News of the Plague

No New Cases at Honolulu Since the 19th—Many Victims in Noumea.

Imperial Pacific Cable Scheme is Approaching a Definite Stage.

According to news received by the steamer Aorangi there had been no new cases of the plague since the 19th, two days before she left. The purser of the steamer says there had been a break from the 9th to 10th free from plague, and the citizens were beginning to think that the port was free from the dread scourge, when three more were found to be suffering from the plague. On Hilo, the larger island of the group, the plague was said to be on the increase.

The plague is claiming a large number of victims in New Caledonia, according to news received by the liner. A letter received from there says: "We have had a lot of deaths here in Noumea at present though no white people have the plague." A number of Chinese died on the day the letter was dispatched. In the isolated portions of the settlement the disease was increasing its ravages rapidly. From the 16th to the 23rd of January five kanakas and four Chinese died and two Europeans were down with the plague.

Speaking of the origin of the plague in New Caledonia, the France Austral, which has printed across its face when sent from Noumea, says that as far back as the beginning of last November some sudden deaths occurred among the kanakas in the vicinity of Noumea. The medical men consulted do not appear to have assigned these death to any other cause than tuberculosis. On the 29th of November three natives were in the hospital, and on the 2nd of December a Javanese on board a vessel in port took suddenly ill and died, and between the 11th and 13th another kanaka took ill and died suddenly. Again on the 15th the death of another Javanese occurred. Some of these men were employed in mercantile houses in Noumea. It was then discovered by the board of health that these cases were true bubonic plague and from that date the utmost vigilance as already noted has been enforced in all parts of the colony. Drs. Prieur, Le Scour and Fawtier constituted the board. The case of the kanaka in the hospital was a specially severe one. One of the nurses—a European—who was in attendance on the patients in the hospital was seized by the pest and died.

On the 18th instant an official notice cautioned the residents that the plague might continue for some months, and that the residents who have pet animals—cats, dogs and so forth—are requested to observe extra precautions as to cleanliness, regulations for disinfecting dwellings, and a liberal use of boiling water in outhouses, etc. A fire engine charged with disinfectants is being used in cleansing vessels.

Hundreds of convicts are employed in the streets and about dwellings in the cleansing crusade that is in progress in Noumea.

Companies of soldiers do duty guarding the quarters in which the pest exists.

The plague has broken out in several Australian ports and the paper are giving columns to the talk of precautions to prevent its spread.

From Melbourne comes news of heavy bush fires in many parts of the colony. Many settlers lost heavily. Thousands of sheep were burned to death, and thousands of acres of grass and many tons of hay destroyed. Several casualties are reported. The township of Caramut is ruined.

MURDER AND SUICIDE.

Farmer Cuts His Wife's Throat and Ends His Own Life in a Graveyard.

Brock, Neb., Feb. 26.—Wilson Wakelin, a prominent farmer residing three miles north of this place, murdered his wife, formerly president of the W. C. T. U. of Nebraska, at 12 o'clock last night by cutting her throat with a razor. He then went to the graveyard where his first wife was buried and, standing on her grave, cut two ugly gashes in his throat, falling forward on his face. Death in both cases was instantaneous.

Mrs. Wakelin had been prominent in temperance work for years.

REPLY TO SIR CHARLES TUPPER.

Ottawa, Feb. 26.—In the House of Commons this afternoon, Hon. C. Sifton refutes Sir Charles Tupper's statements regarding affairs in the Yukon, showing that the brief the leader of the opposition was reading from was from some one who was disgruntled because he was not making so much money as he expected, and that, too, on account of the government doing away with re-locations, from which four-fifths of the litigation occurred. He said that as far as royalty was concerned, as well as the mode of collecting it, it might need revision some day.

COMOX DISTRICT.

(Special Correspondence of the Times.)

The new bridge across the Courtenay river has been completed. The contractor, Mr. D. F. Adams, of Victoria, is giving a dance on the 28th in honor of the completion of his work.

Mrs. Giddings, of Comox, received this week the sad intelligence of the death of her sister in Seattle.

The engine bringing up 22 empty cars from Union wharf ran off the track on Saturday afternoon, owing to a twist in the rails. The crew, with the exception of the engineer, jumped off uninjured. The engineer sustained a slight sprain.

There was some talk of a strike in the mines this week for an advance of 25 per cent. The demand was refused, but the majority of the men would not join, as an advance of 10 to 15 per cent. was given some months ago.

London, Feb. 28.—Wm. Stott, the artist, is dead.

COMMUNICATIONS

IMPERIAL FEDERATION.

The Result of South African Campaign.

To the Editor: I am sure that the friends of those brave fellows who have just laid down their lives upon the South African veldt in fighting for the honor of the Empire, of which we in British Columbia are a part, have the heartfelt sympathy of all their fellow citizens. The sad news came to us not altogether unexpectedly, as we could not but believe that were our boys in the firing line that some must fall, never to return to their homeland; and yet the news brought to every heart the bitter sorrow that death can alone create.

I suppose that many of us have friends or relatives at the front, and all are anxiously scanning the casualties to see if the name we know so well is on the list, and thus our hearts go out in sympathy all the more to the mothers, sisters, fathers and brothers bereaved by the sad news cabled from the scene of battle.

If it is not trespassing too much upon your valuable time, I would like to express myself regarding the present war in South Africa, and pay my tribute to the noble men who have the nation's destiny in their hands.

In the first place much has been said regarding the cause of the war, and no reader of ordinary intelligence (unless actuated by prejudice) can but agree with the sentiments expressed by the Rev. Hugh Price Hughes in his reply to Mr. W. T. Stead's pro-Boer propaganda. He points out that the Transvaal military oligarchy, falsely called a "republic," and its Dutch allies in every part of South Africa, have been long engaged in a "conspiracy" to destroy the British Empire south of the Zambesi, and this has been most clearly demonstrated by the fact that for nearly 20 years enormous war supplies have been imported into the Transvaal Republic, and that other military preparations during that time have been made, and for what?

The answer is not to be found in the fact that Dr. Jameson and a few others raided the territory of the republic (which in itself was admittedly a very wrong and unpardonable offence), or is the answer to be found in any necessity to prepare for an attack of native tribes; or that they (the republic) had any fear of British military intervention. No, but that a heavy blow should be given Great Britain whilst engaged in some other great struggle, and such a blow as would settle forever the question of Great Britain's supremacy in South Africa. The whole scheme has been laid bare, and it is evident that the guilt of plunging these two nations into terrible conflict is upon the shoulders of Kruger, Reitz, Leyds and Steyn, supported by a few others, who have no doubt benefited from the wholesale corruption in the administration of affairs in their respective republics. I have it in my mind to believe that the time is not far distant when the Empire will thank Mr. J. Chamberlain for the stand he so bravely took, conscious, as I sincerely believe he was, of the blow that one day would fall upon Great Britain in South Africa. The croakers may croak, until they croak themselves hoarse, but the name of Joe Chamberlain will live in the hearts of the people for generations to come. Mr. Paul Kruger and his allies have displayed all the characteristics of men who are devoid of principle, and have exhibited deceit and treachery to the utmost degree I have failed to see any redeeming feature in their attitude towards the nation that has behaved kindly towards them and the republics they represent.

The Rev. Hugh Price Hughes points out that the wrongs inflicted upon the British Uitlanders was almost unbearable, and that they would have been perfectly justified in throwing off the yoke had they been strong enough to do so.

The injustices to which they were subjected makes one's blood boil who has ever tasted the sweetness of freedom and justice, and these two are inseparable; no man can be truly free unless justice is administered, and the rights of a people safe-guarded.

The cause of the war therefore was in the first place a bitter hatred of Kruger and his friends towards the nation that had more than once rendered the Transvaal Republic invaluable service; in the second place, because of the injustice towards the Uitlanders; thirdly (and indirectly), the slavery existing within the said republic, and lastly, the tremendous preparations made, both for offensive and defensive warfare.

It is impossible to enter into any argument through your valuable columns regarding the foregoing matter, and argument is scarcely necessary as the bare facts prove beyond the shadow of a doubt that Kruger and his accomplices are altogether responsible for this bloody war.

And now regarding Great Britain's action. The Salisbury government could have done nothing else on receipt of Kruger's ultimatum than it did do, namely, to prepare the military forces of the country in defence of its South African possessions. The ultimatum meant war, and nothing else, and consequently Great Britain was drawn reluctantly into one of the bloodiest conflicts of the century. The British forces in South Africa were merely increased because of the knowledge gained of the military resources of the Transvaal in particular, and had money been spent a little more lavishly in our secret service the war might have been avoided, because with the information gained from that source, Great Britain would have kept pace with the republics, and the later would have been unable to take any undue advantage. The fact is this, that Great Britain's unpreparedness was the republic's opportunity; but the Lion is awake, and her roaring is distinctly heard. Great Britain is fighting, first, in defence of her own possessions, her honor and solidarity of her interests, and secondly, that justice may be administered in South Africa irrespective of nationality, color or belief. This war is not waged for the enlargement of her dominions (although as a natural result the republics will be added to the mighty Empire), or has it been found necessary to provide homes and settlements for the over-crowded masses in the British Isles, for Canada and Australia could take millions and millions under their care; or has it been waged for the sake of those interested in the stock exchange, but for the sake of those whose rights have been denied them, and whose cry has been heard for justice and honest government. And thus it is that Great Britain is engaged in this bloody strife, and having put her hand to the task she will not turn back until the glorious old Union Jack waves from the citadels in Bloemfontein and Pretoria.

I have never looked upon the early "reverses" in Natal and Cape Colony as some have done, for it appeared to me that under the circumstances we could not have expected much else. We were certainly not prepared for the rapid movements of Boers, who were thoroughly prepared to take the aggressive. Then, again, we had to fight the very best marksmen in the world (taking them as a whole), and we had to attack superior numbers, who had the very best cover and who had naturally selected the very best positions, commanding every approach to their lines. Our commanding officers became cognizant of the fact that spies were everywhere, and that the guides could not be trusted, thus making it most difficult to move without the enemy knowing altogether about the contemplated action. Thus were we handicapped in the very commencement, and under the circumstances our gallant generals and brave soldiers have done remarkably well. Critics forget that Ladysmith, Mafeking and Kimberley held out against fearful odds; forget about the battles of Glencoe, Elandslaagte, Graspan, Belmont and other minor engagements, and try to shadow them with the misfortunes at the Tugela, Magersfontein and Stormberg. I, for one, have no word of criticism to offer, but on the other hand much praise for Buller, Gatacre and Methuen. A glow of pride comes over one as he reads the accounts from the front of heroic deeds of gallant bravery, and of the hundreds who have given their last drop of blood in defence of the Empire we love.

The reverses sounded the call to arms, and thousands were hurriedly sent to the seat of war. In a few weeks a hundred thousand men were upon the sea fully equipped and destined to figure in the greatest and most momentous war in which Great Britain has ever been engaged, and the equipment of so vast an army would have been an absolute impossible task for any other nation. The call to arms was heard across the seas, and Australia answered by sending her noble sons; New Zealand came to the assistance of her motherland, and sent her contingent of heroic sons. Canada was not to be outdone, and she sends forth her thousand right loyal sons to fight for the Empire's rights. Then again the cry went up, and more men, true born sons and patriotic souls, offered themselves by the hundreds and thousands until the outburst of patriotism touched our hearts, and we wept with very joy. And thus Colonial patriotism has become the factor which assures us that ere long "Imperial Federation" will be a fact.

The jealousies of European powers may be expressed in many ways; they may combine to oppose the onward march of the Anglo-Saxon race toward "world supremacy," but their eyes have been opened to the grand display of Colonial loyalty, and it is safe to assume that they will think twice before placing themselves in the way of seriously opposing the Anglo-Saxon advance. We cannot but believe that the outcome of this war will be the long dreamed of "Imperial Federation," for the Colonies are aware of their duty in providing financial assistance so that their seaboards may be safely guarded and an adequate militia may be sustained.

When the Colonies are represented, and India sends her members to the Imperial House of parliament, the day will have arrived when the "Empire class" have become a mighty unit, working for the upbuilding of mankind the world over, standing for justice and freedom, striving to ameliorate the conditions of all oppressed people, representing the colossal work of generations in building up a fabric of intellectual, commercial and physical proportions unknown in the history of the world.

The "final act" in the present war will be staged when "Bobs" dictates at Pretoria, when the cruelty of Krugerdom shall have been destroyed, when the chords of England's, Scotland's, Ireland's, Wales's, Australia's, New Zealand's, Canada's and Cape Colony's heroic sons shall find an echo in the blood stained mountain ranges—shall be heard in every valley and across the open veldt—penetrating every homestead throughout the length and breadth of the then "British South Africa," when the Boers (now so misguided) shall hail with joy the ushering in of an epoch of peace, goodwill and justice. The time, I trust, will soon come when the prayers of mothers and children shall have been heard, and peace shall have been proclaimed, and the world shall know that "Great Britain" fought not for the acquisition of territory, or for the gold that perishes, but to relieve both the white and black man of his burden, an act that shall be engraven upon the immortal memory.

Godspeed the day; give victory to our arms; enlighten the minds of our enemies, and bless the nation of which we are so proud to be sons and daughters.

ALF. HUGGETT.

FAVORS THE ALIEN LAW.

To the Editor: In the Victoria Colonist of January 1 I see by Mr. Eberts's speech that he stated the laws of the United States gave to Canadian citizens the right to mine in Alaska and Washington. To show that Mr. Eberts is very much mistaken in his statement, I enclose copy of circular from the general land office, issued June, 1898, Washington, United States of America:

Sec. 13. That native-born citizens of the Dominion of Canada, but to no other British subject, shall be accorded in said District of Alaska the same mining rights and privileges accorded to citizens of the United States in British Columbia and Northwest Territory by the laws of the Dominion of Canada, or the local laws, rules and regulations; but no greater rights shall be thus accorded than the citizens of the United States, or persons who have declared their intentions to become such, and may enjoy in said District of Alaska, and the secretary of interior shall from time to time promulgate and enforce rules and regulations to carry this provision into effect.

Sec. 53. By the laws of the Dominion of Canada citizens of the United States are, with all other person over 18 years of age, permitted to lease mineral lands in British Columbia and the Northwest Territory upon the payment of a certain royalty to the general government, but the laws of that Dominion do not authorize the purchase of mineral lands in British Columbia or Northwest Territory.

Sec. 54. The existing laws of the United States do not make any provision for the leasing of mineral lands in Alaska either to citizens of the United States or to others, but they do provide for and authorize the staking of such lands in Alaska by our citizens.

Sec. 55. Since this section accords to native-born citizens of Canada the same mining privileges accorded to citizens of the United States in British Columbia and the Northwest Territory by the laws of the Dominion of Canada, and since under the laws of the Dominion of Canada the oly mining rights and privileges accorded to citizens of the United States are those of leasing mineral lands upon the payment of a stated royalty, and since the laws of the United States do not accord to its own citizens the right of privilege of leasing mining lands in Alaska, and since this section also provides that "no greater rights shall be thus accorded to citizens of the Dominion of Canada than citizens of the United States or persons who have declared their intentions to become such may enjoy in such District of Alaska, it results that for the time being this section becomes inoperative.

So we see that all the talk of Canadians having a right to mine in the United States is nonsense. They never intend to give them any.

Considering Mr. Clifford's statement as reported in the Colonist of January 23rd that he would say without exception the miners of the Atlin district were opposed to this alien bill both in principle and because it retarded the prosperity of the country, and that the Americans were the only capitalists in the country, I should think that many of the returned Victoria and Vancouver miners would contradict flatly that statement, as a great majority of them were in favor of the bill; that it should have been in force years ago; that would have kept the wealth of the mines for the British subject, and not allow the Americans to come in and carry it away to enrich their own country without giving to us the same rights and privileges which we gave to them. It is laughable about the American capital. All the capital they brought in was provisions enough to last them while in here, and most of it brought with them from their own country; and all they wanted of British Columbia was to get money enough to pay mortgages off or to go into business in their own country. If you would talk of them settling down in British Columbia, if they were lucky in the mines, they would laugh at you. I have mined in British Columbia for many years, and have seen the wealth of the country steadily carried off to enrich foreign countries, chiefly by those Americans, whom we are told by Mr. Clifford and others are to bring in so much capital into the country and make us all rich. I would like to ask them how much of the gold taken from here and the Klondike was reinvested in this country. We will take Skagway, for instance, a town built up and maintained by the resources of British Columbia and the Northwest Territories. The Americans were the recipients of the most of this wealth, at the same time vigorously keeping the British subject out of their country. The parties whom Mr. Clifford referred to as opposed to the Alien Act were foreign traders, hotelkeepers, saloonkeepers and some of our own business men, many of whom were very much disappointed in not receiving a fair share of American patronage, the foreign element always giving their trade in preference to their own people. I think Mr. Clifford, M.P.P., will find out at the next election, if he runs, whether the British miners are opposed to the Alien Bill or not, as there are now some 450 on the voters' list here. Now for American capital coming into British Columbia, where do we find it? In Kootenay we find them locating quartz ledges, doing a little development work, then off to the British capitalist to sell—the Hall Mines, Le Roy and many others. In this district I know of them having quartz and hydraulic properties on the London (Eng.) market. Now we have Lord Ernest Hamilton, British capitalist, putting his capital freely into quartz and employing a number of men in development work this winter, and am very glad to say with good results, this being great encouragement for those holding claims on the White Iron mountain. I would like to make a few remarks upon the sayings and mistaken ideas of a number of our own people, some of them having been a long time in the province, that we have none or very few miners in British Columbia now, while admitting that the Americans have many good miners amongst them. We certainly had a very poor specimen of them in Atlin, in fact the most of what some of our own people would call experienced American miners, to suit their own political purposes, were men from all parts of the United States, who not only had never mined, but had never been in a mining country, while we had the old, reliable Cariboo miner, the Kootenay miner and the miners from the Australian colonies. In fact it was them who took lessons in mining from the Canadian miner and not he from them, and it used to be a standing joke and laugh amongst the British Columbia miners of the experienced American miner who had come to British Columbia for the philanthropic purpose of teaching us how to mine and at the same time to carry off our gold to pay a mortgage on his farm. Mr. Clifford, M.P.P., is not at all a popular man with the miners, raising his water rates, and in the end compelling them to build a water ditch of their own.

OLD-TIMER.

Pine Creek, B.C., Feb., 1900.

THE WRECKED HERA.

To the Editor:—In your issue of the 20th appears the following:

"Some of the guests at the Hotel Victoria who have recently arrived from the West Coast were last evening discussing the presentation of medals to some of those who assisted in the rescue of the burned schooner Hera off Clayoquot in November last. It was then pointed out that some of those who had taken the same risks to succor the seamen as did they who are to be given medals have not been recognized in the matter at all. D. McKinnon, the mining man, Webster Kenyon and a third man went out to the vessel in a small boat and a number of Indians went out in their canoes."

This, to say the least, is an erroneous assertion on the part of your informant. Only one boat went out to the rescue of the shipwrecked crew of the Hera. This boat was manned by Messrs. Jacobsen, Brewster, Spain, Campbell, Owen and Ferguson, to recognize whose courage and bravery the U. S. government is rightly to present with medals. They left for the scene of the fire at about 10 o'clock in the morning, when a lively gale was blowing. One man was constantly kept bailing the boat, as the water was coming in over the bows and the gunwales. These brave men literally took their lives in their hands to rescue their fellowmen. After the five sailors of the Hera were taken aboard, it was a severe task to get the boat away from the burning wreck. At last they got clear, but so furious was the tempest that (the wind being astern) the boat was pushed ahead at railroad speed, without the assistance of sail or oars, and so great was the danger that one of the rescued sailors told me that he expected to find a watery grave after escaping from a burning ship, all on board expecting every moment that the boat would be swamped. I am told by Father Von Nevel that he tried, but in vain, to get the Indians to go to the burning vessel; none would face the fierce storm that was raging. It was not until the afternoon, when the wind had abated to almost a dead calm, that we saw the canoes go to the wreck to see if anything could be picked up. It was at that time also that the boat mentioned in the above item was seen to travel in the same direction, though probably not on the same errand. In justice to the heroic rescuers, who risked their lives, kindly publish these facts, as the item complained of is calculated to detract from the merits of their brave deed.

SPECTATOR.

Clayoquot, Feb. 24.

CANADIAN BREVITIES.

Fox Bay Settlers—Recorder Court Fines—Smallpox in Ontario.

(Associated Press.)

Toronto, Feb. 27.—News reached here yesterday from New York that J. J. Kingsmill, a well known ex-barrister of this city and ex-judge of the county court of Bruce, was dead in Genoa, Italy, whither he had gone with his two daughters to spend the winter. It is thought Kingsmill died while on board ship en route to Italy.

Willie Townsend, aged 15, son of T. R. Townsend, Dominion Express agent at Toronto Junction, was mangled to death at the C. P. R. shops at that place last night by being caught in the shafting.

Quebec, Feb. 27.—A verdict of wilful murder has been returned against Policeman Cazes, who brutally murdered his wife last Saturday afternoon. The merderer has been committed for trial at the next assizes.

Montreal, Feb. 27.—Lord Strathcona has cabled consent to Strathcona's Horse stopping off in this city while en route to Halifax. Mayor Prefontaine is making every arrangement to make their reception by citizens here an enthusiastic one.

Woodstock, Feb. 27.—Robert McMahon, a cooper, while endeavoring to stop a runaway horse last evening, had his neck penetrated by the shaft of a sleigh. He died an hour afterwards.

Montreal, Feb. 27.—Lucien Forget, clerk of the recorder's court for the last 15 years, died suddenly early this morning.

Henry A. Budden, secretary-treasurer of the Intercolonial Coal Mining Company of this city, is dead.

Halifax, Feb. 27.—The Elder Dempster liner Monterey, which is to take the Strathcona Horse to South Africa, arrived from Liverpool this morning with Canadian mails and passengers. Work of fitting her for transport service is now in progress.

Toronto, Feb. 28.—Alex. Smith, the well-known Liberal organizer for Ontario, has withdrawn from that position owing to alleged friction with some of the officers of the Liberal Association. It is understood J. K. Threnkeld will act as organizer pending a permanent appointment.

Quebec, Feb. 28.—The court of review has sustained the decision of the lower court in the case of the Fox Bay settlers. After the decision was rendered Judge Andrews, one of the judges sitting in judgment of the case, declared that legally no other decision could have been reached, but the carrying of it into effect whereby poor families would be ejected from Fox Bay was a matter which rested with Menier and his conscience.

Windsor, Feb. 28.—Howard Stewart is ill with smallpox at Ruthven, a village a few miles from here. The victim was a student in Detroit College of Medicine and came home from there on Thursday last. The disease developed the next day.

Montreal, Feb. 28.—An interesting fight is now on between the city council here and the provincial government authorities over the fines collected in the recorder's court. The latter has for some time past insisted upon half of the fines of that court being handed over to it. This right is now questioned by the new city council, the members of which declare if the government persists in its action the city will no longer furnish police for court duties. The court of Queen's Bench opens to-morrow, but the chairman of the police committee refuses to allow the city police to attend unless the government foots the bill of expenses.

Rev. Abbe Sorin, a well-known Roman Catholic clergyman of Notre Dame church, is seriously ill.

Ottawa, Feb. 28.—The Hon. Arthur Aylmer, who has been on the sick list ever since his return from England last fall, is about to return to his duties as adjutant-general. He is also acting as officer commanding the Canadian militia.

UGANDA TELEGRAPH LINE.

(Associated Press.)

Mombassa, Feb. 27.—The Uganda railway telegraph line reached the Nile at Ripon Falls on the 18th, and was carried across the river next day, thus establishing telegraphic communication between London and the source of the Nile.

Missionary Murdered

Breconshire Brings Horrible Details of a Recent Tragedy in China.

A Religious Controversy at Manila Over Proposal to Reinstate Friars.

Steamer Breconshire, of the N. P. line, arrived yesterday afternoon with a heavy cargo of general Chinese and Japanese merchandise, and 90 Asiatic passengers. After landing a goodly portion of her cargo and nearly all her Japanese passengers, she left for the Sound at 3 a. m. Details were received by the Breconshire of the atrocious and most brutal murder of Rev. Mr. Brooks, the English missionary killed by the "Boxer" rebels. Rev. Mr. Matthews, a missionary and brother-in-law, whom the unfortunate man had been visiting shortly prior to his murder, writing from China under date January 4th, says: "The scene of the atrocious murder of Mr. Brooks was Fion-cheng-hsien. In this hsien more than thirty families of Christians or adherents have been despoiled by these Boxer brigands. Mr. Brooks came to me and we talked over the looting, and after Christmas he started for his field of duty, at Pingyin, sixty miles away. In the snow-clad hills of a remote section of Shantung he was seized, stripped, dragged about by a rope attached to his nose, and then, as he fled for his life, his entirely naked body was slashed with swords as he ran. When he finally sank down from loss of blood, they hacked the body to pieces and cut the head from the body. Then they left the remains lying piece meal in a gulch, where, four days later, they were found by friends. A more horrible and deliberate crime, some of the lesser details of which cannot be published, it would be difficult to imagine. To make it worse, the authorities have done nothing but view the body and provide a coffin. They made no arrests, though it is certain that the villagers, constable and headman of Chang Chia Tien were culpable, for when first attacked Brooks fled to a temple, but they pulled him out."

A correspondent of the Hongkong Press, files of which were received by the Breconshire, writes from Manila that the religious controversy existing there is the chief question of the hour, overshadowing the struggling insurrection and the plague. The main point of the struggle is the proposal to reinstate the friars in the provinces on the old basis, as in the days of Spanish rule. The trouble began with the publication of an alleged interview with Archbishop Chappell, telegraphed to a Madrid paper. The interview was obtained second hand through two Dominicans, and can only be said to embody the impressions of the holy men in their conversation. The sayings of Chappell, though thus indirectly reported, leaked out and were made public in one of the Manila papers—and since there has been excitement. The otherwise peaceful Filipinos were greatly excited, petitions against the alleged proposal came in galore, deputations waited on General Otis, and the Spanish papers are filled with columns of discussion and vigorous expression. In the meantime Archbishop Chappell is under a cloud, but he seems to have been misquoted or misunderstood on the subject, for he has since clearly stated that if the Filipinos do not want the friars to fill curacies they will not be forced on them.

"OUR VICTORIA BOYS."

Slain at Modder River, Sunday, February 18th, 1900.

(Published by request of the J. B. A. A.)

Ere three short months have run their race
Since that last October night,
When from each heart there rose a prayer,
"God speed you, heroes, to the fight."

'Twas not without sighs and sadness
For those held by memory dear,
That they went from the calm, serener life
To the one that knows no fear.

Those hearts were firm as British steel
When they heard their country's need;
Scott, Somers, Maundrell, Todd,
For that Empire dear to bleed.

In every eye there rests a tear,
In every heart a moan,
As on far Afric's bloody veldt
They join the great unknown.

Those futures, bright as a beacon light,
Reaped at the cannon's roar;
Unflinched they stood, and met cruel fate
At the hands of the angry Boer.

It still may tick, that parting "Gift,"
But not to his "Stroke of the oar";
As he's gone from the waters of the J. B. A. A.,
To ebb with the tide that rolls on another shore.

Oh death! Oh cold, unfeeling death!
Could not thy darts have spared
Those lives so full, and hearts so true,
For future bright prepared?

Why could not "she" with one soft kiss
Have caught his dying sigh?
Why could not "she" with love's sweet balm
Have closed his dying eye?

We'll raise a tomb on Beacon Hill
To cherish memory dear,
Thou the blood of life has shed
And filled a mortal bier.

A flag of glory o'er you wave,
As in your Father's keep;
At peace with earth, in Heaven at rest,
In your long, last, heroic sleep.

DORA C. HENDERSON.

Victoria, B. C.

DEWEY'S PRIZE MONEY.

Spanish Fleet Was Not Superior to Admiral's.

Washington, Feb. 28.—The United States court of claims to-day rendered a decision on the claim of Admiral Dewey for prize money on account of the destruction of the Spanish fleet in Manila harbor. The court decided against the Admiral's contention that the enemy's force was superior to his, and awarded him $9,570.