

tion up the Nile valley. Soon after the capture of Omdurman and Khar-toum, of which we told last week, news was received by the English at Omdurman that a white military force had taken possession of Fashoda, which is located where the 10th parallel of latitude crosses the Nile, about 400 miles north of Omdurman. Upon receipt of this news, Gen. Kitchener refused to allow any newspaper correspondents to go farther up the river, but sent them all down to Cairo. Consequently there has been a dearth of news from the Soudan. It was expected at that time that Gen. Kitchener would immediately proceed to Fashoda, and this expectation has increased since the confirmation of suspicions that the white military force referred to above is the French expedition under Major Marchand. Fashoda controls the whole of lower Egypt; the Nile at that point could be easily dammed so as to divert the course of the river and turn lower Egypt into a waterless desert. Then, too, French occupation would cut off the English from gratifying their ambition of extending a chain of posts throughout the length of Africa, from Cairo on the north to Capetown at the south. In the occupation of Fashoda by the French, therefore, lies the possibility of a war between France and England. There seems to be little doubt that Gen. Kitchener,—taking advantage of his original orders to unite forces with Major Macdonald, who left Uganda, in British East Africa, early in May en route to Fashoda,—has pushed forward, first cutting his communications so as to avoid embarrassing modifications of his orders and that he intends to dislodge the French.

In France the occupation of Fashoda by a French expedition, which would have excited universal enthusiasm a few weeks ago, is totally overshadowed by the interest in the Dreyfus case. The ministry has not yet agreed to revise Dreyfus's conviction, as it was expected last week that they would. Wire-pulling in the interest of the army, appears to have prevented it. The new minister of war, Zurlinden, who was expected to give his support to the revisionists, disappointed every one. Two explanations were jumped at for this, first that his army friends had influenced him, and second that he had discovered the corruption to be so wide spread in upper army circles that he feared to let in any light. Still it was supposed that

the cabinet would take decisive action on the 12th; but this expectation, too, was disappointed. President Faure gave the deciding vote against revision. It is announced in the Paris press that rather than permit a revision he will resign and seek reelection by the national assembly convened to elect his successor.

In the massacre of Christians by Mussulmans in Crete, reported last week, about 600 men, women and children were burned alive or otherwise murdered. The British vice consul whose murder was noted in last week's report, proves also to have been the American consular agent, and reparation will be demanded by the United States. It was stated at Washington on the 13th that four American warships would be sent to Crete. This, however, may be doubted. The British admiral has demanded of the Turkish military commander of Crete that he deliver up the ring leaders in the massacre, surrender the fort and ramparts defending the town, and disarm the Mussulman troops. In this demand for disarmament, the other admirals of the international fleet have joined. All the admirals, also, have joined in requesting their respective governments to insist upon the expulsion from Crete of the bashibazouks (irregular and unpaid volunteers in the Turkish army), upon the recall of the regular Turkish troops and authorities, and upon the appointment of a governor general acceptable to the Cretans, who are mostly Christians. In view of the admiral's ultimatum, the Mussulman authorities at Candia have arrested several ringleaders of the massacre, but the Porte is stubborn. It has sent a circular note to the powers accusing the British of having provoked the massacre, and announcing its decision to refuse to recall the Turkish troops from Crete.

The most sensational event of the week, though of minor importance historically, was the assassination of the consort to the Emperor of Austria. This occurred at about 2 o'clock on the afternoon of the 10th, in Geneva, Switzerland. The empress was on her way to a steamer, accompanied by ladies of her suite, when a strange man struck her a violent blow upon the chest. Her assailant ran away, while her friends carried her to the boat. It was not supposed that she was seriously injured, until attempts to restore her to conscious-

ness revealed a drop of blood upon an under garment, which led to the discovery that her heart had been pierced with a three-cornered stiletto. The wound was one-sixth of an inch wide.

The assassin of the Austrian empress was arrested. At first he said he had come to Geneva to assassinate her, but afterwards claimed that the Duc d'Orleans was his intended victim. The assassin's name is Lucheni. He is an Italian. When asked to explain the motive of his crime, he said he was an anarchist, doing his duty "as executor for those who are in the world without work and are denied even necessary food and drink." He expressed himself as ready and willing to die. Asked why he chose as a victim an inoffensive woman, he replied that she was the only person holding a position of importance whom he could reach. He denied having any accomplices. To the inquiry, would he have murdered King Humbert or Crispi had he been able, he answered: "Humbert, oh, yes, with pleasure; not Crispi. Crispi is a thief; he stole 500,000 lire. I should have taken more in his place. I take off my hat to thieves. I never murder a thief." Then he laughed. He laughs and sings cheerfully, and to remove any embarrassment due to the fact that capital punishment is not lawful in Switzerland, he offers voluntarily to go to Austria, hoping, he says, that he may be beheaded. The man makes the impression upon American observers that he is a cunning lunatic full of bravado.

Lucheni's crime has had the usual exciting effect. Numerous arrests have been made, and one man has confessed to being an accomplice, though no evidence can be obtained which incriminates him. In the excitement all sorts of lawless proposals are gravely made for setting aside the laws of Switzerland so as to put down this kind of lawlessness, and England and the United States are again appealed to in behalf of autocratic governments of the continent to join them in denouncing what they vaguely call "anarchists," as international outlaws.

In the field of American politics, there have been one election and four nominating conventions. The election was in Maine. That state was carried by the republicans as usual, but by a majority considerably be-