ARMY AND NAVY

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

London, February 14.

Lieutenant D. H. Hunter, D.S.O., R.A.M.C., the new P.M.O. of the Khedive's Army, is an experienced Egyptian campaigner and has spent nearly half his twenty years and over of service in that country and the Soudan. Beginning with the Nile Expedition of 1884-85 he earned the medal with clasp and star, he served successively through the operations on the Soudan frontier 1885-86 and 1888-96, in which the action of Gemaizah (clasp), the Dongola Expedition as senior medical officer of Kitchener's forces, and was present at Khartoum and Kadir, where he earned his D.S.O., medal and the Khedive's medal with two clasps and warm mention in despatches, and Kitchener's final smashing of the Mahdi he services earned him another mention and clasp for Omdurman, and the 4th class Osmanieh. Old friends will be glad to welcome back the genial medico, and new ones will be glad to meet him.

Captain H. McCrean, East Lancashire Regiment, Lieutenant L. F. Reeves, Lincolnshire Regiment, and Lieutenant G. M. Shipway, Gloucester Regiment, have been posted to the W.A.F.F. for duty Captain Clarke, R.F.A., has been posted to the Gold Coast Artillery detachment.

It has been definitely decided that the King will personally open the new dock which bears his name at Gibraltar.

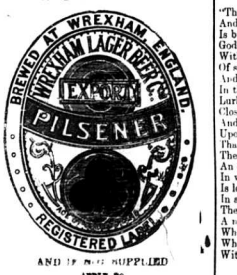
The fourteen submarine mining companies of Royal Engineers are to be reduced, as the Admiralty will shortly take over the control of mine fields at home and abroad. The Admiralty can do this more economically than the War Office, which expects to effect a saving of £10,000 per annum by the change.

THE SUEZ CANAL.

Sir Howard Vincent, M.P., who has recently returned to London from Egypt, delivered an address last week on the origin, construction, and administration of the Suez Canal, at a meeting of the London Chamber of Commerce. Referring to the purchase by Lord Beaconsfield for the Egyptian Government of 176,602 out of the original canal shares, Sir Osman Amin had his audience that the market value of these shares, which were bought at 95s. a piece, is now about 90s., more than would have had to be paid at the time of issue in 1869, exceeded £4,000,000, and that Egypt received £4,000,000 in dividends and interest. The share purchase price having been nearly three-fourths of the British public by the days past by British ships he contended that after allowing, say, 10 per cent. per annum on the outlay the balance should be applied either for the benefit of British shipping as a whole by the remission of light dues or of some other impost, or else for the benefit of British ships by giving this source of national income, by a reimbursement of, say, two francs a ton. Adverting to the difficulties which have arisen about the Suez Canal rates and dues and the complaints emanating from the Chambers of Shipping of the United Kingdom, he remarked that some heroic remedies had been suggested by competent authorities. It was stated, for instance, that a capital of between six and seven millions was ready for the construction of a new British canal. The British Government being trustee for Egypt and the Egyptian people, a very strong case would have to be made out to induce it to consent to the construction of a second canal on Egyptian territory, and as the existing canal had cost upwards of thirty million pounds up to the present time the capital necessary for a new canal would be probably not far short of fifty millions. In these circumstances he asked whether it would not be better to consider how, by lowering the rates, by increasing the facilities by assistance from the British Government out of its dividends, and by exercising the powers that we possess on the court of directors and among the shareholders, relief may be obtained in any direction rather than by competition.

MESSRS. MAPLE & CO., LTD.

We have received a copy of the directors' report and balance-sheet of the above company, which is to be presented at the fifteenth annual meeting on the 28th inst. The year 1904 was a satisfactory one, despite depression in trade. After £4,300 has been placed to reserve, the results allow a dividend to ordinary shareholders, for the twelve months, of 14½ per cent., five per cent. of which was paid as interim dividend in September last. The reserve fund now amounts to £311,300.



AND IS NOW SUPPLIED

APPLY TO

JOHN B. CAFFARI,

ALEXANDRIA & CAIRO. 27-12-904

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

(We do not hold ourselves for the responsible opinions expressed by our correspondents, but we wish, in a spirit of fair play to all, to permit—within certain necessary limits—free discussion.)

MISSIONS TO MOHAMEDANS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EGYPTIAN GAZETTE.

Sir,—The article under the above title which you recently published, has brought some very interesting letters in reply. The only one, however, that deals with the question from a practical point of view, is that signed "An Observer." In this the writer fairly grapples with the problem on its proper basis, and drives home the lesson your article endeavoured to enforce. Other correspondents indulge more or less in word-twisting, and succeed to their own satisfaction, if not to that of readers of the "Gazette," in refuting much that was *not* stated in the article. Notably is this the case in the letter signed "R. MacInnes," who read your article to so little purpose that he actually stated that the premises laid down were "that all religions are equally good and true, that in a true religion neither creed nor dogma has any place, and that all modern views and enlightened clergy are arriving together at these comforting conclusions."

One hardly knows which to admire most, the misrepresentations of Mr. MacInnes, or the cool impudence of "A Reader," who twists the *opinion* that Christianity is capable of supplying to the full man's spiritual needs "into a *dogma* to that effect. Both are striking examples of the tendency of Christians to mistake the meaning of plain words, and to put their own construction on statements that may be opposed to their own ideas. Nobody who knows anything about some of the religions—if they may be so termed—which are professed, and have large followings, would commit himself to such an assertion as that "all religions are equally good and true." It would be too absurd.

It is a great pity that such questions cannot be dealt with without importing into them the everlasting religious difficulty. Unfortunately there is no prospect of its being eliminated for those imbued with the true missionary spirit are bound to obey what they believe to be a divine command to go out and preach the Gospel to every living creature.

But the question may be put, and reverently put,—If Jesus lived at the present time would he sanction missionary enterprise as at present conducted? and might not he say: There are other commands even of greater importance that should first be obeyed. "A new commandment I give you that ye love one another." What of that? Let the state of the Christian Church at the present time answer. Sad indeed must be the conception of the Christ love as exemplified in Scotland just now, to take only one instance of the bitterness so frequently to be found among the followers of the gentle Saviour.

To one who thinks deeply on such matters this question must be ever present. Has Christianity the vital force it should possess if all that is claimed for it be true?

Salem El Khenouf, in his touching letter dated from Suez, tells us how he found Mahomedanism insufficient for his spiritual needs, and how Christianity supplied them; others, myself among the number, can tell how they have found Christianity unable to satisfy *their* conceptions of eternal truth, and how that they find it necessary to reject such a limitation of the Divine love that belief in salvation through one person alone, involves, and, while accepting he Christ principle in full, and recognising its wonderful expression in Jesus of Nazareth, yet feel that it was not alone to be found in him, spite of all that certain passages in our English Bible convey.

As we read the words of Jesus, "I came not to call the righteous but sin ners to repentance" "Other sheep have I which are not of this flock;" "The Kingdom of Heaven is within you," we seem to have full warrant even in the Bible for the conviction we cannot crush within us that a wider and nobler view of God's love to man is more akin to truth than acceptance of the more limited view, and that a greater than Jesus was manifesting through him when these words were uttered. Viewed in the light of "the express image of the Father's grace," Jesus of Nazareth stands on a higher pinnacle, my reverence for him is deeper, my estimate of his life and work far greater, than when I regarded him in my old orthodox days as God himself made man.

The searcher after truth is confronted with mysteries at every step he takes,—mysteries which no human being, however highly gifted, can unravel and which Jesus himself, the greatest adept probably that ever lived on earth, was unable to explain. And inevitably it must be so, for finite man cannot comprehend the Infinite. No one can tell what life really is, nor is it probable that in the earth stage of existence we shall ever solve the problem.

"This universe we wonder at by night
And rub against familiarly by day
Is but a single chord—a minor chord—
God fingers on his organ. Notes between,
With infinite intentions and degrees
Of subtle change, strike muffled to our ears
And buffet us in vain. All heaven lies hid
In those interstices of sound, and hell
Lurks there in sharps of unimagined discord
Close by us, budging us at every step
And breaking in perhaps with some faint echo
Upon the poet's dream or on the frenzy
That rocks the maniac; while to right and left
The key-board spreads itself to the horizon.
An endless rainbow-spectrum-stretch of sound
In which our utmost reach of broken life
Is lost like some small child's uncertain note
In a great chorus. What we choose to call
The boundless universe is but a segment,—
A narrow segment,—of the infinite whole,
Wherein God stalls us for a single night
While he prepares for us an ampler place
Within his many-mansioned house."

I am, etc.

THOS ATWOOD.

Alexandria, February 18.

NOTES FROM SUAKIN.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT).

Suakin, January 30.

The Sudan Government steamer "Tira" (Captain Brooke-Smith) has arrived from Suez. She has been purchased by the Sudan Government to help the pearl fishery trade to come into Suakin, as hitherto all the pearls have gone to Massowah and Jeddah.

The British steamer "kilbridge," from Glasgow, arrived here on the 18th inst. and took away the goods which were salvaged from the wrecked steamer "Afghanistan" for India.

The British steamer "Islami," from Bombay, brought a cargo of 8,000 packages for Suakin. This vessel, curiously enough, had to change her name from "Gulf of Trinidad" as the natives could not pronounce it.

The Khedivial mail steamer "Mahallah," which arrived from Suez, had the following passengers on board: Captain H. von Pitner, agent of the Austrian-Lloyd at Alexandria, who is going as far as Khartoum shooting, and then returns viâ Berber, Halfa, and Cairo, to Alexandria; Messrs. Shockley and Morris, mining engineers; and the Hon. Anthony Pelham, nephew of the Earl of Chichester, who has returned from sick leave and taken over his duties on the Suakin-Atbara Railway.

On the 26th inst. the Sudan Government steamer "Mukhbir" went to Sheikh Barghout port with Kaimakam Drury Bey, R.N., in command, accompanied by Bimbashi Cox, Hon. A. Pelham, and Capt. H. von Pitner, to inspect the port and harbour.

Mr. W. H. Bailey has been transferred from his post of head foreman of works to that of inspector of bridges, Suakin-Atbara Railways, from 1st January, 1905.

Mulazim Awal Mohamed Effendi Izzett, Cavalry, formerly of H.H. Cavalry Guard, arrived here on the 22nd inst. viâ Berber to to do duty with the Railway Battalion.

FAYOUM NOTES.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

Medinet-el-Fayoum, February 21.

The Fayoum Light Railway Company has dismissed the English locomotive engineer and replaced him by a Frenchman. This railway was laid by English engineers, of whom there were about five in the service of the company, and at present not one Englishman remains.

Hassan Bey Wassif, ex-Moudir of the Fayoum, and now Moudir of Ghirgeh, has arrived here in order to inspect his lands.

The sub-manager of the Gresham Assurance Company for Egypt has come here to look up old clients, and intends to establish a sub-agency in this province.

VISITORS' LISTS.

GRAND HOTEL, KHARTOUM.

Major and Mrs. L. L. Nicol, Mr. and Mrs. Muratori, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Adams, Miss Campbell, Mr. James Bone, Gen. Lance, Mr. Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. J. Whitaker, Mr. A. Whitaker, Miss Whitaker, Count Tyszhievicz, Mr. and Mrs. G. Williams, Prince and Princesse de Broglis, Mr. Henraux, Mr. Lelèbre, Dr. Turati, Mr. Contour, Mr. de Corto, Mr. Sarasin, Mr. Maguire, Mr. Bridgeman, the Misses Burrow, Mrs. Mathews, Mr. and Mrs. Stewart, Capt. Oleart and party of five, Mr. Small, Mr. Dempwolf, Miss Davidson, Gen. O'Connor, Mr. E. Reisa, Lady Donegal, Mr. and Mrs. Tangye, Col. and Mrs. Milner, Mr. Salesces, Mr. Bonigal, Mr. Thibésart, Mr. Addès.

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For Rheumatism or Pains in Shoulders, Limbs or elsewhere, or for Sprains, Stiffness, Cramp or Aching Feet (as pictured above) have required a plaster applied to part affected as shown above.

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FAYOUM.—Dr. J. K. Gabril, Fayoum correspondent of the "Egyptian Gazette," is ready to give any information, help, or advice as to the Fayoum province and its surrounding district, rates, etc., to companies, banks, firms, merchants, and loan banks, societies, or others; having a thorough knowledge of the country for the last fifteen years. Write to the above address. 60-30

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WANTED for 1st March Stenograper and Typewriter. Write, stating age, qualifications, and salary expected, to Gresham Life Office, Sharia Kasr-el-Nil, Cairo. 25469-6-1

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