DESERET EVENING NEWS.

Saturday, - - - - June 20, 1868.

ABYSSINIAN CURIOSITIES.

The "Abyssinian Blue Book" lately before the British Parliament, is a formidable work, consisting of letters and dispatches which have passed between the different government departments, besides applications and offers of assistance from nearly every quarter. One curious letter is from Sultan Negoos Meneleck, alias the King of Shod. The Sultan beseeches Queen Victoria to become his friend, and says, "Do not think I will behave like my grandfather; forget all my grandfather's acts, and make me like your son, for God's sake, for God's sake." In order to second his prayers, he sends the Queen a number of silver trinkets, the skins of a lion and a leopard, two spears and a shirt.

A Mr. Henry Dufton writes that he has visited King Theodore, and knows him well by sight. He thinks there will be difficulty in recognizing the King, because four of his Generals will be habited like himself in battle, and if he runs away he will dress like a peasant. He therefore proposes that he should be sent with the expedition, so that if the English catch the King, they may know when they have him. Mr. Dufton's services were secured at £600 a year.

The Rev. Dr. Krapf is engaged as interpreter with Rev. Mr. Hausmann, and both are enjoined to abstain from any missionary efforts while with the army. Much correspondence took place upon baloons and field telegraphs, American tube wells, patent condensers, freezing machines, etc. Photographers are engaged, with an archæologist, geologist, and zoologist, and other scientific men. Some traveled stranger continually appears who, in the opinion of somebody, would be of immense service; or some Abyssinian has been discovered somewhere in Europe, who might be the best obtainable guide.

A Mr. Plowden writes that his brother was at one time at King Theodore's court, and highly esteemed by that virtuous potentate. Mr. Plowden thinks that if he were to write to the Abyssinian court the King's heart might relent, and he might let the captives go. As no one ever saw any harm in the attempt, a milk-and-water appeal from Mr. Plowden was forwarded.

A very noticeable communication is from a certain Alexander Margara Bridgtower, in French, dated from "Via Fritone, No. 19, Rome." Mr. Bridgtower believes he is the true heir to the Abyssinian throne, and that he ought to obtain the ancient dignity of his house under the protection of the British expedition. He asserts that his maternal grandfather was born in England, and the son of the rightful heir, who had been driven from his kingdom. The aforesaid maternal grandfather became a great favorite of King George III, and was named George Bridgtower by him. As he was too shortsighted to be made an Admiral, which title the King was anxious to confer upon him, he became a great fiddler, and was afterward appointed by George IV director of the royal concerts, with apartments at Caritou House. Paternal hatred and family misfortunes having deprived the grandson of the means of proving his case, he is diligently seeking them, both at home and abroad. He, however, possesses incontestible proof that his great-grandfather proceeded to Rome and kissed the Pontiff's foot, besides visiting London, Paris and Dresden. The writer finally thinks that this is a favorable moment for mounting the throne of King Theodore. Of course Lord Stanley informed Mr. Bridgtower that the British Government had no intention of interfering in the Abyssinian succession.—[N. Y. *Evening Post.*

AN OPIUM FACTORY IN THE EAST INDIES.

An East Indian Correspondent writes to a London newspaper:

At Patna is one of the two great opium factories in India. It is the greater of the two, and may therefore, be styled the largest poisoning agency in the world. The establishment faces the river Ganges, whose bed is here four miles across—at this season a desert of caked mud, with the river far away on the other side of the waste. The opium is shipped to Calcutta in a steamer, and it is a good instance of the fickleness of Indian rivers—those plagues of engineers—that last year, and for many years before, the sacred stream ran so close to Patna, that wharfs were erected from which the chests could be put on to the steamers, and on to which the timber wherewith to make the next year's chests could be landed. This year the Ganges has retired, and the chests have to be carried a mile or so before being shipped, and that can only be done by small boats, all at considerable expense.

The opium packing for 1867 was just over at Christmas, and nearly 30,000 chests of China opium had been sent down to Calcutta, worth about £4,000,000. Each chest contains forty cakes. The dark sticky stuff, is ingeniously inclosed in a coating of dried poppy leaves, so that each cake (weighing about two pounds) presents the appearance of a Dutch cheese or a cannon ball. This has given rise to the saying that in war we give cannon balls of iron, and in peace cannon balls of opium, thus giving them the privilege of being shot or poisoned, and making them pay smartly for either attention. In return for this they feed us with tea, and clothe us with silk, which go to show a truly celestial spirit. Patna is famous for something else besides the opium factory. It is famous for kites. Anybody desirous of making his fortune quickly should naturalize the Patna kite in England.

Every tenth shop in the bazaars is a kite shop, and you would think that the whole population fly kites. With them it is a scientific amusement. The kite is diamond shaped, and light as a feather. It has no tail, and is flown to an almost incredible height, with the lightest possible silk cord or thread. The thread is rubbed with pounded glass; and the science of kite-flying consists in artfully causing your kite to fall across your antagonist's line, which being so prepared with glass, it cuts like a knife, and then your antagonist's kite flies away, and is lost, and you win the wager dependent on the match.

Advice to a man with a pain in his stomach, wear a sash.

At a recent session of one of the courts, in South Carolina, an entire negro Jury was empanelled. A case was brought before them—the witnesses examined, and the attorneys made their respective arguments.

The Judge, after laying down the law, and recapitulating the testimony, gave the papers into the hands of the foreman—an intelligent looking darkey—with instructions that, as soon as they found a verdict, to bring it in without delay.

Thirty minutes or more elapsed, when the Jury returned, headed by the Foreman, and stood before the Judge.

As the Foreman appeared to hesitate, and to wear a disappointed look, the Judge asked—

"Mr. Foreman, have you found a verdict?"

"No, Massa Judge, we haben't found em," replied the ebony Juryman.

"It's a very plain case," said the Judge.

"Can't help it, massa, we couldn't see it."

"On what grounds?"

"We didn't look into de grounds, Massa Judge," replied the Foreman; "ossifer didn't take us out into de grounds, but he took us into a room, and locked us in, and tole us when we found de verdict, he would leff us out. So we began to find de verdick, and searched ebery nook, corner, creblce, and ebery ting dar was in dat room, but we foun no verdick—no, noffin ob de kind dar."

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