

only fire five shots without reloading so we rushed forward. Before he could insert another clip of five cartridges, we were on him with fixed bayonets. Our enemy seeing that he was worsted called out that he surrendered and throwing down his rifle held up his hands. I found that we had made prisoner a fine stalwart-looking burgher with flowing beard apparently armed to the teeth. On telling him to stand up we found that he had been wounded in the leg. Fraser took out his first aid field dressing which is kept in a small pocket in the bottom corner of the front of the tunic and carefully bound up the wound. I suspected that this man was a spy and told him that he could not expect much mercy when he was taken into camp. He protested however that he had come on a peaceful mission from Cronje's army which lay between us and Kimberly. On questioning him closely as to what peaceful mission he could come on, armed as he was, he finally made the surprising statement that he had run the dangers of the English pickets and had entered the English lines in the hope that he might on this Christmas night, visit his little daughter who was staying at the Thomas farm house. In corroboration of this he opened his saddle bag and showed us some little presents he had managed to get from Pretoria and which he was taking as a Christmas gift to his child. As he told us this the frame of the stalwart Field Cornet shook with emotion: he begged us as the only favor he wished that we should take these gifts to his child. Our astonishment was only equaled by his when we told him that we were on the same errand and showed him the presents we had prepared.

Kind-hearted Harold at once suggested that I should go with him to the farm house and let him see his little girl. I agreed to this. First I sent Fraser up the track and instructed him to tell the first patrol he met, for the distant hum showed that the camp had been aroused by the firing, that the shots were discharged at an ostrich which had been mistaken in the night time for the enemy.

Harold and I with Vanzyl, for such was the stranger's name, proceeded to the farm house.

After a little knocking Thomas was aroused and came