

attacking Boer; so they waited eagerly and hopefully the sign that relief had come.

Rumors from unauthenticated sources had found ready credence with those to whom the wish is ever father to the thought, but the great bulk of people refrained from indulging in enthusiasm for which there was no legitimate justification. They just bided their time as patiently as might be. On Saturday, May 19th, the time was fully ripe. At ten minutes past 1 o'clock a telegraph operator was sitting at his place, "getting his cables through," when there came a ticking which denoted "Mafeking Relieved!" Regulations vanished. Springing to his feet, he spread the tidings with a joyful shout. Instantly the air became electric.

Then followed an explosion of patriotic rejoicing, the like of which was never seen or heard of in the history of the capital. "Mafeking relieved!" was shouted from the housetops; clanged forth from bell-towers; went echoing and bellowing through the streets; was taken up by every tocsin, and siren, and cannon in the city; and then re-echoed and reverberated to the farthest suburbs in peans of rejoicing.

HURRIED IN FROM ALL QUARTERS.

Instantly business was suspended. The carpenter dropped his hammer, the shoeman his last, the clerk his pen, the thrifty housewife her broom, and all, with one accord, rushed off to make preparations as for some great festival. From the uttermost boundaries they came hurrying in—from Khandallah and Wadestown, and from Worser Bay—desperate to be foremost to the centre of the city. An animated crowd gathered, shouting and cheering in an ecstasy of delight. From every point of the compass the people came; in vehicles and afoot, or wending on bicycles a tortuous and perilous course; everybody shouting and gesticulating, and singing and rejoicing. Humanity bulged out of the tramcars, and never was a transit service more inadequate for a great emergency.

Soon there appeared in all the streets cabs and landaus laden