

Widely Divided

Sentiment of Europe Regarding the South African War—Austria and Italy Feel Deeply for Britain—Her Defeat Pleases Germany.

Hon. H. H. Asquith on the Duty of the Hour—Britain's Claim as a World Power at Stake—Presentation of the Queen's Flag to the American Hospital Ship Maine—Sad Farewells—Col. Long's Slap-Dash Manner Lost the British Their Guns in Friday's Fight.

London, Dec. 18.—The public is just beginning to realize that with 100,000 men in the field no progress is being made in any direction, and Kimberley and Ladysmith seem as far off as ever from the promised relief. While Gen. Buller's reverse was an unexpected blow to the public that had pinned its faith to him, it would appear that the original plan of campaign, if adhered to, would have given better results, for the besieged towns have shown themselves quite capable of holding out. As it is now, the British forces are split up, and are seriously repulsed, are unable to co-operate, and, at any rate, for the present, are unable to reach their objectives. It was for this plan that the central advance was sacrificed. Even the relief of Ladysmith can scarcely have great alleviating consequences to the campaign as a whole, unless its moral effect quickens the growing disaffection in Cape Colony and disheartens the Boers to a more serious extent than the other minor reverses have so far done.

But, however looked at, the British position is most unenviable and there is a great cry for more troops. Lord Londonderry urged the war office to send out 100,000 more men, saying: "Conceive the effect on the empire if Methuen is forced to surrender." The St. James's Gazette says this with the intimation that the treasury is withholding the funds necessary to send out reinforcements, adding: "It is a pity that the Boers' reluctance to sacrifice a colleague will not serve to shield a minister who stands before Britain and the restoration of her damaged superiority in South Africa."

VOLUNTEERS WORKED UP.
On the other hand, there are many magnificent examples, through public speeches and editorials, of the great common sense which is the backbone of the nation. There are people who implore Englishmen not to make fools of themselves, and to insist that a few reverses make it necessary to drain the country of every man able to carry a rifle. The volunteers are greatly worked up, and numbers of applications to serve in regiments, from individuals, have been received. The Associated Press learns, however, that Lord Wolseley believes that though these men are excellent as volunteers, they lack the evenness, in the ranks and among the officers, which marks a line regiment. To use his own words, they are "brilliant in spots, but weak in others," and while he appreciates the offers, he sees no way to accept them at present.

GERMANS JUBILANT.
Berlin, Dec. 18.—The German press and people are jubilant over the news from South Africa, and everywhere in the streets people stop each other and offer congratulations. Among the press comments tonight is that of the Kreuz Zeitung, which says: "Thus the fighting power of the third column is destroyed and the campaign against the Boers is disastrously ended. What, however, means more, is that England's decadence, long ago apparent to far-sighted statesmen, has thus become visible before the new world."

THE VOSSISCHE ZEITUNG says: "The English yesterday met the greatest defeat in this campaign, so productive of disappointments and losses."

THE NATIONAL ZEITUNG says: "The second chapter in this war is now also ended and is much worse than the first. Its effects upon the English in Natal and Cape Colony must be very unfortunate for the English cause."

The semi-official Post, after making merry of the English pretensions in this war, says: England had better not count upon her colonies, citing

the New South Wales Lancers as specimens of the colonial troops."

BEGINNING OF THE END.
The Deutsche Tages Zeitung calls it the beginning of the end, and concludes its article thus: "We in Germany do not wish England to get off cheaply. The more they are humbled, the more they are the more completely their power in South Africa is broken, the better for us."

The Boersen Courier says: "The attitude of the British people in view of these hard knocks deserve every praise, and the paper adds that, 'in any case England's position as a world power has been secured in her navy.' The Lokalanziger says: 'Surely a severe trial the British world and empire never had to meet, for, as things are now, England will have to thank the other powers for their sincere love of peace only if she emerges from this war with a whole skin and more or less of her navy.'"

AUSTRIAN OPINIONS.
Vienna, Dec. 18.—Gen. Buller's reverse is the subject of almost universal comment in the Austrian press today. Most of the papers incline to the assumption that Gen. Buller's military motives in hurrying engagements are found in the situation of Ladysmith, and they conclude that the capitulation of that place may shortly be expected. The Neue Presse says: "If the attack was the outcome of a political consideration, there could only have been the excitement prevailing among the Austrians and the state of public opinion in England."

Freundenblatt fears these reverses will bring the Boers fresh auxiliaries from the Dutch Cape Colonists, but adds: "Yet, it is to be seen whether the Boers know how to follow up a victory."

The Wiener Abendblatt thinks that the consequences of the two last reverses may, in so far as human judgment can foretell, be the fall of Ladysmith and Kimberley, and the outbreak of an Afrikaner rebellion and the consequent weakening of the British position in the meantime an improvement can only be secured by reinforcements, which are not expected till January."

The Deutsche Volksblatt believes the cause of Gen. Buller's defeat, as on previous occasions, was faulty reconnaissance. The paper adds: "The Boers are excellent as volunteers, they lack the evenness, in the ranks and among the officers, which marks a line regiment. To use his own words, they are 'brilliant in spots, but weak in others,' and while he appreciates the offers, he sees no way to accept them at present."

THE ACTION OF THE NATIONAL LIBERAL FEDERATION in deciding to support a vigorous prosecution of war, but reserving the full right of criticism, now and in the future, while stating that there is much to be deplored in the conduct of the negotiations preceding the hostilities may voice also the opinion of the bulk of the Liberal party.

ITALY PROFOUNDLY DISTRESSED.
Rome, Dec. 17.—Gen. Buller's reverse produced a profound impression in all circles here, where it is regarded as most serious for the military prestige of England. The afternoon papers devote long articles to the subject. The Avanti says:

"It is a veritable disaster for Great Britain, and the chief responsibility falls upon Mr. Chamberlain. The probability is that the final success of the British troops will thereby be considerably diminished. The Italia is of the opinion that the cause of imperialism in South Africa has sustained a severe check. The tribune says the defeat brings into prominence the weakness of the British artillery."

CAIM DISCUSSION IN FRANCE.

Paris, Dec. 17.—For the third time in a week Parisian met news vendors running along the boulevards today shouting "Crushing defeat of the English!" and "Great Victory for the Boers." The French people heard and read the news with interest and dismay. The situation of the British in the restaurants and cafes without a display of sorrow or sympathy for the British, but at the same time without any outward demonstration of grief or satisfaction that could be regarded as offensive by British spectators.

THE DUTY OF THE HOUR.
Right, Hon. H. H. Asquith, addressing the Tyneside Liberal Association at Newcastle, said: "Nothing is more unjust than to seek to undermine the confidence of the country and the army in a gallant general on the strength of a single error of judgment or a single reverse. Nor is it a time when it becomes responsible persons to go about whistling for alliance or dazing the world with exhibitions of freaks of new diplomacy. The situation confronting us is so serious that it is hardly possible to speak of any other topic."

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GREAT INTEREST AT STAKE.
It has become wider and deeper than the question of maintaining our position in South Africa. It is our title to be known as a world power that is now at stake, and if we fail here the empire crumbles. When the magnitude of

the task we have undertaken ought not to have been seen sooner is a question which will have to be answered hereafter, but now it is clear that our force is inadequate. It is the universal opinion of all parties that whatever concession is needed to give the army its resolute superiority, however great the sacrifices involved, the country will readily sanction. The nation confidently expects the government to do what is necessary. It is our duty to be UNITED AND CALM,

and to concentrate all our resources, material and moral, upon a task which we cannot lay down or leave incomplete without dealing a blow alike at the honor and safety of our own empire."

Mr. Asquith's speech fairly expresses the moderate average opinion of the situation. A more radical view, which, however, has few open followers, was echoed by Sir Wilfrid Lawson in an address to the Liberals of Cape Town, after the government, after bringing the country to a verge of war with America, Germany, Russia and France, of plunging it into war in South Africa, through incompetent diplomacy.

A MEMORABLE EVENT.

The West India docks were gay Saturday afternoon with about 6,000 prominent people present to witness the presentation of the Queen's flag to the American hospital ship Maine. The Duke of Connaught, surrounded by the ladies of the committee, presented the flag to Lady Randolph Churchill, saying: "Ladies and gentlemen—In the name of Her Majesty the Queen, I present this Union Jack to the hospital ship Maine, as a mark of her Majesty's appreciation of the generosity of those who have found money for the ship, and also as a mark of her appreciation for the charity which a large number of American ladies and gentlemen have shown towards the soldiers of the Queen, speaking their own language, who are now fighting gallantly in South Africa. It is a great pleasure to me to be asked to perform what I believe to be a most unique ceremony. Never before has a ship sailed under the combined flag, the Union Jack and the Stars and Stripes, and it marks, I hope, an occasion which brings out the feeling of generosity and affection for each other. I cannot thank those who have come forward in this manner sufficiently for what they have done. As an officer in the British army, I feel, I can assure you, most deeply for what you have all done, and I am sure the officers and men who, I hope, will reap the benefits of this well-founded ship, will ever bless those who have done so much for them. I should like to mention many names, but I am afraid it is impossible. But I will ask Lady Randolph Churchill to accept, in the names of those who have given money for the ship, the gift of the sovereign of the country and of all Englishmen and women for the splendid gift of this hospital ship."

The Duke of Connaught, at the bidding, thanking the Queen and the Duke of Connaught. The Bishop of Islington blessed the ship, and the flag was hoisted by the duke and broken out, an immense Union Jack, with the cross in its center, flying out in the sunshine. The "Star-Spangled Banner" and "God Save the Queen" were played by the Scots Guard band, and cheering of the crowds was augmented by the dockers, who clustered along the river banks and joined in the applause. Simultaneous with the Duke's speech, the Duke of Connaught, at the bidding, thanking the Queen and the Duke of Connaught. The Bishop of Islington blessed the ship, and the flag was hoisted by the duke and broken out, an immense Union Jack, with the cross in its center, flying out in the sunshine. The "Star-Spangled Banner" and "God Save the Queen" were played by the Scots Guard band, and cheering of the crowds was augmented by the dockers, who clustered along the river banks and joined in the applause.

COLD WEATHER IN GERMANY.
Severe cold weather and snowstorms have prevailed throughout Germany this week and this has produced considerable suffering. From all larger cities there are reports to that effect and there have been many deaths due to exposure. In Berlin alone the cold deaths have been 100 during the last four days. The temperature was lower than for years past. At Koenigsberg, it was 23 degrees below zero. In Berlin 18 degrees below, and at Breslau 22 degrees below.

AN IMPRESSIVE CEREMONY.
Like those of the days of the crusades, was witnessed at Canterbury Saturday forenoon, when a large company of the East Kent Regiment, known as the "Butts," marched to the cathedral, escorting the regimental colors, which were placed in the sanctuary. Dean Farrar accepted the custody of the colors, conducted the impressive ceremony and addressed words of sympathy and encouragement to the soldiers, who sail for Africa in a few days. British regiments no longer carry their precious colors in foreign wars, but deposit them in their home churches.

SAD FAREWELLS.
Affecting leave-takings continue from week to week, as one division after another is ordered to South Africa, officered by the best blood in England. Among the mothers who are parting this week from their sons are Lady Edward Churchill, Lady Filmer, Lady Chesham and Lady Leconfield. These distinguished officers, who have frequent contributors. Of Dickens, Thackeray, George Eliot, Du Maurier, and others, who have been in the United States and abroad, who have frequent contributors. Of Dickens, Thackeray, George Eliot, Du Maurier, and others, who have been in the United States and abroad, who have frequent contributors.

OF THIS CITY, From Personal Experience, indorses Doan's Kidney Pills.

It is surprising how many people in London suffer from backache, lame or weak back, rheumatism, headache, shooting pains in the legs, weak and dizzy eyes, urinary difficulties, and kidney troubles. Those who are afflicted are daily having a way of escape opened for them. People who have used Doan's Kidney Pills and are cured have been cured by them gladly tell others.

High and low, rich and poor, join in the universal chorus of praise of these "Conquerors of kidney ills."

This time we give the statement of James P. McVicar, Esq., 381, Dabot Street, who says: "I was so severely afflicted by kidney trouble that I could not stand on my feet long at a time."

"I noticed Doan's Kidney Pills advertised and felt sure to try them."

"From the first box I got great relief, and after taking them for some time I was completely cured."

"They seemed to go to the seat of the disease at once, and gave me relief with remarkable quickness."

Doan's Kidney Pills never fail in the most difficult cases of kidney trouble, and when others fail. But see that each box you buy has on it the full name and the trade mark of the Maples Leaf, otherwise you may be getting a cheap imitations.

A Prominent Veterinary Surgeon

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THE ROYAL IRISH.
In addition to the denial from Waterford, cabled to the Associated Press, the commanding officer of the 1st Battalion of the Royal Irish Regiment at Aldershot has telegraphed, saying there is absolutely no truth in the statement cabled to the United States that the reserves of the battalion, cheered or President Kruger and threw their rifles and accoutrements into the river when leaving Waterford on their way to South Africa. The statement is a gross lie. The reserves arrived here complete and dispatched from Clonmel. There was no deficiencies in either men, arms, or accoutrements."

HOW THE GUNS WERE LOST.
The London correspondent of the New York Tribune cables: Military men do not hold Gen. Buller responsible for the loss of the guns, nor do they consider "entrapped" and accurate word for describing the accident which befell the artillery. They lay stress upon Col. Long's neglect of ordinary precautions in getting the guns across the river without previous reconnaissance or scouting. Veterans assert that this would not have been done in a sham battle at Aldershot, and that every practical manual on artillery tactics lays down as an elementary principle that scouts and cavalry must go over the ground first in order to find out whether it is safe to follow. Col. Long is described as carrying his batteries in a slap-dash manner along the river, where the

suspected of being concealed. Yet he was one of the most experienced officers of the Royal Artillery.

DEBATES IN THE REICHSTAG.
Berlin, Dec. 18.—The members of the Reichstag are now home for the Christmas holidays, but the four days of budget debate have left deep traces. The main results were the open rupture proclaimed between the Conservative party and Prince Hohenlohe, in which it will be interesting to see which wins; secondly, the Miquel-Lieber duel, in which Dr. Von Miquel gave some hard knocks; thirdly, Herr Richter's speech, amounting to a general arraignment of the emperor and the government, and fourthly, Count Posadowsky-Wehner's remarks about German relations with the United States and Great Britain.

Count Posadowsky-Wehner said he regretted that "our commercial relations with Germany are not wholly good, but I am convinced that right and justice in this are on our side." Then, talking about the necessity for a larger German navy, he said: "The real propelling cause is that the commerce of the world, undivided, should not go wholly to England and America, for which purposes we must be prepared to be similarly strong as those powers."

Another remarkable feature of Count Posadowsky-Wehner's speech was a part in which he ridiculed the agrarian Roskoff, who had upbraided Boer states as political and economic ideals for the German nation.

NAVY BILL LIKELY TO PASS.
Herr Richter's three hour oration was replete with witticisms as usual. One of the most effective was when referring to the groundless rumors about the Danish West Indies he said: "No wonder with \$17,000,000 paid for the Danish Islands that we are building the market and prompting all other countries to ponder whether they have not some cast-off pair of islands to sell."

Herr Richter, who spoke in the name of the pro-navy radicals, pointed out that the proposed naval increase was a momentous decision, and that those people who do not want, even the mightiest monarch or the mightiest statesman cannot carry it."

The speech, and most lasting impression was produced by Count Von Buelow's solemn and pathetic declaration when the reichstag adjourned.

His attitude of different moral toward the naval bill is not yet clearly defined; but from inquiries made by the correspondent of the Associated Press among the leaders of the different factions, it can be said that the chances of the bill's passage are most bright.

OPEN DOOR IN CHINA.
From an authentic source the correspondent hears, regarding the "open door" in China, that the Washington Government has not yet asked any other power besides Germany to furnish assurances, verbal or written, to maintain the open door, but now that Germany's answer is entirely favorable, all the other powers interested in the open door, including France, Russia, Italy and Great Britain. It is expected that all of them will answer favorably, except, perhaps, Russia; but it is likely that in most instances Russia can then be brought to bear on Russia to yield.

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STEPS ARE BEING TAKEN to erect a monument to Emin Pasha in Oppeln, his native place.

M. Chatnand and Guillaumet, of Paris, have made preparations to establish a permanent French theater in Berlin beginning in April next.

MRS. WARD'S NOVEL ELEANOR.
The chief feature of the hundredth volume of Harper's Magazine will doubtless be Mrs. Humphrey Ward's novel Eleanor, which begins in the January number and runs twelve months. A glance over the bound volumes of Harper's shows that the best of the great novelists, both in the United States and abroad, who have frequent contributors. Of Dickens, Thackeray, George Eliot, Du Maurier, and others, who have been in the United States and abroad, who have frequent contributors.

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and in Eleanor we may look for something beyond the ordinary. It is said that it is, in the main, a love story. The scene is laid in an old Italian villa on the Campagna, and the interest centers in the love of an American girl and an English woman for the same man.

ISLAND OF MONTE CRISTO

Bought by the Prince of Naples as a Refuge From City Life.

Description of the Place, Whose Name Is Famous—A Beautiful Spot.

[St. Louis Republic.]

What magic there is in a name! This was finely illustrated a few days ago when it was announced that the young Prince of Naples had purchased the Island of Monte Cristo as a present for his charming wife, and had erected there a hunting lodge, which he proposes to make his headquarters whenever the fancy seizes him to flee from the glare and bustle of court life and to enjoy a few days' hunting and shooting in a place that knows not the telegraph or the postman, and that, though a part of Italy, is practically terra incognita, even to the Italians themselves. The island which the Prince has bought is an insignificant little strip of land, and yet there is a fascination about it that renders the news of its purchase of interest to the thousands in all countries who are familiar with the name of Monte Cristo.

If Dumas had not written his famous romance, with its wonderful, if impossible, hero, it is doubtful if any one of us would have longed over the dispatch that the Prince of Naples had become the owner of the island. And no wonder, for what would one know or care about a remote and insignificant French story-teller had not directed our attention to it and had not enthralled thousands by his graphic description of its wild scenery and the splendid life which the multi-millionaire count led while he was master of it? Outside of Dumas' work you will find very little mention of the island. One or two Florentine chroniclers speak of it, one modern historian tells us that it has a weird and romantic history, and the leading encyclopedias contain merely a few lines about its dimensions and general appearance. Of its past history no authentic account is available, and for the reason that it has not been inhabited for a long time.

Yet that it has had a romantic history is attested by the fact that, in the Mediterranean, 27 miles south of Elba, it is manifestly impossible that it was always as isolated and as desolate as it has been within the last few centuries, and by gleaming here and there in old records one can obtain a faint idea of its past. First, however, it is necessary to have a clear conception of the island.

As seen from the Mediterranean, it is a conical rock of granite, five miles in circumference, and 2,000 feet high. In stormy weather the sea dashes fiercely against it, and it is not easy to make a landing. Neither does it contain anything likely to attract the ordinary tourist. The ground is mainly covered with boulders, and there is not an acre of land which can be cultivated. On the other hand, the sportsman and the naturalist will find many treasures amid this mass of rock. Wild goats have long been the survivors of the place, and partridges have long made their home there. The chirping of grasshoppers is heard on all sides, and the building of the birds and the luxuriant life in the dense scrub and grasses which are found here and there. Myrtles and olive trees spread in all directions, forming many a labyrinth, and gray old lichen veils the deformity of many an uncouth rock.

There are grottoes on the island, but hardly such a one of Dumas describes the one in which the marvelous treasure was found. "There were at least 1,000 ingots of gold, each of which weighed from two to three pounds. Then he piled up 25,000 crowns, each of which was worth about 80 francs, and bore the effigies of Alexander VI. and his predecessors, and he saw that the compartment was not half empty. And he measured ten double handfuls of pearls, diamonds and other gems, many of which were valued by the most famous workmen, were valuable beyond their intrinsic worth."

At the same time, there are few pieces in the world where a treasure is more likely to have been buried, and for the very good reason that in bygone ages the island of Monte Cristo was the rendezvous of pirates, and if some of these old outlaws could only speak, they would surely tell of the treasure which they had hidden amid the desolate rocks in the days when revenue officers were still unknown and smuggling was still an easy thing to do. There is a direct testimony that many a jovial banquet was held here by reckless Italian Robin Hoods, many from Corsica and Sardinia, during that memorable epoch when Lorenzo the Magnificent was playing his superb role in the City of Flowers, and there is more than one old legend which tells how African bandits frequently found the island a sure place of refuge. And yet all this time the island was strictly speaking uninhabited, being at the best merely a temporary lodging place for those whose hands were against every man as every man's hands were against them.

Italy has owned this barren place from time immemorial, and about twenty-five years ago there was some talk