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Reportorial Munchausens.

Baron Munchausen, the fictitious author of a book of travels filled with the most extravagant fictions, is likely to lose his reputation for mendacity if the imaginations of the modern reporters are allowed to run riot in search of sensations. The absurdity of the bulletins issued during the progress of the first three contests for the America Cup was only varied by the criminal folly of the thoughtless buffoon who invented the founding of the steamer "Great Republic" with thirteen hundred people. Death too frequently presents itself as an incredible and unexpected event but the reported drowning of these holiday-makers at New York had about it something so pitiful that it moved all hearts to sorrow and sympathy. The man responsible for manufacturing such a sad and distressful calamity should be drummed out of journalism, and kicked by those to whom his mendacity caused suffering and anxiety.

War in South Africa.

The Queen's speech at the prorogation of the British parliament contained the following allusion to the Transvaal trouble: "The position of my subjects in the South African Republic is inconsistent with the promise of equal treatment whereon my grant of internal independence to that republic was founded, and the unrest caused thereby is a constant source of danger to the peace and prosperity of my dominions in South Africa."

President Kruger has apparently failed to appreciate the gravity of his position. Instead of prompt compliance with the request of Her Majesty for equal treatment of her subjects in the Transvaal, he musters his people for the purpose of resisting her reasonable request and foolishly decides upon war. Under the circumstances, few will be found to sympathize with President Kruger when the grant of "internal independence" to his country is cancelled and the flag of Great Britain waves over Pretoria.

However, the thoroughness of the preparations

made by the British Government for the task of invading the Transvaal is evidence enough that the lessons of the last disastrous campaign on the border of that country have not been forgotten. That the conquest of the Boers will involve an expenditure of blood and treasure is conceded by all who appreciate the obstinacy and courage of the sturdy burghers who fought at Laing's Nek and Majuba Hill. Without knowing aught of the intentions of those who direct and control the policy of the Empire, it is safe to predict that the events of the next few months will determine the future of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State, and that the supremacy of Britain in those countries is regarded as desirable and imminent is best illustrated by the advance in South African securities immediately fighting became inevitable. All right-thinking men know that war is a great evil; but, when the necessity for it is clear, it then becomes a crime to shrink from it.

C.P.R. That the active manager of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company's telegraph system has been appointed one of the directors of the great highway, from the Atlantic to the Pacific will be welcome news for all who are interested financially or otherwise, in the "C.P.R." Alert, observant, and blessed with a great capacity for work, Mr. Hosmer will make a most valuable member of the board of management of the wonderful railway with whose telegraph system he is so closely identified. Our citizens will hail his appointment with satisfaction, knowing that nowhere could be found a better guardian of their interests in the Canadian Pacific. We have before referred to the fact that the true and amiable philosophy of optimism has a follower in this energetic Montrealer, and his new appointment will enable him to show his belief in the growth and development of a country rapidly filling with a busy, industrious population by seeing that the Canadian Pacific Railway regards the welfare of the people equally with the success of the great company of which he is now a director.