

tween the Boers and the British. Well, there was one little town called Ladysmith which was besieged by the Boers

General White who was holding Ladysmith behaved very bravely. He was troubled a great deal by sickness and disease, and by the bad waters which came through the Boer camp, and all their refuse was thrown into it, so it was very bad for drinking, and caused all kinds of fever and sickness, but the people could not get any better water as the Boers were continually firing shell into the town. Well, when Cronje surrendered, the Boers were called away in a hurry, and the British who were on the way to the relief of Ladysmith, crossed the Tugela River and marched forward toward it. They came in sight of the walls in the evening, but General Buller, the commander of the army gave orders to camp for the night, as there might be lurking parties of Boers beneath the walls outside the city. But some of the men whose relations were within those walls were very eager to get there, so General Buller sent them on under the charge of General DunDonald; on their march they were surprised not to fall in with

any Boers. When they reached Ladysmith and brought the glad tidings of relief, the people were so much weakened by suffering and privation they could not cheer their deliverers.

General White was very ill. After this he went to Durban, from there he was to start for England, but he was too ill to travel. When the British reached Ladysmith, they found that the Boers had been trying to dam up the river, they found they could not take the city, so they tried to drown it. The British also found how dangerous this might have been, because the first place the water must have touched, was the hospital, full of sick and helpless. The British soldiers also found where the Boers had been encamped, quantities of saddles, powder and stores which the Boers had left behind them on their hasty march. If General White gets better he will go home to England. He deserves the V. C. as much as any of the other Generals, because he defended Ladysmith so bravely, and cheered the spirits of his soldiers by his own noble example.

WIN. BELL.

(Aged 12.)

FOR THE HONOUR OF ENGLAND.

E NGLAND, mother of nations! Who shall declare thee old—
 Steeped in luxurious languor, stifled 'neath greed of gold?
 Does not thy early splendour burn to a clearer flame
 On fields where thy flag is carried by the men who bear thy name?
 Troop upon troop they gather, thy loyal and fearless sons,
 Rushing to death and danger—and each one cheers as he runs;
 Leaving, perchance forever, kinsfolk and child and wife,
 For the sake of the Mother that bore them, paying down life for life.

Scarce had the warning trumpet sounded its dread alarms
 Than the strength of a gallant nation sprang in an hour to arms.
 From town and hamlet and village, from island and seagirt coast,
 From palace and plough and workshop, there hurried the eager host;