

# BULLER PREPARING TO AGAIN ATTACK.

## He is Now Reinforced With 8,000 Men and 18 Guns.

### BOERS FIDGETY AT MODDER RIVER.

#### Report That Many Free Staters Refuse to Continue the Fight.

#### GENERAL WHITE SICK WITH FEVER.

##### Boers Dropped Shells Near His House—Kimberley and Blafeking Harassing the Enemy—British Prisoners Despondent—Neither Money Nor Tobacco—Cape Dutch Joining Boers—Kaffirs and Boers Fight—Troops Streaming Into Africa—Gatacre Did Some Good Work.

London, Dec. 30, 4 a.m.—"Great event is impending," are the concluding words of a despatch dated Dec. 27th, in which Winston Churchill, correspondent of the Morning Post, describes the respective positions of the Boers and British at and near the Tugela River in Natal.

The same idea can be read between the lines of some other telegrams, and the expectation is growing that Gen. Buller will shortly make a second attempt to cross the river.

The latest news regarding the transports indicates that he has been reinforced by 8,000 men and 18 guns since the failure of his first attempt, but as the Atlantic, with two batteries left Cape Town yesterday for Durban, it may be assumed that no more will be made until these additional 12 guns have reached the front.

By then, Gen. Buller's strength will be sufficient to enable him to employ two divisions for the attack, while holding the camp with a whole brigade.

The best informed criticism here is in no wise over-sanguine as to the results, half fearing that the attack may not be a success.

The Boers, according to the latest telegrams, are carefully concealing the secret of their artillery emplacements. They, therefore, do not reply to the shelling of the British.

According to the Daily Telegraph's Kimberley correspondent, all the Boers who crossed the Tugela have recrossed, fearing that their retreat would be barred by the swollen river. Their lagers seem to have been removed nearer to Ladysmith, with the object of further pressing the garrison there.

Sortie From Kimberley.

Kimberley, Dec. 22, via Modder River, Wednesday.—Our mounted troops made a reconnaissance to-day and located three of the enemy's guns mounted in difficult positions within a few miles of Kimberley.

They also visited Carter's farm, and did some useful work.

Everything remains quiet.

A few cases of fever have occurred among the natives, and also, as is usual at this time of year, typhoid fever is mildly prevalent. Otherwise the public health is still satisfactory.

Now that we are being better supplied with food, our isolation presses less heavily upon us.

The strength of the garrison has been considerably enhanced since the siege began.

The main burden of the defense has fallen upon the shoulders of the three Imperial officers, Colonel Kekewich, commanding, and Captain O'Meara and Lieut. MacInnes (formerly of Hamilton, Ont.), both of the Royal Engineers.

A Second Sortie.

Kimberley, Dec. 22, via Modder River, Dec. 27.—Before dawn to-day a detachment of the mounted forces, with artillery and light infantry, moved out in a westerly direction. Boer artillery from Camperdown opened fire at Otto's kopje, Kimberley fort replying with 20 shells.

The British force reconnoitred outposts along Lazaretto ridge, the Boer patrols retreating.

Having discovered Boer reinforcements approaching from Wimbeldon ridge, Col. Chamberlain, with the Royal Artillery, exchanged a dozen shells as usual as the guns could be limbered up. Some 500 Boers poured in a heavy fire from their earthworks, the British finally retiring with the loss of one horse.

The movement showed that the Boers were still keeping the regions in the vicinity of Kimberley, and are able to summon reinforcements rapidly. It also showed their proneness to vacate a position immediately when weaker than the opposing force.

Severe Fighting at Mafeking.

Pretoria, Dec. 26, by way of Lorenzo Marques, Dec. 28.—Commandant Snyman reports as follows from Mafeking:

"On Monday morning the enemy from Mafeking attacked one of our forts in force, with cannon, Maxims, and an armored train, and so persistently that there was fighting right on the walls of the fort.

"But we have retained our fort.

"The British loss is reported as 57.

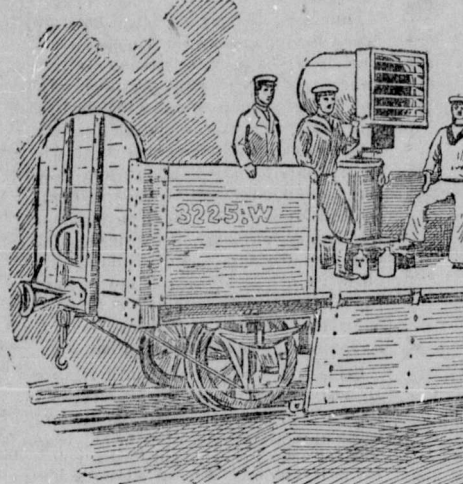
The other commanders report "All quiet," with the exception of the usual bombardment of Ladysmith.

Gen. Lucas Meyer has recovered and returned to the front.

All Well at Kimberley.

Modder River, Dec. 4 (delayed in transmission).—In reply to a holo-graphic enquiry yesterday as to the health of the garrison, Kimberley signalled, "Thanks, all well."

The 9th Lancers gave a concert last



New Searchlight Apparatus Used in the Transvaal, and Captain Percy Scott, R. N., its Inventor.

### BRITISH OFFICERS KILLED OR WOUNDED.



MARQUIS OF WINCHESTER, Major, Coldstream Guards, Killed at Magerfontein. MAJOR W. LINDSAY, Royal Field Artillery, Wounded.



CAPTAIN J. C. KNAPP, Imperial Light Horse, Killed. MAJOR STURGES, Second Northumberland Fusiliers, Missing.

### REINFORCEMENTS FOR BULLER.

London, Dec. 30, 3 a.m.—The transport Atlantic, on arriving at Cape Town yesterday with two batteries of field artillery and an ammunition column of the Fifth Division, was despatched for Durban, Gen. Buller's next battle is likely to be deferred until the middle of next week. He will then virtually have under his direct command three of the five divisions sent to the Cape, with the fourth division locked up under Gen. White in Ladysmith. The remaining division is distributed along the western and northern frontiers, with 4,000 men of the original garrison and considerable cavalry added. He has called three divisions into Natal for the relief of the fourth, instead of carrying them to the Free State in accordance with his own plan, formed before he left London.

A Stream of Troops.

After the arrival of the Argentinia at the Cape, where she is due to-day with 2,000 infantry, there will be only one transport, the Victoria, with a week's cavalry, to enter the port for a week. The sixth division will begin to arrive about the time that General Roberts assumes command, so that he will have 10,000 fresh troops of the middle of January. Five battalions of the seventh division will start from England on Thursday, and by the second week in February he will have 10,000 additional men. The eighth division will be mobilized early in January, and the reinforcements will be increased by 10,000 yeomanry and volunteers during the next two months; there will be a steady movement of reinforcements, week after week, to the seat of war. Mr. George Wyndham will have a strong case to present in defense of the War Office when Parliament meets, for there has been no lack of energy and toil in carrying out the mobilization scheme, and despatching the largest British army ever organized for a foreign campaign.

London, Dec. 30.—The reported sortie from Ladysmith, resulting in the capture of a Boer position, is not confirmed and apparently is only a Kaffir story. Chieveley's despatch dated Dec. 29th, makes no mention of it. The same message shows renewed activity upon the part of the British, apparently preparatory to some action. The Boer position eastward of the camp was thoroughly reconnoitred Dec. 28th without drawing the enemy. The naval guns engaged in daily practice, and it is said on good authority that 30 or 40 Boers have been killed by the firing during two days.

A despatch from Durban predicts that Ladysmith will be relieved on or about Jan. 7th. While there is nothing to bear out this forecast, there is some disposition to believe General Buller is preparing another attempt to advance, this time by an attack on the Boer position on Inhlawe Mountain.

Connaught's Job.

London, Dec. 30.—The Queen has approved the appointment of the Duke of Connaught as commander-in-chief of the British forces in Ireland.

Boer Version of Fight.

Lorenzo Marques, Dec. 29.—Advices received here from Pretoria, under date of Wednesday, Dec. 27th, say that an official despatch from Mafeking announces that in the action which the British made from that place, Nov. 25th, attacking one of the Boer forts with cannon, Maxims, and an armored train, so persistently that the fighting raged up to the walls of the fort, the British lost 109 men killed and wounded, while the Boers only lost two men killed, and seven wounded.

Off to Cape Town.

London, Dec. 30.—Mr. Adsett S. Hay, the new U. S. Consul at Pretoria, left Waterloo railway station here this morning for Southampton on his way to Cape Town. Mr. Hay is charged with many commissions from relatives and friends of the British prisoners at Pretoria. The same train took Lord Edward Stanley, one

British naval guns. Some of them fell within 20 yards of those guns. The range was 6,000 yards.

Natives from the Boer laager say that the enemy is becoming hungrier daily. They are allowed only two pannikins of meat daily between four men and one loaf of mutton between eight men. The natives add that there is much confusion in the Boer camp.

The sneaking by the enemy on Tuesday night ended in a quarrel between the Transvaal and Free State Boers. Both had fired on their own store wagons from Jacobsdal, which had gone astray in the darkness.

The Free State Boers complain that the Transvaalers are better treated than they, and that their hardships are unbearable. The Transvaalers quelled the grumbling, but the Free Staters are dispersing in greater numbers than heretofore.

The Contraband Question.

London, Dec. 30, 6 a.m.—In a letter which the Times publishes to-day Lord Rosebery raises the question, which he describes as of supreme importance, whether the British Government has treated foolishly generally as contraband of war. Lord Rosebery's object, as he explains himself, is merely to elicit an authoritative statement of what has happened in South African waters. The Times says there is no doubt a very widespread feeling here that it would be unwise for England to create a precedent which might some day be invoked against her.

How Dordrecht Was Occupied.

London, Dec. 30.—The Times has the following special to-day:

Sterksburg, Dec. 24.—A British force under Colonel Dalgatly, consisting of Cape Mounted Rifles, occupied Dordrecht this morning (unopposed). It seems probable that the rebels encountered yesterday dispersed to their farms after fighting, during which the courage they displayed against a very inferior force was decidedly indifferent. The occupation was the direct result of a bright bit of work yesterday, when a patrol of the Mounted Rifles, supported by detachments of Brabant's Horse, Cape Mounted Rifles, Mounted Police and Frontier Mounted Rifles, supported by the armored train, under Lieut. Gosset, and a detachment of the Berkshire Regiment, 100 of all ranks, encountered 300 Boers, chiefly rebels, near Kopslepte, and drove them seven miles into Dordrecht. There were no casualties on our side. The patrol returned to camp. The Boers, being outflanked, retired hastily upon each successive retreat.

Reinforcements for Buller.

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of the junior lords of the treasury, and eldest son of Earl Seely, former Governor-General of Canada. Lord Stanley has been appointed to a position on General Roberts' staff. Sir William Stokes, Surgeon in Ordinary to Queen Victoria in Ireland and Surgeon to the Meath Hospital, Dublin, and a number of hospital nurses also left London for Southampton this morning en route to Cape Town.

German Vessel Captured.

Lorenzo Marques, Delagoa Bay, Dec. 30.—The German steamer, Bundsrath, belonging to the German East African Line, has been captured as a prize and taken to Durban. The Bundsrath arrived here from Mozambique.

The Bundsrath sailed from Hamburg Nov. 8th for Tanga, East Africa.

Wales is Honorary Colonel.

London, Dec. 29.—The Prince of Wales has accepted the chief colonelcy of the Imperial Yeomanry, and has contributed £100 for the use of the organization.

LADY SARAH WILSON.

Exchanged for a Horse Thief, She is Now in Mafeking.

Mafeking, Dec. 30.—(By native runner to Mafeking.)—Lady Sarah Wilson, who Mrs. Wilson here, is living in a comfortable quarters on the same street, under the private residence of Mr. Wel. There she is enabled to exist with some degrees of comfort; and, if she chooses, to spend a part of the time in the house, where she can see through the window the take cover between the ring of the warning bell and the arrival of the projectiles.

The correspondent of the Associated Press, in Mafeking, to whom she granted an interview, was struck with the fact on entering her room-proof refuge that she is unquestionably an old campaigner. Even in this noisome, dark hole dug under the ground, she manages to make herself comfortable.

Lady Sarah's adventures were exciting, sometimes amusing, and often spiced with considerable danger. It was on a Thursday that she left Mafeking. She arrived at Selatgoli Hotel that night, before morning she was aroused by the rattle of musketry and the boom of guns. It was Captain Nesbitt, of the Mashonaland Mounted Police, now a prisoner in the hands of the Boers, who was fighting desperately, unable to get back or to go forward, but holding the wrecked armored train until the last. As soon as daylight would allow Lady Sarah pluckily rode to the scene of action and photographed the wreck. Finding that her presence at Selatgoli exposed her to insults, she moved her to Mafeking, where she enjoyed the hospitality of a colonial farmer.

By means of heavy bribes she persuaded natives to carry information to and fro. Extraordinary stories regarding her were circulated among the Boers. One was that she was the wife of an English general, another that she was a granddaughter of the Queen who had come to spy on the doings of the Boers, and a third that she was the only male survivor of Mafeking, having escaped in the disguise of a woman.

Lady Sarah visited Vryburg. She was driven there by a young Boer, who passed her off as his sister. She found loyalists, who gave her official despatches, and a news she stayed in the hotel all day and stole out by night to do shopping. In visiting the hospital she found that orders had been issued that no one should leave the town. The gallant Boer had to answer some questions asked by the Landrost before he could get permission for himself and his "sister" to leave. They set out at 4 o'clock in the morning in fear of being recognized, and the news they had been mixed up in despatch-running she went to Commandant Snyman's camp with a view of getting back to Mafeking, but Snyman refused to let her go to Mafeking, or even to Selatgoli. He proposed sending her to Zerst as a prisoner of war, or as an alternative, to release her, if Wilton were given up by the British.

At first she refused to ask Colonel Baden-Powell to do this, but finally she changed her mind. Lady Sarah gathered, from her varied experiences among the Boers, that they are heartily sick of the war.

War Notes.

The Boers allege that Captains Kirkwood and Grenfell were captured by Boer scouts near Colenso, and were being sent to Pretoria.

Ten unloaded shells inscribed "The Boers' great guns," have been fired at Ladysmith.

The South African medical students from Edinburgh have arrived at Pretoria, from Delagoa Bay, with five tons of medical stores.

A despatch from the Boer camp at the Modder River, dated Dec. 28th, reports an artillery duel lasting an hour. On Dec. 27th a British reconnoitering party made a sortie but did not come within the Boer range. The British had 850 rounds of ammunition, a steady bombardment of the Boer position.

The New York Tribune's correspondent reiterates that Britain is to get no more Boers.

VESSEL RAN ASHORE.

A Large German Mail Steamer Wrecked.

London, Dec. 30.—A large German mail steamer, whose name has not yet been ascertained, has gone aground during a terrific gale in East Bay, about a quarter of a mile off Dungeness, the southern extremity of Kent. Heavy seas are breaking over the vessel, and the life-boats are unable to reach her. Fears are entertained for the safety of the passengers. It is believed that the grounded steamer is one of the Hamburg-American liners.

It is reported that the position of the liner is very serious. Tugs and lifeboats were urgently in requisition from Dover and Folkestone, but they had the utmost difficulty in getting off, owing to the gale. The signals of distress were observed from the Sang Head Lightship.

Baltimore is said to contain the largest negro population of any city in the world. The coming census is expected to show at least 125,000.

Official figures of the voting at the Manitoba election on the 7th inst. show that the Liberals polled 23,265 votes against 23,449 for the Conservatives, a Liberal majority of 116.