

race, freed from the oppressions of the Boers, shall enjoy the blessings of the Gospel as they never enjoyed them before.

THE PIOUS BOERS.

We have small patience with those who contrast the piety of the Boers with that of the God-fearing British soldiers. There are those on both sides, we doubt not, who neither fear God nor regard man, but it is like a gleam of light in a dark cloud to know that in the beleaguered town of Ladysmith every day a meeting

can decide, but we see neither justice nor patriotism in traducing the virtue of our kinsmen and countrymen, and magnifying the merits of the enemies of our Queen and country.

It is one thing with self-righteous unctuousness to say with the Boers, "The people of the Lord, the people of the Lord are we," and to invoke the imprecations of the Psalms upon the British. It is another and better thing to do justice and love mercy and walk uprightly before God. The record of Great Britain in dealing with subject races in India, in Ceylon, in China, in Canada, in the Soudan, and in South Africa, in administering justice, in showing mercy, bestowing a higher civilization, in giving the Gospel, is a record of which we may feel proud. The history of the Boers is one long, dark catalogue of oppression, cruelty and wrong toward the hapless native races, of flagrant injustice and treachery to the Outlanders and the stranger within their gates.



COMMANDEERING THE BOERS.

is held for prayer, where General White is almost invariably in attendance. General Warren, we are told, is another Havelock, a man of prayer. The Wesleyan and other chaplains have their communion service on the sands.

There may be a form of religion where there is little of its power, and we think a good deal of the Boer piety is of that sort. We have heard Kruger described, we know not with what truth, as "a sanctimonious bandit, whose mouth is filled with Scripture and his pockets filled with bribes." Only the Just Judge of all

LESSONS OF THE WAR.

One of the lessons of the war is the enormous advantage that modern weapons of precision have given a force acting on the defensive. This was first shown at Plevna, where a few thousand Turks, half starved, half clothed, amid the rigours of a Balkan winter, held the mountain passes for months against the whole power of Russia. Since then the improvements in the magazine rifle, the quick-firing and machine guns make it almost impossible to cross the fire zone of from two to four miles without almost absolute destruction.

The defence of the little garrisons of Mafeking, Kimberley and Ladysmith against tremendous odds for well-nigh four months, are among the most heroic in history. On the hundredth day of the Mafeking siege, the loyal message sent to the Queen demonstrated the unconquerable resolve of this little garrison to hold out to the end. This lesson of the possibilities of defence will be well pondered by Russia before she attempts to force the passes of the Himalayas. India, with all the vast interests of three