

Bravery of the British

Belated Dispatches from Natal Tell of Magnificent Work Near Colenso.

Naval Brigade Again Distinguishes Itself and Engaged Boers Single Handed.

Troops Advanced Through a Terrible Fire From the Inside.

The Boers say their loss was small.

They had been placed in new positions commanding the camp.

The heat is intense, but the British

troops are well equipped.

Robertson's Message.

London, Dec. 21.—Belated stories from Chelmsford, camp, Natal, came in, saying the British distinguished an impossible situation.

The latest news corresponds with

the news of the day concerning the

British troops' conduct in the field.

Major-General Robertson's

and Major-General Pretorius' and Viscount Downes' messages.

To Transport Captain, B.M.A.

London, Dec. 21.—Lieut. Alan Fine, steamer "Empress of Canada" and "Pomona" have been chartered by the government for the purpose of conveying Canadian troops to South Africa.

PROPOSALS IN JAMAICA.

Proposal to Increase the Force From one to Four Regiments.

Kingston, Jamaica, Dec. 21.—Owing to the growing seriousness of the South African war prospects and particularly the probable withdrawal of the Imperial garrisons from the colonies, coinciding with the unprecedented drafting of French troops to the West Indies, a proposal is floated to augment the British West Indian militia forces to the fullest possible strength, if necessary, under special conscription.

It is proposed to increase Jamaica's force from one regiment of 800 men to four regiments as in 1882; the exigencies of the present situation being regarded as one of exceptionally grave and menacing character.

BRITAIN'S POLICY.

Determined to Carry the War to a Successful Conclusion.

New York, Dec. 21.—England's policy concerning the Transvaal was announced in Glasgow last night by Gerald Balfour, secretary of state for Ireland, who said: "The British government and people will not move a hair's breadth from their resolve to carry the war to a successful conclusion. No reverse can possibly alter the end of the war, for Britain has power and resources to effect her settled purpose."

No Fresh News.

There was no news from South Africa up to 3 p.m. to-day, with the exception of fragments of disconnected stories of past events. This silence is creating forebodings.

The splendid patriotism of the volunteers continues to be evidenced on all sides.

The newspapers note with satisfaction the effect of this display of British spirit and the evidence of the resources the Empire is able to command.

The Health of the Queen.

The Queen has been greatly annoyed by unfounded statements that she was

in ill-health and perpetually weeping. A

paragraph contradicting these stories appears in the papers, which add that "it has never been Her Majesty's habit to display grief like a hysterical schoolgirl."

The Seizure of America's flour.

Washington, Dec. 21.—In the absence of formal complaint the state department officials do not care to express a specific opinion in the case of the reported scuffles of American flour by British cruisers of the South African coast.

Under the general rule adopted by most other civilized governments, misrepresentation of this description sent by one nation to another, as in the case of the United States and Portugal, is absolutely exempt from seizure.

Ponton a Volunteer.

Bellefonte, Dec. 21.—W. H. Ponton, of Dominion Bank fame, has founded

for South Africa.

To Join the Boers.

Vancouver, Dec. 21.—W. J. Connally, a

"Want of Watchfulness

Makes a Thief."

Col. Phumer, Returns to Tuli After Wed's Absence.

Tuli, Dec. 21 via Lorenzo Meriques, Dec. 16.—Col. Phumer, with 15 strong reconnoitering party, has returned here after a week's expedition into Transvaal territory. He reached the point five miles from Pietermaritzburg in the South African Republic, but found the Boers, the country being semideserted, empty of men.

DISPATCHES FROM CHILDWELL.

Burgesses Are Busy Placing Fresh Game in Position—Dutch Strip Dead British Soldiers.

London, Dec. 21.—The Daily Mail has a dispatch from Chelmsford, dated Saturday, which says:

"There is an armistice at midnight, in order to bury the dead and remove the wounded."

"Meanwhile the enemy is placing fresh game so that they may not be ambushed by British soldiers. They express themselves as satisfied with yesterday's battle, and boast that they cannot be surprised out of their present positions."

"The Dutch stripped our dead."

"During the fighting some heroic deeds were performed."

FIGHTING AT LADYSMITH.

British Troops Captured by Boers at Tugela River.

New York, Dec. 21.—The World prints the following from Chieveley, Natal, dated Dec. 16th:

"There was heavy firing this morning at Ladysmith.

"Col. Bulwer of the First Devonshires,

three of his officers and forty of his men,

were taken prisoners by Boers flying a

flag of truce and looking for their

wounded.

"An ambulance train, consisting of

British, who were wounded in yester-

day's (Friday) battle at the Tugela

River, to Estcourt and Petermaritz-

burg.

"An armistice has been agreed for un-

til noon to bury the dead.

"The Boers say their loss was small.

"They had been placed in new

positions commanding the camp.

"The heat is intense, but the British

troops are well equipped.

"His reference to America's friends

they were doing anything comparable

with the bravery of the men and officers

of the naval contingent at work."

The naval contingent appeared in

the harbor, engaging the Boers single-

handed and heavier guns and hidden

shells on the fortifications north of the

town in a vain effort to silence the mu-

derous fire of the Boers while the Brit-

ish forced a passage of the river.

Through a Storm of Bullets.

The advance of the second brigade

along the road leading to the bridge in

the face of a deadly fusade is described

as magnificent. The British forced their

way across the fire zone under a perfect

storm of bullets from the invisible

Boers. The patter of the bullets on the

dry plain raised the dust like heavy

rain drops on water. The heat through-

out was intense.

There are many stories of special acts

of bravery.

Volunteered for Service.

The Duke of Marlborough, who is leav-

ing as in the Yorkshire Yeomanry

is to enter for service in South Af-

rica. He will take with him 150 men and

one of his troops. His will person-

ally touch the equipment.

The Earl of Warwick, the Earl of

Dudley, the Earl of Londesborough and Vis-

count Galway are among the other mem-

bers of aristocracy who have volun-

teered for service.

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