

hours' of the king's capital before they saw anything of their foes. At this point, however, tens of thousands of Abyssinians sprang out of the hills. They rode their horses right up to the cannon and cut the Egyptians down almost to a man. Of the 2,500 men 1,800 were massacred. Those who were wounded were brutally mutilated. Their bodies were not buried, and a French consul who visited the battlefield a few days afterward tells how he saw the bones of 1,000 men piled up together in one place, and in another jackals, wolves and hyenas eating at the corpses. Aretdrup was killed.

The horrors of an Abyssinian battlefield cannot be described. They mutilate the dead as well as the living, and their fighting is accompanied by all sorts of unnecessary cruelty. The scalping done by the Indians is a refined and gentle custom in comparison with that of the Abyssinians in their wars. They cut up different parts of the body and carry away pieces as trophies. General Dye says that in going through the battlefield he saw one mass of mangled human remains. The bodies looked as though they had been chewed up by wild beasts. There were hundreds of heads, which had been cut off, and hundreds of naked and bleeding bodies, the faces of which were distorted with pain, and fear, and the eyes of which were protruding and glaring. Some of the bodies were burned. Some had been clubbed and backed with swords, and all were mutilated in such a way as cannot here be described.

In this battle above referred to the Egyptians—lost between five and six thousand men, all of whom were well armed, and who had cannons to assist them in their fighting. At the signal for the charge the Abyssinians came right up to the batteries. They were armed with swords, pistols, guns and shields. They jumped behind the rocks at the time of firing, and though an incessant fire of rocket, shell and shot was thrown at them, they came to the very jaws of the batteries and finally took them.

In this battle they killed one thousand men, wounded sixteen hundred and captured as prisoners two thousand one hundred and eighty-six. Of the two thousand prisoners, one thousand were massacred in cold blood the next day. Those who were saved belonged to their captors, and their fate was even worse than that of those who were killed. In the first place, the prisoners were all stripped and then made to run along, naked, with their captors at the point of the lance. They were jabbed with the lances if they did not keep up, and some of those who escaped and got back to General Dye's camp came in bloody from head to foot. Many of them had been shot, then cut, lanced and speared and speared again. Many had their hands cut off, and, in addition to this, had scimeter cuts on their heads, shoulders and necks. Some of the prisoners were bound hand and foot, after having been stripped, and were kept for some time without food or water and then slaughtered in cold blood. Often a victim was partly unbound and told to run for his life. He was pricked with the spear to hurry him on, and then shot down after he had gone but a few steps.

During this battle one of the American surgeons, who was connected with the Achive's army, was taken prisoner. This was Major Johnson of Tennessee.

General Dye had sent him from one part of the field to another with a message for General Loring. His mule balked, and he had to get off and make the trip on foot. He was pursued by an Abyssinian, who threw his spear through the doctor's leg, and thus captured him. The Abyssinians at once stripped him to the skin. They tied his arms behind him and made him walk for days thus, naked, with almost nothing to eat and drink, under a burning sun. The Abyssinians rode on horseback, but Major Johnson was dragged along on foot. When he fell behind they jabbed their spears into him to make him keep up. He did the best he could, for in all directions he saw his friends forced by spears to flee for their lives and then shot down as they ran. At night he had to sleep among the mountains with no covering, and he almost perished from the cold. At one time he was seized by three bloodthirsty Abyssinians and taken off into the mountains. His guards sharpened their swords at every large rock by which they passed, and gave him to understand that they intended to kill him. They had made all preparations for his murder when a horseman was seen coming afar off. It was a courier from the king who ordered the men to bring back the captive. Major Johnson was then kept in the camp and watched over by Abyssinian boys, who threatened him with knives, and tortured him in other ways. The boys troubled him so that at last he could stand it no longer, and concluded to trash them if he had to die for it. He gave one of them a good licking. His action caught the attention of one of the chiefs, who took him to be his slave, and from this time he was well treated until peace was brought about and he was exchanged. The nervous wear and tear was such, however, that it almost killed him.

During this campaign General Dye was associated for some time with General Kirkham, who had been an English officer connected with the Abyssinian king. He met a number of other Abyssinians, and he obtained some interesting stories about the people and their customs. General Kirkham said that the Abyssinians were great gluttons, and he told how he had seen three Abyssinians devour fifteen pounds of meat at one sitting. Kirkham said that after a feast the Abyssinians often throw themselves on their backs and permit their fellows to walk up and down on their abdomens. They are very fond of raw meat, and they like it when warm from the animal. The beef is usually slaughtered right where it is eaten, often at the door of the tent, and the guests at the table are fed with delicious morsels of the smoking flesh. One of the greatest of Abyssinian travelers was James Bruce. He describes how he saw the Abyssinians cut steaks from a living cow. His story has been greatly doubted, but all travelers say that the Abyssinians are fond of raw flesh. Bruce tells how when traveling through the country he met three Abyssinians driving a cow. Just as he passed them they threw the poor animal on the ground. One of them sat upon her neck, holding down her head by the horns. The other twisted a halter about her fore feet, while the other cut a steak out of her rump. They cut out a piece bigger than two ordinary beefsteaks, first laying back the skin, and after the steaks were cut out, fastening the skin on again with two small skewers or pins.

They plastered clay over the wound and then drove the cow onward to the camp, where they intended to eat it. Bruce describes a banquet of raw flesh, where the cows were cut up by inches outside the door, being cut in such a way as to keep the animals alive as long as possible, the flesh being eaten as soon as it was taken in. He tells how the Abyssinians eat raw meat. They cut it into long strips and then putting one end of the strip in their mouth and holding the other in the left hand, the man cuts off a bit of the meat with an upward blow of his scimeter. The Abyssinians make a good deal of noise when they eat, and the bigger bite a man can take and the more noise he makes in chewing it, the more polite the man is thought to be. They are very fond of red pepper, and they sometimes eat pellets of raw meal, red pepper and onions.

The Abyssinians are very fine looking people. They are a mixed race, and have, it is said, considerable Caucasian blood. Some of them are as black as the blackest negro. Others are as bronzed as an American Indian. Their noses are straight, rather than thick. They have fine eyes and a proud, erect carriage. They are very hospitable, but they live very simply. They have practically no stores, and the business is chiefly done in the markets at the fairs, which are held from time to time in different parts of the country. There is very little farming. The women and children work the fields and tend to the herds and flocks. Every man has the right to as much land as he can pay taxes upon, but one-fifth of all he raises goes to the king and one-tenth to the governor. In some parts of Abyssinia salt is used as money, and salt and cotton are the chief commodities. The people dress to a large extent, in cotton. They wear a sort of a toga about nine feet long and six feet wide, which they wrap about their bodies. These togas are home-made. In addition to them, the soldiers and rich people and chiefs wear close-fitting trousers from the low waist to the middle thigh. The chief also wears a sort of shirt of authority. This is of foreign make, though a lion's skin sometimes takes the place of it.

The Abyssinian women are said to be very beautiful. They are of different colors, some jet black, others copper-colored and others fair. They are noted for their very pretty soft hands, which are so small that in general they will pass through the bracelets which fit their waists. They use mutton fat in dressing of their hair, and sleep upon pillows, upon which they rest only the neck, much like the Japanese. The women do all the work connected with the household and the men scorn to do anything of a domestic nature. The women do not fight in battle, though they go to the field and take care of the wounded. They are often given charge of the captives, and during General Dye's trip one of the doctors escaped through a woman who fell in love with him. Abyssinia is said to be a land of free love. Marriage seldom lasts for any length of time. Couples marry and separate at pleasure. Upon separation they divide the children. The eldest son goes to the mother and the eldest daughter to the father. If there is but one daughter and all the rest sons, the father gets the girl, but if there is one son and all the rest daughters, the boy goes to the mother.

The most of the Abyssinians are