

from his den and with a force of 10,000 men and a convoy of 300 waggons, fled eastward eight miles, but only to be repulsed by the invincible Kitchener. In vain the encaged general heliographed to General Joubert to break the British cordon,—in vain he tried to escape and searched on every side to find a single loop hole. But the cage was secure. The officers stood firm and



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turbulent Modder flowed, winding southward in its course, with trees and rushes scattered along the embankment. In a donga on the river bed the stubborn Boer leader lay heavily entrenched, determined to make a "desperate stand" and fight to the bitter end. Gradually the British closed around the laager, and as to the part taken by the Canadian Regiment in the awful tragedy

erect, their eyes flashing bright and keen, ready to detect the slightest movement of the foe. Impregnable were rows of stalwart Tommies, their hands grasping the glittering bayonet, and as they thought of comrades lying by the Modder's side,—thought of the gallant Symons and Wauchope slain,—thought of those at home whose honor they were to uphold, they were ready to spring and bring the indomitable "Lion" to bay.

The surroundings of the coming bloody strife were tranquil and lovely. Nature's summer dress was tinged with autumn hues. To the north of that immortal field called Paardeberg, kopjes, some near and some far, towered heavenward. On the east the tur-

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