

# Old World Topics

## The War—Isaac N. Ford's Review—British Navy Needs Strengthening—Powerful Fleet for Home Waters Proposed.

## Chamberlain's Violent Attitude Deplored—Rosebery Banters the Lords—Earl Grey on the Amalgamation of Capital—Violence of the Plague in India—The Proposed Fortification of the Nicaragua Canal—Trouble for Germany.

London, Feb. 25.—In a lengthy cable dispatch to the New York Tribune, filed in London at 1 o'clock yesterday morning, Isaac N. Ford reviews for his paper the varied and conflicting reports that were received Saturday from the two great news centers of the South African war. He says:

The air was filled yesterday with rumors of the surrender of Gen. Cronje and the relief of Ladysmith. One South African story supplied definite figures and several decorative touches. The Boer force of 8,000 was described as surrendering after 1,700 men had been killed or wounded. Gen. Cronje was reported as wounded, and also Lord Kitchener.

Another bulletin from Cape Town stated that Gen. Cronje had been shot and that his force had surrendered. Equally elastic rumors were current both in Natal and London respecting the relief of Ladysmith, where Gen. Buller and Gen. White were reported to have come into touch without opposition. This last story was contradicted by a fresh casualty list from Gen. Buller, with the names of three officers killed and fourteen wounded, and an addendum that, owing to the continuous fighting on Thursday, it was impossible to estimate the losses of the rank and file. The lists represented seven battalions in Hildyard's, Lyttleton's and the Lancashire Brigades, and proved that there had been something more than a tactical action on the way to Ladysmith. This fighting was described by special correspondents as occurring near Pieter's, the railway station about nine miles from Ladysmith. Wynne, the popular staff officer, was wounded.

**THE RIVAL CENTERS OF INTEREST.**  
Press dispatches were meager from the two rival centers of interest. They brought the story of Cronje's defense up to Thursday night, when the guns were still hammering away at what remained of the Boer laager. The shelling from 60 guns had gone on on Wednesday, and been kept up during the night. The Shropshire battalion had made a gallant rush and taken a position two hundred yards nearer the doomed encampment. Supplies had come up for Gen. Roberts' army, and Gen. French had taken over one hundred prisoners. The guns had been working hour after hour on the camp, and there were no signs that Cronje was prepared to abandon the fight as hopeless. His only hope lay in the arrival of a large body of Dutch reinforcements, and there were camp rumors that two thousand Boers were close at hand on the north.

Another bulletin from Cape Town banded of the Boer laager as terrible, and the escape of the entraped force as impossible. Gen. Roberts was stated to be entirely prepared on Thursday to deal with the Dutch commandos which were seeking to break through the cordon around the river-bed, where Cronje's force was fighting to the death. The war office was reticent, except when fresh lists of casualties were posted, and the inference to be drawn from its silence was that Cronje had persisted in his stubborn defense throughout Friday and probably Saturday.

**THE RUMOR OF CRONJE'S ESCAPE.**  
The report that Cronje had succeeded in forcing his way through the British lines may, of course, merely refer to Cronje's movement from Magersfontein across the front of the British position on the 15th inst. Press dispatches from Natal were even more meager than from Koodoosrand, and the reports were unintelligible.  
The effect of Cronje's defeat and the retirement of Gen. Joubert's force from Colenso upon the disloyal force of Cape Colony was shown in dispatches received in the afternoon edition of the Times. Gen. Brabant had opened communications with the rebellious commandos at Dordrecht, who had expressed a desire to know the conditions of submission. Gen. Clemente had taken the offensive against the Dutch forces north of Arundel, and opened a heavy artillery fire upon their position on Friday, with a prospect of capturing it by assault. An unsuccessful attempt was made on the same day near Cape Town to wreck a train carrying a detachment of Lord Kitchener's Imperial Volunteers to the front. There were belated reports of a successful attack by Colonel Plumer upon the Boer camp, and rumors that he had succeeded in forcing his way through to Mafeking.

**INFERENCES DRAWN.**  
It is understood when the war office stated that no direct word had been received from either Gen. Roberts or Gen. Buller, and the silence was interpreted as meaning that neither had accomplished his purpose, although both were in a fair way to do so. Gen. Buller had clearly met with stouter resistance than had been anticipated, and while the relief of Ladysmith had been deferred and rendered more difficult by the strength of the Boer forces in that quarter, it implied that the reinforcements sent to the Free State were weaker and less capable of breaking up Gen. Roberts' attack upon Gen. Cronje. Gen. Roberts consequently was stronger for the work immediately in hand at Koodoosrand, and the Dutch reinforcements hovering about either flank—north, south, and west—would be more easily dealt with. The Dutch allies were attempting at the last moment to rescue Gen. Cronje with a portion of their force, while retaining their grip upon Ladysmith, when their only hope of rescuing Cronje lay in the concentration of all their forces.

**THE PLAN OF CAMPAIGN.**  
The conditions under which the new campaign in South Africa was planned by Gen. Roberts and Kitchener on the voyage to the Cape are described in a letter from an officer on Gen. Kelly-Kenny's staff. This officer had anticipated seeing something of the two

famous generals on the ship, but was disappointed. Gen. Roberts appeared on deck at 6 o'clock yesterday morning, and walked up and down briskly for two hours. Promptly at 8 o'clock he turned to his chief of staff with an abrupt call. Gen. Kitchener, in response, "Here, sir," was always on hand, and the next moment the conqueror of Kandahar and the conqueror of Omdurman would disappear from the deck and not reappear again until the next morning at the same early hour. A large cabin had been reserved for Gen. Roberts' use, and there he remained busy day after day, with his chief of staff, with no interruption except at short intervals for meals, and no visitors unless members of his staff, were summoned. A short stroll on deck at midnight completed the day's work, and the two generals then turned in. This was followed day after day until the ship reached Cape Town, and the campaign which had been thoroughly discussed and thought out in detail, was begun.

**ROBERTS HAS CLEARED THE AIR.**  
Lord Roberts, as a military genius, even with the results at Koodoosrand and Ladysmith indecisive, has cleared the air. The trend of German opinion has been changed, and the emperor now receives credit for his astuteness in displaying friendship for England at an early period of the war. European intervention in South Africa is no longer within the range of probabilities. The uneasiness regarding the Russian designs on Persia still exists, but the emphatic utterance attributed to the czar by the St. Petersburg correspondence of the Daily Telegraph, help to dispel even this apprehension. The military party had without doubt made full preparations for the seizure of Herat by the completion of the Kushik railway and the concentration of troops within striking distances; but the czar refused to countenance any movement in Central Asia by which Great Britain's difficulties in Africa might be turned to practical account. His pacific determination to remain neutral tends to minimize the importance of the Russian loan to Persia, and the concessions which may be made in favor of the railway from the Caspian to the Persian Gulf. There are always excitable journalists in England who, like a Russian boogie at every turn of affairs in Asia. Red specks are floating before their eyes, and they are clamoring for the concentration of all the naval force and preparations on a large scale for the defense of Persia. Not long ago they were thrown into peckily heat over the rumor that Spain was to sell Ceuta to France as trustee for Russia, and the number of foolish scares over Russian intrigue since the Crimea has reached many scores.

**THE PLAGUE IN INDIA.**  
The plague in India continues virulent. There were 533 victims in Bombay city during the week ending Feb. 16. With over 61,000,000 of people affected by the famine, and only about 4,000,000 in receipt of relief, India seems to be in plight, though the death rates over the 550,000 square miles of the famine area are decreasing. The Indian Government has issued a resolution approving Prof. Haffkin's anti-plague inoculation, and the viceroy, Lord Curzon, is adopting it. The viceroy is also paying high tribute to the professor.

**NICARAGUA CANAL.**  
The Spectator, which often voices the government's views, claims it is to Great Britain's advantage to have the United States fortify the Nicaragua Canal, saying the idea that Great Britain is against such action is a delusion. The Spectator adds: "If America asks us to give up the clause forbidding the fortification we ought not to insist on certain should at once agree to do so." The Spectator, however, points out that other powers

of state is not a personal, but a public matter. Continuing, the paper says it regrets that he did not court a resumption, but adds that obvious reasons of state prohibits such a procedure at the present crisis. In the meanwhile Dr. Gavin Brown Clark, Radical member for Calthness, who was formerly consul-general of the South African republic, stands accused of buying stolen property in the shape of letters in regard to the raid. Though Dr. Clark has denied the allegations printed in the St. James Gazette, he has not, so far, denied Mr. Hawkesley's charge. His fellow-commoners are much stirred up in regard to the matter, but Dr. Clark seems unlikely to take any steps unless his constituents force an issue.

**ROSEBERY BANTERS THE LORDS.**  
Lord Rosebery has been bantering the lords of the government in the lightest satire upon the fix they have got into by the unexpected change of the Wemyss resolution which originally proposed to enforce the existing statute providing for conscription, but which at the last moment was altered to read that the statute be amended in order to make it available to the public force a change which would set Lord Lansdowne's and the Duke of Devonshire's carefully prepared speeches to such an extent that Lord Rosebery satirically moved for an adjournment to enable them to prepare new speeches, and even Lord Salisbury laughed.

**IRISH DISAFFECTION.**  
The nomination of Major McBride, of the Irish Brigade, in the service of the Boers, to contest South Mayo, vice Mr. Michael Davitt, resigned, has created no little anxiety. Another Nationalist, John O'Donnell, opposed Major McBride. Consequently, Feb. 26, when the voting is done, Mr. O'Donnell and the absentee candidate, will fight it out between them. The authorities pay so little attention to Irish disaffection that no steps have been taken to prevent Mr. McBride contesting the seat. The indulgence of the government, of which this is an instance, fosters the feeling of Irish disaffection, and in fact, the whole Irish movement at present is of no great importance. This, it is claimed, is as the result of the failure of the Boers to pay so little attention to Irish disaffection that no steps have been taken to prevent Mr. McBride contesting the seat. The indulgence of the government, of which this is an instance, fosters the feeling of Irish disaffection, and in fact, the whole Irish movement at present is of no great importance. This, it is claimed, is as the result of the failure of the Boers to pay so little attention to Irish disaffection that no steps have been taken to prevent Mr. McBride contesting the seat.

**AMALGAMATION OF CAPITAL.**  
Earl Grey, who is a peer, and who votes with the Conservatives, but who is connected with many labor organizations, especially in labor cooperative movements of which he is the prime mover, recently addressing a co-operative meeting at Glasgow referred at length to the colossal amalgamation of capital in the United States, and said the same tendency was to be seen in England. He said the disadvantage resulting from the consolidation of industries consisted in enabling those controlling the market to force up the price of raw materials, and the would bear. He added: "The co-operative plan restricting the rate of interest on share capital to 5 per cent, and prohibiting the transfer of shares to the hands of speculators, is a method by which consolidation can be effected without endangering the interests of the community."

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Phone 1046 THE RUNIANS, GRAY, GARRIE CO. Phone 1046

# NEW WASH GOODS

THIS week we make our big show of New Wash Goods. Seems like rushing the season, but we have been selling new wash stuffs for several weeks. Now our stock is complete and the Wash Goods Section is the most attractive place in the store. Such an assortment of Dainty Fabrics has never been equaled in the city. Such a range of weaves, colorings and designs is seldom seen anywhere. We have got everything in wash goods that's worth having. Several special lines we are showing at much less than market value. The following list will give you an idea of our prices:

- Elegant White Satin Stripes, White Piques and Cords, from..... 12½c to 50c
- Fine India Linens, from per yard..... 20c to 60c
- Fine Nainsooks and Embroidery Cambrics, from..... 20c to 35c
- White French Organdies, beautiful sheer makes, per yard, from..... 15c to 50c
- Colored Dress Organdies, 46-inch, in black, blue, helio and cerise, per yard..... 35c
- Colored Dimities, in black, cardinal, navy, and blue..... 20c and 25c
- Colored Dress Dimities, in stripes and spots, new designs..... 25c
- Plain Pink and Blue Scotch Chambrays 32-inch..... 12½c
- White Lawns, special lines, 42-inch at..... 10c, 12½c, 15c and 20c
- Checked Swiss Muslins and Swiss Spots, per yard..... 8½c, 10c, 12½c and 20c

**VERY SPECIAL.**  
1,142 yards Standard Prints, red, indigo and light grounds, regular 12½c, for..... 10c  
2,061 yards Print—a special purchase—regular 10c, for..... 7½c

- Colored Sateens.**  
We have the color you want in plain Sateens, all shades, for linings and fancy work, 31 inch, light, medium and dark..... 12½c  
32-inch Imitation Silk, brilliant finish, all the new shades, per yard..... 20c and 25c  
36-inch Mercerized Sateen, very rich finish, in pink, cardinal, blue and purple..... 30c  
38-inch Skirting Sateen, black ground with white stripes..... 40c  
Mercerized Colored Sateens, in fancy stripes and checks, suitable for skirts..... 35c and 45c

**EXTRA**—360 yards Scotch Gingham, all we have left from last season. This lot was sold for 20c a yard, good colors and patterns, for per yard..... 12½c

## The Runians, Gray, Garrie Co

208, 210, 210½, 212 Dundas Street, London.

**LILLIAN PAUNCEFOTE**  
Married to Robert Bromley Notable Social Event in Washington.  
Washington, Feb. 25.—The Hon. Lillian Pauncefote, daughter of Lord Pauncefote, British ambassador to the United States, was married at noon on Saturday to Hon. Robert Bromley, of Stoke Hall, Newark, Nottinghamshire, England. The wedding was one of the most notable that has occurred in Washington for many years.

**TROUBLE FOR GERMANY.**  
The receipt in Berlin of the news from Washington intimating the cessation of the commercial negotiations with Germany has created a sensation in the former city. Mr. Andrew D. White, the United States ambassador, said: "I interpret the reported Washington opinion sympathizes with the Boers, and expressing the belief that Great Britain has forsaken her role of defender of freedom during the present war."

**NOTES.**  
Dr. Leyds, the diplomatic agent of the Transvaal, writes from Brussels that he will be unable to go to Berlin in the middle of March, as he had promised, "because the present turn of war" engrosses him.  
The German financial press points out that the Russian loan to Persia liberates the province of Farsistan, whose harbor revenues have hitherto been pledged to Great Britain.  
Emperor William of Germany has summoned Capt. Lauff to witness the first performance of "The Iron Tooth" (Eisen Zahn), on Tuesday, at the Berlin Royal Theater, of which his majesty is a collaborator. The performance is looked forward to with deep interest, the emperor having insisted on novel scenic costuming and a number of improvements.

**ABOLISHING STATUTE LABOR.**  
Toronto, Feb. 26.—Sentiment in favor of the abolition of statute labor is rapidly spreading throughout the province. There are now no less than 33 townships in Ontario who have decided to take the step, or have already carried it out. The latest to decide are the townships of Osborne, in Huron county, Blanchard, in Perth, and Orillia, in Simcoe. These were visited last week by Mr. A. W. Campbell, provincial road instructor. At the meetings held it was unanimously decided to commute the statute labor at 25 cents per day, and to adopt the methods of road-making recommended by Mr. Campbell.

**THERE IS NO SENSE**  
In Feeling Miserable When You Can Be So Easily Cured.  
Dr. Ward's Blood and Nerve Pills have been a great boon to my daughter Maggie. Prior to taking them she had been suffering from excessive nervousness for a long time, and her nerves were in a terribly shattered condition. The action of the heart was so weak that it did not have strength to perform its functions, causing violent palpitation and smothering after retiring. Frequently on account of this smothering sensation she was afraid to go to bed. Slight exertion exhausted her and caused shortness of breath. Her blood was impoverished and lost vitality, and she had no appetite. She was wasting away and was very hypochondriacal, feeling dejected all the time. Last December she began taking Dr. Ward's Blood and Nerve Pills, and she improved at once. Her blood became healthy and strong, and in six weeks her impaired nervous system was restored to its normal healthy condition. Her heart responded to the healthy condition of her blood and nerves, and she began sleeping without any of the dangerous, distressing, smothering and choking spells, her appetite is good and she has gained in flesh. Her color has replaced pallor, and she is now well and strong, thanks to Dr. Ward's Blood and Nerve Pills. I thank you, gentlemen, for the remedy that has restored my daughter to health.  
A. GUNN,  
Baggage-master, Grand Trunk Railway, Oshawa.  
50 cents per box; five boxes for \$2; all druggists, or Sam Williams & Co., Toronto, Ont.

**THE GREAT LUNG HEALER**  
The great lung healer is found in that excellent medicine sold as Bickel's Anti-Consumptive Syrup. It soothes and diminishes the sensibility of the membranes of the throat and air passages, and is a sovereign remedy for all coughs, colds, hoarseness, pain or soreness of the chest, bronchitis, etc.  
Eighty per cent of the cattle of Uruguay are used for the purpose of making "tasajo," or jerked beef, for exportation to Brazil, Cuba and Porto Rico.  
Why will you allow a cough to lacerate your throat or lungs and run the risk of filling a consumptive's grave, when by the timely use of Bickel's Anti-Consumptive Syrup, the pain can be allayed and the danger avoided? This syrup is pleasant to the taste, and unsurpassed for relieving, healing and curing the affections of the throat and lungs, coughs, colds, bronchitis, etc.

**THE INTERIOR OF THE LITTLE CHURCH**  
The interior of the little church was like the corolla of a huge flower. The brilliantly-lighted altar in the depths of the darkened auditorium, with its golden points and snowy candles, formed the stamen and pistil, while the flower-enrusted walls and pillars, through which the crimson hangings scarcely showed, were like the petals of a monster blossom. The air was heavy with the scent of Easter lilies, bride's roses and orange blossoms, mingling with the odor of lilies of the valley and carnations. Palms filled all the available space within the chancel, while broad white ribbons, stretching down the aisles, were dropped by the ushers, link by link, as the pews filled with the distinguished guests.  
The ushers were all attendants of the embassy, Col. Arthur Lee, Mr. Gerard Lowther, Sir Charles Elliot, Mr. Max Muller and Mr. Humphreys Owen.  
The bride, to the great amazement of her friends, had been quite sick all the week, and leaned heavily on the arm of her father as the procession moved down the aisle. Her wedding gown was a full court costume of white satin, the front a gleaming network of lace and pearls, while masses of lace, caught with orange blossoms, edged the long court train from the shoulders to the floor.  
A pretty feature of the bride's attendants was Master Sidney Kent Legare, in the costume of a page of Charles II. He bore the heavy train, while the bridesmaids, Miss Hattie Sargeant, of Boston; Hon. Sybil Pauncefote, and Hon. Audrey Pauncefote, sisters of the bride.  
The ceremony was performed by the Right Rev. Bishop of Washington, Henry Yates Satterlee, assisted by Rev. Charles Mackay-Smith, rector of St. John's.  
After the ceremony a wedding breakfast was served at the embassy to 400 guests. Mr. and Mrs. Bromley later left for Palm Beach, Fla., and will soon return to England, where the young matron will be presented at court.