

British Reverse

Gatacre's Force, Marching on Stormberg, Led into an Ambush.

Over Six Hundred Missing—List of the Killed and Wounded.

Splendid Behaviour of Troops Under a Terrible Fire From the Boers.

London, Dec. 10.—The following dispatch from General Forester-Walker at Capetown has been issued by the War Office:

Gatacre reports: Deeply regret to inform you that I met with a serious reverse in the attack on Stormberg. I was misled as to the enemy's position by the guides and found an impracticable ground.

Casualties, as far as known: Second Battalion Royal Irish Rifles—Wounded: Lt.-Col. Dager, Major Seaton, Capt. Bell, Capt. Kelly, Lt. Stephens, Lt. Harwardston.

Suffolk Regiment—Wounded: Second Lt. Maynard and twelve men. Missing: Capt. Wair, Lt. Christie, Second Lt. Rodney, 290 men.

Seventy-Fourth Field Battery—Severely wounded: Lt. Lewis, three men. Slightly wounded: two men.

Seventy-Seventh Field Battery—Killed: One gunner. Wounded: Major Perceval.

Northumberland Fusiliers—Missing: Major Stevens, Capt. Fletcher, Capt. Morley; Second Lt. Wake, Second Lt. Colson, Lt. Radcliffe. 306 non-commissioned officers and men.

Royal Berkshire Regiment—Killed: One private.

The remainder of my casualties will be wired as soon as ascertained.

Details of Fighting. Molato, Cape Colony, Dec. 10.—General Gatacre's movement may be termed a reconnaissance in force. The object was to ascertain the strength of the position of the Boers, who were strongly entrenched along the Stormberg range.

He left Putter's Kraal shortly after midnight with a fighting force of slightly over 4,000 men.

Leaving Molato at 9 o'clock last evening he made a memorable march over the rocks and led: There was no sound except a steady tramp, and three moon having gone down about 11.30.

The column arrived safely within a couple of miles of its destination, the only incident of the march being a casual and sudden call of "Halt!" under the belief that the Boers were near.

Suddenly a terrific fire opened simultaneously on the British front and right flank. The Royal Irish Rifles, who formed the advance, sought shelter behind a neighbouring ridge and were speedily joined by the remainder of the column.

It was soon found, however, that this position was also covered by Boer guns, which were more powerful than had been supposed.

The troops, therefore, sought a safer position about half a mile away, two batteries in the meantime engaging the Boers and covering the troops in their withdrawal.

The action now became general at long range, and a detachment of mounted infantry moved northward with a view of getting on the enemy's right flank.

Suddenly a strong commando was seen moving from the north; and the Royal Irish Rifles and the Northumberland Regiment were sent out to meet it.

It was soon discovered, however, that the Boers had machine guns well placed, and the British were compelled to face a terrible fire. Finding it impossible to hold the position in the face of an enemy apparently superior in position, numbers and artillery, the British retired to Molato, the Boers following in the retirement closely and bringing guns to bear on the retiring column. It is believed here that the British casualties were not serious.

Gun Abandoned. London, Dec. 11.—A dispatch to the Times from Molato says: "General Gatacre attempted to storm the Boer position at Stormberg, but on Sunday. The guides led us wrong, and we were surprised while in force and after a very firing march.

Our retirement was effected in excellent order, there being no hurry, even at the most critical time. The Northumberland and Irish Rifles behaved as if on review.

"I fear our losses are heavy. One of our guns had to be abandoned. One of our officers was killed, and several others were wounded. We are anxiously awaiting particulars.

London, Dec. 11.—It is hardly too much to regard General Gatacre's repulse near Stormberg as the most serious defeat British arms have yet sustained in the whole campaign.

Already the official advices show that two men were killed, nine officers and seventeen men wounded, and nine officers and 300 men are missing. But it is evident that the worst during the night.

The proportion of wounded and killed is so small when compared with the missing, who are undoubtedly prisoners in the hands of the Boers, that the supplementary list of casualties is awaited with serious misgivings.

It is also feared that there were serious losses of guns and equipment.

The most serious aspect of the affair is the effect it is likely to have on the Dutch in Cape Colony.

who have been wavering as to whether to cast in their lot with the Boers. Most of the northern farmers are now likely to join in the rebellion. The defeat is also serious because it will delay the junction of General Gatacre with General French at Naanpoort.

The plan was for their combined forces to relieve the pressure on Lord Methuen's column.

The disclosure of such a strong force at Stormberg was quite unexpected.

Doubtless General Gatacre was the victim of treacherous guides. But the result points also to the absence of proper cavalry support.

The British troops who recently occupied Anand are advancing. They have had several skirmishes, but no casualties. Three miles north of Anand they found the Boers 2,000 strong.

Boer Positions. London, Dec. 11.—The War Office has received the following dispatch from Capetown, dated Sunday, 10th: "The position of the enemy in Stormberg last night was the following: "At Stormberg, six batteries; at Dor-drecht, 800 men; twenty-three miles south of Stormberg, 200 men. Major Elliot reports that Dabbert, with a force, has gone toward Dorrecht to cooperate with Gatacre."

REPULSED AT KIMBERLEY. Made a Night Attack but were Driven Off—Lydite Shells Damaged—Burglars Worked.

Capetown, Dec. 11.—It is rumored here that the Boers attacked Kimberley at 10 o'clock yesterday night but were repulsed with heavy loss.

From Modder River. London, Dec. 11.—Admiral received at the war office, state that the railway bridge at Modder River was completed on the 10th.

Gen. Methuen reports that he made a demonstration up the line of the railway at daylight yesterday with artillery. The enemy did not respond.

Gen. Methuen is receiving the remainder of his reinforcements and supplies. He has established detached posts on his lines of communication.

Reports from Pretoria of renewed fighting at Modder River originated from the fact that the British, with a team of 32 oxen, hauled a naval gun to the top of a ridge north of Modder River, whence they fired lyddite shells on the Boer position at a range of 6,700 yards, where the enemy was apparently constructing an emplacement for the 40-pounder. The lyddite shells appeared to do immense damage. The Boers retired, but the incident is interesting as showing that the Boers are still in position quite close to Modder River.

The engineers report that it would take two months to rebuild the iron bridge.

Lord Methuen is still compelled to ride about in a dog cart, as his wounds prevent him going on horseback. Should the rains destroy the temporary bridge, there is enough rolling stock on the north side of the river to serve Lord Methuen's troops.

It is reported that the Boers are busy making entrenchments at Spryfontein. Several tiers of work are beginning to appear at the foot of the heights.

Making reports all well on November 30th.

Methuen's Plans. New York, Dec. 11.—The Sun's London correspondent claims to have received private information regarding a change in Gen. Methuen's plans.

The correspondent states that instead of marching straight to Kimberley Gen. Methuen's column will turn sharply east from the Modder River and march toward Bloemfontein, capital of the Orange Free State.

Nearly the whole Boer force in the neighborhood is strongly entrenched at Spryfontein, midway between the Modder river and Kimberley, ready to make the last stand against Gen. Methuen's advance to the relief of the beleaguered city. If Gen. Methuen would give battle there it would undoubtedly prove the bloodiest fight of the war.

The reported intention of the British commander to march on Bloemfontein would be excellent tactics. He would leave the difficult country where he would be compelled to fight the enemy in positions of their own choice, and enter the broad plains of the Orange Free State where the battle will be fought in the open, which will be greatly to the British advantage.

Kimberley is in far less danger than Mafeking and Ladysmith.

THE SORTIE FROM LADYSMITH. London, Dec. 9.—The following dispatch from Gen. Buller, dated, Frere Camp, December 9th, afternoon, has been received at the war office:

The following was received from Gen. Buller today: "A list of the Boer casualties at Blaudslagte. This list shows that the Boers' loss in that fight was 43 killed and 110 wounded."

The Transvaal government has decided to consider Mr. De la Rivecourt, who was captured on Nov. 15th, between Beers court and Chieveley, a combatant officer and treat him as a prisoner on that basis.

It is stated that the British government has decided on the formation of a volunteer reserve. It is expected that half a million ex-volunteers will join the new organization.

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The supposition is that the enemy has blown up the highway bridge.

The Canadians. Orange River, Saturday, Dec. 9.—Halt the men of the Canadian contingent have gone forward.

Like the Australian contingent, they have been put to stiff work since their arrival, and have been building sidings, erecting platforms and rendering the usual routine service. They are in excellent condition and very zealous.

BRITISH PREPARATIONS. To Prevent Any Interference by Continental Powers in South Africa.

New York, Dec. 10.—Telegraphing from London, the correspondent of the Sun says: "A complete review of the war has been announced that Chief Justice Gregorowski and other civil officers of the Transvaal had arrived at Lorenzo Marques from Victoria en route to Capetown and suggested that their mission was to see for peace at the feet of Queen Victoria's high commissioner."

It now appears that the mission is not done for Capetown, but for Europe. They propose visiting every European capital with the object of interesting the powers in the cause of the South African republic, and when the time opens for peace, England will be prepared to impose the hard terms.

Judging by the aroused temper in this country and the known views of a majority of this government, it may safely be asserted that the mission is foregone and that whether or not any power is so foolish as to interfere. There is, however, abundant evidence to show that the British government will not be taken by surprise if France should endeavor to do so.

Lead the Boers Diplomatic Help and that such mediation would be politically decided.

In view of what might happen after the British government has been quietly making a variety of preparations, some of which are known to all the world, because they could not be concealed, such as the concentration of the Mediterranean and Channel fleets and the sending of a small special service squadron to the Cape, the preparations of the newspapers have made little mention and which have had no prominence by special request of the government. It is a fact that arrangements have been made for calling out the militia and coast guard, to form every fighting ship of the British navy, and that the commanding officers of all volunteer regiments have been warned that their men may be called to colors on short notice.

Commanding officers have also been requested to furnish an estimate of the number of men who are likely to volunteer.

For Full Military Service. The volunteer forces must number two hundred and twenty thousand men, in addition to which there are believed to be fully a quarter of a million of men who have passed through the volunteer ranks of the militia, and all under 40 years of age. It is estimated that 100,000 active volunteers and 80,000 recalled veterans could respond to a call for full military service, and they would furnish a force by no means to be despised.

Altogether there is warrant for the statement that if any European power should attempt to interfere in the struggle in South Africa England would be calling on the volunteer forces, naval and military. As an experiment, this almost to be hoped that needful provocation will be given by somebody, so that the world may witness the spectacle of the British Lion in full battle array."

NOTES. It is announced that Colonel Elliot, commander of the native territory of the Orange Free State, has been appointed by Imperial authority with a view to assisting the defensive forces.

A dispatch from Pietermaritzburg says: "Three bodies found after the Mooi River battle were the remains of three scouts belonging to the British Horse. They had been captured by the Boers and while bound had been ridiculed with bullets."

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Saved by Artillery

Their Magnificent Work Averted a More Serious Disaster to Gatacre's Column.

Attack on the Northampton While Guarding the Line of Communication.

The British Casualties Were One Man Killed and Six Wounded.

London, Dec. 11.—Later details regarding the disaster to Gen. Gatacre's column show that but for the magnificent work of the British artillery the disaster would have been far more extensive.

Apparently the British were set an impossible task, and were treacherously guided.

After a trying march, under arms for sixteen hours, they attacked the wrong part of the Boer position where the hills were impenetrable.

The burghers numbered six thousand instead of 2,500 as the spies reported.

War Office Besieged. The war office was besieged by anxious relatives and the newspapers were eagerly scanned.

The affair caused much depression, even on the stock exchange, where consols were at the lowest in many years.

Press Comments. The feeling in London to-day over the disaster in South Africa is expressed in the following paragraph from the Daily Mail: "Apart from the loss of six hundred men, the unexpected Boer success may cause a more serious disaffection among the Cape Dutch. The government should at once dispatch more troops."

The Daily News says: "Gen. Gatacre's reverse is a sad commentary on the difficulty of military operations in a semi-disaffected country. The enemy's spies are everywhere, and there is much reason to fear that our equipment is inadequate and our scouting insufficient. Of course he will be immediately reinforced."

The Standard says: "The event is in the highest degree deplorable, and will militate much against our success in the colony, especially in the northern and western portion of it, already honey-combed by disaffection."

The afternoon papers withheld the appointment of blame until more facts are at hand, and take the reverse philosophically.

The Pall Mall Gazette remarks: "The country's aim will again surprise the continent. If the blow is more serious than it appears neither the crown nor the ministry will be in danger of even a single seditious vilifying howl in the street. We have confidence in those who are fighting for us and in their direction."

Lord Durham's Opinion. At a luncheon to-day Lord Durham, formerly a lieutenant in the Coldstream Guards, said that General Gatacre overworked his troops in the Sudan, and was not fit to have command in South Africa. He also blamed the War Office, which should have given the opinions of the officers who had served under General Gatacre.

WESTERN BORDER. Boers Attacked Defenders of Line of Communication, but Retreated on Approach of Reinforcements.

London, Dec. 11.—The Daily Telegraph's dispatch from Modder River, Dec. 5th, says: "A thousand Boers attacked two companies of the Second Northamptonshire Regiment, who had been left to guard the lines of communication at Enslin."

Gen. Methuen dispatched the Twelfth Lancers and Seforth's Highlanders, together with the Sixty-Second Field Battery, to their assistance.

The enemy withdrew when the reinforcements approached.

The cavalry pursued them.

The British loss was one killed and six wounded.

The first train crossed the temporary bridge over the Modder river on Friday.

Boer Guns Silenced. Modder River, Cape Colony, Dec. 10.—This afternoon the naval gun took up a position north of the camp, while the

howitzer battery was posted southeast. Both opened fire with lyddite shells and shrapnel. The Boers replied with a dozen guns, thus unmasking their position.

After an hour's firing the Boer guns were silenced.

The explosion of the lyddite caused the whole ground over an extensive area to rise in the air in dense brown clouds.

A Boer long gun was dismantled. It now appears that the Boers intended that the next fight shall take place at Magersfontein. Apparently Spryfontein is defended by the Boers, and they are unwilling to unmask their position there, as the replies to the British artillery were all from guns at Magersfontein.

IN NATAL. Bridge Over the Tugela Complete and Advance Towards Ladysmith is Momentarily Expected.

London, Dec. 11.—The bridge over the Tugela is complete, and a general advance is momentarily expected.

The Destruction of Boer Guns. New York, Dec. 11.—The Herald's London cable says news of the destruction of the Boer guns at Ladysmith has created great enthusiasm, and the fact that the correspondent's account of the fighting reached Frere on Saturday, is taken to indicate that the Boer investment is not so strict as it has been.

CANADIAN BRIEFS. (Associated Press.) Woodstock, Dec. 11.—Dr. W. W. Holdcroft, of Tweed, Ont., is not expected to live, as the result of falling off a train near here on Saturday.

Kingston, Dec. 11.—Kingston W. C. T. U. has passed a resolution urging the Dominion government to prohibit the sale, manufacture and importation of cigarettes. The resolution has been handed to B. M. Britton, Q.C., M.P., to bring before the government.

Montreal, Dec. 11.—The trial of Mr. Lemieux, cashier of the Vile Marie Bank, which was set up for to-day, has been postponed to Dec. 12th.

Toronto, Dec. 11.—Mrs. Hutton, wife of Major-General Hutton, organized a Soldiers' Wives' League here yesterday. Mrs. Otter, wife of Lieut.-Col. Otter, is president.

CHINESE OFFICIALS COMING. Two Chinese Dignitaries Bound Here to Investigate Conditions of Local Celestials.

Among the passengers on the incoming Empress of India due to-morrow are two Chinese officials dispatched by the Chinese government to this province to look into the condition of the Chinese here and investigate matters pertaining to them. The officials are Messrs. Lew Yu Lin and Chen Ngam Tao.

MONTREAL GRAIN SHIPMENTS. (Associated Press.) Montreal, Dec. 11.—The grain shipments from this port for the season just closed show a falling off of 6,034,723 bushels compared with 1898. This is largely attributable to the action of the Grand Trunk in shipping five million bushels alone from Portland, Maine, which should have gone from this port.

Another cause is that the Imperial government chartered a large number of freighters for transport service to South Africa.

PARIS EXPOSITION. (Associated Press.) Paris, Dec. 11.—It has been decided that the official opening of the Exposition will take place on Saturday, April 14th, and not Easter Sunday as originally intended.

CONCERT AT CUMBERLAND. (Special Correspondence of the Times.) Last Monday the people of Cumberland and Union showed their loyalty by turning out in an immense to the concert in aid of the widows and orphans of soldiers killed in the Transvaal. Pike's hall was not large enough to seat all who came, even though the centre aisle was packed with chairs. On the platform the Union Jack and Old Glory hung side by side.

Mr. Abrams, who presided, made a few appropriate remarks, referring to the success of the Anglo-Saxon race in colonizing.

The programme was rendered in a very praiseworthy manner, everything being received with well-deserved applause.

During the evening Attorney-General Henderson visited the hall, and was prevailed upon to fill the place of Mr. Hutchinson, who was unavoidably absent, and read Tennyson's "Revenge."

Amongst the other selections, those most worthy of notice were the songs by Mrs. Arris, Mrs. Moore and Mr. Hicks, the fine rendering of Kipling's "Absent-Minded Beggar," by Mrs. Collis. Some of the instrumental music too, was very good.

JUDGE ROBINSON RESIGNS. Ottawa, Dec. 11.—Judge Robinson, of Lambton, Ont., has resigned on account of ill-health. It is understood that on Saturday's cabinet meeting D. F. Macwatt, barrister of Barrie, was appointed in his place.

Mrs. Chas. Smith, of Jmes, Ohio, writes: "I have used every remedy for sick headache for the past year, but Carter's Little Liver Pills did me more good than all the rest."

The Devon stormed up the Maxim-Norddeux Transvaal. It was she who was able to see a balance in minutes.

At five minutes' notice I was able to close my eyes. At this moment I was wounded by the object to be as they were with their eyes closed the remainder of the way at the f I thought I was under a soldier's protection, but a squandered under Col. G. Spectively, w Artillery, w a general w flank, our tr into from h before it w in hot pursi For my sto roused Boer was told me by the troop cators, w about three scene of the through them, killing, acco pents, at lea There were

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ENTERTAINED AT GREENWOOD. Banquet to Visiting Commercial Men—Address From the Board of Trade.

(Special to the Times.) Greenwood, Dec. 8.—At a banquet tendered last night to the 200 business men, the following address was read on behalf of the Board of Trade, Greenwood.

The members of the Board of Trade of the city of Greenwood desire on this occasion to officially extend a hearty welcome to you, our visitors. They wish to express the gratification which it affords them to know that the importance of the Boundary district has been so far recognized by the officials of the Canadian Pacific Company as to invite the representative business men of the province to attend under their auspices; and by you as to such valuable time. The members of Greenwood regard it as a distinguished compliment to the present position and future prospects of this city.

It is with pleasure that they now undertake to receive in what they conceive to be a fitting manner, a body of men whose interests in the building of the trade and industry of British Columbia is common with our own; and whose presence at such a distance from their own homes indicates the breadth of their sympathies, and their commercial enterprise and foresight. It is sincerely to be hoped that the impressions carried away by you will not only be kindly and favorable, but that their effect will be to lessen the space that geography has created, cement the interests of the various people in the district represented with those of Boundary; and extend business relations.

It is not our intention to dwell upon the importance of Greenwood in contrast to that of the other towns in the district. We recognize that your visit is to the Boundary as a whole, and it is as one of the important towns of the district that we bid you welcome. Our merits and