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London Letter

Of military ardor there is no end. We are lionising the Sirdar to our eart's content, remembering that our time is short, since he is to return to Egypt-according to present arrangemts-early next month. If any pretty iden-or even that charming titled widow who is trying so hard-intend of the Needlework Guild, and had to catch him, she will have to use all coaxed him out of 300 contributions,

They may be called the tragedy and an officer's daughter, and the pair were fo voted to each other. By some means, t known to themselves, her people loss until after the birth-a few o-of a son. The Queen was so h touched by the story that she has

re Atbara he found in the ventilereceived never a scratch(. After the done gallant things in Egypt; one of his victory beggage was packed for home. exploits being the rescue of two of the The gallant Major, not unnaturally, formen of his troop under a heavy fire, get for a time about his little friend; Both the poor fellows died; but Lord but when he remembered that had sent Tullibardine at least saved their budies, it off in the helmet-box, unprovided for at the risk of his life, from desecration, a voyage, he was so much "cut up" that His men are deeply attached to him. d mother and two lively baby- younger than he—must have suffered see! Of source the trio were wel- much during his absence. They were set with effusion, and the most engaged before he left, but it was

pretty pride was from her mother, a until the war was over.

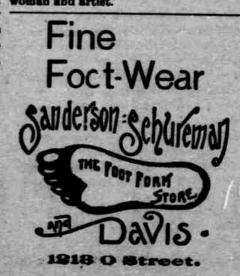
the Duchess of York had enrolled her husband as the only male vice president mostly boys' suits and pairs of boots! Two other gallant gentlemen, how. You ought to have seen her one day jewels. ever, are sharing public attention with last week, running about wearing a Lord Kitchener-one alas! only vicari- large apron, sorting huge piles of clothes ously; and never was there a more and making out lists, also tying up stic contrast than that afforded by bundles for distribution! She looked efate of the two, so sharply contrasted. pretty and matronly; her eyes were as bright and her complexion as clear as ly of the battle at Atbara. I will ever. In a way the task must have ake the tragedy first. Captain Findlay, been a sad one to her, for it was while slendid young soldier, was married she was helping her mother over it that ur months before he fell in that mem. the poor Duchess was seized with the able fight. His wife-quite a girl-is fatal illness. Princess May will never rget that, had it not been for the Guild, she would have missed the chance of being with her mother when d to keep from her the news of she died. Perhaps it is this thought that makes this especial charity so dear

Young Lord Tullibardine, another not been "able to get the poor girl out hero is engaged to be married to Miss of her head"-as she puts it in her Kittle Ramsay, daughter of Sir James therly way. She wrote her a tender Ramsay of Bamff. She is the pretty ng that the child might be and clever child of a lovely and most d Victor Alexander, and offering to accomplished mother, Lady Ramesy betor into the battle of Omdurman eldest sister of Georgina, Countess of woman and artist-(where Lawrie commanded a battery, yet Dudley.) The young man has lately mrades chaffed him unmercifully. During the fever which he contracted er had the Major reached Lon- after the battle they were intensely than he fell upon the helmet box anxious; but now he is well on the way opened it, meaning, at least, to to convalencence. He will probably get muse the corpse of his "mascot" and the Victoria Cross. His pretty betrothed is but behold! what he found was a —who is twenty-four, three years

admired gift received by Major Lawrie's thought best not to publish the fact

diamone spider that will perpetuate the I hear that the Duke of Marlborough family romance and be shown, let us paid a flying visit to Paris. He is back hope, to wondering little ones in years again now. The Duchess and her baby boy are doing well. The glass portrait I think I have already told you that of Her Grace, which Alma Tadema is executing for Blenheim, will be very handsome, if I may judge by the artist's sketches. It will represent her in her presentation costume, just as she wore it at Court, and some of her finest

Madame Blanche Marcheei (Baroness Caccamisi) was accompanied by Princess Beatrice in all the songs she gave before the Queen. Henry Bird was ill, and disappointed at the last moment. It is a good thing that the Princess is such a fine pianist! Blanche Marchesi is much excited over her coming American tour for which she is busily arranging her programmes She has just been to Paris to see her mother, and to get her gowns for her tour. "I don't expect to find time even to buy a pair of shoes before next August!" she said, the other day. She was recently interviewed and told the strange story of her wonderful talent. It appears that she had no voice at all until she was twenty five; that is to say the voice was there but it would not come out; the larynx would not develop. But all the while she was waiting she was "practicing with her brain." She heard all her famous mother's instruction; she declares that sother. Since then she has ing as noted for her beauty as for her will so influenced her vocal chords for him several pretty garments compositions and singing. The Duke of that they gradually learned what they g a very handsome christening Athol's heir began his career by getting had to da and became flexible. When thrown from his horse on the occasion at last, "like a flash, her voice came to The comedy at Athera is also connect of the Duke of York's wedding. He her—she could sing perfectly. That ed with a marriage, that of Major was then a mere boy. Having just been she does this you will agree when you Lewrie, which took place last week. promoted and selected to command a hear her. The art is coheummate; rare tor of his helmet a spider, which had royal pair, he must needs choose a all combine to make up the fascinating there contentedly taken up its residence. splendid steed, which unluckily, ob- entity of this beautiful woman. I am ad hearted, he did not disturb jected at the critical moment to the fir- glad to learn that she has made an exd when he came out scathless from ing of guns and the roars of cheering. ception in your favor, having invested se, and his friends were attrib- So the poor youth got a nasty spill close in some lovely colored gowns—one in g his luck to the spider, the cheerful to the Royal carriage, was unconscious palest flesh pink, another in yellow and ct came out—as was its evening for some time and lost his day's fan. so on—for her appearance among you. ught its supper of files and The Queen make frequent inquiries As a rule, she dresses only in black. at back to bed! It continued to about him, as he and his people are Flanche Marchesi is a delightful talker. sabit the helmet; went with its pro- favorites. (His handsome mother is the You will be charmed with her, both as a





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