

it or not; and those who stand in the way of the onward progress of this great work will be overthrown and ridden over.

There is no time nor opportunity to stop, for the Lord has undertaken the work and he does not look backward nor stay his hand. If we do not wish to be removed out of the way, we must be diligent, active and energetic in our duty and respond willingly and at once to any call that may be made upon us by the servants of the Most High.

Let our minds be active, wide awake and eager to reach out after those things that shall best promote the interests of the kingdom of God. Let us not forget for a moment the mission we are called upon to perform and not become dull and sluggish in the performance of our duties and think we have no part or lot in the matter. There is need of every faithful man and woman in this kingdom, and for millions more, and then by concentrating all these efforts, it is easy to understand what a mighty phalanx Israel will present, making the wicked nations tremble because of their wickedness. There would be a mighty shaking amongst them, if Israel was only united, firm and steadfast to a man.

If the Saints could offer one prayer, with one spirit to the Almighty in behalf of any one measure, I believe that prayer would be promptly answered in a way that would be felt and realized. If Israel will pursue this course, it will not be a great while before they will have things as they want them—not only here but over the face of the wide world; for the kingdom of God will progress and the kingdoms of this world become subservient to its way.

May the Lord help us to live to his name's glory and honor and for his cause and kingdom on the earth; may he help us to build it up and appreciate the blessings we enjoy, live in the light of truth and intelligence, that our minds may be filled with it continually; help us to frown down wickedness and walk it underfoot, both at home and abroad; help us to send forth the gospel to all nations, that his angels may always work with us, which they do and will continue to do, with us who remain at home and with those who go abroad; and kingdoms and nations will be cast down for the good of his people and the furtherance of his work. That he may help us to do all he has designed we shall perform as a people and as individuals, is my prayer, in the name of Jesus Christ: Amen.

Schamyl, the Circassian Chief.

The reported capture of this renowned chief by the Russians has been confirmed.

It is alleged that he was betrayed into the hands of his enemies and that the Judas received the sum of 6,000,000 roubles, equal to \$4,680,000, as the reward of his treachery.

The following biographical sketch of the remarkable man who has given Russia so much trouble during the last twenty-five years, is taken from an exchange:

Schamyl was born in the year 1797. Regarding his parents little or nothing is known. According to the customs of the Circassians, he was, at an early age, instructed in athletic sports. In the contests with his associates, he was always ambitious to excel, and when defeated would brood over his disappointment even for days. With such earnestness did he enter upon the physical part of his education, that he soon excelled his companions in riding, throwing the djerrid and other manly sports. As he grew up he was passionately fond of hunting, and in climbing the rugged mountains of his country, and in spending night after night upon them, he soon became inured to the privations of the hunter, and prepared himself for the difficult duties of a warrior chief. He exhibited a marked sensibility to the beauty and sublimity of nature, and it is said that he would often ascend a mountain at the setting of the sun, where he remained long after the shades of night had fallen.

While, however, he was thus educating his physical powers, his mind was not neglected. When quite young he was instructed in Arabic, and was made familiar with the contents of the Koran. Afterwards, he was instructed in Mahometan literature and philosophy. His instructor was Dschebal Eddin, one of the most learned of the Daghestan teachers of theology. By him he was led through all the subtleties of the Mahometan doctrines. The result of his teaching appears to have been that he instilled into his pupil habits of temperance, frugality, and a perfect self-control.

On reaching manhood, Schamyl became a member of a government which was in fact a free Democracy. He belonged to the Lesghian tribe, and by their system of government he was chief who, by general consent, led their warriors to battle. In time of peace, however, all were equal, though, in fact, he who possessed the most ability and was foremost in valor and the exercise of all manly virtues, was chieftain. The public affairs of the tribe were regulated in a general assembly. The oldest and most experienced were heard first, but no one could claim precedence as a right. The assembly rarely made new laws, the tribe being governed by custom and ancient usage. When these proved insufficient, an appeal was made to the Koran. Offenders were tried in a council ring, and punishments consisted chiefly of fines.

Schamyl's name is first heard of in the wars for Circassian independence in connection with the siege of Himri, where he served as a disciple under the Chieftain Khasi-Mollah. This leader commenced his career in 1830,

having aroused his countrymen to arms against the Russians by preaching a crusade in behalf of freedom and the true faith. He asserted that the first great law of Mahomet was the law of freedom, and the second was that a Moslem shall be a soldier of Allah, and an enemy in arms to all infidels. At first his career was successful, but at Himri it ended. During his retreat, one chieftain after another deserted him, until only a faithful few were left with him. Among these was Schamyl. Enclosed behind the walls of Himri, they awaited their fate. The Russian artillery soon made sad havoc with these walls, but those behind them met their fates, gaily singing verses from the Koran. Khasi-Mollah was killed, and Schamyl, pierced by two balls, was left as dead. His re-appearance among his tribe was regarded as miraculous. Khasi-Mollah was succeeded by Mamsad Bey, and the latter by Schamyl.

In 1834, the Russians again advanced upon Himri, but Schamyl attacked them and defeated them, though their forces were far superior to his. In consequence of this and other successes, he was regarded as the greatest chieftain since Khasi-Mollah, and many tribes that had favored the Russians, now rallied around the new leader. On all sides was heard the cry—"Schamyl is Imam, and the second prophet of Allah." He issued proclamations calling upon his countrymen to join him in the war upon the Russians. His headquarters were at Akulge, which is perched upon the top of an isolated rock, rising on one side perpendicular, 600 feet above the river Koissu, which nearly surrounds it. A narrow path winds up the rock in which only two persons can walk abreast. Assisted by Polish deserters, he completely revolutionized the Circassian method of defence. The Russians soon attacked this place and took it, losing some three thousand men. Schamyl, however, escaped. Thrice delivered out of the hands of the infidels, his countrymen regarded him with greater veneration than ever. He now took up his position at Dargo, where he was subsequently attacked by the Russians, who lost in the engagement some two thousand men. Since then, 1852, he has fought the enemy of his country with varied success, until the present time.

Schamyl, at the age of 37, is described as distinguished in personal appearance as he was in character and intellectual culture. He was of middle stature, had fair hair, grey eyes, a small mouth, a Grecian nose, and a complexion fair and delicate. His hands and feet were small. He carried himself erect, and had naturally a noble air and bearing. He regarded himself as an instrument of a higher power, and held that all his thoughts and inspirations came immediately from Allah. While his ordinary manner was calm, his eloquence was fiery and persuasive. His usual dress was the same as that of his countrymen, but on special occasions he wore a white mantle as indicative of his priestly character—the second prophet of Allah. He had three wives and his hand-maidens were generally captive Russians.

As a ruler, he evinced much ability. He found most of the different tribes of his countrymen separated not only by customs and traditions, but often by blood-feuds. He managed to bring them into harmony, so that now there is in Circassia a State. In place of many leaders, there is now one supreme ruler, and law and order have taken the place of usage and tradition. He also fused the two opposing religious sects of Omar and Ali, and of the Church thus formed he was the head. He was believed to have held direct communication with heaven twice a year, retreating for that purpose to one of his apartments or to some cave. There he fasted and prayed until he received the divine commands. He had always a body guard with him, selected from his Murids.

His revenues were raised by the levy of a poll tax of a silver rouble on every family. By economy he had laid aside a considerable amount for the maintaining of his government. The number of his troops never exceeded twenty thousand. The Russian army during the past twelve or fourteen years has numbered from one hundred and fifty to two hundred thousand men.

THE CAUCASUS.—Some of the English journals manifest considerable alarm at the rapid and persevering movements of Russia in her acquisition of Asiatic territory, and gravely hint that difficulty may be anticipated in checking Russian intrigue and aggression in British India. The following comments from a leading English paper on the recent capture of Schamyl, the renowned Circassian chief, are indicative of the action the British government may take to maintain its supremacy in the East Indies:

The Russian army of the Caucasus has at length, after a war of upwards of seventy years duration, succeeded in obtaining a firm footing in the country of the Circassians. That fine race of semi-savages have been able to hold their own against the Russian hosts that, year after year, ever since the time of Catharine the Second, have been sent against them. If we were to say that two millions of Russians have fallen in that war, we believe we should be near the mark. How it is that the sagacious old warrior Schamyl has at length succumbed, and become a prisoner (which is reported to be the case), is not clearly made out at present, but the fact of his discomfiture is certain, we believe. The country over which he has ranged as chief has been considered by British engineers impreg-

nable for any but the natives; but a file will rasp through the thickest saw, and a government like that of Russia, having an object in view, would care little how many men it sacrifices to attain it. The Caucasus lies in the high road from Russia to British India, and if he is ultimately conquered, it will occasion our government some trouble hereafter to keep that nation from poaching upon their preserves.

California.

An old eastern gentleman visited California during the earlier period of her history, when "big licks" were struck and "piles" made in a comparatively short space of time. Not rightly appreciating the general circumstances and condition of things by which he was surrounded, he returned home, and thus discoursed to his friends in the east on what he heard, saw and thought of the golden land. The picture is graphically given, and we think will hold equally true in these days:

"Well, it's a beautiful country, sir—no mistake about that!—a beautiful country to look at, but an awful country to live in! The land is first-rate, and the climate, and the birds, and the flowers—I never did!—Why, when I got there, the birds were all a singing, and the flowers in blow, and the weather so splendid—I declare I thought it was a kind of heaven, but it aint tho'. I staid there long enough to find that out any way. It's a sight more like *l'other place*, which we don't care to see! Why, I saw more wickedness while I was there than I ever supposed there was over the whole face of the earth, from the day the Creator made it down to the 4th of July.—Lying, stealing, cheating, swearing, drinking, gambling, horse racing, cock fighting, Sabbath breaking, forging, counterfeiting, murdering—all sorts of sin—serving their master every way and everywhere; I declare, I never. Why, you might set on this bench a whole livelong summer's day, and shut your eyes, and think over all the sin and wickedness you ever heard or read, or dreamed of, and add to that all you could invent, and Lor' bless you, sir, it wouldn't be of no account at all in California! Why, they'd act out all that and as much more in *half the time*. I got kind of scared at last; I really thought there would have to be another flood, or another fire and brimstone experience, or somthin' or 'nother, jest to purify the land. Oh! how I thanked God I hadn't sent my boys there—for they were young and thoughtless, and ignorant of evil, and may be sin wouldn't have showed all its ugliness to them, as it did to me!"

AMERICAN MINISTER IN PEKIN.—The Paris Pays says: "The last news from Shanghai establishes, beyond a doubt, the arrival of Mr. Ward, the American Envoy, at Pekin. This diplomatist ascended the Ki-tcheon-yun-ho, one of the branches of Peiho, accompanied by all the members of his legation."

The American corvette, which brought Mr. Ward, was retained in port. The members of the legation were placed in a huge box, about five metres long by three broad, which was closed everywhere but above, so as to prevent those it contained from seeing the country. This box, or traveling chamber, provided with all things necessary to the comfort of the travelers, was placed on a raft, and taken first up the river and then up the Imperial canal, as far as the gate of the capital. Here it was placed on a large truck, drawn by oxen, and in this way the Minister of the United States and the members of his legation entered the city of Pekin. They were perfectly well treated by the Chinese, but were not allowed to see anything. The truck was drawn into the court yard of a large house, which was to be the residence of the American Envoy, but they were not to be allowed to go out.

At the last dates they were awaiting their interview with the Emperor. They had not been allowed to have any communication with the outer world, but were permitted to send a despatch to Mr. Fish, the American consul at Shanghai, informing him of their safety.

After the interview, the American minister was to be re-conducted to the frontier in the same way as that in which he came.

SOUTH CAROLINA FORESTS DYING.—The Laurensville (South Carolina) Herald furnishes the following curious item:

We have noticed a considerable amount of dead and dying timber on the roads in the lower portion of the district, and heard accounts of its extension to a considerable extent in that direction. The dying is not confined to any particular kind or class of trees, but small bushes as well as large trees show their dead, yellow and withered leaves, which give the woods rather a sad calico appearance. Whether or not this is to be attributable to the late severe drought, we do not know, but it is ascribed generally to this cause.

—From the official returns of the British Mineral Districts, it appears that the produce of the coal mines in the United Kingdom, during a recent year, amounted to 65,394,707 tons; the estimated value of the coal at the mines was \$97,433,380. The pig iron produced during the year was valued at \$64,000,000.

—Negotiations are being carried on with a Chinese company in San Francisco for the construction of a canal from Trinity river to the vicinity of Shasta.

CLIPPINGS.

—We learn from the Marysville Democrat that putrid sore throat is prevailing among the children on Bear River and Dry Creek in that county.

—The San Jose Tribune states that a native Californian or Mexican was burned to death in the Santa Cruz mountains, between Gilroy and Pajara Valley; the wild oats caught fire and enveloped him in the flames. An American had a narrow escape at the same time. The flames spread with terrible rapidity.

—The evils of gaming in this city, says the Mariposa Democrat, are becoming fearful. Men of families are squandering at the faro table the earnings which should go to the support of their wives and children; young men, whose sole means of sustaining themselves and those dependent upon them, are their salaries as clerks, have lost their situations on account of their continued devotions to the shrine of Chance. They are now loose upon the town, and cause grief to their relatives and friends. It is time these gambling hells were broken up, and we sincerely trust that stringent measures will be adopted shortly.

—A Columbia (Tuolumne county) paper informs us a Catholic priest was recently stopped and robbed of four dollars and a half in that vicinity. Robberies of this character are getting quite common in different parts of the State.

The Shasta Herald says it was raining and snowing on the Trinity mountains, about Oct. 20. The atmosphere of Shasta is humid; clouds hang around the mountain top, giving indications of early rain.

—Yreka, in Siskiyou county, was partially destroyed by fire on Sunday last. Loss between forty and fifty thousand dollars.

—The people of Nevada are excited about the Washoe diggings. A company consisting of five or six young men, designed leaving Nevada yesterday for Washoe valley.

—About forty citizens of Downville left, last week, for the new diggings on the Eastern Slope.

—Numbers of persons are going every week from Mariposa over the mountains to the Mono diggings.

—It appears from the nineteenth general report of the British Emigration Commissioners, that the amount of money remitted by Irish settlers in America, for assisting the emigration of friends in Ireland, during the past year, was \$2,287,422, and that, during the ten preceding years, the sum remitted amounted in all to forty six million ninety five thousand dollars!

—The Czar of Russia has presented the Sultan with the decoration of the Order of St. Andrew in diamonds valued at 1,000,000 piastres, in acknowledgment of the reception recently given to his brother, the Grand Duke Constantine.

—We have letters before us from Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania, giving accounts of "frost in August," so that it will probably be a matter of history that in these States in 1859 there was frost every month in the year, since it is not at all likely that September will pass without some pretty sharp frosty nights.

—Baron Siena, the wealthy Greek Banker of Vienna, has founded a Seminary for Gipsy girls on his estates in Hungary. A similar Institution has been established at Neuhausel.

—Mr. Fairbairn estimates the total steam power at work in the British Empire as equal to that of 8,000,000 horses, besides 3,000,000 horse power afloat.

—The fishermen have a very curious way of catching fish in the Rhone. They wade into the water, at night, with a knife and a water-tight lamp. They place the lamp under water, and the trout will soon follow it. As the fish come up to the surface of the water, the fisherman kills them with his knife. The above is warranted a veritable fact, and no fish story, though it has a strong odor about it.

—The spots on the sun are unusually numerous and large this year. At the present time there are eleven groups of spots visible, two of which have just made their appearance on the western edge. A very large spot has been recently observed nearly in the center, embracing a central black spot and a still larger penumbral region. It is said to be undergoing, daily, remarkable changes.