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.

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 bulleting 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. 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. sented seven battalions in Hildyard's, Lyttleton's and the Lancashire Brigades, and proved that there had been something more than a rear guard action on the way to Ladysmith. This fighting was described by special correspondents as occurring near Pieters, the railway station about nine miles from Ladysmith. Gen. Wynne, the popular staff officer, was wounded. THE RIVAL CENTERS OF INTER-

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 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 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 bardment of the Boer laager as terrific, and the escape of the entrapped force as impossible. Gen. Roberts was stated to be entirely prepared on Thursday to deal with the Dutch commandes which were seeking to break through the cordon drawn tightly around the river-bed, where Cronje's force 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 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 sixth division on the 16th inst. Press dispatches from Natal were even more meager than from Koodoosrand, and the reports

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 printed in the afternoon edition of the Gen. Brabant had opened communications with the rebellious commandos at Dordrecht, who had expressed a desire to know the conditions of submission. Gen. Clements had taken the offensive against the Dutch, forces north of Arundel, and opened a heavy artiliery fire upon their position on Friday, with a prospect of capturing it by assault. An unsuccessful atwas made on the same day near Cape Town to wreck a train carrying a detachment of London 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 flosed that no direct word had been received from either Gen. Roberts or complished his purpose, although both were in a fair way to do so. Gen. Buller had clearly met with stouter resistance than had been anticipated, while the relief of Ladysm. . 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 iess 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 be more easily dealt with. The Dutch alies 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

THE PLAN OF CAMPAIGN. The conditions under which the new campaign in South Africa was planned y Gens. Roberts and Kitchener on the Kenny's staff. This officer had anticisated seeing something of the two him that the good faith of a secretary

London, Feb. 26.—In a lengthy cable famous generals on the ship, but spatch to the New York Tribune, was disappointed. Gen. Roberts appeared on deck at 6 o'clock every 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, alert in response, "Here, sir," was always on hand, and the next moment ways on hand, and the next moment the conqueror of Kandahar and the conqueror of Omdurman would disappear from the deck and not be seen 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 interpution except at short inno interruption except at short in-tervals 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,

ROBERTS HAS CLEARED THE AIR.

Lord Roberts, as a military genius,

even with the results at Koodoosberg 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 respecting Russian designs on Persia still exists, but the emphatic utterance attributed to the czar by the St. Petersburg cor-respondence 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 Kushk strategic 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 remained of the Boer laager. The to practical account. His pacific deshelding from 50 guns had gone on on termination to remain neutral tends termination to remain neutral tends Wednesday, and been kept up during to minimize the importance of the the night. The Shropshire battalion Russian loan to Persia, and the con-had made a gallant rush and taken cessions which may be made in favor the Persian Gulf. There are always excitable journalists in England who see a Russian bogle 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 prickly 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

> STRENGTHENING THE NAVY. London, Feb. 25.-The condition of the navy and the alleged inadequacy of the new estimates are creating no end of discussion. The fact that the government has ordered the reserve squadron to assemble at Portsmouth March 1, has relieved the fears of those who thought continental interference was imminent; but they hail with no pleasure the announcement that the squadron will be scattered again April 1, after a month's exercise. Nor is public confidence strengthened by such statements as are made editorially in the Naval and Military Record, which avers that there are eight or nine modern French battleships capable of sinking the reserve fleet, and that, though France has only six of such vessels with her northern squadron, she could quickly get the two needed from the Mediterranean without attracting suspicion, while the amalgamation of her northern squadron with that of Russia's Baltic fleet would altogether outclass Great Britain's reserve, which this service paper declares is a hetero-geneous and by no means a modern conglomeration, lacking in all the essentials of a trained battle fleet. a remedy, it is urged that new ships not included in the reserve be immediately commissioned, and that a powerful modern fleet be asembled in home waters to await contingencies.

The army, or rather its system and the majority of its generals, has so disappointed the bulk of the British people that it is almost a fad to criticise and underestimate everything British, and the navy is coming in for its full share. Events have yet to show that such criticism is justified.

CHAMBERLAIN'S DEFENSE. The event of the past week was undoubtedly Mr. Joseph Chamberlain's. Gen. Buller, and the silence was inter- vigorous, almost vicious, self-defense preted as meaning that neither had ac- in the House of Commons. The colsecretary met the accusations and demands with one of those terrible fighting speeches for which he is With venomous retort and noted. scorn he once more denied complicity in the Jameson raid, denied the socalled revelations of the Independence Belge, and with deft phrases presented the opposition's agitation as a personal attack upon his much-perse cuted self. In the heat of debate and with an overwhelming majority ready to cheer every bitter phrase, Mr. Chamberlain carried all before him. But after reflection, many of those who thoroughly believe Mr. Chamberlain to be absolutely untainted, and who place no importance upon the letters stolen from Mr. Hawkesley, counsel for the British South African Company, regretted that the colonial secretary took up the matter in such personal spirit.

CHAMBERLAIN'S ATTITUDE DE-PLORED. Voicing this feeling, the Saturday Review, while strongly deprecating loyage to the Cape are described in a another raid inquiry at the present letter from an officer on Gen. Kelly- juncture, deplores Mr. Chamberlain's "undignified attitude," and reminds

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 Caithness, 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 be put in force, a change which up-set Lord Lansdowne's and the Duke of Devonshire's carefully prepared speeches to such an extent that Lord Rosebery satirically moved an adjournment to enable them to prepare new speeches, and even Lord Salisbury

With the accomplishment of the government's plans, the main objection regarding war legislation collapsed, and some attention was di-rected to home measures which incidentally were supremely uninteresting. The ancient methods of obstruction employed by Mr. Wm. Redmond and one or two other Irish members have so far failed to have any result.

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 outcry. Another Nationalist, John O'Donnell, opposes Major McBride. Consequently, Feb. 26, when the voting is cone, 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 that Irish advocacy of the Boer cause, and, in fact, the whole Irish movement at present is of no great importance. This, it is claimed, is as the government desires it should be.

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 cooperatio movements of which he is the prime mover, recently addressing a co-operation meeting at Glasgow referred at length to the colossal amalgamation of capital in the United States, and said the same tendency was apparent on this side of the Atlantic. He said the disadvantage resulting from the consolidation of industries consisted in enabling those controlling the market to force up prices to the limit the consumer would bear. He added: "The cooperative plan restricting the rate of interest on share capital to 5 per cent. and prohibiting the transfer of shares to the open market alone supplies the method by which consolidation can be affected without endangering the interests of the community."

THE PLAGUE IN INDIA. The plague in India continues virulent. There were 583 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 in bad plight, though the death rates over the 550,000 square miles of the famine area are decreas-The Indian Government has is a resolution approving Prof. Haffkin's anti-plague innoculation, and the viceroy, Lord Curzon, is ad-vocating its use throughout India, and is paying high tribute to the pro-

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 to and most certain should at once The Spectator, however, points out that other powers

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I have suffered from Eczema in the worst form for eight years and was completely laid up and could do nothing, not even take care of my own baby.

At times I thought I would be deprived of my reason on account of the intolerable burning and

I tried all the doctors around here, but got no relief, only grew

At last I determined to give Burdock Blood Bitters a trial. When I had taken three bottles I could do my own work. I continued taking it, and by the time I had taken seven bottles I was perfectly cured.

I have recommended B.B.B. to everyone in this neighborhood having Skin Eruptions and it has always cured.

I know of nothing to equal it as a family medicine and blood purifier .- Mrs. Michael McWhinnie, Ormstown, P.Q.

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Two exclusive lines suitable for Waists or Dresses, having all the appearance of costly Silks and warranted to wash and retain the silky finish. Mercerized Sateens, 28-inch, in black and white, blue, navy, and helio effects, per yard...... 25c Printed Sublimes, light grounds, 27-inch, in stripes and scroll effects, per yard..

Scotch Ginghams and Zephyrs-Very choice, in large solid checks of blue and white, pink and white, cardinal and white, black and white, per yard..... 32-inch Fine English Cambrics, in light and navy grounds, French Foulard effects 121/20 36-inch American Percales, novelty patterns, in stripes of black and white, blue and white, helio and white, navy and white, cardinal at......12½c, 15c and 20c

Elegant White Satin Stripes, White Piques and Fine India Linens, from per yard......20c to 60c Fine Nainsooks and Embroidery Cambrics, from......20c to 35c White French Organdies, beautiful sheer makes, 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-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

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, new shades, per yard......20c and 25c 36-inch Mercerized Sateen, very rich finish, in pink, cardinal, blue and purple..... 38-inch Skirting Sateen, black ground with white scripes..... Mercerized Colored Sateens, in fancy stripes and checks, suitable for skirts......35c and 45c

White and Colored Ducks, suitable for skirts or suits.....12½c to 20c English Galateas, in blue, brown and navy, plain and fancy stripes12 1/2 to 25c Wew English Oxford Shirtings, a magnificent variety......10c, 12½c and 15c Apron Ginghams, Scotch goods, 42 inch, in medium and small cheeks, indigo and brown.. 15c Striped Cotton Skirtings, moire effects, good heavy make and colors...... 15c White Cotton Crash or Terry, per yard.....

EXTRA---360 yards Scotch Ginghams, all we have left from last season. This lot was sold for 200 a

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208, 210, 210¹, 212 Dundas Street, London.

might not be willing, for though Great Britain, in effect, has acknowledged the Monroe doctrine, the rest of the world has not. Rev. F. B. Nash, of Newark, O., has written a long letter to the Saturday Review, based on a recent cable letter of the Associated Press, maintaining that the bulk of American opinion sympathizes with the Boers, and expressing the belief that Great Britain has forsaken her role of defender of freedom during the

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 action as due to the most re-cent shape of the meat inspection bill. If the bill is adopted in its present shape it will cause a bitter tariff war between the United States and Germany, in which I believe the latter will get the worst of it. The United States could cause the greatest trouble by opening every bottle of German wine and investigating every stocking, etc. Of course, it would be a mere pretext, but it would be no worse than they have done with our meat, which the world recognizes as excellent. German government officials already express satisfaction with the American inspection, and we have never objected to another stringent inspection here, if it is done for sanitary reasons, and not as a hindrance to trade. I understand the German government is opposed to the present form of the bill."

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,

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 Usborne, 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 75 cents per day, and to adopt the methods of road-making recommended

Married to Robert Bromley Notable Social Event in Washington.

Washington, Feb. 26.-The Hon. Lilian 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.

Quaint old St. John's Church, where the ceremony was performed, is one of the landmarks of Washington, an outwardly little stucco-coated building of colonial type, just across Lafayette Square from the executive mansion. Its capacity is about 800, standing room included, and this did not serve to accommodate a tithe of those who wished to witness the ceremony. Owing to the official position of Lord

THERE IS NO SENSE

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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 liberates the province of Farsistan, of this smothering sensation she was whose harbor revenues have hitherto been pledged to Great Britain.

The smothering sensation she was afraid to go to bed. Slight exertion exhausted her and caused shortness of breath. Her blood was improverished 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 dition of her blood and nerves, sumed his strong and healthy func-She now sleeps without any of the dangerous, distressing, smothering and chacing spells, her appetite is good and she has gained in flesh. Healthy 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

Baggagemaster, Grand Trunk Railway,

LILLIAN PAUNCEFOTE Pauncefote, the presence of the president and cabinet, as well as the whole dent and cabinet, as well as the whole of the diplomatic corps, was an imperative social obligation, albeit a pleasant one, owing to the affectionate regard in which the young bride is held

by Washington society.

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-encrusted 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 lilles, bride's roses and orange blossoms, mingling with the odor of liles 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. ushers were all attaches of the embassy, Col. Arthur Lee, Mr. Gerard Lowther, Sir Charles Eliot, Mr. Max

Muller and Mr. Humphreys Owen. The bride, to the great uneasiness 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 at-tendants was Master Sidney Kent Legare, in the costume of a page of Charles II. He bore the heavy train, and was followed by the bridesmaids. These were Miss Esther Bromley, sister of the groom; Miss Curzon, cousin of Lord Curzon, the viceroy of India; 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

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.

The great lung healer is found in that excellent medicine sold as Bickle'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.

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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 Bickle's Anti-Consumptive Syrup, the pain can be allayed and the danger avoided? This syrup is pleasant to the taste, and unsurpassed for reliev-Oshawa.

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Oshawa.

the taste, and unsurpassed for relieve ing, healing and curing the affections of the throat and lungs, coughs, colds, bronchitis, etc.