

BOSTON LETTERS.

WHAT IS NOW INTERESTING THE PEOPLE OF THE TOWN.

Large Charities Dispensed During the Holidays—Death of a Good Man—A Financial Crash—Steamers Taken for Transport—Aro Grouchy Missed

Boston, Dec. 27.—The holiday season was celebrated here with more than usual activity and to the credit of Bostonians with great charity. There is one institution here called "The Helping Hand Mission," conducted by an individual, who gives his time and money to the work, which is doing considerable good and falling men to obtain in every way a moral and respectable status in society. Besides these various organizations of love and good-will there is a large amount of private charity dispensed which the public knows nothing of and goes to prove Boston one of the most charitable cities of the continent. It is pleasing to be reminded of this at this time when from afar one reads of the din of strife and the conflict of arms. The papers have been full of the observance of the great Christian festival and long accounts have been given us of the beautiful music in the churches, the feeding of 6,000 children by the Salvation Army, and other various charities.

After a holiday such as Christmas one is impressed by the energy and perseverance displayed by the reporters of the various papers in getting for the delectation of their readers such elaborate and full accounts of all the events transpiring. The modern newspaper in these days is exerting a most marked influence on the community and is rapidly encroaching on the domain of the literature of books and pamphlets. A large number of people are now so absorbed in the reading of the newspaper that they have little time to devote to thoughtful study and reading, hence the newspaper with its comments, criticism and reviews of what is happening in the world supplies the place of individual research.

A good man has lately gone from among us. I refer to D. B. Bond of the "Youth's Companion," a successful man in everything he engaged in from the building of a great publication business to that of a Christian worker and worker in the dissemination of which he belonged. The Boston Street Baptist church, one of the great working churches of Boston, as well as the Christian Science church, were his, will miss his generous gifts and practical teaching.

After the monotonous excitement of the past week, occasioned by the suspension of two banks, matters are settling down to their normal condition again. The financial atmosphere is clearer and one can look through the haze and discern the cause. In the case of one bank a household is wrecked and an otherwise good name tarnished, and on accounts of covetousness and speculation, which is the great cause of our modern civilization. The failure of the Lovell Arms Company, a well known firm here for half a century, was a direct result of the financial crash. Whether there are others to follow, time will tell.

It is the practice of Jordan, Marsh & Co., the big dry goods firm to give one per cent of their sales during Christmas week to their employees. One fancy store has taken the same course, and many are idle. No doubt they, with many others, wish the war was over which proves how close are the business relations between the two great English speaking countries.

Crowds still linger round the bulletin boards of the papers every afternoon, and a few British successes will do much to change the tide of public opinion here. A sensational report appeared on one of the boards today to the effect that 125,000 Fenians were getting ready to invade Canada. I fancy the broad smile that will appear on many Canadian faces when they read this.

Apologies have you read Bliss Carman's contributions to American literature in his papers published in the Transcript. They are thoughtful and unique in their style. We are having a new postmaster for Boston who takes his seat January 1st. The late incumbent was very popular, but from overwork, within and outside the office, has become a victim to nervous prostration. The gentleman in an ardent work in the Republican party and was at one time secretary to the late Governor Greenhalge, who, by the way, was English born.

As I close this letter we are in the enjoyment of delightful weather, the air mild, clear and bracing, a great boon to the poor and needy. The grass is still green on the lawns in the suburbs, and in the woods the buds of many of the shrubs are swelling as though spring were near. Truly we have many things to be thankful for at this season of the year.

WITHIN A FOOT OF DEATH. Young Woman in Nova Scotia Struck by a Train. Tatamagouche, N. S., Dec. 27.—A young lady named McEachern had a singular adventure had a narrow escape from death this morning. She had driven from her home, which is a little ways from the railway crossing, just as the Intercolonial train on the Pictou Branch came in sight. The engine driver naturally supposed she would halt until the train passed and did not try to check his speed. The driver, however, attempted to cross ahead of the engine. The fender struck McEachern was thrown about twenty feet and terribly cut about the head. Beyond a bent axle and a damaged wheel, the carriage, which had not been even overturned, was unhurt and ran a hundred yards. The engineer, who feared the girl had been killed, stopped the train. She was unconscious when picked up. The horse was caught by passengers and she was driven to her home.

ENGLAND'S WAY IN WAR. HER CITIZENS' FEAR NOT DEFEAT BUT CRITICISE THE GOVERNMENT.

Reverses Have Brought the Nation's Determination to the Surface and Men Aro Volunteering From all Clases of Society Private Corps Organized.

SOUTH AFRICA HEALTHY. Sanitary Conditions Carefully Applied to the British and Boer Soldiers Will Save Many Lives.

Thus far the slaughter of men by the British and Boers has been rather heavy, and many more will undoubtedly be killed before the end of the war, but the climate of South Africa being exceptionally salubrious, the soldiers a wide berth. South Africa is unusually healthy, and even those who are wounded soon recover. A few years ago the Lancet, in a leading article, gave an interesting description of the climate of South Africa. This article stated that most of the rain falls during the winter about Cape Colony, the three hottest months—January, February and March—being almost rainless at Cape Town. On the eastern coast most of the rain falls in summer time, which is also true of the interior, where the winters are dry and clear, with slight frosts in some localities. The Karoo of the south presents a decided contrast to the coast plateau. Here the climate is dry, with considerable oscillations of temperature and a greater contrast of seasons. January is the hottest month, with a maximum temperature of 87 degrees Fahrenheit, while July is the coldest month, with a mean minimum of 38 degrees. Winters are bright and clear, with cold nights, and snow lies on the mountains for a good portion of the year. The elevation of the northern Karoo varies from 2,500 to 4,000 feet. The winter climate is very agreeable, being clear, sunny and bracing. Elevated plateaus, with a bright climate, are the attractive features of the Transvaal. Pretoria has an elevation of 4,500 feet above the sea, while Johannesburg has an altitude of 5,000 feet. The summer heat is not so intense as the standing their great altitude, is intense, and dust storms are very frequent. Malaria and kindred diseases are very common during the summer months. The climate is, nevertheless, pronounced rather healthy for Europeans. The temperature of these portions of Africa is often higher than that of Europe. From these conditions it is learned that South Africa is almost entirely free from deadly diseases, and is one of the few places on the globe that has never been visited by yellow fever or cholera and many of the other pests of the western world. Low fever, sometimes called malarial fever, and now and then there are local epidemics of smallpox and measles along the coast line, invariably imported by sailing ships. Rheumatism, osteitis and similar complaints are common, but with ordinary care may be avoided. Arteries, of course, and the heart are not affected while in the field, which are difficult to escape. Among these are enteric fever and similar complaints. It is treated here as a very big question, not only of handling the sick as they deserve to be treated. It is a very big question, not only of handling the sick as they deserve to be treated. It is a very big question, not only of handling the sick as they deserve to be treated.

The invading army, it is estimated, will require about 300 tons of provisions daily. Ammunition must be transported with much attention must be given to the wounded. Railroads cannot carry nearly all the traffic which will have to be transported. Wagons will consequently have to be used along the line, which, as the rainy season opens, will become almost impassable. Tracing animals are scarce, although 15,000 mules have been purchased in all parts of the world, to assist in moving the British army wagons. All these animals must be treated by the medical department of the English army to the difficult task of handling the sick as they deserve to be treated. It is a very big question, not only of handling the sick as they deserve to be treated. It is a very big question, not only of handling the sick as they deserve to be treated.

Hospital ships and trains have been provided for the British authorities, the government doubting having taken this suggestion from America, the same idea having been inaugurated by us during the war with Spain. The soldiers wounded during the late war in Africa, it is said, recover with remarkable rapidity, many of them being fit for duty three weeks after they were wounded. The Boers use Mather rifles, which make only small wounds, which heal quickly unless a vital spot of the body is hit.

A BUDGET FROM MONCTON. House Burned—Police Station Burglarized and a Citizen Dies.

Moncton, Dec. 27.—A house belonging to R. Gallant, on Lewisville road, was totally destroyed by fire this afternoon. Insurance amounts to \$300. The police station was burglarized the other night and papers in several Scott case stolen. The police have no clue to the guilty parties. Horatio Kinnear, a well-known resident of Beakville, died very suddenly Monday night. The deceased was a middle-aged man, very well known. He retired about midnight and died shortly after of heart failure.

ANOTHER WAR IN THE SPRING. Victoria, B. C., Dec. 27.—Mail advices received from the Orient today state that Russia and France are continuing to begin encroaching on Chinese territory and against England and the Japan is buying immense quantities of rice. It is believed that war will break out in the spring.

NEW FREIGHT CLASSIFICATION. Toronto, Dec. 28.—The freight agents of various railways doing business here were notified today that the new classification of freight submitted over a year ago to the railway committee of the privy council for approval has been sanctioned. It will be put into effect throughout Canada on Jan. 1.

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England takes her crisis in her own peculiar way, says the London correspondent of the New York Evening Post. In any other great European country it would presumably be the government that all men would turn for help and to once be granted an opportunity of fulfilling his boast that the government had only to lift its finger and a second army would be on its way to South Africa, just so soon as the admiralty could supply the ships to carry them. As a matter of fact, he hear nothing of when the volunteers are called, and people are wondering whence Lord Wolsey would have conjured it. Instead of an official army, spurred and backed by a corps of patented military methods, we see springing up spontaneously from every town and countryside a new citizen army, to be dressed for the most part in civilian clothes, and equipped with good health and a desire and capacity to serve. The lord mayor began a few days ago to form a corps, calling the Lord Mayor's Own. He wanted only 1,000 from the city of London, but 1,400 places are already taken, and 600 men are to be added to the ranks of the volunteer corps of Westminster, not to be outdone, is gathering its own corps, while other mayors and other cities are forming theirs.

Then the Yeomanry, the ancient and half-decayed semi-military organization of mounted farmers of the English countryside, is springing into new life under the new impulse. Lord Chesam, one of the hundreds of public-spirited noblemen, has taken the lead. Enlisting officers have been opened and 9,000 offers of service already received. Each man is to form a horse; while the humping men of Kildare, Meath, and other counties are adding an Irish squadron. The neighbors are being called through out the length and breadth of the land, who are leaving desk and warehouse to shoulder muskets, and are being drilled by the volunteer force, but to go to the front in South Africa. Besides these are the volunteers of the West, who are taking the matter in hand themselves, and what is even more remarkable and typical, they are paying for it over the counter. The secretary of the Chamberlaine of the Exchequer and elaborate budgets. The lord mayor is equipping his corps by the aid of fat cheques from the merchants. Mr. Balfour is sending in his own Scottish county of Haddington a public fund for the equipment of the county yeomanry, and the example are being followed. Moreover, the owners of the Castle, Union, and Wilson lines, the Wilsons being, by the way, ardent supporters of the volunteer force, are providing free transports to South Africa.

Today the Archbishop of Canterbury publishes the Queen's letter to the nation, in which she calls for a national collection in aid of the wounded and widows of the volunteers. It is in just this spontaneous, unoffical, unorganised, but often does its best work. She does it in no spirit of panic. With England's navy mounted, the volunteers are being called through out the length and breadth of the land, who are leaving desk and warehouse to shoulder muskets, and are being drilled by the volunteer force, but to go to the front in South Africa.

TOMMY ATKINS.

There are only two first-class countries in the world that depend upon volunteer recruits to keep up their armies. These two are England and America. In the case of the latter the army has in the past been so small that it has been a comparatively simple matter to keep the ranks full. Now, however, that the size of her army is being increased, the United States may learn some useful points from John Bull, who has a recruiting system that has been perfected by long experience.

The backbone of the British enlistment system is the recruiting sergeant. He is an institution of every barracks station. In London he may be seen to the number of 20 or 30 marching up and down the neighborhood of Tyndal square. "It's fightin' all day and marchin' all night," he says, "with nothin' over but the bur-nin' sun, and under yer feet the scorchin' sand, and a naggin' poppin' out from behind bushes that ye can't see—" until the would-be soldier slinks hurriedly away.

The youth who thinks of enlistment usually passes through certain well-defined stages of mind in relation to the subject. He sees a regiment of marching past to the stirring music of the band and the cheers of the populace. Or he sees Tommy Atkins walking complacently along the street with the nursemaid on whom he himself has lavished smiles in vain. Or he is out of a job and hungry.

ENDING THE RIVER PIRATES. Extermination of Sam Farrell's Gang—Their Adventures.

"Those fellows whom you call river pirates now-a-days," said a venerable, white-haired old traveler, in response to a remark of one of the passengers on the Ohio river steamer Pittsburg, a few days ago, "are only petty thieves compared with the river pirates on the Mississippi forty years ago. Pirates of those days were of the Lafitte sort. They killed every man, woman and child—when there were any of the latter on the boats they captured. The state governments of Louisiana, Arkansas and Mississippi offered large rewards for their capture or extermination but there were mighty few claimants for the state's bounties until after the extermination of the notorious Sam Farrell gang."

"I have often heard of that notorious gang of pirates, Colonel Laforché," said a St. Louis passenger, "but I never did hear the particulars of their extermination. A Cherokee Indian and an old swamp hunter figured in it somehow, I believe."

"Yes," St. Bowman, an old trapper, and Lewis Noche, his Cherokee partner, led the party of pursuers to the headquarters of the gang. Bowman and Noche live on my plantation in Arkansas today. They are both getting old now, but there are no livelier or better fellows living than those two men. They are my friends and are great friends with my children and grandchildren; and of course they will always have a home with me. They are my friends and are great friends with my children and grandchildren; and of course they will always have a home with me. They are my friends and are great friends with my children and grandchildren; and of course they will always have a home with me.

THE AGREEMENT STORY A FACTION.

Berlin, Dec. 28.—Regarding the statement by Lokal Anzeiger that a secret Anglo-German-Portuguese treaty exists for the division of the Portuguese colonies in South Africa, the correspondent of the Associated Press here is able to assert on the highest authority that its claim is a pure fiction and is quite untrue. The high official who authorized this denial made the following declaration:— "I have no objection to stating that the understanding had between Great Britain, Germany and Portugal referred to Africa and leaves Asia wholly out of the account. It is quite certain, however, that Germany under no consideration would conclude such a bargain with Portugal as the Lokal Anzeiger suggests. The matter is the slightest political sense ought to see that these may encave in the midst of British India are the last colonial possessions Germany would dream of."

A Mormon church was in the course of erection in Beekmantown, Ky., when a number of citizens assembled with the intention of setting fire to it. Learning that the building was insured, they determined that the Mormons should not claim money damages, so they deliberately snuffed the fire. The building is a piece of timber so small that it could not be used again, unless for firewood.

"I'm afraid I can't use your play," said the manager.

"What's the matter with it?" asked the playwright. "Why, it's not bad enough to be good, but it's interesting," explained the manager. "It ought to have either more spice or more merit."—Chicago Post.

Stizziness

Is a very common consequence of indigestion and torpid liver. Sometimes there are spots on the face, and a feeling of vertigo occurs, at once suffocating and blinding. It is a waste of time to attempt to cure this condition by ordinary means or medicines, as the stomach and nutrition must be restored to healthy activity, the blood must be purified, the liver cleansed and strengthened, before a cure can be hoped for. This is the work done by Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery, a medicine especially beneficial in all cases, making each organ of the stomach, blood and liver. It strengthens the stomach, purifies the blood, cleanses the clogged liver, and promotes the health of every organ of the body.

"I was greatly troubled with indigestion, torpid liver, dizziness, and also irregular menstruation, and I have used four bottles of your Golden Medical Discovery, one of Fowler's Prescription, and two vials of your Pellets. These medicines have done the work we desired, and I have been restored to all my usual health."—F. Pleasant Pellets assist the action of the "Discovery."

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PACKS FREE. Balm of Hurt Wounds. Atkinson's Botanic Cough Balm. 25c.