking, even for such a genius as Napoleon, and, as we know, it ended in a retreat which may be considered the turning point of his career.

Consider for a moment what an army of animals must be necessary for the transport of the 65,000 or more men who are said to be concentrated on the confines of Palestine. Camels will doubtless be employed in enormous numbers, both on account of their adaptability to foodless and waterless countries, and also because there is an unlimited supply on the eastern borderlands of Syria and Palestine. They are invaluable for patrol work, and unequalled as beasts of burden. But they need careful attention and are by no means as hardy as one might suppose. So long as they are in condition, well watered and sufficiently fed, they will undergo considerable strain, but if asked to do too much they literally go to pieces. The great herds of camels that have, no doubt, been driven in from the Arabian borderlands will never have been ridden or even saddled. Thirteen thousand camel saddles cannot be produced in a hurry, and this is about the number that will be required, estimated by Napoleon's allowance per man. Camels will carry heavy loads on even ground, they are easy to feed compared with horses, or even mules, and they do not need water every day. But it must be mentioned that when they do drink they are in the habit of putting away a phenomenal amount of water. It is the maximum amount of water required that is the point in this case, and is likely to prove unprocurable. The bountiful wells of El Arish, for instance, have been estimated to be capable of supplying the needs of 15,000 to 20,000 men. I do not know the comparative drinking capacity of man and camel, but out of 13,000 camels, not to mention horses, mules and men, there would be many to go thirsty. A still more significant point in the commissariat arrangements is the fact that the desert will very soon be bereft of even its poor camel scrub. For a region which will easily support passing caravans falls under the tax of continuous grazing by innumerable herds.

Looking at the problem of campaigning in the wilderness, it seems that the peculiar physical features of the theater of action—the poverty of the land—are playing an even bigger part in this venture of the twentieth century than ever they did in days gone by.

DOUGLAS CARRUTHERS.

**OLD BOOT A TREASURE BOX**

So Says Merry-maker, Who Tries to Spend \$1,000 He Alleges He Found in Toe.

This was a busy day in the life of Frank Cunningham. An old house was left to his grandmother for a kindness she did many years ago. She told him he could have a pair of rubber boots there.

In one of the boots Cunningham found \$1,000 in twenty-dollar bills, hid-

den there a long time. Frank hurried to the white light district of Main street and began to buy drinks for everyone he could find. A bonus went to the bartender with every purchase.

He paid \$20 for fifteen pounds of porterhouse steak; another \$20 for supper and \$20 for a carriage ride from one gilded drinking palace to another. However, when he paid \$20 for a bottle of castor oil the druggist called the police. The druggist is a member of the Citizens' Reform union.

The police found \$862 in Cunningham's pockets, and from incoherent statements he volunteered they accused him of the burglary in the old saw works three weeks ago. Two other men were arrested on his statement.—Ossining (N. Y.) Dispatch to New York Herald.

**The Real Victim.**

Mrs. Howell—I understand your husband is troubled with dyspepsia.

Mrs. Growell—Yes; but his dyspepsia doesn't trouble him half as much as it does me.

**PROMINENT PEOPLE**

**SCULPTOR AND PHILANTHROPIST**



Mrs. Harry Payne Whitney, whose masterpiece of sculpture, "The Fountain of El Dorado," is on exhibition at the Panama-Pacific exposition, is pronounced by critics to be the most gifted woman sculptor in America. She has been devoted to art throughout her life, and in the hot summer months has toiled in her New York studio in MacDougal alley, fraternizing with the sculptors' colony and many a time helping students in distress. Her great wealth never interfered with her conscientious work, but it permitted her to exercise her philanthropic tendencies, which are almost as notable as her artistic. She has given much time and money to charity, and with the breaking out of the war she turned at once to the aid of the suffering. She established a hospital in Paris, of which she is in active charge. All her days now are devoted to the relief of the wounded soldiers that are brought back from the battle lines. Mrs. Whitney is the eldest daughter of Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt and the wife of Harry Payne Whitney, the famous polo player who has represented America in international contests. She is the sister of Countess Gladys Szechenyi, who has equipped a hospital corps in Austria-Hungary.

**ENDS LONG PUBLIC SERVICE**

After devoting 48 years to the service of the United States, Otto H. Tittman has retired voluntarily from the position of superintendent of the coast and geodetic survey. Shortly before quitting the office he was unanimously elected president of the National Geographic society. Both President Wilson and Secretary Redfield wrote personal letters highly praising the work he has done for his country.



Mr. Tittman was born at Belleville, Ill., August 20, 1856. At the age of seventeen he entered the coast and geodetic survey and worked his way up to the superintendency of that world-famous scientific bureau. During his career many notable experiences have been his lot. In 1874 he went to Japan as assistant astronomer of an expedition to observe the transit of Venus; in the years immediately following he was engaged in coast survey work on both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts. From 1889 to 1893 he was in charge of the United States standards of weight and measure.

In 1895 he became assistant in charge of the coast and geodetic survey office, and in 1899 assistant superintendent. His appointment as superintendent of the survey dates from December, 1900. Mr. Tittman was appointed to represent the United States in marking the boundary between Alaska and Canada, and in 1904 was appointed United States commissioner of the Alaskan boundary and northern boundaries excepting the great lakes.

**BRITAIN'S MINISTER TO VATICAN**



Although Sir Henry's mission is to the Vatican and not the Quirinal, it is reasonable to believe that he has had a considerable part in the efforts to foil the diplomacy of Prince von Buelow, the kaiser's representative in Rome.

Sir Henry Howard, who has the distinction of being the first minister to be sent to the Vatican by England in centuries, is well known in the United States. He has represented Great Britain diplomatically in many countries and was made a knight commander of the Bath in 1907.

Sir Henry began his diplomatic career 50 years ago as an attaché of the British legation in Washington and later married Miss Cecelia Riggs, daughter of the late George Riggs, a prominent banker of the past generation. She died in 1907. Sir Henry and his wife were conspicuous figures in the diplomatic world for many years, especially at The Hague, where he was long stationed.

The eldest son of the veteran diplomat, George Howard, is a resident of Washington and an American citizen, having adopted his mother's country as a boy.

**BEGAN PICTURESQUE TASK**

To Vice-Admiral Sir Lionel Carden of the British navy fell the lot of opening one of the most picturesque operations of the great European war—the forcing of the Dardanelles. Commanding the powerful allied fleet of English and French warships, he began the romantic task with a will, but illness soon forced him to relinquish the leadership to another.



Vice-Admiral Carden looks and is a straightforward, practical, plain sailor. The white salt has got into his beard; he is grizzled and hardened by hard weather, and in appearance and manner might have stepped out of the stormiest of Joseph Conrad's romances. Incidentally, he hails from Tipperary, and all of the men of his family are either fighting men or clergymen.

About fifty-eight years old, he was thirteen when he entered the navy as a cadet, fifteen when he became a midshipman, and not quite twenty when he got his sublieutenancy. He saw his first fighting as a lieutenant on board the Thalia during the bombardment of Alexandria, and was navigating lieutenant on the Dryad during the Suakin expedition. After a long term of peace—during which he served in Chinese waters, and, later, in the fishing seas around Newfoundland—he found himself aboard the Theseus during the punitive expedition led by Rear Admiral Rawson against the king of Benin. That brilliant little campaign ended in the capture of Benin city.

**WOMAN WOULD NOT GIVE UP**

Though Sick and Suffering; At Last Found Help in Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound.

Richmond, Pa. — "When I started taking Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound I was in a dreadfully rundown state of health, had internal troubles, and was so extremely nervous and prostrated that if I had given in to my feelings I would have been in bed. As it was I had hardly strength at times to be on my feet and what I did do was by a great effort. I could not sleep at night and of course felt very bad in the morning, and had a steady headache.

"After taking the second bottle I noticed that the headache was not so bad, I rested better, and my nerves were stronger. I continued its use until it made a new woman of me, and now I can hardly realize that I am able to do so much as I do. Whenever I know any woman in need of a good medicine I highly praise Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound." — Mrs. FRANK CLARK, 3145 N. Tulip St., Richmond, Pa.

Women Have Been Telling Women for forty years how Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound has restored their health when suffering with female ills. This accounts for the enormous demand for it from coast to coast. If you are troubled with any ailment peculiar to women why don't you try Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound? It will pay you to do so. Lydia E. Pinkham Medicine Co., Lynn, Mass.

**The Army of Constipation**

Is Growing Smaller Every Day. CARTER'S LITTLE LIVER PILLS are responsible — they not only give relief — they permanently cure Constipation. Millions use them for Biliousness, Indigestion, Sick Headache, Sallow Skin, SMALL PILL, SMALL DOSE, SMALL PRICE. Genuine must bear Signature.

Encountered the Widow's Smiter. "I dropped down on my knees before 'de widow,'" related Brother Waller, "and pou'd fo'th muh confectioney sediments wid all de elerquency of a puhidinn' eldiah. And de lady dess natch'y rotched out and slapped me flat! What do yo' call dat, sah?" "Uh-well, sah," replied Brother Cuddypump, who is a bit of a wag, "I reggin dat was the widow's smite date we reads about. Uh-yaw! haw haw!" — Kansas City Clar.

It would help some if we did more praying on Sunday and less preying on the other six days.

Be happy. Use Red Cross Bag Biscuits; much better than liquid blue. Delights the laundress. All grocers. Adv.

Lots of the burning questions of the day go up in smoke.



**Rheumatism For Young and Old**

The acute agonizing pain of rheumatism is soothed at once by Sloan's Liniment. Do not rub—it penetrates to the sore spot, bringing a comfort not dreamed of until tried. Get a bottle today.

**RHEUMATISM**

Here What Others Say: "I highly recommend your Liniment as the best remedy for rheumatism I ever used. Before using it I spent large sums of money trying to get relief at the misery and pain in limbs and body, so I tried your Liniment both internal and external and I found quick relief, and now am well and strong again." — Geo. Curtis, 222 N. 12th St., Springfield, Ill.

"I wish to write and tell you about a fall I had down fourteen steps and bruised my neck and hip very bad. I could not sleep at all. I sent my wife for a 25 cent bottle of your Liniment and in two days' time I was on my feet again." — Charles Hyde, 1222 1/2 Prairie Ave., St. Louis, Mo.

**SLOAN'S LINIMENT**

for neuralgia, sciatica, sprains and bruises. All Druggists, 25c. Send four cents in stamps for a TRIAL BOTTLE. Dr. Earl S. Sloan, Inc. Dept. B. Philadelphia, Pa.