

Northwest Review.

Senate Reading Rm dec 7 "AD MAJOREM DEI GLORIAM."

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THE WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA

Catholic Times (Eng.).

The war is progressing in grim earnestness. The battles of Glencoe and Elandslaagte were important victories for the British arms, but they were dearly bought, and we may expect within no distant period conflicts equally severe. The Boers must hasten operations if they hope for any successes. As troops are poured into South Africa the time must draw nearer when the British forces will issue from their strongholds and take the offensive. If then the Boers do not act speedily against Ladysmith and Kimberley it may be taken for granted that they have decided to depend for the most part on guerilla tactics. For a while that species of warfare may be more or less effective, but the contest is so unequal that probably before many months have passed the Boers will be powerless. They cannot possibly be in a position to withstand the superior strength of the British regiments. The papers are accordingly drawing up already schemes for the future government of South Africa, in which the Transvaal and the Orange Free State figure as parts of a federal system under direct British authority.

Whatever arrangement may be arrived at it will no doubt be of advantage to the financiers with German names who had possession of the mines before the war. They have, of course, been shouting enthusiastically for the glory of the campaign, but we fail to see that they sent to the front any reinforcements who have made themselves conspicuous for courage in standing fire. Some time ago we ventured to prophesy that though they were loud in clamoring for hostilities the brunt of the fighting would fall on English and Irish and Scotch and Welsh soldiers. And we were not mistaken. The Central News informs us that "the credit for Friday's battle," instead of belonging to the fire-eaters of the Rand, "must be accorded to the Dublin Fusiliers. Their dash was splendid, and they fought coolly and steadily when the bullets were flying. They were first in the Boer lines and captured the guns." When we examine the names of the dead we do not find those of the gentlemen who have made great fortunes at Johannesburg but rather a whole holocaust of the O'Brien's, Dillons, Sextons, Murphys and McKennas. In Dublin and down in Tipperary and Clare mothers and wives and sisters are weeping for sons and husbands and brothers. These men faced shot and shell and laid down their lives on the hillside at Glencoe. But the speculators of the Rand are living to return to Johannesburg and to pile up further wealth. Of their complaints Mr. Chamberlain spoke with much eloquence in defending the Government's policy, but we cannot say that he presented a convincing case. His speech was in truth tantamount to a confession that he had long held war to be necessary for the sake of British prestige. His line of thought seemed to be this. Mr. Gladstone committed a grave error in giving the Boers their independence. The deceased leader thought that they would not only appre-

ciate the concession, but would feel kindly and grateful towards the British. So far from entertaining such a feeling, they treated British residents with contempt and imagined that they were more than a match for the British forces. They had in fact been dreaming of converting all South Africa into a great Dutch republic. Dr. Leyds was sent to European Governments to solicit their help or sympathy. There were constant accretions of arms and men, and thus a great military power was established in South Africa. It was therefore necessary to teach the Boers a lesson. Such is in effect Mr. Chamberlain's defence. The franchise question he treats as a small item in the whole affair. Calmly considered the plea does not offer a sufficient justification for war. The forces and the arms of the two States in the present war are not such as to confirm Mr. Chamberlain's assertion. Together the Free State and the Transvaal have scarcely mustered 25,000 men, and it is ridiculous to suppose that with an army of that kind they would think of ousting the British Empire from South Africa, for that is what a project such as Mr. Chamberlain spoke of would mean. All who are thoroughly acquainted with the Dutch population of South Africa know that they have never entertained such a scheme. They are a pastoral people, who certainly value their independence, but they have not shown that they desire power outside the limits of their own States. The Transvaal has, it is true, commissioned Dr. Leyds to gain friends for it, if possible, at European Courts, but what right-minded man will blame the Boers for dreading that the time would come when an attempt would be made on their liberty? The Jameson raid was a warning which might well put any State so situated upon its guard. Mr. Schreiner knows South Africa better than Mr. Chamberlain or Sir Alfred Milner, and his view is that war, so far from improving the relations between the British and Dutch, will create bitter animosities which will not pass away for generations. Mr. Chamberlain's speech was a failure, and no condemnation of the policy pursued by the Colonial Secretary could be stronger than that passed on it by Sir Edward Clarke when he said that the more he read of the correspondence and considered all the circumstances, the more convinced he was that there had been blunders in the negotiations, and that war was absolutely unnecessary.

In the course of his speech Mr. Chamberlain dwelt upon the necessity of protecting the natives from ill-treatment by the Boers. Are the British then so much more tender towards the natives? If Mr. Chamberlain will read a letter which appears in the last issue of the Church Times from an Anglican clergyman in South Africa he will learn that no exception is to be made for the British when the white men are charged with exercising a corrupting influence upon the natives. "What is needed," he says, "is a score of St. John the Baptists to come and tell them that they are the adulterers, they are the drunkards, they are the extortioners who are holding South Africa in trust for the Prince of Darkness. . . . I hold no brief for any nation in particular; Jews, Turks, infidels, and heretics are

pretty well mixed in this land; but as a personal opinion I should say the Englishman is probably the worst; he predominates." Mr. Chamberlain's argument on this point is then devoid of force. Let us talk of suzerainty, paramountcy, franchise—anything but superior morality.

A TRUE SOLDIER.

It was on March 28, 1879, after the retreat from Isandluna, that Redvers Buller gained the Victoria Cross. He had been making one of his intrepid reconnaissances, when his men were suddenly surprised by the approach of a large number of Zulus. It was necessary to retire. But never for a moment did Buller lose his coolness and calmness. The Zulus came down the hill in hot pursuit. Man after man fell before their assegais, or were buried under the dislodged boulders. Capt. D'Arcy was one of the first to fall. Buller rescued him from his assailants, placed him on the back of his horse, and galloped off with him to a place of safety. Scarcely had he returned when Lieut. Everett was dismounted, and once again he snatched him from the ground and bore him to the rear. And yet again, seeing a wounded trooper, whose doom seemed assured, he also carried him off the field when the enemy was within a hundred yards of their prostrate victim. For this almost superhuman feat he now bears the coveted bronze badge.

Sir Redvers Buller comes of an old Devonshire family, and had he wished it he might have lived the life of a country gentleman. But he early decided otherwise, and was wearing the Queen's uniform at 19. "Eagles do not catch flies" is the proud motto of the house. Archibald Forbes, in speaking of Buller's achievements in the Zulu war, says:

"Here was a man with some six thousand a year, a beautiful house in fair Devon waiting for his occupation; a seat in parliament all but secured; and yet for the patriotic love of leading that strange medley of reckless adventures he was living squalidly in the South African veldt, sleeping in the open for three nights out of the six with a single blanket thrown over his body; his hands so disfigured by cattle sore, the curse of the veldt, that I never saw them not bandaged up. With his intrepid heroism he had saved the lives of so many of his men that, in talking to them, it almost seemed that he had saved all their lives. A strange, stern, strong-tempered man, whose pride it seemed to be to repress all his own emotion and to smother its display in others, he would order a man peremptorily back to his duty who came into his tent to ask him to read a letter in which a mother thanked him for saving the life of her son."

Sir Redvers Buller, who is just 60, has, it is said, seen more active service for his age than any soldier in Europe.—Westminster Gazette.

Croup, coughs and colds are all quickly cured by Piny-Pectoral. It lessens the cough almost instantly, and cures readily the most obstinate cold. Manufactured by the proprietors of Perry Davis' Pain-Killer.

SHOWERS OF METEORS.

Young People's Paper.

A great display of meteors is expected on the nights of the 13th and 14th of this month, and this paper may reach some of our readers before those dates. If so, they should look toward the constellation called the Lion, as it is from that quarter of the heavens the meteors are likely to appear to come.

A correspondent of the Belleville, Ontario, who happened to be an eye-witness of the great shower which occurred in the middle of November, 1833, sends a description of it to that paper. He says:

Sixty-six years is a long time to look back upon, and most of those who were in the land of the living at that time have "gone to that bourne whence no traveller returns." Still, although I was only a boy of 13, the memory of that great and startling phenomenon is as fresh in my mind as if it were only yesterday. My father and I were sitting by the fire reading at about 8 o'clock in the evening, when my mother, who had gone out of doors for some purpose, came running in with her face as white as a sheet.

"Oh, William! William!" she exclaimed to my father. "It is raining fire; we shall all be burnt alive."

"Oh, nonsense, it is the sparks from the chimney you see."

"No, no," said mother. "Come and see," wringing her hands in terror.

My father accordingly got up and went out, followed by myself, when an awfully grand sight struck our eyes that could never be forgotten. The whole sky was filled with what appeared to be falling stars, as thick almost as snow-flakes in a storm. Most were small; but now and then a large one would shoot across the sky, leaving a train of sparks behind it like a rocket, and from where we stood seemed to fall on roofs of the houses below in the town, which of course was not the case. As was to be expected, the rest of the people of the town were as much alarmed as we were, as we could hear by their shouts and cries. The majority were not so well read then as now, and were easily led astray by things they did not understand. My father, however, being well educated, had heard of such things before, and succeeded in quieting our fears by explaining to us the nature of meteors in general.

The attention of astronomers being directed by the grand display of heavenly pyrotechnics to the subject of meteoric showers, they began to look back into the history of their science. They found that, though meteors singly or in small numbers shooting across the sky were common enough, great displays such as we saw on that occasion only occurred in periods of 33 years. Astronomers were on the lookout for the return of the display in 1866, in our hemisphere; but were disappointed, for, except in Egypt, the Cape of Good Hope, and other Eastern countries, they did not appear to any extent. It was thought that our part of the globe passed through the thick of them in the daytime. Whether they are periodic or not, it is thought, will be determined this month. Unfortunately the moon will be nearly full in the middle of November this year.

THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM.

The manner in which some people, outside the Roman Catholic Church, talk of our free school system, is very apt to be misleading in some respects. The class to which we refer is, no doubt, fully convinced that the public school system is a natural product of Protestantism.

The following extract from a book entitled "National Education in Europe," by Henry Barnard, LL.D., will prove enlightening to some and of interest to all:

"But not to Germany or any other people, or any civil authority anywhere, but to the Christian Church, belongs the higher credit of first instituting the public school for the elementary education of the poor, which was the earliest form which this mighty element of modern society assumed. After the third century of the Christian era, whenever a Christian Church was planted, or religions were established, there it was the aim of the higher ecclesiastical authorities to found in some form a school for the nurture of children and youth for the service of religion and duties of society. Passing by the ecclesiastical and catechetical schools, we find as early as 529, the Council of Vaison strongly recommending the establishment of village schools. In 800 a synod at Mayence ordered that the parochial priests should have schools in the towns and villages that the children of all the faithful might learn letters from them; let them receive and teach these with the utmost charity, that themselves may shine as the stars forever. Let them receive no remuneration from their scholars, unless what the parents may voluntarily offer."

A council at Rome, in 836, under Pope Eugene II, ordered that there should be three kinds of schools established through Christendom; episcopal, parochial in towns and villages, and others wherever there could be found place and opportunity.

In 836 Lothaire I. promulgated a decree to establish eight public schools in some of the principal cities of Italy. "In order that opportunity may be given to all, and that there may be no excuse drawn from poverty and the difficulty of repairing to remote places."

The third Council of Lateran, 1179, says: "Since the Church of God, as a pious mother, is bound to provide that opportunity should not be withdrawn from the poor, who are without help from patrimonial riches, be it ordained, that in every cathedral there should be a master to teach both clerks and poor scholars gratis." This decree was enlarged and again enforced by Innocent III., in the year 1215. Hence, in all colleges and canons, one bore the title of the scholastic canon. The Council of Lyons, in 1215, decreed that "in all cathedral churches and others provided with adequate revenues, there should be established a school and a teacher by the Bishop and chapter, who should teach the clerks and other poor scholars gratis in grammar, and for this purpose a stipend should be assigned him."

Such was the origin of the popular school, as now generally understood—everywhere the offspring and companion of the Church.—Intermountain Catholic.