



## "TWO WARS."

**W**E publish elsewhere in this issue an editorial article with the above caption from the columns of the December issue of our contemporary, the *Manufacturing Jeweler*, of Providence, which is so wide of the actual facts that we think it calls for some comment.

The editor of the *Manufacturing Jeweler* is evidently not only strongly pro-Boer, but one who has failed to acquaint himself with the facts of the case before he trotted out his editorial opinion.

Passing over the early part of his article where he states that every battle that had been fought has either resulted in a British defeat or else has been a drawn contest, we need only say that his memory must be exceedingly short if he failed to remember the British victories of Dundee, Elandslaagte, Belmont, Gras Pan and the Modder, in all of which the Boers were driven from entrenched positions of their own choosing and by frontal attacks in the face of apparently insuperable difficulties. One has only to read the letters of even the American war correspondents, such as Ralph Julian, to learn that these achievements of British soldiers were not only executed under the foregoing circumstances, but that their gallantry and heroism has never been excelled in the annals of war.

The further statement that the reason for British reverses lies in the fact that her soldiers being such by profession, have no heart in the work, while their Boer adversaries are one and all fired with enthusiasm in defence of their country and homes, is so absurd as only to be stated to carry its own refutation to any one conversant with the facts. It is a well known fact that never has the morale of the British army been so high as it is at the present time. The short term service and the constant army reforms have so improved the condition of the British soldier that it is now possible to get recruits of a much higher class than formerly. The abolition of commission by purchase and the granting of them for conspicuous gallantry to those who have risen from the ranks, has imbued the entire army with a spirit of emulation and devotion to duty. But away beyond all this the editor of the *Manufacturing Jeweler* must certainly have forgotten that over 30,000 colonial troops are fighting shoulder to shoulder with those of the mother country in defence of the old flag in South Africa. Was it not because their hearts were thoroughly in the work that Canada, Australia and New Zealand have sent 6,000 of their bravest and their best almost half way around the earth to battle for the integrity of the Empire of which they are proud to form a part? But even without the volunteer troops from these far away colonies, what shall be said about the 25,000 colonists of Cape Colony and Natal who have taken up arms and are bravely fighting in defence of their country. Are they fighting for hire rather are they not fighting for their homes, seeing that up to the present almost all the fighting has been done to resist the invasion of British territory.

No, the real reason for British reverses has been, that the Boer ultimatum was made at a time when *they* were fully ready for war, having, as every well informed person knows, been steadily preparing for the past ten years for this very eventuality,

whereas the British, expecting that the matter would be solved by diplomacy instead of the sword, were quite unprepared to commence an aggressive campaign at once. The outbreak of hostilities found the Boers fully ready and everything was in their favor. They outnumbered the British troops five to one, they were armed with the best rifles and guns that human ingenuity could invent or money could purchase. They knew every foot of the country as a boy knows his A, B, C, and last but not least they were guided by the advice of ablest military men that the armies of continental Europe could furnish. With everything in their favor, and only a mere handful of "hired professional British soldiers" to oppose them, why was it that they did not sweep over the whole of Natal from Majuba to Durban as they boasted they would at the opening of the war. Why was it that Gen. White and his intrepid 12,000 British soldiers was able to stem the Boer invasion of Natal and hold an army of probably 35,000 Boers at bay for over four months until Gen. Buller was able to mass enough men to carry what was considered to be impregnable positions and relieve the beleaguered garrison. The fact is that although the Boers are splendid fighters to hold entrenched positions, they have little heart for attack. At Ladysmith, Kimberley and Mafeking, all of which places they have been besieging for months with forces probably three times as large as the garrisons, they have simply waited around like packs of hungry wolves and trusted to their "Long Toms" and starvation to compel them to surrender. If the battles of Dundee, Elandslaagte, Belmont and the Modder are any criterion, we are safe in asserting that had the positions of the besiegers and besieged at Ladysmith, Kimberley and Mafeking been reversed, the British would have stormed and taken all three places within a week after they were invested.

The most peculiar statement in the whole article is that "The conditions on both sides are too nearly parallel with the conditions which existed in this country in 1775 and 1776 for whole-souled Americans to waste much sympathy upon a country which is trying to destroy two free republics. Senator Mason, of Illinois, erratic and bombastic as he is at times, certainly struck a true and popular chord in his speech in the Senate on this subject." This statement is so utterly opposed to the actual facts that, did not the article bear evidence of the editor's sincerity, we should say that he was poking fun at the credulity of his readers. It seems to be either this, or an evidence, as Mark Twain would put it, of his dense comprehensive ignorance of the question. If he had stated that the condition of the British and other outlander residents in the Transvaal was somewhat similar to that of the American colonists in 1775-6 he would have been somewhat near the truth, but even this would have failed to give a fair idea of one tenth of the wrongs and injustice under which they suffered from their Boer oppressors. The editor of the *Manufacturing Jeweler* has evidently not studied the merits of this controversy at all, for had he read the current literature upon the subject he never could have served up such rubbish to his readers as he has done in this article. We are satisfied that no other people in the world than those of Great Britain would have stood one-half of the ill treatment that they have stood for the past six years from a half civilized