

The Daily Astorian

VOL. XXIII. NO. 69.

ASTORIA, OREGON, SATURDAY MARCH 21, 1885.

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DE LESSEPS ON THE SOUDAN.

A Land Which the French Engineer Says Cannot be Conquered.

PARIS, March 20.—M. De Lesseps in the course of an interview related by the *Matin*, says, "I have repeatedly warned the English that to send an expedition to the Soudan was to send soldiers to certain death. I cannot repeat the conversations that I have held with very high personages on this subject. The Soudan cannot be conquered, indeed, any more than Egypt, and present events are but a direct and necessary consequence of the bombardment of Alexandria and the occupation of Egypt. I am very glad that I, to the best of my humble ability, induced the French government not to join England. I then said to the ministers: 'I will undertake to defend the canal.'"

After stating as a reason why the Egyptians, though very pacific, can never be subjugated, that a fellow woman never has a child by a European, M. de Lesseps said: "As for ancient Nubia, or Ethiopia, it is a country in which, as if in a sea, whole armies of conquerors have been engulfed. Cambyses left 100,000 men on the deserts, and he was only too glad to return home with a handful of followers. The son of Mehemet Ali was burnt in his camp with his army. To attempt to conquer the Soudan by force is a dream. It is quite possible to give laws to and to govern these intelligent, heroically brave races."

"In order to reach Khartoum, whatever the route taken, one must cross deserts in which there is absolutely no water. An army, whether going or returning, will always be an easy prey to the war-like populations of Nubia. These can turn on the enemy as many as 100,000 fighting men, for whom death is only a secondary consideration, and who would be scoffed at by the women if they returned to their villages without having avenged the deaths of their companions. The longer the struggle is continued against the Soudan the more difficult will be the effecting of a settlement. Two years ago it would have been easy to negotiate; now it is difficult, the animosity of these fanatical soldiers having been aroused."

M. de Lesseps then described his visit to Khartoum in 1857 with Said Pasha, who had an escort of sixty-seven Albanians—thirty-seven of whom died in the desert. In the Korosko desert the springs were so few that in a ten days' march the caravan of M. de Lesseps had to part company with Said Pasha, and re-joined it only every third or fourth day. At Berber, Said, struck by the way in which the country had been ravaged by his brother's expedition and the one sent to avenge him, was for turning back; but M. de Lesseps urged him to go on. At Shendy 100,000 men, delegates from every village, showed themselves enthusiastically grateful when the viceroys liberated the slaves, and abolished or reduced the taxes. Said gave them leave to fling the guns of an old fort into the Nile, whispering to M. de Lesseps that they were quite unserviceable, and ordered 100 lashes to be given to a man who had refused to liberate a female slave. After extolling the Assinian tribe, and describing Said's short fit of frenzy at Khartoum, where he became enraged at owing his warm reception to the counsels of a Frenchman, M. de Lesseps said:

"When Gordon set out for the Soudan he took with him the decrees of Said Pasha. It was with the greatest difficulty that they could be found at Cairo. At length, in a bookseller's shop, a book was obtained in which I had published them in French. They were translated into Arabic, and Gordon went to Khartoum to apply them. Unfortunately, he is not a Mohammedan and this being the case, it was difficult for him to struggle against the influence of the Mahdi. The Mahdi, moreover, must be an Arab, and not a Soudanese; and he is, I am convinced, in communication with Arabi, and all the defenders of Egyptian independence. The great mistake was to send soldiers to the Soudan and not to negotiate with these populations."

"Gordon is a man of great ability. He would have found his way out of his difficulties more readily by persuasion than by force. It will surprise me much to find that he is dead; it would surprise me less should he turn Mussulman and acquire great influence over the Mahdi. As regards a new expedition to avenge Gordon, it would be dangerous, if not impossible. We have now reached the bad season, and Wolsey has announced that he is going to canton his troops. This is the best thing that can be done."

IMPORTANT LAND DECISION.

The following is a brief statement of an important land case provisionally referred to, together with an abstract of the decision of the supreme court upon it.

A decision was also rendered by the court to-day in the case of the Kansas Pacific Railway company, plaintiff in error, against Lewis Dummer, in error to the supreme court of Kansas. The sum involved in the suit is only \$300,000, but it raises questions which are said to be of importance as covering controverted titles to many thousand acres of valuable land. The controversy relates to the title to a small piece of land embraced within the limits of the grant to the Union Pacific-railroad company and its branches. "One Miller made a homestead entry on this land July 25, 1866, and it is admitted that this entry was valid if the land was public land subject to such entry. The grant to the railroad company conveyed to it all certain alternate sections of land (including the piece in controversy) "not sold, reserved, or otherwise disposed of by the United States, and to which a pre-emption or homestead claim may not have attached at the time the line of said road is definitely fixed." The question raised by the language of the grant between Miller and company is whether the homestead claim of the former attached at the time the line of railroad was definitely fixed. The court holds: First, that under this grant, as under many other grants containing the same word or words to the same purport, the act which fixes the time of definite location is the act of filing a map or plot of this line in the office of the commissioner of the general land office; second, that the language in the excepting clause of the grant is not modified or repealed by sec. 1 of the amendatory act of 1854; third, that the designation of the general route of the road and the filing of the map thereof in the general land office July 11, 1866, did not withdraw the land from homestead entry under the statutes by virtue of which the company claims it; fourth, that the line of the definite location of the company's road was first filed with the commissioner of the general land office Sept. 21, 1866; fifth, that the homestead claim of Miller had attached prior to that time; and sixth, that when Miller subsequently abandoned his entry the land did not revert to the railroad company as if originally granted to it, but remained part of the public domain. The judgment of the supreme court of Kansas is affirmed.

How Much the Baby Weighs.
"Mrs. Thompson, that is a fine child, a splendid baby indeed, but it's nothing to the one our Sallie had three months ago. Law me, our Sallie's baby weighed no less than fourteen pounds; the editors published it in all the papers free. An eight pound or a ten pound baby nowadays is nowher. Our Sall looks siew a scrawny little thing, too; it was some pumpkins for her to have such a big baby." "Now, Sarah, in my opinion it's all wrong and out of place to publish the weight of a pig, to know how much pork ye might expect, as it is only valued for its weight; but not so in a human being. It's a horrid custom, that, and should be stopped."

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In Incipient Consumption—seems to possess remedial powers of great efficacy. It leavels the irritation of the throat and lungs. Makes pure blood and builds up and fortifies the system against further inroads by disease.

Work on the Northern Pacific Casado branch is progressing rapidly. Over 500 men are working in the canyon near Ellensburg, and the number is being increased steadily each week. The heaviest part of the work will be finished by the last of March or early in April.

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