

Major Cradock and his men tore it from them and sent it home to New Zealand. (Enthusiastic cheers.) And I may here fittingly paraphrase those words with which you are all so familiar and say: 'We've hoisted the Union Jack; We've beat the Boers back; And England will see it through.' (A voice: 'Three cheers for Baden-Powell,' followed by prolonged cheering.)

"The relief of Mafeking will never be forgotten so long as the history of the British Empire lasts (cheers) and I am sure it will never be effaced from the recollection of New Zealanders (cheers) because in our small way we have done what we could to back up the dear old Mother Country by sending our men, by subscribing our money, and by sending our women as nurses to attend the sick and the wounded. We have shown the old country that we in this distant land are prepared to take our share in the responsibilities of defending and increasing the realms of the Empire. (Loud and prolonged cheering.)

"Ladies and gentlemen, this is Saturday afternoon (laughter and cheers) and we are not going to mark this great event by having an ordinary half-holiday, and I have the pleasure of informing you that Monday has already been proclaimed by the government a general holiday throughout the colony. (Loud cheers.) This has been done because we know that the people of New Zealand are anxious to show in a proper way and proper spirit their appreciation of the noble deeds performed by those brave men who have so heroically defended Mafeking, and on Monday we will show the outside world that we are true and loyal Britishers in every sense of the term. (Prolonged cheering and 'God Save the Queen' sung with great enthusiasm.)

"'God Save the Queen' has been sung and our beloved Sovereign will be overjoyed to know that her brave soldiers at Mafeking have upheld the honor and prestige of that great Empire over which she has so nobly ruled, and I may say in the words of Kipling:

'Hail! snatch'd and bartered oft from hand to hand  
I dream my dream by rock, and heath, and pine  
Of Empire to the northward; ay, one land  
From lion's head to line.'