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South Africa. Greater activity has been manifested in connection with the war in South Africa during the past week. General Hunter has had some severe fighting in the eastern part of the Orange State, and the result of operations in that quarter is stated to be that the Boers, upwards of 6,000 strong, have been driven into the mountain passes in the neighborhood of Fouriersberg and Bethlehem, where they are being watched by the British forces, and whence they will find escape difficult. General Christian De Wett is reported by Lord Roberts to have taken up a position on the high hills near Reitzburg, about seven miles south of the Vaal, where he is being watched by General Broadwood. A Cape Town despatch says that General De Wett has offered to surrender on condition that his burghers are permitted to return to their homes, but Lord Roberts will accept only unconditional surrender. On Tuesday of last week Lord Roberts left Pretoria, moving eastward on the Delagoa Bay railway in the direction of Machadodorp, President Kruger's headquarters, his intention being apparently to force the Boers northward into the Lydenburg district, and, taking possession of the railway as far as the Portuguese boundary at Komatie Poorte, cut them off from their base of supplies at Delagoa Bay. On Wednesday Lord Roberts had reached Balmoral, 59 miles east of Pretoria, without having encountered the enemy, but French's cavalry and Hutton's mounted infantry, making a wide detour to the south, met bodies of the enemy which were driven back with some loss. French and Hutton pushed on in advance of Lord Roberts' force and crossed Olifant's river, from the high bank of which they could see Middleburg, 42 miles east of Balmoral, and the enemy retiring in great disorder. A later despatch indicates that Lord Roberts had returned to Pretoria, though the reason for this movement is not made plain. The inclemency of the weather is making operations more difficult. The rains and cold are very trying. Some men have succumbed to exposure and numbers of horses and cattle have died. The Boers in the western part of the Transvaal are giving some trouble. General Baden-Powell is reported to be besieged at Rustenburg by the Boer General Delarey, and a relief force sent to his assistance under Col. Hickman was not strong enough to be effective. This condition of things to the westward may have influenced Lord Roberts' return to Pretoria. The British are, however, pushing on to the eastward along the line of railway. General French, on the 29th, had occupied Middleburg and General Pole-Carew, with the Guard's Brigade, had arrived at Brugspruit, 20 miles west of Middleburg.

The latest despatches received show that, as a result of the operations of Generals Hunter and McDonald against the Boers in the Bethlehem district, General Pinao and 5,000 officers and men have surrendered unconditionally as prisoners of war to the British general. This it is believed will effectively break the power of the Boers in the Orange State and go far to put an end to the war.

Race Trouble in the South.

During the past week there has been in the city of New Orleans an outbreak of riot and murder with which the race feeling between whites and negroes has had much to do. A negro desperado who, resisting an arrest, had killed two members of the police force of the city and seriously wounded another, was finally burned out of a house in which he had taken refuge, and shot, but not until he had succeeded in killing two other men and a boy and more or less seriously wounded several other persons. The passion raised among the white population of the city against the negroes was fierce and murderous. Many deeds of violence were committed, and men and women whose only offence was that they were negroes were shot down as if they were wild beasts. The State and municipal authorities have found it necessary to call out the military in order to prevent further riot and bloodshed. There was no doubt great provocation in this instance in the

murderous acts of the negro desperado. But on the other hand, such deeds are to be expected as the result of the prevailing mob violence in the south and the practical denial to negroes accused of crime of that trial before a calm and impartial tribunal to which every human being in a civilized country is entitled. The effect of such barbarous disregard of the rights of the accused negro must be to madden him with fear and make him reckless as to consequences. If he must die any way, and die by torture if his assailants succeed in capturing him, he will die fighting, and take what vengeance he can in advance. No doubt there are in the south many vicious and brutal negroes whose crimes demand punishment, but in fighting crime with crime and brutality with still greater brutality, the white people of the south are sowing to the wind and will reap the whirlwind.

The Situation in China.

It may be that before this paper shall go to press, authentic news will throw light upon the situation in China, but at present writing—Saturday, July 28th—the cloud of uncertainty has not been lifted. The Chinese ministers at Washington, and at European Capitals, have not ceased to declare their confidence in the truth of the statement, purporting to come from the United States Minister, Conger, that the members of the foreign legations were safe on July 18th. Li Hung Chang, who for some reason remains at Shanghai instead of proceeding to Peking, also professes to have information that the ministers at Peking are alive, and the statement is confirmed through other Chinese sources. It is even asserted that the ministers and as many of the foreigners as have survived the attack of the Boxers upon the legations in Peking, are now on their way to Tien Tsin under the escort of Chinese troops, and may be expected to reach that place on Sunday. In spite of all these assertions however on the part of the Chinese, it would appear that there is less rather than greater disposition in Washington, as well as elsewhere, to put confidence in the truth of the Conger despatch. British and European officials who have had much experience in the way of diplomatic intercourse with China, are inclined to put little confidence in statements emanating from Chinese official sources, if there is any strong temptation to mendacity, and in the absence of anything from their own ministers confirming the statement purporting to be from Mr. Conger, the Governments of Britain, France, Germany and Italy, appear to entertain but the faintest hope that the Chinese statements as to the safety of the members of the legations at Peking may be true. Apart from the Conger despatch, there is nothing authentic from the Peking legations later than a letter of the British minister, Sir Claude MacDonald, of the date of July 4th. Another reported letter from Sir Claude MacDonald, said to bear date of July 6th, is probably the same. The message from the British minister stated that the legations were then under bombardment and that nothing had saved the foreigners from destruction but the cowardice of the Chinese. If no determined attack were made, the legations might hold out for two weeks, but if such an attack were made, it could only be a question of a few days at most. A message of similar import and the same date has been received at Washington from U. S. Minister Conger. These messages reached Tien Tsin early last week. There appears to be no doubt as to their authenticity, and they are generally regarded as confirming the probability of the previous reports of the destruction of the legations and all foreigners in Peking on July 6th, and by so much of course discrediting the statements of the Conger despatch of July 18. The late despatches from Shanghai and other treaty ports indicate an increasingly disturbed condition of affairs in the Southern Provinces. The Boxer movement is said to be spreading southward, and simultaneously there is a movement northward of Chinese troops from the Southern Provinces. The belief is freely expressed that the Chinese are thus massing a great army to oppose the advance of the foreign forces on Peking, and those who hold this view believe that the reports of the safety of the legations at Peking are simply Chinese fictions, and that these, with the requests which the British, French and United States

Governments have received from China to mediate in the present situation, are only mendacious ruses for the purpose of gaining time for the organization against the foreigners of a force which will be irresistible.

There is nothing to indicate that the situation in respect to Chinese affairs has materially changed since the above was written. The Chinese minister at Washington still asserts his confidence in the safety of the foreign legations in Peking, and according to a St. Petersburg despatch, Li Hung Chang professes to have received a despatch from the Chinese Government at Peking, dated July 23rd, assuring him that the ministers were all well. There also comes from Chifu a despatch dated July 27th, to the effect that a missionary named Wilder, who left that place a fortnight ago for Peking, had just returned and reported that the city was completely surrounded by Imperial Chinese troops who would not permit him to pass or deliver a message to the legations, but that according to reports the attack on the legation ceased on July 14th. Everything was quiet during Mr. Wilder's stay, and when he left a decree had been issued commanding all persons to protect the foreigners in China. On the other hand most of the news from China is discouraging, indicating that the anti-foreign spirit is constantly spreading and becoming more and more pronounced and murderous in character. There are continued reports of the slaughter of missionaries and native converts in various places. A despatch from Tokio of July 28th says: It is reported from Shanghai that the Boxers attacked the missionaries and native Christians at Pao Ting Fu, July 8. A foreign physician and 2,000 converts were massacred. The Chinese general, Li Ho Keh, is now marching on Peking. He has ordered his troops to exterminate all Christians. Already one French priest and from 2,000 to 3,000 natives have been slaughtered. Another despatch states that Cheng, the Chinese director of telegraphs now admits that he had telegrams since July 19 announcing that every foreigner in Pao Ting Fu was murdered, including forty British, French and American missionaries, and announcing also that two French Jesuits and a thousand converts have been massacred at Kwang Ping Fu, on the borders of Shan Tung and Chi Li. It is also reported at Shanghai that nine members of the China Inland Mission have been murdered near Hang Chong. A later despatch from Shanghai says that the English mission station, north of Ning Po has been destroyed and twelve missionaries murdered. A despatch July 28th from Shanghai to the London Daily Express, purports to give the text of an imperial edict just promulgated which if authentic indicates the basest treachery on the part of the Chinese Government in its dealings with the foreign powers. This imperial edict, it is said, 'urgently orders all viceroys and provincial governors to endeavor to negotiate peace with the powers whose ministers are held as hostages pending the result of the overtures for the abandonment of hostilities against China.' The viceroys are also commanded to guard their territories vigilantly against attack and to prevent, by all means in their power, the advance of the foreign troops, especially along the Yan Tse Kiang. The decree says that the officials will answer with their lives for any failure to execute these orders. Commands are also given that not a single foreigner shall be allowed to escape from the interior, where there are still fully 2,000 Europeans, connected with missionary work, in isolated situations.' Mr. Sheridan H. Read, ex-United States Consul, at Yien Tsin, has a somewhat plausible theory to account for the different stories regarding the Peking legations. Mr. Read thinks it probable that there has been a massacre of foreigners at Peking and also that the ministers have been saved alive and are being held as hostages, though probably they have been removed from Peking to a remote inland city. This would account for the fact that the foreign governments can get no direct communication with their ministers though they be still living. Obviously the ministers as hostages would be valuable to the Chinese Government. When it is known where the ministers are, the Chinese authorities can pretend that they endeavored to send them to Tien Tsin but were unable to do so.

King Humbert Assassinated

King Humbert of Italy has fallen by the hand of an assassin. The murderous deed was done on Sunday evening at Monza, where the king had been attending a distribution of prizes in connection with a gymnastic competition. His Majesty had just entered his carriage with his aide de camp amid the cheers of the crowd when three revolver shots were fired at him in quick succession. One of them pierced the heart of the king. The assassin was immediately arrested and was with some difficulty saved from instant death at the hands of the infuriated people. He gave his name as Angelo Iressi and said that he belonged to Prato, Tuscany. Presumably the man is an anarchist. King Humbert was born in March, 1844 and succeeded his father, Victor Emmanuel, on the throne of Italy in January, 1878. He had accordingly reigned twenty-two years. An unsuccessful attempt was made to assassinate him during the first year of his reign.