

ships would have to be tested for plague. What we do want to be assured of, however, is given a case, or a number of cases, of plague, what is to be done with them? Have we provision for their accommodation? Have we quarters for the "contacts" other than the dock sheds on our wharves where, we gather, suspects have been quartered? Do medical men know what to do with a case of plague should they meet with one.

What Montrealers want to be assured of is that we are equipped for any emergency, that we have some organization by which cases of plague and those who have been in contact with them can be instantly dealt with. That is the question for Montreal, Quebec and Halifax to ask.

Now that the war in South Africa is coming to a close, and the country wrested from the clutches of Messrs.

Kruger and Steyn is about to be entrusted to the control of that splendid soldier, the gallant defender of Mafeking, we have time to look around for some of Britannia's critics during the arduous task of asserting her supremacy.

After the first failure of General Buller's force to cross the Tugela, we were told by "La Patrie" (Paris) that the British had "lived a century on the reputation of the Duke of Wellington," while other equally friendly French journals said the Transvaal war was simply demonstrating the weakness of the British Empire and the fictitious strength of its troops. Berlin papers made caustic comments on our reverses, and remarked "England's decadence, long ago apparent to far-sighted statesmen, has thus become visible to the whole world."

However, the standard bearer of civilization is still on top, and in the mood to chastise insolence. Next.

What War means. A costly game! not to speak of its consequences. Thus wrote Ruskin, of war, and the record of the South African campaign fully justifies also his picture of the sad children sitting in the market place saying, "We have mourned into you, and ye have not lamented."

An actuarial correspondent of the "Times" thus analyses the losses by the war in South Africa. The mean strength of the British Army in South Africa, including all forces, whether Imperial, Colonial or Volunteers, may be taken to have been 5,260 officers and 188,000 non-commissioned officers and men. The deaths have been: Officers killed or died, of wounds, 380; died of disease, 160—total, 540. Non-commissioned officers and men killed or died of wounds, 3,580; died of disease, 5,980—total, 9,560s

The rates of mortality were as follows:—Of the officer 72.1 per 1,000 were killed or died of wounds, and 30.6 per 1,000 died from disease—total 102.7 per

1,000. Of the non-commissioned officers and men 19 per 1,000 perished in battle or died of wounds, and 31.8 per 1,000 died of disease—total, 50.8 per 1,000.

Retrospective. "The burghers must be cognizant of the fact that no intervention in their behalf can come from any of the great Powers, and, further, that the British empire is determined to complete the work which has already cost so many lives, and carry to a conclusion the war declared against her by the late Governments of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State, a war to which there can be only one ending."

—Lord Roberts.

There is not much to be gained from looking back at the incidents of the Boer war. Yet,

"the sage, with retrospective eye,"

may possibly find in the closing pictures presented to his view something to ponder upon. What must be the feelings of the obstinate old man who is now seeking an asylum in some foreign country? He has seen the evils that he refused to remedy come to a head in a devastating war. He misused the liberties granted to him by the British in 1881; he misgoverned and set the conventions at naught because he believed no one dare say him nay; and, when the Queen warned him that the position of her subjects in South Africa was "inconsistent with the promise of equal treatment whereon the grant of internal independence to that republic was founded," he declared war.

In the first stages of the campaign, we became accustomed, but not reconciled, to reverses. Nearly every European nation began to congratulate themselves over the misfortunes of Great Britain. From her colonies alone she heard the voice of friendly sorrow and encouragement, accompanied by offers of material aid. We are all familiar with what has followed. Those who have warred against the Empire with the insane idea of usurping the place her sons hold under "the divine rights of good government" have seen the country they might have peacefully occupied trodden down under the hoofs of advancing cavalry, crushed beneath the great guns and the baggage waggons, and baptized with the blood of thousands of men slain to satisfy the greed and obstinacy of their quondam rulers.

We may very well leave the authors of all the sorrow and misery caused by this struggle for supremacy between Briton and Boer a prey to unceasing remorse and the bitterness of defeat. Messrs. Kruger and Steyn will never again have the power to wreck at will the peace and harmony of South Africa. They have failed to drive the British into the sea; but they have succeeded in making a complete end of every vestige of the so-called Dutch Republics.