



gent under command of Major Weeks. Private Taylor was associated with his father in the jewelry business and was hardly past his majority. Of exemplary life, quiet and unassuming, he possessed the qualities which make the hero and win for England the supremacy of the world. This is the first Islander's (of the contingent) name to appear among the killed in the Transvaal war. It will be written on the scroll of fame, and his memory will long be kept green in his native province. When volunteering for the front it is said that Private Taylor exclaimed, 'My father is an Englishman, and I am an Englishman, too!' To-day the flags of the city are flying at half mast, and the entire community mourns the death of this gallant soldier. Over the deep grief of the parents and family, the press can only draw the veil of public sympathy.

THEY HAVE HAD ABOUT ESOTIC. That the Boer leaders are about satisfied that the game is pretty nearly up may be inferred from the attempts they have recently made to make terms direct with Great Britain, as well as their unemitting efforts to get some of the great Powers to interfere. Oom Paul, crafty and ignorant as ever, cabled direct to Lord Salisbury, and wanted to know, now that British prestige had been restored, if they couldn't let up awhile, and argue the point over again. He professed his willingness to let bygones be bygones, and call off his dogs of war, if the British would guarantee the absolute independence of the Republics, hold blameless all of the rebel British subjects in Natal and Cape Colony, and accept the terms the Boers offered, and which were refused by the British before the war commenced. This offer reads strangely in contrast to that said to have been stated by President Kruger a few months ago, that Great Britain should pay the Boers a war indemnity of about \$100,000,000, and allow them to annex those parts of Natal and Cape Colony that they had overrun. Even to President Kruger's modified proposals there could only be one answer from any self-respecting people who have been used as the British have been by the Boers, and that a decided refusal to treat on any other terms than *unconditional surrender*. Foiled in this method, President Kruger has tried Government after Government in order to get them to intervene, but so far, although several of those in Europe would like to do something to help the Boers, they have all declined the job, with thanks. The United States is the only country that has done anything at all, and even that was probably inspired more by the exigencies of local politics than of any desire to help the Boers. Indeed, the Democrats, in order to offset its effect on the approaching federal elections, assert that it was a put-up job between the Governments of the United States and Great Britain that the former should offer to mediate in the war if it met with the approval of both the combatants. Lord Salisbury's answer to this advance was that it was practically a purely domestic quarrel, and Great Britain could and would not allow any other country to meddle in it. While no doubt this reply was expected and was perfectly satisfactory to the American Government, it was like a bucket of ice water to those European Powers who were hankering for interference, as it was a distinct intimation to them that any meddling on their part would be taken as a *casus belli* by Great Britain. The stand taken by the British Government, and approved of by the entire people of the British Empire, is that the Boer Republics, having unjustly and unfairly started the quarrel, must put up with the consequences, which will be the absorption of their territory into the British Empire. Under the British flag and British laws, they will have every liberty that honest men can desire, except that which they appear to think their birthright, that of oppressing the Outlanders. After this war is over, Britain and Boer will be on an equality all over South Africa.

THE WAR. Since our last issue went to press, the whole aspect of the war in South Africa has undergone a complete transformation. The rebel of Kimberley was speedily followed by the defeat of General Cronje's army and its capture, the relief of Ladysmith, and the retreat of the Boer army in Natal northward to the apex of the historic triangle which has always been the battleground between the British and the Boers in former wars. These two memorable victories—the capture of Cronje's army and the relief of

Ladysmith—coming as they did on the anniversary of Majuba Hill, that great day of Boer rejoicing, has thrown a wet blanket over the hopes and aspirations of the burghers that they will probably ever recover from. These victories have, as we predicted, only been the prelude to further successes on the part of British arms, for not only has Bloemfontein, the capital of the Orange Free State, been captured, but the Boers have been driven entirely out of Northern Cape Colony, which they have held ever since the war commenced, and the entire strength of their forces thus occupied have either been forced to surrender to the British or beat a hurried retreat towards Kroonstad, the present headquarters of the allied burghers, with a strong probability of their being intercepted and captured *en route* by General French. The only fly in the British ointment at present, from a British standpoint, is that Mafeking has not yet been relieved. If reports are true, the gallant garrison are now in sore straits, and relief cannot reach them any too soon. It would be a great shock to the British people if the brave fellows who have struggled for the past five months, and, so far, won against overwhelming odds, were either captured or forced to surrender by the Boers. Their commander, Colonel Baden-Powell, is one of the heroes of the war, and everyone would be glad to see him released from his enforced captivity at Mafeking, and have an opportunity of exercising his great talents in some wider sphere of action before the war is over. That Mafeking has been able to hold out so long is, without doubt, owing to the foresight and nerve of one of Baden-Powell's subordinates, Lord Cecil (eldest son of Lord Salisbury, Premier of Great Britain), who last year, on learning from the Government contractor of the amount of stores being sent to provision that town, ordered him, on his own responsibility, to increase the amount fourfold, giving therefor his own personal notes for the amount, in case the British Government refused to pay for them. Had it not been for this foresight of Lord Cecil, there is but little doubt that Mafeking would long ago have been starved into submission. General Lord Roberts has taken up his headquarters in President Steyn's official mansion in Bloemfontein, and is quietly engaged in pacifying and bringing under British rule the large area of the Orange Free State now in the hands of the British. President Steyn and his army were chased from pillar to post for three days before the British entered Bloemfontein, and the Free State President—or, rather, the late President, as General Lord Roberts puts it—is said to have beat a rather hasty retreat from his capital in order to avoid capture. It is significant that the entry of General Lord Roberts into Bloemfontein was accompanied by every sign of rejoicing on the part of the Free Staters who remained there, and the reports that nearly half of the burghers of the Free State were opposed to the war, and will gladly hail peace even under the British flag, is being daily verified by events. While the main British army is recuperating, General Lord Roberts and his staff are making preparations for an advance when the proper moment arrives. This will probably be just as soon as Generals Gatacre, Brabant and French have cleaned up and pacified all the southern part of the Free State, and sufficient stores of food and ammunition have been collected at the great military depot he is now forming at Bloemfontein. Once this work has been completed and the relief of Mafeking accomplished, we venture to predict that a general advance will take place simultaneously by General Buller's force on the right in Northern Natal, General Lord Roberts with the main British army from Bloemfontein in the centre, and on the west by General Lord Methuen's army, either from Mafeking or some other point on the railway within striking distance of Kroonstad, Johannesburg and Pretoria. Assailed almost simultaneously in front and both flanks, it is almost impossible that the Boers can long withstand the disciplined valor of the British armies, which will now outnumber the burghers, probably two or three to one. From now on, the war will enter upon an entirely new phase, and we shall be surprised indeed if the Boers do not find that, however successful they may have been at the outset, when they outnumbered the British five to one and had everything in their favor, they will find that they have yet much more to learn about scientific warfare than they ever expected.