

# ITALY'S TERRIBLE DEFEAT

Three Thousand Men Killed, Sixty  
Guns and All Provisions Lost.

## BARATIERI'S STRATEGY CONDEMNED

All Available Steamers for Transport  
of Reinforcements to Abyssinia  
Are Ordered.

## PERSISTENT RUMOR OF MINISTRY'S FALL

Te Deum and Diplomatic Banquet  
Countermanded by the Pope—Mis-  
adventures of Erythrean Colony.

ROME, March 3.—The present campaign against the Abyssinians threatens to become one of the most disastrous in which the Italian arms have ever taken part, and what the final outcome will be it would be hard to predict. It was rumored to-day that the latest defeat of the Italians by the forces of King Menelik had compelled the Ministry to resign, owing to the popular disapproval of the Government's policy, but to-night this report is denied.

Details received here to-day of the defeat on Sunday of the Italian Army show that the Italian losses were very heavy, they being placed by some at 3,000 killed. It is still impossible to ascertain the precise losses, but popular opinion credits the report that the number of killed is not overstated. Thus far the reports make no mention of the number of wounded. Among the dead are Gen. Albertone, Commander of the Left Brigade, and Gen. Dabormida, Commander of the Right Brigade.

The news of this latest disaster has caused the greatest excitement throughout Italy, and the Opposition Party is taking advantage of it to make violent attacks upon the Government's policy in attempting to extend the sphere of Italian influence in Abyssinia.

The scenes in the streets to-day were very exciting, the populace being greatly incensed against the Government. The Pope is greatly disturbed by the news. He has ordered the suspension of the Te Deum and diplomatic banquet which were to be given in celebration of the anniversary of his coronation.

A meeting of the Cabinet was called last night immediately upon the receipt of the news of the Italian reverse. The Ministers met at midnight and sat in closed session until late this morning discussing the situation. They will meet the Chamber of Deputies to-morrow and make a statement regarding the position of affairs and their intentions. A persistent rumor circulates that the Cabinet will retire. King Humbert to-day had interviews with Prime Minister Crispi and Signor Farini, President of the Senate.

As stated in The United Press dispatches last night, Gen. Baratieri, Governor of Erythrea, and at present commander of the Italian forces operating against the Abyssinians, made an attack upon the latter on Sunday. The reserve Italian force took possession of the passes leading to Adowa without any opposition from the enemy. This force was commanded by Gen. Ellina. Gen. Albertone, with four battalions of native levies and four mountain batteries, then engaged the Abyssinians, but was soon overcome by overwhelming odds and was forced to retreat. Gen. Arimondi, the commander of the centre brigade, was ordered to cover the retreat of the left brigade, but his position was such that he was prevented from carrying out the order.

In the meantime the Abyssinians, flushed with success, made an energetic attack upon the whole Italian front and enveloped both wings. The Italians made a desperate resistance, but could not withstand the attack, and finally orders were given for them to fall back. Their positions were speedily abandoned. The fighting lasted all day. Gen. Baratieri was wounded. Gen. Ellina and his command, together with the men under Gen. Arimondi, retired to Adecajo, 100 kilometers from Adowa.

Since Gen. Baratieri returned to Abyssinia from his visit to Rome, on which occasion he was decorated with the Order of the Red Eagle by Emperor William, his conduct of the campaign has been very harshly criticised in certain military circles. His decision to break his line in this last battle, and the tactics subsequently pursued by him, are regarded by military experts here as inexplicable.

The Italians are said to have lost sixty guns and all their provisions. Even the Government acknowledges that when Gen. Baratieri was compelled to order his army to retreat from the positions held by it, he was forced to abandon many of his guns. The nature of the country prevented the guns from being used against the enemy, and later prevented the Italians from taking them with them in their retreat. These, of course, have fallen into the hands of the Abyssinians. The captured guns will enormously aid the artillery forces of the Abyssinians, already a factor that has had to be taken into account by the Italians.

The situation is regarded as being so serious that the Government has called out all the reserves of 1872. Every effort will be made to hasten the dispatch of reinforcements to Abyssinia. Orders have been issued for all the available transport steamers to assemble at Naples on Saturday next for the purpose of taking on board troops for immediate dispatch to Massowah.

Gen. Baldissera, who was recently appointed to succeed Gen. Baratieri in the chief command of the Italian forces in Abyssinia, has arrived at Massowah. It is reported that Gen. Baratieri's attack upon the Abyssinians Sunday was the result of his desire to make a grand military coup and rehabilitate his reputation before he was superseded by Gen. Baldissera.

Among the many reports current to-day was one to the effect that Gen. Baratieri had committed suicide, being unable to endure the humiliation of his defeat.

A late dispatch from Massowah states that Gen. Arimondi is also missing.