

## General Buller's Second Effort to Relieve Ladysmith 129

Belmont; and a third party under Major Byrne, consisting of the Munster Fusiliers, the Lancashires, and the Scots Greys. This last body advanced to within four miles of Jacobsdal, when the pickets were fired on by the enemy. The Victorians made their way without meeting any foe for twenty miles inside the Free State Border. The men under Babington destroyed some houses belonging to the commandant in the Jacobsdal district which had been used for storing the enemy's supplies. The country was found to be well suited for the movements of mounted men, and the work done by the Lancers displayed the excellent training given by the

commanding officers—Lord Airlie, of the 12th, and Major Little, of the 9th Lancers. Open country was found towards Bloemfontein, and the whole reconnaissance paved the way, it may be hoped, for an invasion in force at a future day. On January 5th a post had been established, for the first time during the campaign, in the enemy's country, in the occupation of Zoutpansdrift, in the Free State, just beyond the Orange River, by General Wood with a force of all arms. Some later news concerning Lord Methuen's force informs us that on January 22nd his guns were bombarding the Boers with lyddite shell.

### CHAPTER VIII.

#### *General Buller's Second Effort to Relieve Ladysmith.—Concluding Review of Affairs. Buller's Third Effort.*

General Buller's Force in January 1900—The Infantry—The Cavalry—Lord Dundonald's Antecedents—The Artillery—British General's Position at Frere Camp—The Boer Position on the Tugela—Its Extent and Strength—Buller's Turning of Right Flank—The Tugela Crossed—The Boers Hurry Up from the East—Buller's New Headquarters—Lord Dundonald in Action—Feeling Roused at Home by Tidings—The Work of Our Guns on Mount Alice—Warren's and Lyttelton's Men in Action—Early Successes—Buller's Encouraging Telegram—The Key of Boer Position: Spion Kop—Second Telegram from Buller—The Desperate Fighting of January 23rd and 24th—The Ground Won Untenable by British—Aid of Lyttelton's Men Vain—Want of Water—Ammunition Fails—The Ground Abandoned—Forces Withdrawn Across Tugela—Great British Loss—Final Review of Affairs—General French Still Active—A Cable Tram at Work Up Hill—Reconnaissance in Force—Wiltshires in Action for First Time—Kimberley Heavily Shelled—Cowardly Conduct of Boers—Making Cheerful—Affairs at Ladysmith—Lessons of the War up to Date—Failure of the Boers to Attain their Ends—Beaten in their Sieges—Stopped in the Advance to the Sea—The Position of Ladysmith—Anxiety at Home and in Colonies—Disappointment of Garrison—Buller's Third Advance—Advance of Lord Roberts.

In January 1900, the force under General Buller was composed of (1) Major-General Hildyard's brigade—the 2nd West Yorkshires, 2nd East and 2nd West Surreys, and 2nd Devonshires, Naval Brigade, and Natal Volunteers; (2) Major-General Lyttelton's brigade—2nd Scottish Rifles, 1st Durham Light Infantry, 1st Rifle Brigade, and 3rd King's Royal Rifles; (3) Major-General Barton's brigade—the 2nd Royal Scots, 2nd Royal Irish, 1st Royal Welsh, and 1st Royal Dublin—all Fusiliers. The above formed Lieutenant-General Clery's division. Sir Charles Warren's division included the 2nd Lancashire Fusiliers, 1st and 2nd Middlesex, 2nd Royal Lancasters, 2nd King's Own Scottish Borderers, 1st South Lancashires, 1st Border Regiment, Thorney-

croft's Mounted Infantry, and Imperial Light Infantry. There were other infantry battalions, among which may be named the 1st Derbyshire, 1st Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 2nd Somerset Light Infantry, 1st Connaught Rangers, and a detachment of the 1st Gloucesters.

The cavalry—Lord Dundonald's brigade—comprised the 1st Royal Dragoons, two squadrons of the 13th Hussars, the 6th Inniskilling Dragoons, two squadrons South African Horse, and some Imperial Light Horse. Their commander, Colonel the Earl of Dundonald, is worthy of notice here. Born in 1852, he succeeded his father, as twelfth earl, in 1885. In 1870 he entered the 2nd Life Guards, served in the Nile Expedition of 1884-85, and has now for five