

Baring, Cairo.

The rebel display today 21.4.84. Rebels fired two shots from their gun from their camp. Thermometer 92°. 22 April. A Lieutenant and two soldiers escaped from Rebels no news of import. We put down mines at village a half hour outside South Lines. Spy reports Shendy is invested, if it is taken, it is entirely due to your not sending up Zebehr Pasha. If it was justifiable to allow him to raise blacks and herd them down to the slaughter of Trinkitat, it would have been equally so to let him collect men for the Soudan. Steamer attacked Rebels, drove them back with loss and captured 3 Camels, 30 Goats. Nile began to rise today, this is in advance of usual period. In Rebel camp are rumours Abyssinian advance, which I trust for honor of England are not true, for what has Abyssinia to do with this question. It is like a big boy getting a little boy to fight his battles. 23 April. Nile still rising. Thunderstorms in all directions at night.

[Sentence crossed out] The rising of Nile will enable steamers to destroy irrigating machines along river banks and thus prevent any cultivation. I will pardon peoples who give in allegiance, if they do not I will liberate their slaves. Thunderstorms over town, and in every direction. 24 April. Rain during night. Thermometer 90°. Report says that an expedition started with 70 of our captured soldiers, rockets and guns from Obeid against Saleh Pacha, that the regular soldiers feigned and attack against Saleh and turned on the Rebels, going over to Saleh with guns et cetera. This, if true, will effectually prevent Mahdi trying this again. On Greek Consul's recommendation, we have issued notes for payment of troops. Rebels made one of their distant attacks on Omdurman [remainder of sentence deleted].

25 April. Usual Friday church parade. Not many rebels on South Front. A party crept down into Village opposite Palace, and fired volleys, but did no harm.

Yesterday steamers went up White Nile, and captured 4 cows 2 donkeys 25 Sheep and 3 Prisoners, killing 7. We are sending out negroes to entice the slaves of Rebels to come to us on promise of freedom, the general opinion is that all the slaves will desert by degrees and that the rebels will leave this dangerous vicinity, not for fear of bullets, but for fear of losing their live chattels. We will take the slaves into government service, giving them their freedom, clothes and pay. They get nothing from Rebels. It may be the beginning of end of slave holding up here. If you cannot read this telegram, make the Clerk repeat it, and ask Floyer to order the original European telegrams to be sent down by post. 26 April. Issued Bank notes to amount 2500 £, redeemable in 6 months. I heard from Kasala today, dates 13 April, it is all right. Some English authority has threatened the Beni Amr tribe, north of Kasala, the sheikh writes to me ...

... This tribe has always been a good one, send a kind message to the sheikh for me. One of our soldiers who formed part of the expedition from Kordofan sent against Saleh Pasha with 2 guns and 1 Rocket has escaped. He says that the expedition consists of 1000 men, 100 of whom are my soldiers of Soudan, who send to say they will turn on the rebels when they fight. He says Slatin Bey still holds out, and that Mahdi is fighting in Kordofan with some tribes who have revolted. We are making decorations for Defence of Khartoum, a crescent and star, with Words from Koran and date, so we count on Victory. Officers silver men copper. You will not be asked to pay for them. [Phrase deleted] 27 April. We are all well & strong.

CGGordon