

SIMMONDS ' S COLONIAL MAGAZINE.

RECOLLECTIONS OF ALGERIA IN 1843.

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A RELIGIOUS order, whose austere principles it is not here our business to examine, but -to which France owes the Cultivation of, its vast waste lands, lately requested of the Government permission to establish a' centre of population at the place called the Camp of Staweli, in the plain of that name. The King of the French immediately complied with their wishes, and on the 11th of July, 1843, the Ordonnance which conferred on them the rights and privileges they had solicited was communicated to, the Trappists of Soligny. Some of the articles of the Act of Concession, as it is termed, will, we think, be interesting to our readers:

“The said partners shall have the power of associating with them fresh partners, in whatever number it may seem good to them, in order that the duration of the Society and the success of the undertaking may be the better insured.

“The Society shall construct the buildings necessary for dwelling places, and for agricultural purposes, according to plans which shall be communicated to and approved by the Government.

“An advance of 62,000 francs (for which an interest of 4 per cent. shall be paid, beginning in five years) is granted for this purpose to the Society, and shall be paid to it in portions of 5,000 francs, as soon as the said Society shall have effected works to the amount of 5,000 francs. It shall cultivate, within the space of two years, all the lands susceptible of cultivation, and shall plant 2,000 trees in every two years, until 10,000 are planted. If the Society shall fulfil the engagements it enters into before the period of ten years, it will have a right to claim a definitive title to these lands.”

The following arrangements were made in Algeria on the 22nd of September, 1843, by the Maréchal Bugeaud, in order to facilitate the colonisation of a new village.

“ Considering that the creation of a village by private individuals is an undertaking in which the general welfare is concerned, and that such a new element introduced into civil colonisation cannot but develop and strengthen it ; and considering that the establishment of a centre of population on the slope of Mount Sahel, opposite Mitidja, will be by so much the more useful, that the colonists, in extending their cultivation into the plain, will contribute to render it more healthy ; and considering that it is reasonable, looking at the utility of such an establishment to the country at large, to assist the individuals who undertake it ;

“ We have determined as follows :—

“ A centre of population of 20 families shall be formed on the estate of Hadj Jacoub, belonging to Messrs. Vialar and Caussidou, and situated between Ouled Mendil and Edde Kama.

“ Out of these 20 families, 10 shall be established before the 1st of January, 1844, and 10 others before the 1st of January, 1845.

“ Messrs. Vialar and Caussidou, according to agreement, shall deliver over 4 acres of land, cleared from dwarf palms and underwood, to each of the 20 families of which the said village shall be composed.

“ The Government reserves the right to cause a survey to be made, not only of the building lots, but of the various pieces of land divided among the colonists.

“ The administration will make to each of the 20 families an advance of 1,000 francs, of which 750 shall be in money, and 250 in materials, grain, seeds, or cattle. The 750 francs shall be delivered to the receipt of Messrs. Vialar and Caussidou, at three different times and in equal portions ; the first third at the arrival of each family, the second when the work of building shall have been commenced, and the third when it shall have been concluded.

“ The materials shall be delivered at first cost, and at a price estimated according to that paid by the administration. The buildings which shall have been erected by the aid of this advance shall be in stone and covered with ties, and shall represent the value of at least 1,000 francs.

“ Each family will be expected, whatever be the time of its installation in the said village, to repay annually, in French money, beginning on the 1st January, 1850, one-fifth of the 1,000 francs which have been advanced to them.

“ The inhabitants of this new village shall be, like those of the

neighbouring localities, subject to all the measures of order and security thought necessary by the authorities; they will have to contribute equally to the taxes and duties which may hereafter be imposed in Algeria on property in general."

To do justice to the French Government in Africa, we must remark that the great affairs which occupy it do not prevent it from paying attention to the most minute details of internal order. For example, an **Arrêté** of the Governor, dated the **26th July, 1843**, prescribes, for the sake of the public health, the strict execution of measures relating to the sweeping and cleansing of the city of Algiers.

Every inhabitant is compelled to sweep, or cause to be swept, every day before eight o'clock in the morning, that part of the public way contiguous to his house, shop, warehouse, court, or garden, and to clear away the mud from the pavement opposite his dwelling, as far as the middle of the street. In the passages the same thing is required to be done, and all rubbish to be heaped up in a corner to be carried *away* by the scavenger. It is expressly stated that no one is to transfer his own filth to the territory of his neighbour. All glass, broken bottles, earthenware, and other objects capable of inflicting wounds, which may be found on the public way, are required to be thrown aside separately. It is forbidden to light a fire in the street, to *throw anything out of the windows*, or to feed horses in public except out of nose-bags.

From the 1st of June to the 1st October, all the inhabitants are required to water the streets twice a day (that is to say, at nine in the morning and four in the evening), and for this purpose no other water but that of the fountains and cisterns is permitted to be used.

The Government does not forget, moreover, that it is not only necessary to furnish Algeria with arms capable of working, but that care must above all be taken to insure, in the first place, the good conduct and morality of the populace whom the hope of gain draws to Africa.

Towards the close of last year, a series of regulations full of prudence determined completely the relations between masters and their workmen and servants, and subjected the latter to measures of order. The most conspicuous are the following:

that no individual, workman, apprentice, journeyman, carter, driver, hired servant, or others in any similar trade or profession, shall henceforth pursue it in Algeria without being provided with a book containing his name, age, occupation, birthplace, and description, with the names of his parents, as well as that of his master.

Every workman or servant **travelling** without being provided with one of these books, properly signed, is deemed a vagrant, and taken up as such, unless he be in possession of a passport. **No** one is permitted to receive or employ a workman or servant unless he be provided with such a book. The master is required to write down in it the day of his engagement, and to cause it to be signed **within** twenty-four hours by the authority entrusted with the police of the locality. Every workman leaving a **manu-**factory, workshop, warehouse, or private dwelling, after having fulfilled his engagements, is expected to procure a signature to that effect within twenty-four hours ; but this form is not required to be gone through for any engagement for less than fifteen days. No master is allowed to receive a workman or a servant unless his book contains a formal discharge **from** his former master, with a character. No certificate of good conduct **is** allowed to be granted to any one who is not furnished with a regular book.

The workman or servant to whom his employer has made advances, or who has entered into an engagement to remain with **him** a certain time, cannot require the delivery of his book or his discharge until he has paid his debt or **fulfilled** his engagements.

Every combination between masters tending unjustly to lower the price of **labour**, followed by an attempt to put it in execution, shall be punished by an imprisonment of **from** six days to one month, and a fine of **from 200 to 3000 francs**. Every combination of workmen to cause a cessation of **labour**, or to prevent their companions from working before and after certain hours, and, in general, to suspend, hinder, or raise the price of **labour**, shall be punished by imprisonment of from one month to three years; and ringleaders shall be **condemned to imprisonment of** from two to five years.

But whilst the civil administration **was** thus **endeavouring** to introduce order in the interior, the French army 'was **accom-**

plishing a mission far more dangerous, and which could alone insure the tranquillity of the colony. We cannot here enter into a minute detail of the rapid military operations of 1843, multiplied over the whole surface of the country, from the frontiers of Tunis to those of Morocco ; but, perhaps, our readers will be glad to be presented with a succinct view of what has been done.

The state of the country between the Mina, the Cheliff, and the sea, was far from satisfactory in the month of April 1843.



BEY OF CONSTANTINE.

Insurrection raged still up to the very gates of Cherchell, and the whole of the Dahara, with the exception of the great tribe of the Beni-Zerwals, which had fallen for the most part into the hand: of General Gentil, on the 22nd March, had risen to join Abd-el Kader. All the inhabitants of the banks of the Cheliff and o the mountainous chain of the Warensenis submitted to his au

thority. These successes of the **Emir** shook the whole west of the province of Tittery and the east of Mascara ; his letters, scattered with profusion from the frontiers of **Marocco** to the very heart of the **Khalifah** of Sebaou, created a lively feeling in his **favour** among the professed allies of France in all parts, and reanimated the spirits of his numerous partisans. Himself at the head of a brilliant squadron of regular cavalry, amounting to 800 men, **recruited** and mounted among the tribes which had recently flocked again to his banner, and with at least 2,000 regular infantry, **as** well in the *Esmaila* (camp) as in the mountains of Dahara and Warensenis, he had regained confidence in his fortune, and re-established his ascendancy over the minds of the people.

Amid such **difficulties** the campaign of the spring of **1843** opened. It was determined by a vigorous offensive warfare, supported by firm military establishments in the very centre of the insurgent country, to overthrow in a few weeks the pretensions of the brave and unfortunate Abd-el-Kader, to strengthen once more French superiority over all the people between the sea and the desert, and to drive back the Emir and his **Khalifahs** beyond the Tell.

To accomplish those objects, it was resolved, in the **first** place, to make permanent establishments at **Orléanville** on the **Cheliff**, at Tenes, on the shore between Mostaghanem and Cherchell, and at Tiaret, on the confines of the desert. Provisional posts, moreover, were planned at **Teniet-el-Had**, **Wed-Rouina**, Boghar, and the **Khamis** of the **Beni-Ouragh**, in order that the various columns of the army might have supplies at hand. The soldiers were then to overrun the mountains of the **Dahara** and **Warensenis**; and two light columns moving from Boghar and Tiaret were to traverse the desert in pursuit of the Esmaila of the Emir, and all the populations that were driven before the central **columns**. The divisions of Algiers and **Oran** were entrusted with the performance of these duties.

It will have been seen from this sketch of the-campaign, that the French are at present compelled to put forth an overwhelming force to defeat the efforts of an enemy in actual numbers far inferior, but nevertheless difficult to overcome, not so much **from** their bravery, which, in truth, is of little or no avail against European discipline, as from their lightness, knowledge of the

country, and above all, the sympathy of the seemingly **tranquillised** tribes. It is impossible to believe that these outbreaks would so frequently occur if those who are complacently styled **allies** did not give aid to the Emir.

The "Gouverneur-g&&al," with nine battalions from **Milianah** and Mostaghanem, undertook in the first place to lay the foundations of **Orléanville** and **Tenis**, and to bring into subjection the whole Dahara from the mouth of the **Chelif** to Cherchell.

General Changarnier, whose portrait we gave in our first number, was entrusted with the task of penetrating at the same time **into** the eastern chain of the Warensenis, establishing the ports of **Teniet-el-Had** and **Wed-Rouina**, and, to use the French technical phrase, of "harassing and ruining" the haughty mountaineers of those countries, should they refuse to submit.

His Royal Highness Monseigneur le **Duc d'Aumale** was expected simultaneously to pursue and overtake the Esmaila of the Emir in the desert. The column of Mostaghanem was to cover the tribes of the Lower Mina and the Lower **Chelif**, attacking the refractory Flittas, whilst Colonel **Géry** was charged with the protection of Mascara.

General Bedeau meanwhile received orders to support the **last-mentioned** column, if necessary, and to enter the country of the **Djeffra**, still devoted to the **Emir**, where his resources were said **to** be abundant.

These movements accomplished, the Governor-general was to attack, in concert with Lamoricikre and the column of **Mostaghanem**, the western side of the Warensenis chain; **Changarnier** was to devastate the eastern extremity; and the light columns of Medeah and Tienet-el-Had were to march along the south, in order the more effectually to fatigue and distress the enemy.

In conformity with this plan of operations, on the **22nd** of April the Governor-general left **Milianah**; accomplished his junction at El-Esnam with **Gentil** on the 26th; founded the establishment of **Orléanville**, and marched on the 28th on Tenes. The successful issue of a combat on the 29th with the partisans of the **Emir**, in the Dahara, opened his road. On the 1st of May three **steamers** from Algiers arrived off Tenes with the necessary materials, and the contemplated fortifications and buildings were commenced. By the 8th a carriage-road was opened across the

rocky gorge leading to **Orléanville**, on both sides of which attacks were planned against the tribes who might interrupt the communications. On the **12th** a *ghazia* (inroad) on the Sbeihh tribe put him in possession of 2,000 prisoners and 15,000 head of **cattle**, with an immense booty. The Sbeihh, the **Beni-Madoon**, the Hemnis, the **Ouled-Faress**, and the **Beni-Hidja** tribes, immediately gave in their treacherous adhesion.

On the **25th** the Governor-general left **Orléanville** with two columns to scour the eastern division of the Dahara, in concert with the columns of Milianah and Cherchell. The **Khalifah** Berkami ultimately abandoned those mountains, which he had kept in a state of insurrection since the month of January, and sought refuge in the heart of the Warensenis. All this portion of the province of Dahara came in, and leaving to **Lieutenant-colonel de l'Admirault** the task of **organising** it, Marshal **Bugeaud** returned to **Orléanville** by the 2nd of June.

Meanwhile, General **Changarnier** founded the posts of **Teniet-el-Had** and **Wed-Rouina**. His battalions, before penetrating amongst the Warensenis, moved on between **Milianah** and Cherchell to the **Beni-Ferahh**. He left the former place on the 9th of May, and his three columns effected a junction at **Medina**, **from** whence they departed for the purpose of making an incursion on the Warensenis mountains to the east. Towards these mountains he swept an immense number of tribes and herds, whom he at length surrounded, taking more than **2,000 Kabyles**, 8,000 sheep, 800 oxen, 150 beasts of burden, &c. Returning on the **23rd** to deposit his booty at Teniet-el-Had, he obtained a **fresh** supply of provisions, and penetrated again into the mountains, marching slowly, putting everything to the fire and sword, **cutting** down the fruit-trees, attacking and defeating the **Kabyles**, who, terrified and exhausted, made propositions of peace.

The **Duc d'Aumale**, having accomplished a fortunate expedition to the **south-west of** Medeah against the Ouled Meriem and the Ouled **Driss**, prepared to pursue the Esmaila of Abd-el-Kader and his **Khalifahs**. He quitted Boghar on the 10th of May; on the 13th he reached Godjila **with** his light column; and on the 16th overtook the Esmaila, and destroyed this temporary seat of the Arab power. On the **20th** of May he returned with his rich booty towards Algiers.

General **Lamoricière** opened his campaign under **unfavourable** auspices. On the 19th of April he was at **Sidi-Djelali-Ben-Omar**, preparing for the occupation of **Tiaret**, when he learned the events which had taken place in the plain of **Egris**. **Abdel-Kader**, at the head of more than 1800 horse, having appeared, the whole tribe of the **Hachems**, encamped in this plain, withdrew from the French and joined his force. The **General**, apprehending this movement on the part of the **Emir** and the **Hachems**, had given instructions to prevent it, ordering **General Bedeau** to draw near the country of the **Djaffra**, **Colonel Géry** to protect **Mascara**, and **General Mustapha Ben Ismaël** to cover the plain of **Egris**. But the sudden attack of the **Emir**, favoured by the defection of the **Hachems**, rendered these preparations **ineffectual**. **General Lamoricière**, however, nothing daunted by appearances, proceeded immediately to found the **establishment** of **Tiaret**, destined to protect the **Khellafas**, the **Sedamas**, and the **Arars**. Having conveyed the necessary **materials** to **Tiaret**, he encamped a league and a half below **Frenda** on the **Wed Tighone**, to cover the **Khellafas** and the **Sedamas** from the projected invasion of the **Emir** and the **Hachems**. He there put **himself** in communication with the **Arars**, but the **Emir** having turned his **flanks**, made a sudden irruption upon the high lands of **Med-roossa** against the **Sedamas** and the **Khellafas**. Those tribes made a desperate **defence**, and, on the arrival of **succours**, attacked the enemy themselves, who lost fifty men and as many horses. After this failure, the **Emir** bivouacked on the **Upper Nina**, and from thence attacked the **Flittas**, but without **success**.

Meanwhile **Lamoricière** made an ineffectual attempt to co-operate with the **Prince** in the attack on the **Esmaila** ; he soon learned the success of this undertaking, and falling upon a part of the dispersed inhabitants, made prisoners 2,500 **Hachems**, with their camels and flocks. These prisoners were re-established on the plain of **Egris**.

Two remarkable episodes of this campaign should here be noticed. On the 13th of May, **General Gentil** performed a grand *ghazia* on the **Flittas**; but his regular cavalry pursuing with too great eagerness, were surrounded by the enemy's cavalry, and 100 "chasseurs" *maintained against 1,200 **Arabs** one of the most brilliant conflicts on record in the history of **Algeria**.

On the **22nd** of May, General Mustapha Ben **Ismaël** having endeavoured to traverse the forests of the Cheurfas, was attacked by the inhabitants of the country. A panic seized his **cavalry**—or, to speak more plainly, they were defeated and almost wholly destroyed, the gallant old general perishing among the number. The French soon elected Mustapha's nephew and lieutenant as his successor; and a Royal ordinance of the 20th June, **1843**, created Mohammed-el-Mexari Agha of the Douairs, **Zmelas**, and Gharabas.



MOHAMMED-EL-MEZARI, AGHA OF THE DOUAIRES.

After the expedition of Mascara (**1835**), this crafty chieftain, foreseeing the probable destinies of his country, gave up the cause of the **Emir**, and had some private conferences with **Ibrahim**, the Bey of Mostaghanem, who received his submission to the new government. From that period, Mohammed has always been considered as one of the bravest and most faithful **officers** of the Native troops.

Now opened the second period of the **campaign**. On the 7th