

# GEN. BULLER REPLICED

## Attempted to Cross the Tugela River and Was Beaten Back.

## Forced to Retire With Considerable Loss, Leaving Eleven Guns Behind.

## Artillery Under Col. Long Caught in a Trap and Rendered Useless, All the Horses Being Killed—More Troops for the Front.

### ANOTHER REVERSE.

#### General Buller's Force Beaten by the Boers at Tugela River.

The British forces were obliged to retire leaving behind them eleven guns.

LONDON, Dec. 15.—It is announced here that Gen. Buller's force in South Africa, who was moving to the relief of Ladysmith, has sustained a serious reverse at the hands of the Boers. He has lost many of his guns.

LONDON, Dec. 15.—Gen. Buller reports to the war office as follows: "CHELVEY CAMP, Dec. 15, 4.30 p.m.—I moved to report a serious reverse. I retired in full strength from the camp near Chelvey at 4 o'clock this morning.

There are two fordable places on the Tugela River, and it was my intention to force a passage through one of them.

There are about two miles apart, and I intended to force one or the other with one brigade, supported by a central brigade. Hart was to attack the left drift, Hildyard had the right of the road. Lyttelton was in the centre to support either. Early in the day I saw that Hart would not be able to force a passage, and directed him to withdraw. He had, however, attacked with great gallantry. His leading battalion, the Connaught Rangers, I fear suffered a great defeat. Col. Brooks was severely wounded.

ORDERED HILDYARD TO ADVANCE.

I then ordered Hildyard to advance, which he did. His leading regiment, the East Surrey, occupied Colenso station and the houses near the bridge. At that moment we heard that the whole artillery had been sent back to that station, namely the 14th and 68th field batteries and six naval 12-pounder quick firing guns, the whole of which were out of the action. It appears that Long in his desire to be within effective range, advanced close to the river. He proved to be full of the enemy, who immediately opened a galling fire at close range, killing all the horses, and the gunners were compelled to stand by their guns. Some wagon trains got shelter for the troops on a down slope near the bridge, but were made to bring out the field guns, but the fire was too severe. Only two or three were saved by Capt. Schofield and some drivers, whose names I will furnish.

ANOTHER GALLANT ATTEMPT.

Another most gallant attempt with three troops was made by an officer whose name I will obtain. Of eighteen horses thirteen were killed, and as several drivers were wounded, I would not allow another attempt, as it would mean the loss of a great deal of life in an attempt to force a passage unsupported by artillery. I directed the troops to withdraw, which they did in good order.

CONDUCT EXCELLENT.

Throughout the day a considerable force of the enemy was pressing my right flank, but was kept back by the mounted men under Lord Dundonald and part of Barton's brigade. The weather was intensely hot and most trying on the troops, whose conduct was excellent.

ABANDONED TEN GUNS.

We have abandoned ten guns and lost 11 shells and one horse. The losses of Hart's brigade are, I fear, heavy, though the proportion of severely wounded is not, I hope, large. The Fourteenth and 68th batteries also sustained severe losses. We have retired to the camp at Chelvey.

SITUATION AT HOME.

Disastrous Reverse Fills the Cup of Bitterness to Overflowing.

The Struggle Will Now Be Treated as a Great War, and Not as an Expedition.

LONDON, Dec. 15.—The news of the disastrous reverse of Gen. Buller has filled the cup of bitterness to overflowing. The attack which English troops were impatiently awaiting, even demanding for the relief of Ladysmith, was delivered yesterday morning. It not only failed, but the British force was compelled to fall back on its original position at Chelvey, after heavy slaughter and the loss of a large portion of its artillery. The terrible story is clearly and briefly told in Gen. Buller's despatch, so that war office which is the only information yet at hand.

WILL BE TREATED AS A GREAT WAR.

God Save Ireland, cheered the Boers and President Kruger, and threw their rifles into the river, is absolutely unbounded. Nothing whatever occurred among the men beyond the pathetic leave-takings which have been witnessed at all similar embarkations.

LONDON, Dec. 15.—The reserves of the Royal Irish Regiment paraded at Aldershot today in full marching order. They will embark for South Africa tomorrow from Southampton.

MARTIAL SPIRIT AMONG CANADIANS.

OTTAWA, Ont., Dec. 15.—That the martial spirit predominates amongst Canadians is evident from the fact that offers of service are again beginning to pour into the military authorities. Nothing can be done by the government in the way of equipping a second contingent until the imperial authorities are heard from, but public opinion here is practically unanimous in the belief that the government would be doing a patriotic service if it were to remind the British authorities that Canada is ready and anxious to send a contingent.

BOERS NUMBERED ONE.

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PRESS OPINIONS.

The Standard says: "Gen. Buller's despatch is a deplorable reading. It is the now familiar story of concealed Boers and of British troops marching up blindly almost to the very jaws of the enemy's rifle. It cannot be doubted that the moral effect will be to aggravate our difficulties over the whole field of operations."

THE DAILY NEWS.

The Daily News describes the intelligence as the saddest that has reached England since the Indian mutiny, and says it will make a serious call upon the equanimity of the people throughout the empire. Gen. Buller, it declares, was not routed, but seriously checked. It adds: "What, perhaps, most of all to be feared, is the effect it will have on Cape Colony. Reinforcements urgently needed both in Natal and Middelburg may have to be employed elsewhere."

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The Standard says: "We must expect that the moral effect will be great. We cannot doubt that it will aggravate our difficulties over the whole field of operations in South Africa. That it will damp the spirits of British people or alter the determination to bring the war to a successful issue we utterly decline to allow."

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THE TELEGRAPH.

The Telegraph says: "The moral fibre of the British empire is now being tested as never since the Crimea and the Indian mutiny. We passed then through times of terrible stress, and the present trial surely will not find us wanting."

THE CHRONICLE.

The Chronicle says: "Three reverses within a few days make this the gloomiest week since the war began. We wanted victory sorely and we have not got it. Gen. Buller's failure to force a passage of the Tugela river offers another disquieting illustration of that element of surprise in Boer tactics which is the most striking characteristic of the campaign. Gen. Buller appears to have made a direct front attack on the central Boer position. We hear nothing of any turning movement, but we shall not cry out against him. Some cheering news must be sent from this side to the commanders in South Africa, even when not cheering news comes from them. Let them be assured that we are losing neither confidence nor patience, but that we trust them to make good all their errors and be steady in hammering to conquer to the end."

THE FREEMAN'S JOURNAL.

The Freeman's Journal says: "I will fight it out on this line if it takes all summer. It is a famous saying of Gen. Grant's after one of his

defeats. That is a happy reminder for Gen. Buller in the very serious task to which he will apply himself with all the more resolution if he knows he is backed by something better than cavil at home."

A MISUNDERSTANDING.

LONDON, Dec. 15.—A despatch to the Times from Modder River under date of Dec. 13th, says: "The troops are remaining in the same position."

The Boerist reports that the Boers are active and are moving their wagons toward Jacobabad, with the view of obtaining supplies. Their situation is bad, as they are almost completely cut off from receiving our railway communication, etc.

This morning by request of the Boers, ambulances went out and fetched in 45 wounded. Meanwhile the Boerist reports that the Boers were informed of the arrival of the Boers with the shells most resentful manner. It is reported that the Boers were induced to the ambulances.

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**SURPRISE SOAP**

Pure hard Soap lasts long, lathers freely.

5 cents a cake.

ST. CROIX SOAP MFG. CO., St. Stephen, N.B.

**VETERINARY DEPARTMENT.**

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A pleasure at it has with J. W. all questions of the above-mentioned kind through the

dressed: REMENT, John, N. B.

it was causing the horse to jump. He is jumping stable him. It has a right side. Is it not very large, rise an opportunity of any

R. C. A.—I have a horse, eight years old, that has a lump below the sprain joint, about four inches long. When worked he gets lame and tired. Another horse has a lump on the shoulder. It is loose beneath the skin. He calls when worked. Please advise.

Ans.—The first probably an exostosis. You would probably find benefit from firing and blistering. As to the second, remove it with a sharp knife, put a stitch or two in the wound and dress with Carbolic Acid and water, one part to twenty.

M. S.—A Collie dog had the mange bad. Is now better of that, but seems dull and does not like to move about. What shall I do for him?

Ans.—Give a good dose of Castor Oil and follow this with five drops daily of Fowler's Solution of Arsenic.

W. B.—Will you tell of a good tonic for a cow that is run down?

Ans.—Glen's Pulv., (8 oz.) eight ounces Ferri Sulph. Pulv., (4 oz.) four ounces; Aniseed Pulv., (1 lb.) one pound. Divide into ten doses and give one dose daily in food.

**A VERY STRONG MAN.**

A Petit Rocher letter of Dec. 2 says: "R. E. Hutchinson's son Richard, aged 19 years (named after his grandfather, Richard Henderson Hutchinson), who is one of the strongest if not the strongest men in northern New Brunswick, has lately been seriously hurt while working at log-rolling at Dr. Seaward W. Webb's park at Nebasane, Herkimer Co., State of New York. Four logs broke away from the yard and caught him, crushing his legs badly. He writes that his injuries were sufficient to have killed two ordinary men. When in condition Richard lifts 1,000 lbs., easily from the ground with his hands, and can extend 75 lbs. horizontally at arms' length with either hand. Physically he is one in 10,000, and just as good natured, and courageous as he is strong."

**Children Cry for CASTORIA.**

TABQUACHE-A CO-OPERATIVE COLONY.

(Denver Republican.)

When the panic fell with crushing weight upon Colorado, nine heroic men and women formed a colony upon a new plan in this state, which has been a success. It is located in Tabquache Park and the plan may be called the Tabquache idea.

The people residing here had nothing except energy, intelligence, originality and a high purpose. In five years they have built a canal fifteen miles long, made expenditures approaching \$500,000, have greatly recruited their numbers, and have proved the feasibility of a system of co-operation and government among themselves that is most interesting. Each man and woman is allowed 5 cents an hour for work.

Addressing some reservists of the York and Lancaster Regiment, the Hon. Mr. Justice Grantham said that the reservists of England had astonished the world.

Fifteen Johannesburg Germans refused to be conscripted, and were in consequence drummed out of Gold Reef City. They escaped by way of Lorenzo Marquez.

"The future of the South African war will hardly soothe the raging

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