

he eagerly looked at the maps to try and discover what Buller was about. It is a proof of his sound judgment in military tactics.

"Why did not Buller take that hill before?" he comments, when the road to Ladysmith was opened at last. "I pointed it out to Grove when Buller's telegram came describing the Colenso battle. My solution of the case is that someone pointed this out to Buller at the time, and out of sheer cussedness he did not do it."

This is the judgment on Buller or a man who knew him well; quite possibly it is a just one. If so, what a light it throws on the small, petty, contemptible things they are which influence the fates of battle and of human beings!

#### VII.

Here is a curious and rather startling bit of secret history; the more surprising when we know how poor Buller fared when he was in the field:

"It is not probable that even if the cordite amendment had been rejected the government could have kept off the breakers for more than a week or two, but their precipitate retirement from power had one remarkable consequence. Lord Rosebery had decided to recommend Sir Redvers Buller for the post of Commander-in-Chief, about to be vacated by the Duke of Cambridge, and Colonel Verner relates that it was almost a matter of minutes whether the appointment could be made before the Liberal Government resigned the seals of office. The accession of Lord Salisbury saved Lord Wolseley the mortification of seeing his junior and his protégé exalted over his head, and it brought Haliburton once more into close association with one for whose genius he had the warmest admira-

tion, and with whom he remained till the hour of his death on terms of intimate friendship.

#### VIII.

Haliburton retired from the War Office in 1897. There was a chorus of praise from his chiefs and his comrades, and among the warmest was that which came from Sir Francis Mowatt, then the head of the Treasury Department:

"Tell Lady Haliburton," he wrote to her husband, "that she would be a proud woman if she could hear one-half of the regrets that are expressed on all sides at your going."

In retirement Haliburton, raised to the Peerage in recognition of his long service, continued to take an interest in his old office. He died, in fact, in an effort to defend the short-service system, which had been introduced by Cardwell, and in writing a criticism, friendly for the most part, of Mr. Haldane's new scheme. He was suffering from influenza, but he must get out of bed to write his letter to the *Times*. He wrote the letter, but it did not appear till the hand that wrote it was cold in death. The exertion had killed him. These are the men who are the invisible pillars of the Empire. T.P.

#### CO-OPERATIVE ICE.

Mr. Caron wishes to give a number of the subscribers to the ice scheme a gentle reminder that they forgot to make their payment due at La Banque Nationale on February 17th. It is hoped that this notice will serve to jog the memory of all who have been remiss in this respect. The ice supply for the season is now in store and ready for delivery at the appointed time.