

Fighting Renewed

Gen. Methuen's Forces and the Boers Again Engaged at Modder River.

Cronje's Account of Monday's Battle—Burghers Losses One Hundred.

Fight Near Orange River—British Casualties Four Killed and Eight Wounded.

New York, Dec. 15.—A dispatch to the Tribune from London says:

"Crossers and pessimists have had the field ever since it was known that General Methuen had retired from his advanced position after waiting over night in the hope that the Boers would evacuate their rifle trenches and allow him to convert a drawn battle into a victory."

"There was a feeble rally of credulous optimists for a few hours, while a stock exchange rumor was current that Lady-smith had been relieved and ten thousand prisoners had been taken by Buller, but Depression and Gloom steadily deepened as the full extent of Gen. Methuen's losses were revealed and the cold, hard truth was discerned that the Highland Brigade had been entrapped like Gatacre's force while seeking to surprise the enemy, and slaughtered without having a soldier's chance of winning a victory."

"From every London and provincial journal came a loud outcry for more troops, another division at once, and fresh army corps behind it, and if necessary, every man to the front in order to retrieve national disaster and restore British Prestige throughout the empire."

One of the most striking features of the war is the fact that the British forces were not only repulsed but driven back to their original positions, and that the Boers have again advanced to the Orange River where it could go to the rescue of Gatacre, and defensive tactics in general until a second and even a third army corps could be sent to South Africa.

"They failed to print the true moral of this week's disasters, which is that fresh troops are not wanted so much as generals capable of directing them cautiously and effectively against a wary and ingenious foe."

The situation is Not in Reality so Desperate as either leading writers or amateur strategists imagine. Lord Methuen's army has not been crushed nor ought there to be serious difficulty in protecting its line of communication which is protected by not less than ten thousand troops.

"The chief danger is that Kimberley may be overwhelmed by the victorious Dutch force and Methuen's army left in the air without an objective or a move. But the Boer commanders have been slow to follow up opportunities hitherto, and seem incapable of conducting offensive warfare."

"Gen. Methuen's repulse coming after Gen. Gatacre's reverse may increase disloyalty and foment civil war in Cape Colony, but so long as Mr. Hofmeyer and Premier Schreiner remain in office, these effects will be minimized."

WESTERN BORDER.

Another Fight in Progress at Modder River—Boer Accounts of the Battle on Monday.

Pretoria, Dec. 12.—The following official announcement has been made: "Gen. Cronje reports that yesterday there was desultory fighting till six, when the heavy cannon fire was resumed. "The Scandinavians stormed a difficult position, but it became untenable, and they suffered severely. "I was unable to send help. "The British were in overwhelming force, but must have had at least 2,000 men put out of action, either killed or wounded."

Another official report from Capt. Flannhart says: "There were no signs of surrender, the burghers fighting with conspicuous bravery and maintaining their positions under heavy British fire. "Our cannon were of very little use. "The British were greatly assisted by balloons. "Twenty-four ambulances were working backward and forward between the fighting line and the enemy's camp. "Our loss is not definitely known. I estimate it at 100 killed and wounded."

A telegraph operator at Modder River writes: "Gun and Maxim fire has been proceeding since 5.30 this morning."

It is not known whether the operator refers to the fighting on Monday or to renewed fighting on Tuesday.

Another Fight. London, Dec. 15.—A special dispatch from Modder River says the firing reported by a telegraph operator was a resumption of fighting between General Methuen's forces and the Boers.

ENGAGED NEAR ORANGE RIVER. Our Losses Were 1 Officer and 3 Men Killed—Lieutenant and 7 Men Wounded.

London, Dec. 15.—A war office dispatch, dated Orange River, Thursday, 14th, says: "Yesterday part of the mounted infantry, with the Yorkshire and Leicestershire guides, reconnoitred ten miles east of the Orange River, where a sharp engagement with enemy ensued. "Capt. Brajshaw and 3 men were killed, and Lieut. Gresson and 7 men wounded. The enemy lost 5 killed and several wounded."

Repulsed at Mafeking. Pretoria, Dec. 15.—It is officially announced that Mafeking, west of Mafeking, was bombarded on December 10th. Sharp fighting occurred.

The Boers attacked the British post at Mafeking during the night of December 10.

After severe fighting the Boers were repulsed to Snyman's Fort.

Fighting Near Kimberley. London, Dec. 15.—The war office has a dispatch from Col. Kekewich, dated Kimberley, December 10th, saying: "The Boers have re-attacked Kuruman and have again been repulsed by loyalists and Bechuans."

"The Kimberley forces made a demonstration northward on December 9th, and drew 500 Boers and three guns. "Fighting ensued for several hours. "The British casualties were one man killed and seven wounded."

IN NATAL. British Shelled the Boer Positions Near Colenso, on Wednesday, but There Was No Reply.

Frere Camp, Dec. 13.—(Noon).—The British bombarded the positions around Colenso to-day, but the Boers did not reply.

Rumor Again Current. London, Dec. 15.—There was a renewal this morning on the stock exchange of the persistent rumors of the relief of Ladysmith, but the war office and all other officials utterly discredit the report, which is generally believed to have been started with the object of unloading Kaffirs shares.

Stock Exchange Story. New York, Dec. 15.—London advices says yesterday's report concerning Ladysmith was gotten up by a clique who were trying to stop a slump in South African shares.

Will Powers Intervene? London, Dec. 15.—The necessity of England guarding against the machinations of Continental powers is the theme of the Post's military expert in to-day's issue. He says in part: "The British made plain by our recent set back, and though foreign intervention is not expected, suppose it should come?"

A Day of Prayer. New York, Dec. 15.—London dispatches affirm that Queen Victoria has been so deeply affected by events in South Africa, that she has requested that a day of prayer and humiliation be fixed early next month.

The War in South Africa

Boer Losses at the Battle of Magersfontein Estimated at 700.

Naval Guns Wrought Enormous Destruction—Gen Wauchope's Body Found.

London, Dec. 15.—The Standard correspondent at Modder River describes the fight at Magersfontein, saying: "Six miles had to be covered before the Highland brigade could reach the Boer stronghold. "It is not yet clear through what mischance the force, which was led by guides, came upon the Boer trenches unexpectedly, and so suddenly. Beyond question, the Boers were aware of the approach of the British and had prepared to receive them. "According to one version two Highlanders through nervousness discharged their rifles prematurely, but it is equally positive that the advance Boer scouts conveyed the intelligence. "Our men were totally unprepared. They had not even fixed bayonets. "The disaster was all the more excruciating because the consciousness that had the brigades been extended and with bayonets fixed the trenches might have been successfully rushed with far less loss of life."

The Daily Chronicle's Modder River despatch, which is in accordance with other reports, represents Lord Methuen's forces as retiring on Tuesday to the camp at Modder River, as the result of renewed artillery fire that day. The correspondent says: "On Tuesday forenoon the Boers brought heavy guns into action. Lord Methuen thereupon withdrew his forces out of range and concentrated at Modder River."

Picket Cut Up. Modder River, Dec. 12.—Tuesday.—While the Boers were shelling from the plain which the Boers were shelling from an adjoining ridge, they encountered and cut up a strong Boer picket posted on a hill for purposes of observation. All the members of the picket were either killed, wounded or taken prisoners.

Boer Losses. Modder River, Dec. 13.—Ambulances started early yesterday morning under a flag of truce to collect the wounded and bury the dead who fell at Magersfontein.

Brigadier-General Wauchope, who led the Highland brigade, was found dead near the trench and shot in the chest and thigh. A few wounded were found near the trenches. Several wounded Boers were taken to the British hospital. The side of the hill and the immediate neighborhood of the Boer trenches showed dead bodies all about.

One wounded Boer informed a correspondent of the Associated Press that their loss was terrible. The whole Scandinavian contingent was destroyed. Judging from information gleaned from different parts of the field, the Boer loss must have exceeded 700.

The destruction wrought by the naval guns was enormous. Word was passed along the Boer lines to prepare to retreat as night-fall. All confess that it was their greatest loss during the war. The British troops returned to Modder River, owing to lack of water near the position held yesterday.

FIGHTING IN CAPE COLONY. General French Engages Boers Near Naauwpoort, Killing and Wounding 40.

London, Dec. 15.—Gen. Forester-Walker, telegraphing to the war office from Cape Town, says: "Gen. French wires under date of December 13th reporting a skirmish at four o'clock in the morning with 1,800 Boers who were advancing southward toward Naauwpoort. "The skirmish continued all morning, the Boers fighting on a front of eighteen miles. "The enemy retired with a loss of forty killed and wounded. "Our casualties were one killed and seven wounded, including one officer and two missing."

NATAL SITUATION. Reported Fighting Near Colenso—Another Sortie by White from Ladysmith.

Frere Camp, Wednesday, Dec. 13.—Firing can be heard this morning in the direction of Colenso, and an artillery duel is expected to-day.

London, Dec. 14.—A special despatch received from the Natal, dated Monday, December 11th, says that the Ladysmith garrison has made a sortie and destroyed the Modder-Spruit bridge.

In Touch With the Garrison. Ottawa, Dec. 14.—A dispatch from Montreal reported that the Bank of Montreal had received a cable from London that Ladysmith had been relieved. To-night, however, Mr. Clouston, general manager, telegraphed to Lord Minto as follows: "Could not get you on telephone. Correspondent wires mistake made in say-

ing war office confirmed report of Ladysmith relieved. Buller only in touch. Still think something in rumor of relief."

Up to midnight to-night Gen. Hutton had not received any communication from Col. Otter. SPEEDY TRANSPORTS NEEDED. London Papers Urge the Government to Employ Cunarders and White Star Lines.

London, Dec. 15.—The newspapers are calling upon the government to employ the Cunarders as well as the White Star steamers as transports, seeing the urgent need for getting more men to the Cape as speedily as possible. Forty thousand men could still be sent from England without calling upon the militia for foreign service. The militia effective in 1900 will amount to 200,000 men, but only 100,000 are actually selected for service. More, therefore, the colonies are again preferring assistance. The greatest need, therefore, is speedy transports.

Another Siege Train. Orders have been issued at Woolwich to prepare a siege train to go out with the seventh division.

More Men Required. Lord Charles Balfour, speaking at a Unionist meeting in Hackney, London, said that he long ago told the secretary of state for war, Lord Lansdowne, that the government was not sending enough troops to the Transvaal. "I must say I have never thought that we were sending out enough men. When once it was known that he had sent an army corps I told Lord Lansdowne as far back as November 2nd, that he would not be sending enough. This war is one of the biggest on which we ever embarked owing to the surrounding political circumstances, and if necessary every other man must go to the front. British rank and money will win, and then with equal rights for all the British flag will fly over the whole of South Africa."

Duke of Devonshire's Speech. The Duke of Devonshire, lord president of the council of ministers, speaking in the city, congratulated the country upon the calm it was displaying during these serious crises, and upon the fact that despite the diversity of political opinion there was only one voice regarding the duty of the government to prosecute the war.

The longer and more arduous the struggle becomes," said his Grace, "the more fixed should be our determination never again to let our African colonies bear the suffering and loss which they are now experiencing."

ARTER GLENCOE. Scenes on the Battlefield—Boers Found Dead in the Trenches.

Durban, Oct. 24.—Heinrich Auer, a German, who had been forced to leave Johannesburg because, as husband of an English woman, he was suspected of British sympathies, has arrived here, and says: "I judge there were about a thousand dead and wounded on the battlefield of Glencoe when we passed it on October 21st, in the afternoon. I shall never forget the sight, and I never slept a second since then. Picture to yourself heaps of bodies, some stretched out beyond their own length, it seemed, as if they had grown longer with life. The Infantry of Torture. Others curled up as if, in dying, they had been searching for a friendly hand and in their anxiety had, perhaps, caught hold of their own limbs. "There were rows of Boers who died kneeling in the trenches in a natural position. Several bodies I found, standing boldly upright, leaning against trees or other impediments that had prevented them from falling. They were all shot in the head and their faces were black from powder dust or the beginning of putrefaction. "Many of the horse carcasses were already shapeless masses, gases having swelled their bodies, and their bodies in a way that gave rise to the gurgling wailing of wounded and expiring men, who groaned and sighed for help, or for death to come while the real saliva ran down the mouth and while their hands and nails clung to the earth and grass. "Ah, that one might be a ministering angel and dispatch some of those unhappy ones by a beneficial dose of poison! I caught myself running away. Howling and Bubbbling from the side of a Boer, who was vainly trying to stuff back his protruding entrails. There a brave rifeman had bitten off his tongue, while, seized by spasm, I saw three or four men die within arm's length of me. One suddenly rose, jumped high in the air and fell back dead. "Outside of the hospital tents I found Boers lying on cots throwing around their arms and murmuring: 'What's the use, let's retreat and back at them.' "Here was a whole row of dead sharpshooters, their arms in excellent order, with their officer in the centre, evidently struck by a volley as they themselves were obeying a command to shoot. An overthrown battery there, the pieces of ordnance buried in the sand, parts of bullets, and horse bodies in a pool of blood. Many of the dead had their faces turned in the direction of the sinking sun. Their spirits were sinking at the same time, I reckon."

NOTES FROM VANCOUVER. (Special to the Times.) Vancouver, Dec. 15.—Sir Charles Tupper left by the Chamber for the capital this afternoon. He was accompanied by the wharf by a number of prominent Conservatives. The trial of W. W. Petrie for keeping black jack rooms at the Star is again postponed, for lack of a judge to hear it.

Eleven Guns Abandoned

General Buller Reports a Serious Reverse at the Tugela River.

Boers Opened Fire on Artillery Killing Thirteen Out of Eighteen Horses.

British Force Returned to Their Camp at Chieveley—Heavy Losses.

London, Dec. 16.—Lord Lansdowne has received the following dispatch from General Buller: Chieveley Camp, Dec. 15.—(6.20 p.m.)—I expect to report a serious reverse. I moved in full strength from our camp near Chieveley at 4 this morning. There are two fordable places in the Tugela river, and it was my intention to force a passage through one of them. They are about two miles apart. My intention was to force one of the other with one brigade, supported by a central brigade. Gen. Hart was to attack the left, Gen. Hildyard, the right road and Gen. Lytton to attack the centre and to support either. Early in the day I saw that Gen. Hart would not be able to force a passage, and I directed him to withdraw. He had, however, attacked with great gallantry, and his leading battalion, the Comsought Rangers, I fear suffered a great deal. Col. I. G. Brooke was seriously wounded. I then ordered Gen. Hildyard to advance, which he did, and his leading right, the East Surrey, occupied Odenso station and the houses near the bridge. A sharp moment I heard that the whole artillery I had to support the attack, the 14th and 60th field batteries and six naval 12-pounders, quick-ficers, under Col. Long, had advanced close to the river, in Lord's desire to be within effective range. It proved to be full of the enemy, who suddenly opened a galling fire at close range, killing all their horses, and the gunners were compelled to stand to their guns. Some of the wagon teams got shelter for the troops in a dong, and Desperate Efforts were made to bring out the field guns. The fire, however, was too severe, and only two were saved by Capt. Schofield and some drivers, whose names I will furnish. Another gallant attempt with three teams was made by an officer, whose name I will obtain. Of the 18 horses 13 were killed, and as several drivers were wounded, I would not allow another attempt, as it seemed that they would be a shell mark. Not wishing to sacrifice life to a gallant attempt to force the passage unsupported by artillery, I directed the troops to withdraw, which they did in good order. Throughout the day a considerable force of the enemy was pressing on my right flank, but Was Kept Back by mounted men under Lord Dundonald and part of Gen. Barton's brigade. The day was immensely hot and trying to the troops, whose conduct was excellent. We have abandoned 10 guns and lost by shell one. The losses in Gen. Hart's brigade are, I fear, heavy, although the proportion of severely wounded is, I hope, not large. The 14th and 60th field batteries also suffered severe losses. We have retired to our camp at Chieveley. London Depressed. The depression over the defeat of Great Britain's trusted and idolized commander is all the greater as during the last 48 hours there have been reports of the relief of Ladysmith. Yesterday the war office allowed it to be understood that the position of affairs in Natal was entirely satisfactory. The reaction is all the more pronounced on this account. The gloomy information came too late to reach the service clubs, and only a few journalists and stragglers were waiting at the war office. It has hardly been realized until now, even after the experience of the week, that Gen. Buller could fail. Virtually nothing had been allowed to leak through regarding his preparations, but the public waited patiently in the confident belief that he was taking such time and precautions as would ensure success. Press Comments. The Standard says: "Gen. Buller's despatch is a deplorable reading. It is the now familiar story of concealed Boers and of British troops marching up blindly almost to the very muzzles of the enemy's rifles. It cannot be doubted that the moral effect will be to aggravate our difficulties over the whole field of operations. The country has discovered with annoyance and surprise that a sudden Boer force has been about the hardest work we have entered upon since the Indian Mutiny. The commandants have shown themselves able to give our generals useful but expensive lessons in modern tactics." The Times says: "Since the days of

the Indian Mutiny the nation has not been confronted with so painful and anxious a situation. Plainly, Gen. Buller's advance is paralyzed for the moment as completely as Lord Methuen's and Gen. Gatacre's."

More Men. Immediately on receiving the news the war office decided to mobilize still another division and to replace the losses of artillery. The necessary reinforcements will be hurried off as speedily as possible. Fifteen transports are due to arrive at Capetown between December 17th and January 8th, with about 15,000 troops of all arms, but unless Gen. Buller is able to renew the attack, which is exceedingly doubtful, the British generals will be compelled for another fortnight or more to remain practically on the defensive.

Situation at Ladysmith. The latest dispatches indicate the continued bombardment of Ladysmith, which position is now perilous. Chermide's Command. Major-General Sir Herbert Charles Chermide has been appointed to command the 14th brigade in the seventh division. Will Give Information. Washington, Dec. 15.—United States Consul Mr. Macrum has called the state department from Pretoria that the Transvaal government has informed him that full reports will be given through the war office of the Republic of the names and conditions of British prisoners when applied for by the British authorities. Mr. Macrum has secured the release of the British subject, Robertson, a civilian, who had been arrested by the Boers and confined at Pretoria on the charge of being a spy, on condition that he leave the country at once and remain out of it. Story Denied. Waterford, Ireland, Dec. 15.—The story printed in the Freeman's Journal to the effect that the members of the Royal Irish Regiment, while enroute on their way to South Africa at the port on Wednesday sang "God Save Ireland," and threw their rifles into the river, is absolutely unfounded. Nothing whatever occurred among them beyond the pathetic leave-taking, which have been witnessed at all similar embarkations.

DUTCH DISAFFECTION. Disturbing Reports Have Been Received From Eastern Districts of Cape Colony.

London, Dec. 15.—The Capetown correspondent of the Daily News says: "Lord Methuen's check, following Gen. Gatacre's repulse, has had a most depressing effect upon the loyalists. They are filled with dark forebodings. Dutch disaffection is rapidly growing. A large section is restless and would need but little persuasion to join the Boers. There are disturbing reports from the eastern districts of Cape Colony where many secret meetings have been held. "The Imperial authorities are arming the loyal farmers in the Stutterheim and Bedford districts."

FAMINE IN INDIA. Over Two Million People Have Already Been Relieved. (Associated Press.) Calcutta, Dec. 15.—The distress in the famine-stricken districts is becoming more acute. About 2,250,000 have applied for and received relief.

FIRE AT NANAIMO. (Special to the Times.) Nanaimo, Dec. 15.—The house occupied by R. J. Watson was completely destroyed by a fire to-day. Household effects valued at \$1,000 were totally destroyed. There was no insurance. The building was owned by the British Columbia Land Investment Co., Victoria, whose loss is \$1,200; insurance, \$860.

EVANGELIST MOODY ILL. (Associated Press.) West Northfield, Mass., Dec. 15.—Dwight L. Moody, the evangelist, has not been so well during the past few days, and complications have arisen which cause much anxiety.

CANADIAN ITEMS. Coldwater, Dec. 16.—Wolves are reported as being very numerous in this vicinity. Ferry Sound, Dec. 16.—Grave fears are felt for the safety of the steamer Arctic out of the large Canada Atlantic Railway line, running between Chicago and this port. The vessel is now four days overdue. St. Catharines, Dec. 16.—William E. L., ex-president of the Welland canal, and a prominent citizen of this place, is dead. He was of U. E. L. descent, and was well known throughout the province. Montreal, Dec. 16.—Charles White, a well known Grand Trunk engine driver, dropped dead while signaling his name in the train book at Point St. Charles yesterday. La Journal, a new French Canadian Conservative organ, made its appearance this morning.

THE ILLS OF WOMEN. Are usually the result of an exhausted nervous system which can be fully restored by the use of Dr. A. W. Chase's Nerve Food. Women made nervous and irritable by the wasting diseases which drain their system and new life, new vigor, new energy, in Dr. A. W. Chase's Nerve Food, the world's greatest blood and nerve builder.