

field guns, their return fire of guns and rifles causing our force a loss of one officer and eight men wounded, and one man killed in the Wiltshire Regiment. The Wiltshires, in action for the first time, behaved with great coolness under a heavy fire, to which they delivered a hearty response.

During the last days of January, beginning on the 23rd, Kimberley was severely shelled, most of the missiles being wasted in a vain attempt to wreck the sanatorium, where Mr. Rhodes had been staying. On January 24th and 25th the bombardment continued, causing the deaths of two women and two children, with severe injury to several others in their laager. In three days a thousand shells were scattered broadcast in the place by the cowardly foe, afraid to close with their opponents, and indulging their wrath against the garrison by the slaughter of helpless persons. As a contrast to this, we record that on Friday, January 26th, while the British guns were shelling the enemy's positions, some Boer women and children were seen to quit a laager and our gunners at once stopped firing.

At gallant little Mafeking on January 20th all was well. News from Ladysmith on January 21st informed us that, since the great fight on the 6th, the fortifications on Waggon Hill and Caesar's Camp had been greatly strengthened, and the whole of the lines made impregnable to assault, that the weather was dry and fever abating, the number of convalescents returning from the hospital camp exceeding that of the patients sent thither. The supplies, owing to excellent management during the siege, were "spinning out splendidly," all the troops having a sufficiency of wholesome food. The heat was terrific, with the thermometer at 107 in the shade.

The conduct and progress of the war have proved, amongst other things, the matchless quality of the British regimental officer and linesman, and the perfect fitness of their colonial kinsmen as their comrades in the field. The British soldier has shown the vast improvement effected by years of

careful training in his shooting and his use of cover for advancing against foes armed with the breechloader. We have learned also that the rude Boer, destitute of culture, devoid of "sweetness and light," is, aided by foreign experience and skill, by the nature of the region in which he is fighting, and by his peculiar mode of warfare as a mounted infantryman, the most formidable of foes. We have to admit that, up to the present time, after nearly four months of contest, the British arms have been fairly beaten in efforts to oust the enemy from occupation of British territory. We have met with serious repulses and other reverses.

It is neither just nor wise, however, to take a gloomy view of the present position. The enemy have also met with utter discomfiture in the attempt to realise their avowed aims. They have ignominiously failed, up to the end of January 1900, in the sieges of Mafeking, Kimberley, and Ladysmith. The Boers at one place have been mocked by Baden-Powell, at another they have been defied by Kekewich and Cecil Rhodes, at a third victoriously repulsed by Sir George White. They were to have marched in triumph to Durban and Cape Town. They cannot, do what they will, pass the Modder River on the west, dispose of Gatacre and French in the centre, or get past Buller in the east. The whole of Cape Colony was to rise in their favour, and the last Englishman was to be driven into the sea. Cape Colony rebels, such as there are, are well under the control of British troops; loyal Cape Colonists are fighting in thousands for British supremacy.

At home and in the colonies, British hearts have indeed been of late sorely tried. The eyes and thoughts of the whole civilised world were concentrated on Ladysmith, that little South African town lying amid the hills of Upper Natal, beleaguered by exultant foes, and past, as it seemed, all hope of rescue. Then arrived the news of General Buller's daring and skilful move against the enemy's right flank, of the passage of the Tugela by Dundonald, Warren, and Lyttelton. Our men were, as