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THE TRANSVAAL WAR.

While there is nothing further as to the posture of affairs at Ladysmith, says the New York Herald, on Tuesday, special cables this morning fairly teem with exciting news and suggestions. The fact that the British Government has assigned four of its fastest cruisers to patrol the Atlantic indicates that there may be something in the reports that the Transvaal proposes to authorize privateers to prey on England's commerce.

ATTITUDE OF THE BLACKS.—A despatch from London, on Monday says: Rear Admiral Lord Charles Boscawen, speaking at Sunderland, confessed that he regarded with great apprehension what might be the attitude of the blacks. "I must repeat," said Lord Charles, "that in view of such a contingency the government is not even now sending out sufficient troops."

STUDY OF THE SITUATION.—The Westminster Gazette, in a study of the situation, reviews the British Government's policy and even holds out little hope of peace after the war. It says: "Rhodes' former policy of working with the Dutch was what might be termed the 'liberal imperialist' policy, but when Rhodes lost patience and when the Jameson raid failed, it became obvious that the Colonial Office had, at all intents and purposes, adopted Rhodes' views."

BOERS ADVANCE.—There is no news from the scene of military operations in South Africa later than Friday's date, says the London despatches to the New York Sun on Monday. The dominating feature of the situation then was the withdrawal of the British garrisons southward in the face of the threatened advance of the enemy. Colenso, Colesburg and Stormberg Junction had been evacuated in turn, and it was stated that the abandonment of Rosmead and Nainwpoort Junction was imminent. To attempt to hold these places with the present available forces was evidently regarded as courting annihilation.

nine-pounder, which they were advised to spike, but they were determined to save it. While running the gun carriage down the hill the ropes broke and the carriage was dashed against the side of the hill and smashed. When this happened the Durban men picked up the gun, which had not been damaged and brought it here. At daybreak on Friday the Boers began shelling Colenso camp, obviously unaware of the fact that the place had been evacuated. Later on they looted the town. The bridge over the Tugela River, however, was not damaged, as the Boers declared they wanted to use the railways themselves. It is reported here that in the engagement at Tatham's Farm, near Ladysmith, on Nov. 2, the Boers lost 800 in killed, wounded and prisoners. Cape Town, Nov. 6.—A despatch from Estcourt, south of Colenso, says the women and children have been urged to leave there. The garrison at Colenso saved all its stores and tents when the place was evacuated. The Boers in that neighborhood comprised a new commando numbering 5,000 men.

FROM LADYSMITH.—Estcourt, Natal, Nov. 4. Noon (delayed in transmission).—A trustworthy messenger who has just arrived from Ladysmith, passing the Boer lines at night, says Thursday's fighting at Tatham's Farm, which is west of Bester's station, was very heavy and the Boers' loss was great. They were driven back to their camp and thirty of them were taken prisoners. This messenger confirms the story of Friday's fighting near Hopworth's Farm when the Boers were again compelled to retire with loss.

The public and press are doing their best to take a hopeful view of the difficulties, but there are certainly ugly facts, which, with all they imply, must be faced. The Boers are virtually masters of Natal. The War Office admits that they have taken Colenso, and presumably have destroyed the railway bridge there, thus completing the isolation of Ladysmith. Gen. White now has less than 10,000 available men and only two months' provisions. The forces opposed to him are much superior in numbers. If he acts strictly on the defensive, as he undoubtedly will do after the terrible lessons the Boers have taught him, he may be able to hold out a long time. The position of his camp and the naval artillery give him great advantages, and the Boers have never shown a disposition for the style of fighting necessary for his capture.

But all England now expects that Gen. Buller will devote himself principally to Gen. White's relief. The Boers themselves undoubtedly expect this, and it is already evident that they are massing on the line of communication, ready to attack the relieving column. Such a force might be ready to start out of Durban in about three weeks, but it would have a task of tremendous difficulty and danger. The country is hilly, moun-

NOTES FROM OTTAWA.

A large volume could not contain all that might be fittingly said about the splendid celebration of Mgr. Duhamel's Silver Jubilee, at Ottawa. The whole week, from the 23rd to the 28th October, last, was marked by an unbroken series of receptions and rendering of homage to the distinguished prelate. Of all the enjoyable and highly appreciated events, none surpass that which took place in the Gloucester Street Convent—the Convent of the Sisters of the Congregation de Notre Dame. Never before did the halls of that noble institution contain so many distinguished personages. Surmounting and accompanying Mgr. Duhamel were the Papal Delegate, Archbishop Bevan-Bruce, O'Connor, Gavahan and Langevin; twelve Bishops; fifteen Monsignors and Canons; and one hundred and fifty priests.

The grand reception room was decorated with exquisite taste; palm-trees and flowers in profusion; silver stars in hundreds; the escutcheons of all the dignitaries present adorned the walls; white concealed electric lights flung a subdued splendor upon the whole scene and filled the room with a brilliancy that might be compared to a haze of glory. Two hundred and fifty pupils dressed in white, and wearing Mgr. Duhamel's colors—blue and silver—greeted the visiting array of dignitaries. Eight pianos, seven violins and two harps, all touched by fingers delicately exact, gave forth voluminous accompaniment to the high-class, exquisite singing.

One of the principal events of the evening was the presentation to Mgr. Duhamel—it consisted of a sheaf of roses and a silver purse containing one hundred dollars in gold. The little Misses Katie Costigan, and Myra Street, won all hearts with the charm of their childish eloquence in the presentation speech and the request for a holiday. Little Miss Street asked for "five holidays"; and they were granted. The addresses, in French and English, were remarkable for the simplicity and naturalness of their delivery; and the distinguished audience left a graphic impression of the esteem and affection in which

IS THERE ANY HOPE?

We have for a long time endeavored to cherish the hope that our Protestant friends would, in time, come to see and acknowledge in a practical way the absolute importance of including religious instruction in the curriculum of our public schools. There are occasional indications of returning sanity in the craze for secular, "antiseptarian" education, which for the moment are encouraging. Able, conservative and independent gentlemen—clerical and lay—and even religious bodies do occasionally have the courage, in face of opposing public sentiment, to declare, in the most solemn and emphatic manner, their conviction that the present system of merely secular education, is unphilosophical, unscientific, unreasonable and dangerous to the well-being of society, and they urge with all the force of logic and earnest conviction the absolute necessity of religious instruction for the rising generation.

We confess we have learned by sad experience, not to attach too much importance to these utterances, admirable though they be. We fear they make very little impression upon the general public. That comparatively small portion of the public who take enough interest in the subject to read about it may be convinced, intellectually, but they are not influenced practically. The fact is, the great majority of those who uphold the present educational system are fortified in their opposition by an iron-bound prejudice which stubbornly resists the appeals of reason, logic, common sense, and even of the most persuasive eloquence. These people have made up their minds that to teach religion in our public schools is impracticable. They have invented a term which to them seems to state a danger to be avoided at all costs, and to cover the whole ground. They call it "sectarianism," but what you will it to the bottom "sectarianism" as they use the word, simply means the Catholic religion. It is nothing more or less than the old hereditary prejudice against the Catholic Church. They are determined that Catholics shall not receive any part of the school tax fund for the separate education of their children. They know in their hearts that this is really a crying injustice. They know that Catholics pay taxes and thus contribute to the support of the public schools, which they consider radically defective and which—generally speaking—they use only when they have no schools of their own. It is in fact a kind of unjust, spiritual tyranny that compels them to contribute to the support of the public schools and at the same time, to build and support their private schools; but this makes no difference to them; they are inexorable. In their view every man who speaks against the public schools, or criticizes them, is an enemy to the state and to the republic.

Of the strength of this unreasonable anti-Catholic prejudice we have only too many and convincing proofs. For instance, when Congress was considering the question of withdrawing government aid from the charitable institutions, of Washington, under the care of Catholic Sisters, in which orphan and destitute children were being educated and cared for, and wayward girls were being reformed, Colonel Henderson of Iowa, a Protestant, but a lightened fair-minded man, made an able and convincing speech in favor of continuing aid to those institutions. He wisely taunted the opposition with their bigotry; he showed in strong and feeling language the claims which the good Sisters had upon the government for their disinterested and gratuitous services during the year of the Rebellion as well as the late war with Spain. But all without effect. You might as well blow against the wind. The Protestant prejudice of the majority prevailed and supplies were cut off.

A GREAT IRISH SCHOLAR DEAD.

Already have we announced to our readers the somewhat unexpected death of the late Rev. Eugene O'Growney, the famous Irish scholar. Since such deep interest has been taken by Montreal Irishmen in the revival of the Gaelic tongue and of Celtic literature, many of our friends will thank us for imparting all the information possible concerning this truly great man and devoted leader in the cause they have so much at heart.

Writing to the Irish World, from Los Angeles, California, under date October 29, 1898, L. T. Merr. Branick gives a graphic account of the last moments of the lamented priest, patriot and scholar. At the risk of being somewhat lengthy, we will reproduce the principal portions of that admirable letter and worthy tribute to the dead. Moreover, it contains much that goes right to the Irish heart, and it is calculated to engage us all in prayers for the departed, while it affords a page of unique interest in the history of the great movement that owes so much to Father O'Growney. After some introductory remarks the writer says:

"When he came to Los Angeles in the middle of summer he was as well as he was a year ago when he had an attack of heart disease, which he did not get better in over a year. The doctors found that the membrane about the lung was filled with fluid, and that it was distressing him. They inserted a suction tube in his side and extracted two quarts of water. For a week or ten days he was very much better, so much so that he read Mass for the first time in three years. The cavity became filled again, and this time with puss or serum, and the extraction of which weakened him very much. Knowing that this re-accumulation and pumping would wear him out in a few weeks, he submitted to an operation to make an opening in the bottom of the membrane. His heart was too weak to recover from chloroform, so he had to undergo the pain in his full senses. For a few days after the operation it seemed that he

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