

BRITAIN FAIRLY ROUSED. RUSHING MORE TROOPS.

One Division Starts for Africa— Other Two to Follow.

GEN. WARREN GOING TO THE FRONT.

Some One Blundered — Shameful Slaughter of Scotchmen.

The Highland Brigade attacked at daybreak on Monday the south end of the kopje. The attack was properly timed, but failed. The Guards were ordered to protect the Highland's right and rear. The cavalry and mounted infantry with a howitzer artillery battery attacked the enemy on the left and the Guards on the right, supported by field artillery. They shelled the position from daybreak, and at 1.15 I sent the Gordons to support the Highland Brigade. The troops held their own in front of the enemy's entrenchments until dusk, the position extending, including the kopje, for a distance of six miles towards the Modder River. To-day am holding my position and entrenching myself. I had to face at least 12,000 men. Our loss was great.

Gen Wauchope Killed.

London cable: The War Office received the following despatch from Gen. Forester-Walker: "Cape Town, Tuesday, Dec. 12.—Methuen wires that Gen. Wauchope was killed in action yesterday."

Major-Gen. Andrew G. Wauchope, C. B., C. M. G., was a highly distinguished officer of the British army. He was Brig.-Gen., commanding the First Brigade of the Egyptian Expeditionary force in 1898. He entered the army in 1865, was promoted colonel in 1888, served in the Ashanti war, 1873, in the Egyptian war, 1882; in the Sudan Expedition of 1884, and in the Nile expedition of 1884-85. Gen. Wauchope had been wounded four times, three times severely.

NO FEARS FOR GATACRE.

The latest advices from Gen. Gatacre show no anxiety is felt for the safety of his remaining troops, who have been withdrawn to good positions along the railroad south of Mafeking.

It is said that Bushman's Hoek is impregnable. The Boers decline to furnish the names of the killed or wounded. They say they buried the dead and are sending the prisoners to Bloemfontein.

The Boer loss on Sunday is reported to have been four killed and nine wounded. Probably this is correct, as no genuine attack was delivered by Gen. Gatacre's troops, who were completely surprised while in column. The British apparently simply rushed up the nearest hill without orders or knowing where the enemy was.

BULLER MOVING.

The British were so exhausted from long marches that they were unable to accomplish anything. Gen. Buller's advance in the direction of Colenso seems to have actually commenced. The military attaches have left Cape Town to join Gen. Buller, via Durban.

Gen. White reports under date of Tuesday, Dec. 12th, that there are 32 cases of enteric fever at Ladysmith.

CABINET CRISIS.

There are renewed reports of a Cabinet crisis at Cape Town, where it is said that Governor Milner is about to act in consequence of disclosures involving the Ministry's loyalty.

The White Star line steamer *Majestic* sails from Liverpool to-day for South Africa, with 2,000 troops on board.

The White Star line steamer *Cymric* has been chartered for use as a transport.

HIGHLANDERS MOWN DOWN.

Graphic Description of Their Futile Attack.

London cable: The Daily News' correspondent with Gen. Methuen cables:

"After shelling the Boers all day Sunday with our howitzers and naval guns, the whole force, with the exception of those left to guard the camp, moved forward."

"The attack was opened at 3.20 Monday morning by the Highland brigade. In front were the Seaforth's, Argylls, and the Black Watch, with the Gordons and the Highland Light Infantry in support. The men marched in quarter column formation."

"The Highlanders had reached to within 200 yards of the Boer trenches when a deadly fire was opened on the front and the right flank."

"Here about 200 men were mown down, and those leading were forced to retire."

"The supports were then brought up, but they also failed to carry the kopje, and the right flank was thus in serious jeopardy."

"The guns, however, dashed to the rescue, and, protected by their fire, our sharpshooters were enabled to re-

take the enemy at 6 a. m. When our right flank was threatened, two squadrons of the 12th Lancers were dismounted and skirmished through the bushy country, clearing and holding it until the afternoon.

"Our terrific artillery fire provoked no response except from the enemy's rifles."

"All efforts to carry the position having failed, the action at midday sank into a desultory artillery fire, with the exception of some sharp skirmishing on the right flank."

"At 3.45 the Highlanders formed up to renew the attack on the trenches no use of their artillery during the whole day, now opened on them with a heavy shrapnel fire. The brigade was immediately ordered to retire again, and the fight between the guns continued until dark."

"The losses on both sides were very severe. Many Boers were killed in the trenches and wire entanglements."

"The entanglements mentioned in the foregoing are probably explained by the fact mentioned in another press despatch that the Boers came upon open ground on the British front for the purpose of attacking the British flank, but were arrested by the Guards and the artillery."

The Daily Mail's correspondent says that the murderous fire on the Highlanders at 2.00 yards caused in a single minute the larger part of the fearful British loss. He adds:

"Startled and overwhelmed, the brigade retired quickly, but rallied and retained their position."

The Guards, who crossed the open veldt against the trenches on the right, fought an invisible foe for fifteen hours.

The correspondent of the Daily Telegraph at Modder River says that the Marquis of Winchester, major of the 2nd battalion Coldstream Guards, who succeeded Lieut.-Col. Stopford after the latter was killed in the first Modder River battle, was killed in the last engagement.

Augustus John Henry Beaumont Paucet, fifteenth Marquis of Winchester (created 1551), was the premier marquis of England. His other titles were Baron St. John, 1533, and Earl of Wiltshire, 1550. He was also hereditary Bearer of Corps and Maintenance. He was born Feb. 6th, 1838, being a son of the fourteenth Marquis and Mary, daughter of the sixth Lord Roxbury. He succeeded to the title on the death of his father in 1897.

Col. Downham, of the 1st battalion Gordon Highlanders, was mortally wounded.

Lieut.-Col. A. E. Coddington and Captain Starling, of the Coldstream Guards, were also among the wounded.

Forty-one Gordon Highlanders, captured by the burghers, have passed Jacobsdal en route for Pretoria.

Boers Three to One.

London cable: The special correspondent of the Daily Mail at Modder River, describing the fighting, says:

"The Boer trenches extended far beyond the kopje, into the open plain. Those on the plain were hidden by screens of leaves. Those near the kopje were guarded by a double line of barbed wire. Evidently they fear our storming and bayonet attack."

"We raked the kopje and trenches with an intense well-directed fire of thirty guns, including a naval gun and a howitzer battery, both using lyddite. It is believed they effected heavy damage."

"The Boer prisoners report that one lyddite shell fell among forty men, only five of whom escaped unhurt. Other shells burst in the enemy's laager, causing its complete destruction."

"The Boers are in still larger force than we found them at Modder river, outnumbering us by almost three to one. The Transvaalers are apparently dominating in their military councils, although in a minority."

MORE CANADIANS WANTED.

The Times prints the following in its editorial columns this morning:

"At least 30,000 additional men must be sent out. The entire available reserve must be called up, and the militia and volunteers turned to account."

"Efforts must be made to increase the local colonial forces, and further offers of troops from Canada and other colonies must be sought and accepted."

The Times says:

"It would be idle to attempt to hide the grave character of the news. The lesson to be drawn from Monday's defeat is the old lesson."

THE MORNING POST.

The Morning Post, which throughout the struggle has not blinked at the magnitude of the British task, prefaces a critical review of Gen. Methuen's fight with the following significant words:

"The news that reached us last night will make every Englishman close his lips with certain grimness,

expectancy, and determination. But it may do more. We learned with a measure of ironical contempt that the Boers had appointed a day of national humiliation. There are worse things than such an announcement by a nation that would purge itself of pride, and the worst thing, the worst way, has been ours. Face to face with a nation in arms, a nation confessedly brutal in many of its dealings, but brave, strong and united, we have discussed as a conqueror the terms of settlement, have divided as victors the spoils of battle. It is a pity that, as a people, we had not left boastfulness to the man who takes off his armor. We have had our day of humiliation appointed for us. Let us accept it humbly and soberly, and be better and stronger for the lesson it has taught us—the lesson of silent, unobtrusive determination to prove ourselves worthy to hold the Empire our forefathers won. Let us renounce all boastfulness, our schemes for governing what we have not won, and our deprecations of a people whom we have not beaten. The day is still before us, but it must be won in a spirit different from that in which it began—in a spirit of humility, less assertive, but no less determined, no less assured."

THE STANDARD.

The Standard says it fears that the advantage of the engagement was with the Boers, and wonders concerning the enemy's strength. It adds:

"How all these men can be supplied out of a population estimated at 250,000 is one of the mysteries of the situation. We are driven to conjecture that a substantial part was recruited from the Cape Dutch."

The paper concludes with an expression of a misgiving that it will be some time before tranquilizing operations begin.

Total losses... .. 62
Officer killed... .. 1
Officers wounded... .. 3

London cable says: The War Office publishes the following despatch from Gen. Buller:

Despatch from Gen. White, dated Dec. 11th, says:

"Last night Col. Metcalf and 500 of the Second Rifle Brigade sortied to capture a Boer howitzer on a hill."

"They reached the crest without being discovered, drove off the enemy, and then destroyed the howitzer with gun cotton."

"When returning Metcalf found his retirement barred by the Boers, but he forced his way through, using the bayonet freely."

"The Boer losses were considerable. The British losses were the following: Lieut. Fergusson and 11 men killed; Captain Paley, Second Lieut. Davenport, Second Lieut. Bond, and 41 men wounded; six men captured. The latter had remained behind in charge of the wounded."

Details of the Attack on Gun Hill

London cable: The Daily Mail publishes details from its correspondent, G. W. Stevens, at Ladysmith, showing that all the men who took part in the recent attack of the Boer position on Gun Hill were on foot. Some wore rubber-soled shoes, and carried no bayonets, and their rifles were not loaded. When they had silently mounted the rocks, passed the sleeping Boer picket, they suddenly heard the challenge, "Who comes there?" No reply was made, and the challenge was repeated. Then the Boers cried several times, "The red-coats—shoot."

An officer of the Light Horse Volunteers thereupon shouted in Dutch, "The redcoats with bayonets; run!" The British cheered and charged. The enemy's fire broke in front and rear, and the British in front thought their comrades in the rear were firing on them. Gen. Hunter ordered "Cease fire!" to be sounded, and the next minute the Boers bolted. Some thirty were surprised asleep. One of the sergeants, amid the confusion, seized Gen. Hunter by the throat, crying, "Who the devil are you?" The correspondent adds that a letter written by a Boer gunner was found, in which the writer said, "Mister Eng-

lishman is a very hard fighter, and Ladysmith won't fall yet. We are still strong here, nearly 20,000 being engaged. They doubtless are encamped in outlying laagers."

This information alone is worth the casualties sustained by the British.

A GRAPHIC DESCRIPTION.

The Standard's Ladysmith correspondent tells a graphic story of the storming of Gun Hill. After describing the ascent of the hill and the flight of the Boers in fear of the British bayonets, which were not there, he says:

"There was a hurried search for the big guns. For a moment the horrible thought seized us that there might be no guns at all; that the enemy, as had so often been the case, had somehow got wind of the projected attack, and removed their cannon to a safe distance; but at last, to the delight of everybody, the 'Long Tom' itself was discovered snugly ensconced behind a parapet of sand bags 31 feet thick. A 4.7-inch howitzer was found in an emplacement hardly less strong, with a Maxim gun between the two, posted apparently for the purpose of repelling such an assault as the one we had actually delivered."

Lieut. Turner, with two sappers and six artillerymen, at once took charge of the 'Long Tom,' and with crowbars and hammers smashed the breach and elevating gear. Two charges of gun-cotton were then placed in the breach and muzzle and connected with fuses. While the 'Long Tom' was thus being provided for, similar attention was bestowed on the howitzer by Capt. Fowke and other sappers and gunners."

"The preparations being completed, General Hunter ordered the men down the hill. The fuses were lit with the burning ends of officers' cigars. Everybody fell back with the exception of Captain Fowke, who remained midway between the two big guns, and after a couple of minutes of suspense, a loud report showed that our object had been accomplished."

"Captain Fowke hastened to ex-



amine the debris. He found the 6-inch gun with two gaping holes in the muzzle, which was badly bulged, and that the breech rifling had been destroyed beyond all chance of repair. The howitzer was in even a worse plight, the explosion having wrecked the carriage as well as the gun. The Maxim was seized and carried off.

"The men returned to camp across the plain unmolested."

"Other trophies of the sortie were an English song book that was found in a cave underneath the parapet, where the gunner evidently took refuge, and a private letter in which it was said that the burghers were not a bit frightened."

Praise Colonial Troops.

London cable: The military experts, commenting on to-day's war news, insist upon the admirable work done by the colonial troops. The *St. James' Gazette* to-day says:

"The New Zealanders, near Colenso, attacked the Boers on an important hill, and drove them off with loss. The New South Wales Lancers admirably co-operated with our cavalry in the same neighborhood."

"The Canadians at Orange River station have been showing their quality as yet in a way not less important, though less showy. Being for the most part, hardy men, accustomed to take up any job that fell in their way, they have been invaluable on the very necessary work of building railway sidings, erecting platforms, and in many useful duties essential to the progress of the campaign. Their loyalty and discipline in undertaking this dull work is better proof of their real military value than almost any success in fighting. We know they will be plucky and cool in action. Canadians have shown their long home training. Colonial campaigning experience has not been lost on them, and they are now getting their reward in being on to the front."

GATACRE'S STORY.

The Error of Guides Was Not Intentional.

London cable: The War Office has received the following from Gen. Forester-Walker: Cape Town, Mon-

day, Dec. 11.—Gatacre reports as follows: "The idea to attack Stormberg seemed to promise certain success, but the distance was underestimated by myself and the local guide. A policeman took us around some miles, consequently we were marching from 9.30 p. m. till 4 a. m., and were landed in an impossible position. I do not consider the error intentional. The Boers commenced firing from the top of an unscalable hill and wounded a good many of our men while."

IN THE OPEN PLAIN.

The Second Northumberlands tried to turn out the enemy, but failed. The Second Irish Fusiliers seized a kopje near and held on, supported by the Mounted Infantry and Cape Police. The guns under Jeffrey's command have been better handled. But I regret to say that one gun was overturned in a deep nullah and another sank in quicksand. Neither could be extricated in time to be available.

THE MISSING MEN.

"Seeing the situation, I sent a despatch rider to Methuen with the news, and collected and withdrew our force from ridge to ridge for about nine miles. The Boer guns were remarkably well served. They carried accurately 5,000 yards. I am holding Bushman's Hoek and Cyprian Gate. Am sending the Irish Lancers and Northumberlands to Stekfontein, to recuperate. The wounded proceeded to Queenstown. The missing Northumberlands number 366, not 306, as previously reported."

A London cable says: The most serious fact of the moment from the British point of view is the unobscured great Dutch disaffection in Cape Colony, not only on the borders, but in the south as far as King William's Town, and elsewhere in the neighborhood of East London. The critics are impressed by what this portends, and demand that more troops be sent to South Africa.

The Morning Post's critic, whose identity is to-day revealed, he being Henry Spenser Wilkinson, for many years a volunteer officer, treats of the outlook with great gravity, and raises the question of the desirability of placing in commission all the ships of the navy without delay.

There is no indication of the origin of the report that Ladysmith had been relieved, nor is there the least confirmation of it. There is eager, even painful, anxiety for news from Gen. Buller, whose advance is widely believed to have begun Thursday.

"When it begins," says one critic, "the fate of the Empire will be centered in his camp."

The Government's announcement that a seventh army division will be mobilized is everywhere welcomed. It will consist of about 13,000 men. It is understood that preparations have already begun to mobilize an eighth division, comprising 16 regiments of infantry and three of cavalry. This will necessitate the summoning of all the remaining reserves of the regular army.

The Disaster to the Highlanders.

A London cable: Supplementary reports from Magersfontein make it clear that out for the disaster to the Highland brigade the British loss would have been comparatively insignificant. It is evident that Gen. Methuen pushed forward the Highlanders in the darkness in the hope of surprising the enemy, who were too wary or too well informed by their scouts. The failure is all the more exasperating because the attack seemed so near to success. The question of the Boer losses is no nearer elucidation. One prisoner says the Boers evacuated the hills and trenches during Sunday's shelling, returning at nightfall.

The Daily Chronicle's correspondent's account indicates that the British withdrawal from their advanced position on Tuesday was in consequence of the heavy guns of the enemy reaching them. These opened in the morning with a hot shell fire, from which the British had little cover, and which Gen. Methuen's guns were unable to silence.

BATTLE EXPECTED SOON.

Gen. Hector Macdonald to Succeed Gen. Wauchope.

London cable: There was little news this morning to throw fresh light on the situation at the seat of war. The artillery firing heard near Colenso is taken to indicate a preliminary to the expected big battle. Gen. Barton is reported to have 38 guns in good position, and the Boers are apparently pursuing the same tactics as at Magersfontein, not replying with the view of concealing their position until the infantry is brought into play. It was feared that the first War Office despatch, announcing fighting at Zoutspan Drift, indicated that Gen. Methuen had been forced to retire to Orange River. But apparently it involved only a brush with the troops protecting the line of communication, as Zoutspan Drift is considerably southwest of the Orange River base.

Some of the specials estimate the Boer losses at Magersfontein at 2,000 men.

WAUCHOPE'S SUCCESSOR.

Considerable satisfaction is felt both in military and civilian circles by the announcement that General Hector Macdonald, whose splendid defeat of the derisives' flank attack at Omdurman, turned a critical situation into a British victory, has been ordered to leave India immediately to succeed the late Gen. Wauchope in command of the Highland Brigade. Gen. Tucker, commanding at Secunderabad, has also been ordered to the Cape to command a division.

The Welcome Season.

Christmas comes! he comes, he comes, ushered with a reign of plums; Hollies in the window greet him, Wet and cold and wind and dark, Make him but the warmer mark.

—Leigh Hunt.