

LIFE WITH THE CONTINGENT

Vividly Described in Pte. Will. Q.
Reed's Latest Letter.

The Daily Routine and Fare of
the Londoners at Belmont.

What the Boers Think of the Canucks
—A Price of £50 on Their Heads—
The Influences and Effects of Camp
Life.

Yesterday Mr. James Egan received a letter from Private Will. Q. Reed, dated at Camp Belmont, South Africa, Dec. 18. As will be seen, it vividly describes life with the first Canadian contingent. Pte. Reed is a son of ex-Ald. Reed, and is a member of B. Company. He writes:

Dear Friend Jimmie,—According to my promise, I am sending you a very few lines. Paper, stamps, etc., are at a premium, and our time is all taken up doing fatigues. We are camping on the battlefield of Belmont, and are the nearest regiment at the front. Today we are moving the camp over the railroad about half a mile. We did not fare badly coming over on the boat for grub, etc., and on landing at Cape Town got the best reception of any regiment. I could give you all kinds of news, only our letters are read, and anything not officially liked is bottled out, or the letter not sent. On a kopie there are about 50 dead Boers, rotting in the sun, and all along the trail where they retreated are dead horses, saddles, and all spoils of war. It is truly a sickening sight, but we are hardened now, and take no notice of such things.

This is our routine life: First post, 5.30 p.m.; lights out, 8 p.m.; up at 6 a.m.; fatigue all morning; dinner at 12.45; and fatigue again all afternoon, and eat at 5.30 p.m. Every other night we (a party) scout for a radius of five miles, and have got a number of prisoners. Around Scotch ridge, where the Boers are, the stench is something terrible, but it has to go. But it is only a rumor. There is a big battle going on at Modder River, about 20 miles from here, and the Boers have an almost impregnable position on a kopje, but we have them surrounded, and they cannot escape. There are 23,000 Boers and about half that number of English. I cannot say more on this, as they are extra strict because if our letters were captured the Boers might get valuable information.

Last night I saw the body of Gen. Wauchope, who was killed there; also his horse. We have had one death in camp so far. A member of H. Company died of tonsillitis. It was very sad. He was buried in a blanket on the hillside, about two feet under. But the lads go on swearing and cursing and growling and grunting. I never heard before—regular Tommy Atkins.

Our eating accommodations are very slim here, and have been ever since going up country. For breakfast we get a small loaf of bread and coffee for dinner, soup, for tea, bread and tea. The loaf has to do us for 24 hours, and it gets like a brick. All we have to do is to put a stick and hold it to the sun. It's a devil of a country, so far; all sand and scrub vegetation; hot as — in day time and cold at night.

We have camped at De Aar, Orange River and this, so far. Ostriches are plentiful. At Modder River they get orange-outrodoed, and I think in no more circuses. We are black as niggers, and all have pointed beards. I have a beard.

Well, I suppose you are freezing



BALD SPOTS With-
out help, a
bald spot
never
grows
smaller.
It keeps
spread-
ing, until
at last your
friends
say, "How
bald he is
getting."

Not easy to cure
an old baldness,
but
easy to stop the first
thinning, easy to
check the first falling
out. Used in time,
bald-
ness is
made
impos-
sible
with—

**AXOL'S
HAIR
VIGOR**

It stops falling,
promotes growth,
and takes out all dandruff.
It always restores
color to faded or gray
hair, all the dark, rich
color of early life. You
may depend upon it
every time. It brings
health to the hair.

11.00 a bottle. All Druggists.
I have used your Hair Vigor and
am greatly pleased with it. I have
only used one bottle of it, and yet
my hair has stopped falling out and
has started to grow again nicely.
JULIUS WITT,
March 28, 1899. Canby, S. Dak.

Write the Doctor.
If you do not obtain all the benefits
expected from the use of the
Vigor, Write the Doctor at once.
Address, Dr. J. C. Ayer,
Lowell, Mass.

there, while it is more than a furnace
here. It will be a funny Christmas
for me. It is only seven days off now,
and all look forward to it; but if we
go into action, as we anticipate, some
of our Christmas boxes will be a plot
2x6 of African soil.

Have just finished a big battle with
hard punk and soup, and expect an-
other tonight.

The Boer opinion of Canucks is
that we are black and beggars to fight
and there is a reward of £50 on our
heads; so that is quite a rep.

I have got so used to squatting I
would hardly know how to sit at a
table.

Well, old boy, our good times have
not faded from my recollection yet,
and I think they will not. I hope
you and all our friends spent a very
merry Christmas, and happy New
Year. The Queen, I think, is going to
present us with a box of chocolates;
but they will last as long as it takes
to write, as delicacies are unknown
to us now.

Pte. Reed concludes by wishing to
be remembered to his friends, and
asking for letters. "The only pleasure
we have is getting letters," he writes,
and adds, expressively, "Our paper is
nearly gone now, and when that goes
all is lost." An ostrich feather was in-
closed with the letter.

OPENING OF ST. ANDREW'S

Congregation Will Assemble in
Their Renovated Church
Tomorrow.

The Interior Entirely Remodeled—
Beauty of the Decoration—Instal-
lation of New Pews—Rearrangement
Increases the Seating Capacity.

Tomorrow morning the congregation of
St. Andrew's will assemble in their
renovated church, the interior of which,
for artistic beauty, is unsurpassed in
the city. For some months the remodel-
ing and decorators have been at work,
and have so changed the entire body of
the church that it now presents a
striking contrast to its former appear-
ance. Where dingy colors were be-
fore, there are now bright, warm tints;
old-fashioned and uncomfortable pews
have been replaced, and in every way
the church has been thoroughly modern-
ized without changing the old plan,
which had been associated with By-
gone scenes and old remembrances for
so many years that the members were
loath to have it altered.

Inside the main entrance there is the
same spacious vestibule running to
both sides of the church, and on either
side, as you enter, are massive oaken
staircases, leading to the gallery. The
gallery has not been changed in shape,
but by a rearrangement of the pews,
additional space has been utilized, and
the seating capacity increased.

From the gallery can be seen most
effectively the beauty of the interior
decoration, the design and coloring of
which was the work of Miss Lillian V.
Evans, of Toronto, whose skill has
gained her fame throughout the con-
tinent. It is a study in the harmony
of color. From the rich red of the
carpet, through successive gradations
of antique oak and stencil design, the
eye is led to the white blend of the
lighter color of the gallery ceiling. Above
the gallery a similitude is followed, and
the colors of the walls are blended with
the light robin's-egg shade of the ceiling.
The front of the gallery, the arch
over the organ loft, and all the window
frames, are grained to match the oak
work. Designs in blue around the
windows and the front arch are ac-
tually broken into the wall color by a
stencil edge and centered in the deeper
blue of the organ pipes, which are or-
namented in old gold and gold leaf
design. The decorations throughout are
in quiet, restful colors, and of a design
that is entirely in keeping with the
gothic architecture of the church.

The new pews are made of hand-
carved quarter-cut oak, with gold fin-
ish, and are of the most approved de-
sign. They are not upholstered, but by
the pitch of the seat and its formation,
perfect comfort is assured. The makers
consider that the pews and the sloping
floor that has been put in, are the
most noticeable improvements in the
church. It is believed that between
one and two hundred more members
may now be accommodated.

The lighting arrangements have also
been improved. The two beautiful
chandeliers have been refitted with new
globes and brackets. At the end of
each pillar a large electric globe has
been placed while wall lights have
been attached between the windows.
The current is controlled by means of
a splendid Italian marble switchboard,
under the staircase.

The managers of St. Andrew's are
justly proud of the great improvement
that has been made. They have suc-
cessfully solved the perplexing ques-
tion of the increased seating accommo-
dation, necessitated by the growing
membership, and without altering the
almost traditional form of the building,
have provided for the congregation a
place of worship unequalled in the city
for comfort and decorative beauty.

The inaugural meeting of the hospi-
tal trust of 1900 was held yesterday
afternoon in Col. Lewis' office, on
Richmond street, with Chairman Lew-
is, Trustees McCormick, Gilmour and
Purdum, Mayor Rumball and Super-
intendent Balfour present.

On motion Col. Lewis was re-elected
chairman, the position which he has
ably filled for the past eleven years.
He thanked the members heartily for
the confidence they continued to place
in him.

Trustee McCormick informed the
board that ex-Mayor J. W. Little had
placed £200 or £250, which ever was
needed, at his disposal, to do with as
he saw fit in connection with the fur-
nishing of the new hospital.

The speaker said his idea was to furnish
with this money some of the rooms
for the poorer patients who entered
the institution.

The superintendent was instructed
to convey the hearty thanks of the
board to Mr. Little.

Superintendent Balfour stated that
he had received \$47 from Christ Church

to assist in furnishing the hospital.
He also announced that the contract-
ors for the new building had
clubbed together, and put up \$50 to
furnish a room, which will be called
the "Contractors' Room."

Applications to be placed on the
nursing staff were received from
Esther Fletcher, Parkhill; Mrs. N.
Smith, city, and Miss Walker, Orange-
ville. They were filed.

Trustee Purdum and McCormick
and Chairman Lewis were appointed a
committee to look into the question
as to the amount of insurance to be
placed on the furnishings in the new
building.

A REVIEW OF THE YEAR

Annual Meeting of the Knox
Church Congregation.

Substantial Progress Shown by the
Various Report—Women's Associ-
ation Doing Splendid Work.

The annual meeting last night of
Knox Presbyterian Church was of a
most satisfactory nature, and was
marked throughout by the utmost har-
mony and good-feeling. The finances
of the church were shown to be in a
gratifying condition, and steady pro-
gress had marked all departments of
the church's work. The meeting open-
ed at 8 o'clock, the pastor, Rev. J. G.
Stuart, occupying the chair. In moving
the adoption of the report of the ses-
sion, Dr. Ferguson referred to the in-
crease in the number of elders as a
good move, tending to make the per-
formance of the church's work still
more efficient. The session had met
with the Y. P. S. C. E. during the year,
and the result of the meeting had been
to assure the young people of thorough
sympathy, with which the session re-
garded their society. The number on
the rolls of the church was 256, a clear
gain during the year of 17 members.
Reference was also made to the losses
of the church during the year occasion-
ed by the death of six members and
five adherents. The report was
adopted.

The Sabbath school report stated that
there were 194 members on the roll—
105 girls and 89 boys—a gain of 8; with
an average attendance of 150. Special
attention has been given to the study
of the Holy Scriptures, and a written
examination on it was held on Christ-
mas Day. The receipts for the year
were \$189.97, and the disbursements
\$188.32. The report was adopted.

The year has been a satisfactory one
for the Bible class, which has a mem-
bership of 51. The receipts were \$150.50,
and the disbursements \$150. The re-
port was adopted.

The Women's Association reported a
year of successful work. Their re-
ceipts were \$43.04, and their disburse-
ments \$41.22. Adopted.

The Women's Foreign Missionary So-
ciety reported that the interest in the
work had been well sustained. The
society's membership is 47, its receipts
were \$37.10, and disbursements \$36.32.
A box of clothing valued at \$120 was
sent to the Northwest. Adopted.

The Gleaners' Mission Band reported
a year of progress. The membership
of the band was 14, and the receipts
were \$48.50. The report was adopted.

The society during the year suffered the
loss by death of Miss Minnie Ray, a
most active member. Adopted.

The Christian Endeavor Society's re-
port shows an active membership of
27, and an associate membership of 10.
The society's prayer meetings have
been well attended. The financial state-
ment showed receipts of \$157.68, and
disbursements, \$176.27. Adopted.

The flower committee have done a
good work during the year in supplying
the pulpit with flowers and distributing
them afterwards to the sick. The con-
stitution of the society has been re-
cently changed, so that every member
of the Christian Endeavor Society is
also a member of the committee.

The pastor vacated the chair, and Mr.
J. S. Dewar, chairman of the board of
managers, occupied it for the balance
of the evening. The report of the
board was taken up clause by
clause, and approved of by the con-
gregation and distributed to the mem-
bers. The current account was \$15.16 in excess
of 1898, and the disbursements \$104.53
in excess of the revenue. In 1898 the
deficiency was \$34.14. The mortgages
were renewed last August for five
years at 4 1/2 per cent half yearly, with
the privilege to the board of paying on
any and each Feb. 7 and Aug. 7, up
to \$200 in account of principal of each
mortgage. The financial statement
accompanying report show receipts \$4-
029.38 and payments \$3,786.20, leaving
a balance on hand of \$243.38. The
statement of the account of principal of
the mortgages showed receipts of \$1,366.20
and disbursements \$3,264.58 and dis-
bursements \$3,186.20, leaving a bal-
ance on hand of \$78.38. The state-
ment of the account of the reduction
of the debt shows the receipts to have
been \$765 and the payment on account
of the principal of mortgage debt of
\$800, and the balance of the account of
church treasurer of \$167. The com-
parative statement of liabilities shows
a net improvement in the financial
position during the year to be \$328.34.
The receipts from all sources amount-

ed to \$4,624.93, an increase over last
year of \$45.24. The estimates for 1900
amount to \$3,053.75, a decrease from
1898's expenditure of \$132.45. The
auditors reported that the books were
correct. The board recommended that
a date be fixed for the holding of the
annual meeting, and recommended the
Friday of the week following the third
Sabbath in January.

The chairman referred to the fact
that while the membership had in-
creased the revenue had not. He also
spoke of the unsatisfactory manner
in which funds were maintained in the
bank, which caused the treasurer great
inconvenience at times.

It was moved and seconded that the
board's recommendation, the date of
annual meeting, be adopted, and it
was left optional with the ladies where
they held their social.

The treasurer paid a well-deserved
tribute to the Women's Association,
which was doing a noble service in
paying off the church debt. Many of
the male members of the congregation
had neglected their obligations in this
matter, and the women had stepped
in to do the work. In the past fourteen
years there has been paid on the debt
\$10,448.74, and of this sum the Women's
Association has been instrumental in providing
\$8,704.60.

The chairman voiced the sentiment
of the congregation for the efficient
and eminently satisfactory manner in
which the treasurer, Mr. John Mac-
pherson, has discharged the duties de-
volving upon him.

The congregation ratified the
board's action in adding Mr. William
Kennedy to their number, and making
him secretary.

Messrs. Charles Clark and John Fer-
guson, of the session, and the board of
managers respectively, were appointed
pastors.

The auditors were reappointed, as
were also the ushers, Messrs. Gilbert
Pritchard and Gordon being added to the
number.

Messrs. Thomas Alexander, Sheriff
Cameron, C. A. Somerville and John
Ferguson were appointed to the board of
managers for the three year term,
and Messrs. C. H. Miller and Robt.
McArthur for the two year term.

Hearty votes of thanks were tend-
ered to J. S. Dewar, retiring chair-
man of the board of managers, to the
superintendent, officers and teachers
of the Sabbath school, to R. D. Miller,
who had for eighteen months acted as
secretary to the board, to D. G. Clark,
who had filled the office of secretary,
to W. H. Weston, the retiring super-
intendent, to the choir, the ushers,
and finally to all who had not had a
separate vote of thanks for their ser-
vices.

The meeting closed with the doc-
torate and the benediction by the
pastor.

The congregation then repaired to
the supper room, where the ladies
had prepared a dainty repast, which
was much enjoyed by those present.

THE REAL BOER

Faderewski's Manager Describes
the Transvaal Dutch.

Pressive and Overbearing to a De-
gree—Desirous of Re-Establishing
Slavery—Corrupt Officials.

Buffalo, Jan. 27.—Hugo Gorlitz, of
London, England, joint manager for M.
Faderewski, and who has
but recently returned from the Trans-
vaal after a lengthy stay in that re-
public, was interviewed by a repre-
sentative of The Commercial as to
the present state of affairs in the
Transvaal. Mr. Gorlitz spoke indignantly of
the manner in which the Boers in Johannes-
burg, say that they are Boers, and
were armed and shot down the UH-
landers upon the slightest provocation,
sometimes, apparently, without provo-
cation. The British residents, he said,
were subjected to every insult from the
policemen and other municipal em-
ployes, insults from which they have
no redress. Practically they were un-
der a curfew.

A peculiarity of the country, said Mr.
Gorlitz, is that the English build beau-
tiful houses in the cities and the munici-
pal authorities take no care of the
streets, so that they are in a filthy and
unsanitary condition. "The appearance of
the streets is frightful," said he, "be-
cause the money put aside for munici-
pal purposes, namely, supplied by the
Transvaal, is put into the pockets of the
officials. There is no cleaning of the
streets, no improvements of roadways.

"One of the greatest crimes laid at
the door of the Boers is the fact that
they are putting large sums of money
into the pockets of the government, but
into the hands of the officials. I do
not except President Kruger from this
condemnation in the matter. He also gets
his share.

"As far as the Boers being a God-
fearing people is concerned, they show
it only by building a lot of churches,
but not in their actions. One of the
first principles of Christianity is love
for one's neighbors, a spirit in which
the Boers are utterly lacking. They do
not tolerate any religion but their
own, a kind of Unitarianism. No
man who professes a creed other than
theirs is allowed to hold office. The
Boers are also slave-drivers. If the
Boers win in this struggle, which seems
impossible, they will instantly re-es-
tablish slavery in South Africa.

"I don't believe anyone has visited
the Transvaal lately," continued Mr.
Gorlitz, impressively, "who does not
share my opinion in regard to the con-
dition of affairs there and the culpa-
bility of the Boers, unless, possibly, he
is directly or indirectly in the pay of
the Transvaal government.

"The British have met with re-
verses, it is true, but one man en-
renched can keep ten men at bay, and
the British have been easily handi-
capped. The British did not prepare
for war, did not in my opinion expect
war. They were forced into it.

"I do not believe the war will be of
long duration. It is inevitable that the
Boers will in the end be utterly van-
quished by the British. When that
comes, the natural question is, What
will be the future of the Transvaal?
Not that country alone, but all of South
Africa, offers endless opportunities in
mining and agricultural industries. It
is one of the finest countries in the
world, and is capable of high cultiva-
tion. Its resources, outside of the great
gold mines, are tremendous. It can be
developed and civilized into a magni-
ficent country, one of the most valuable
of the British colonies, not equalling
Australia, possibly, but proving a price-
less possession. But the country is
presently valuable to make the con-
nection between Natal and Rhodesia.
The natives are loyal to England, feel-
ing that Great Britain is their friend,
so long that they will halt British rule
with delight.

"The extermination of the Boers as a
nation is inevitable," said Mr. Gorlitz,
in conclusion, "but it may be that the
Boers who are left will settle down
and become good colonists and really
God-fearing people."

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