TWO MORE DIVISIONS CROSS RIVER

New South Wales Company Cut to Pleces and Two Companies of Wiltshire Captured During the Retirement From Rensberg-That British Convoy Got Through All Right -- Boers Anxious Around Ladysmith-Barbed Wire to Check Roberts' Advance-Builer Bombarding Again

War Office: Jacobsdal, Feb. 16, 2 a. m.—French, with a force of artillery, cavalry and mounted infantry, reached Kimberley this evening, Thursday.

London Hears With Joy.

Loadon, Feb. 16 .- London takes the relief of Kimberley very quietly. The news was immediately posted at the Mans'on House and at the various clubs and hotels, but nowhere did it attract more than ordinary groups.

At the War Office itself the crowd in the lobbies was scarcely larger than usua!. At the same time there is an immense feeling of satisfaction and renewed confidence that Lord Roberts' plan of campaign is working satisfactorily.

FRENCH'S MARCH.

Rapidity of His Movements Dazed the Boers.

Riet River, Orange Free State, eb. 14.—Gen. French, in command Feb. 14.—Gen. Freich, in command of the cavalry division, and with a strong force of horse artillery, left Modder River on Sunday morning for Rambam, 12 miles east of Ensiin, where the whole division concentrated. The next day he had a rapid march to Riet River, where a party of Boers contested his passage at Kekel and Waetrfall Drifts. Miter some hours' shelling General sage at Kekel and waetrian Dritts. After some hours' shelling General French drove the Boers away and crossed the river.

FORCED A PASSAGE. Yesterday (Tuesday) the column ontinued its march to Klip and continued its march to Klip and Rondaval Drifts, on the Modder where again a short engagement ensued. Gen. French shelling the Boers vigorously and forcing a passage. The Boers precipitatedly retired leaving five heavens the sage. The Boers precipitatedly re-tired, leaving five langers in the hands of the British, besides a great quantity of cattle and 2,000 sheep. The rapidity of Gen. French's march and the overwhelming na-ture of his force enabled him, in spite of difficulties of water trans-portation, to thoroughly outwit and surprise the Boers.

The British casualties were slight.

Britain Rejoicing To-day. London, Feb. 16, 1.45 p.m.-There is tremendous satisfaction and jubilation here at Field Marshal Roberts' and Gen. French's successes. But those best suited to indeed suited to judge the stuation are inclined to the opinion that, pending more definite information, the news had better be regarded as assuring, rather than as accomplishing, the relief of the beleaguered city of Kimberley. A careful state of berley. A careful study of the ambiguity of the wording of Lord Roberts' de patch leads these people to believe that the actual relief of the place is still a matter of time.

LIKE RELIEF OF LUCKNOW. Kimberley, it is rointed out, can scarcely be termed releved till it 1; scarcely be termed releved till it is feasible to take provisions there. The rapidity of Gen. Frenen's march indicates that he was unable to do this, and whether he left his lines behind him open is only a matter of surmise. It is con lifered most probable that Lord Roberts and Gen. Frenen's brilliant tactical success—for such it is under any circumstance—resembles the first relief of Luckoow, when the dispersal of the encurvis forces was by no means immediately effected.

A remarkable feature of Lord Roberts' brief cablegrim is the fact that it is dated Jacobsdal, which was Gen. Croale's advance base of supplies and

s advance base of supplies, and s no word explaining the British commander's presence there, nor word of any opposition which he or Gen. French encountered.

BRINGS JOY TO KIMBERLEY. Had Lord Roberts intlieted a decleive defeat on the Boers it is believed he would have mentioned it, as such a success would be greatly paramount to the relief of Kimberley. However, Gen. French's entry into Kimberley has been effected, and denbtless brings by to the hearts of those who have been shut up in the city for 122 days. Their defenders number about 4.000, while ten. French's force is estimated he French's force is estimated he-6.000 and 8.000 men. The sixth and seventh divisions have already crossed the river and are probably with Lord Roberts at Jacobsdal.

WHAT OF CRONJE? What has happened to Gen. Cronje and the whereabouts of his forces puz

despatch from Cape Town, dated A despatch from Cape Town, dated Wednesday, Feb. 14th, received this merning, says: "The Beers are leav-ing Magersfontein to reinforce other nesitions. It is estimated that the tween 7,000 and 10,000 men remain

BLOEMFONTEIN CUT OFF. Lord Roberts' wide turning moveroops from Bloemfoutein, But white he British forces are endeavoring intercept the Borrommunicato intescept the B

London, Feb. 16, 9.51 a. m.- The clions, there is a parallel Loer col-War Office announces that General
French reached Kimberley Thursday
evening.

Following is from Lord Roberts to

War Office announces that General

umn trying to cut off the British
lines to De Aar, and it is apparaently meeting with some success,
though later despatches referring to
Gen. Clement's retirement to Arundel say the movement was under-

> A BOER REPORT. A Boer report from Lorenzo Marques, dated Thursday, Feb. 15th, says the initial attack on Colesburg on Feb. 12th resulted in a Federal loss of 9 men killed, 14 wounded and 5 prisoners. The Britlish, it is added, were driven out of their camp and one of their Maxims was captured.

their camp and one of their Maxims was captured.

The news of 'Gen. French's entry into Kimberley was received on the Stock Exchange here to-day with rousing cheers. No boom in stock was created, but a satisfactory, strong undertone prevailed. De Bers rose 17-8, but subsequently receded 11-4 on a Paris rumor that Gen. French had merely fallen into a Boer trap.

LADYSMITH'S CONDITION.

LADYSMITH'S CONDITION. The despatch referring to the condition of Ladysmith is regarded as reassuring. There is no further word from Gen. Buller and nothing starting is expected to occur in Natal in the immediate future.

According to a despatch from Chieveley, dated Wednesday, Feb. 14th, it has been ascertained that the British artillery during last week's fighting rendered two large Boer guns and one Nordenfelt ineffective.

A Sterkstroom despatch of Wednesday, Feb. 14th, says that Colonel Eager, who was wounded and cap-The despatch referring to the con-

Eager, who was wounded and cap-tured at Stormberg, died Feb. 13th The Boers turned his body over to The Boers turned his bothe British at Molteno.

Gen. Roberts' Tactics.

London cable says: Gen. Lord Roberts' advance from Modder R.ver has begun with considerable success. The have invaded the Ora British have invaded the Orange Free State in an attempt to flank the left of Commandant Cronje's force at Magersfontein. They have gained possession of four drifts, by which the Riet and Modder Rivers

which the Riet and Modder Rivers were crossed, and have captured five Boer laagers with their supplies, though there is no official indication of the amount of booty.

It is difficult to follow the movement clearly here, owing to the imperfect condition of the maps, but it seems that Gen. French's rapid operation not only cut off the Boers' communication with Jacobsdal, but barred their direct route, to Bloemfontein, while at the same time exposing the enemy to a flank attack on the road to Boshof. Such, at any rate, is the view of the situation rate, is the view of the situation taken here.

It is assumed that Gen. Methuen still holds a position south of Mag-ersfontein, and it is regarded as probable that Gen. Macdonald's exprobable that Gen. Macdonald's expedition to Koodoosberg had for its main object the drawing of the Boers' attention westward from the contemplated move of Gen. French. The presence of Gen. Roberts with the Kimberley relief column had not been previously definitely known.

been previously definitely known, though it was guessed that he went to Modder River after leaving Cape Town, but the presence of the sixth division under Gen. Kelly-Kenny was a complete surprise here, as it was last reported at Thebas, hetween Colesberg and Stormberg. It adds about 10,000 men to Gen. Roberts' army, which is now, including the seventh division, estimated to number something like 50,000 troops. The newspapers in their comments take a hopeful view of the situation, in some cases they adopt an exultant tone, but more soher opinion is content to await the outcome of the operations, having learned to avoid discountier. een previously definitely

operations, having learned to avoid discounting successes in advance.

There is a disposition in some quarters to doubt that so skilful a commander as Cronje has been caught napping, and it is suggested as not improbable that he have been a that he has abandoned hi position at Magersfontein and the of Kimberley to concentrate his force elsewhere. The recent great increase in the strength of the Boers in the Celeshery district favors this view, other than conjectural.

A Problem for Cronje.

There is good news to day, for a new campaign has begun. The move-ment: of Lord Roberts are a practical illustration of the principle of conentration of action in time and deep to hepe. Evidently, he ordered Gen. Macdonall's recommissance to Kcodoosberg in order to draw the chemy's attention westward, away from the commplated movement through the Free State.

"The Boer army is barred from the direct route to Bloemfontein, and, even on the road by Boshol, it would be even sed to a flank extend. exposed to a flank attack during

the march General Cronje, on learning of Lord Roberts' dispositions on These day and yesterday, must have had an interesting problem. He had to consider whether to hold on to his positions at Jacobsdal and Magersfontein, and to seize Kimberiev. avoring and to seize Kimberiey, or to raise munical the siege and move off, and, if so, in

what direction, whether to Bloemfon-tein or northward across the Vaal. "These events form the brilliant opening of a new campaign, which is being marked by concentration of pur-pose, and by an energy and rapidity that augur well for the future. The public must wait patiently for the republic mast wait patiently for the result of these operations, remembering that the distance to be covered is considerable and the heat great. Possibly enough, there may be no general action until Friday."

Gen. Roberts' Movement. Dy an English army veteran: Lord Roberts has at length begun his op-erations for the relief of Kimberley. comprehensive turning-in move-ment commenced on Monday by the seizure of Kekil's drift on the Riet River, west of Jacobsdal, by General French, whose name appears for the first time as being in command of the mounted division of the driver of the command of the counted division formed from the re-mar cavalry and mounted colonial gular cavalry and mounted colonial contingents, with horse artillery. Gen. French appears to have moved on Tuesday from Kekil's drift on to Klip drift, 25 miles distant, on the Modder River, with the main body of his force, sending one of his three brigades to make a feint at Rondeval drift, four miles west of Klip drift. Rondeval drift was seized, as also a drift between it and Kip drift. The force that crossed at the latter occupied the hills north of the Modder river, capturing three of the Roer laagers. The brigade sent to Ronde all drift is reported to have captured two drift is reported to have captured two others. From the description given of Gen. French's movements, their rapidity appears to have taken the Gers by surprise, as no fighting of any consequence seements. sequence seems to have taken place, and the capture of so many of their camps seems to indicate that the commandoes to which they belonged were absent in some other direction. The Sixth Infantry division was at Water-

Sixth Infantry division was at Waterval, on the north side of the Riet river, moving up in support of the cavalry, and the seventh division—was at Kekil's drift ready to go forward. No details are yet to hand of the composition of these new organizations, there having been apparently a complete dislocation of the old commands and a general reorganization for the special work just undertaken. The trying character of the marching is illustrated by the fact that the first day four officers and fifty-three men had to be sent back in oxwagons to the railway, prostrated by wagons to the railway, prostrated by heat exhaustion.

The object of this new movement is apparently to gain possession of the direct road from Jacobsdal to Kimber-

direct road from Jacobsdal to Kimber-ley, so avoiding the strongly-fortified Boer positions on the originally in-tended line of march from Modder River camp. The distance from Klip drift, where General French has cross-ed the Modder River, to Kimberley, is about twenty miles, and there is no about twenty miles, and there is no information to lead to the belief that the Boers have any entrenched positions on that road, except their works immediately around Kimberley. Assuming that the immediate objective of General French is Kimber between of General French is Kimberley, there is ro reason why the relief of that place should not be effected in the next day or two, unless the Boer general is able to recover from the first surprise and has the means to arrest the forward march of the British column.

In the Boers that have been holding the positions between the Modder River camp and Kimberley are now entirely cut off from their communications with Jacobsdal, from where they derived the bulk of their supplies, and if they do not succeed in arresting General French's advance, will have to retire to the westward and leave the way open for a movement up the railway line from Modder River camp to Kimberley. The reported expulsion of the loyal inhabitants from Barkly West was probably carried out in view of the possible abandonment of the luvestment of Kimberley, and should it be unable to return into the Free State south of Kimberley, and should it be unable to return into the Free State south of Kimberley, and should it of Barkly West, across the Vaal River, or round to the north of Kimberley, if the British mounted troops are not ahead of them.

The first impression resulting from a careful examination of the situation. mn.
The Boers that have been holding

The first impression resulting from a careful examination of the situation, a careful examination of the situation, as conveyed in Lord Roberts' despatches, is that the Boers have been caught at a serious disadvantage, from which they will have considerable trouble extricating themselves, and that if the conditions permit General French to continue his movements with the same celerity that he has executed those of the first two days, a long step has been takhe has executed those of the first iwo days, a long step has been taken toward moving the field of operations into the Transwaai territory proper. The Free State has now been definitely invaded at two points by General French, and by the eccupation of Zoutpan drift by the troops from Orange river bridge camp. The accounts from the Boer side of the events since Monday will be of greatinterest, and enable a clearer judgment to be formed of the probable results of Lord Roberts' first move.

General Buller's retirement behind General Buller's retirement behind Tugela appears complete, as his

the Tugela appears complete, as his cavalry are reported reconnoliting in the neighborhood of Springfield, from where he moved his headquarters a few days ago to Chieveley.

The next news from Rensberg and Sterkstroem should bring information of a change in the situation at those points, as the Free State forces now across the Orange river are likely to be called on to move north for the defence of their own territory, especially as a British movement into the southas a British movement into the south corner of the Free State from the vest seems likely

South of the Tugela.

A London cable: The Daily Telegraph has received the following, dated Tuesday, from Bennet Burleigh, its special correspondent at Frere:

"On Sunday the Foers advanced down the Ladysmith road, toward otg cter's. Three hundred men on horseback, with others, proceeded to a rout where they began to construct how rows of tremeles at right angles to the road. This was about two miles post of the daily.

Totg'eter's deal of the South African Ligar repulsed them.

everal other skirmishes have taken been throwing up defensive orks from Trichard's drift and the blow kop range eastward to the Blugwain and Monte Cristo hills, both on this side of the Tugela. They have also two, if not three, wooden bridges spanning the Tugela in the bridges spanning the tugela without losing and gam.

Dost

from Chieveley, dated Tuesday, confirms the report that parties of Boers have occupied the old British camp on Spearman's farm. The correspondent, who identified the wounded Lieutenant Churchill as the brother of Mr. Winston Churchill, says he was shot through the right leg.

The Irish Briade.

A London cable: A Pietermaritz-burg despatch of Feb. 13th says that Major Brasier-Creagh, surgeon in charge of the ambulance train from Frere to Mooi River, brought 95 wounded British soldiers here to-day. Six of this number were offi-cers. He also brought in three wounded Boers, all of whom had been shot in the think.

day. Six of this number were officers. He also brought in three
wounded Eoers, all of whom had
been shot in the thigh.
On the way down the Boers talked
freely to the surgeon. They told him
the Boers were fighting for independence, and hoped they would win.
They would make a good try, anyhow. The wounded men stated there were only a few English, Irish, or other foreigners fighting with the Boers in Natal. The Irish Trans-

Boers in Natal. The Irlsh Transvaal Brigade, they said, was on the western border, prohably with Gen. Cronje at Modder River.

The men said they had been in three British hospitals, and had been treated with the greatest kindness and consideration by the officers and men. They were especially grateful to the British surgeons. One of the Boers said he had offered his guard £80 to allow him to es.

guard £80 to allow him to es-

cape, but the guard refused. CASUALTIES AT RENSBURG. The official list of the British casu The official list of the British casualties at Rensbarg from Feb. 10th to Feb. 12th shows: Killed, foar officers and seven men; wounded, six officers and fourteen men; missing, two officers and eight men.

The officers killed were Colonel Coningham, of the Worcester Regiment,

ingham, of the Worcester Regiment, and Major G. R. Eddy, and Lieuten-ants J. Powell and J. C. Roberts, all Australians

London Feb. 17. Gen. Roberts sent the following despatch from Jacobs-dai: "I have good reason to believe the Magersfontein trenches have been abandoned, and that the Bors are endeavoring to assume Complexity." abandoned, and that the Boers are endeavoring to escape. Gen. French is scouring the country north of Kimberley. One of Gen. Kelly-Kenny's brigades of infantry is in pursuit of a large Rear congar moving towards. a large Boer convoy moving towards Dioemiontein."

Earlier Incidents.

The following additional despatch from Gen. Lord Roberts, dated at Modder River, fills the gaps in the earlier despatches:

earier despatches:
"The sixth division left Waterfall Drift early yesterday morning and marched here, going on the same evening to Rondeval Drift to hold the crossing of the Modder River and leave Gen. French free to act. "Shortly after arriving here the and cave Gen. Frence Iree to act.
"Shortly after arriving here the
mounted infantry visited Jacobsdal
and found it full of women and children, with four of our wounded men

On the way back the mounted infantry were attacked and nine men were wounded. Col. Henry and Major Hatchell and ten men were missing. Buth officers were subsequently found at Jacobsdal, slightly

"The cavalry division is moving in a northerly line and has apparently already reduced the pressure on Kimberley, as Kekewich signals the enemy mas abandoned Alexanders-foncein and that he has occupied it.

"French has advanced as far as Abonsddam with steril loss within "French has advanced as far do
"French has advanced as far do
Abonsddam with slight loss, and is The War Office points out that the word "here" in the above despatch means some point on the Modder River other than the Modder River other than the Modder River

Clements Retires to Arundel. Lendon, Feb. 16.—Gen. Lord Roberts reports: "Clements, having been pressed by the Boers, has retired to Arundel to cover Nanuw Poort."

Fine Hospital Arrangements. Lord Roberts also reports from Jacobsdal, Feb. 15: "Much gratified on arrival here to find admirable hos pital arrangements made by the German ambulance corps, under Doctors Kaettner and Hildebrand, who, with their staffs, have shown the greatest kindness to our wounded, as they have to the Boer wounded. of our wounded have been here nee December. Some were brought resterday.

Got Through in Safety.

Outside Jacobs al. Orange Fro State, Feb. 15.—The road between Modder River and Jacobsdaf is new open. The distance is only nine miles The road is available for sending rein reements and supplies.

When the Boers evacuated Jacobs al they were obliged to dal they were obliged to pass over a ridge, where they afforded a splendid mark for the British guns, which showered shrapnel upon the retreating cheny. The convoy which was at-tacked at Riet River had been coan-termanded, but the order did not ar-rive in time, and the experience was a very warm one, though the Boers did little material damage. As General French with the strengthened division pushed forward knyang Kingbesha, he shed forward toward Kimberley found the beleaguering Boers describing their position at Alexandersforters, thus allowing a portion of the Kimberly garrison to occupy and enterpolic the steepers.

N. S. W. Company Cut to Pieces. London, Feb. 17.—The Daily Telegraph has the following despatch from Nanuw Poort, dated Feb. 13th, and delayed in transmission:

"Very severe fighting occurred on both our flanks near Rensburg. The enemy greatly outnumbered our troops, being about 4,000 in num-ber. They attacked the Worcester-shire Regiment on their hill and with desperate determination charged lea north of the drift.

'A party of Boers also crossed the desperate determination charged home, only to experience such a heavy spel the South African Light Horse, to repulsed them.

Several other skirmishes have taken ce, and the Boers are evidently been considerable.

"A patrol of the Inniskilling Dragoons was surrounded by some 500 Boers and grallantly contains.

"A strategic and concentrative move back to Arundel has been decided upon. Our guns from Cole's kop have been safely removed, one Maxim being destroyed to prevent its falling into the hands of the enemy. Nine wounded officers and 39 men were brought into the Nanuw Poort field hospital. Our death roll at present is not known." death roll at present is not known.

Barbed Wire for Roberts.

London, Feb. 17 .- The Pletermaritzburg correspondent of the Loadon Daily Mail, under date of Feb. 15th, says: "There are indications of a decisive move at Colenso. I hear that the Boers rely on their entrenchments the Boers rely on their entrenchments and barbed wire entanglements along the principal roads to check Lord Roberts progress in the Free State. The road to Ladysmith is studded with these formidable bar-

Details of the Siege.

London, Feb. 17.—Kimerley had been invested 123 days. The garrison consisted of 2,000 men, including half a battalion of the Loyal North Langels as and a garden and of the Loyal North Langels as and a garden as of the constant of the cons a battation of the Loyal North Lancash.res, and a decachment of the Black Watch and five todes of local corces. Ceel Rhodes has been one of one chef organizers of a most gallant decence, and Col. Kekkwich has been a commander second only to Col. Bacen-owell in resource and practical ability. He is a Deversaire man. The main episole of the slege was the sorte, led by Major Scott-Turner, late in November. The presence of Ceel Rhodes made the capture of Kimberley an objective point of first importance, but it also armed the town with the resources of energy and capital for defence, since he has town with the resources of energy and capital for defence, since he has expended a fortune in providing a new water supply, strengthening fortificaone, casting guns, employing natives nd securing supplies. Now that Kimund securing supplies. Now that the berley is relieved Rhodes' sagacity in ushing to the defence of the Diamond C'ty at the outbreak of the war is

British Companies Cut Off. London, Feb. 17.—The Times has the

London, Feb. 17.—The Times has the following special to-day:

Arundel, Feb. 15.—As owing to the overwhelming number of the Eser forces the small British force was unable to hold their extensive line infront of the Colesberg position, Gen. Clement ordered the troops, early yesterday, to retire on Arundel. Severe fighting occurred on the 12th, prior to the retirement from Slingersfontein. The enemy attacked the Worrester. The enemy attacked the Worcester-shire Regiment in great force, but suf-fered severely from our rifle fire at short ranges. The same day the limits killing Dramons and the Mounted killing Dragoons and the Mounted Australians, while covering the retire-ment of the Berkshire and Wiltshire ment of the Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiments from posts on the left flank, came in contact with the enemy in great numbers, but succeeded in covering the infantry without serious loss. The Boer casualties were heavy. The Australians; though great-ly outnumbered, displayed great cool-ness and bravery. Two companies of ness and bravery. Two companies of the Wiltshire Regiment on outpost duty failed to join the force before the retirement, and their absence not being noticed on parade, they were eventually cut off.

Jacobsdal, Feb. 16.—General Cronje is in full retreat, with Kelly-Kenny barassing him.

Captured a Great Train.

London, Feb. 17.-A despatch to the London, Feb. 17.—A despaten to the War Office from Lord Roberts says that General Kelly-Kenny's brigade Friday captured seventy-eight wag-ons of stores and ammunition belong-ing to the Compiler. ing to Gen. Cronje.

In Full Retreat.

The Boers captured a large convoy as a result of yesterday's (Thursday) fighting at Riet River. The British casualties were comparatively slight, in view of tremendous bombardment. Less than thirty menwere wounded, and but one killed. Gen. French's division was enthusiastically welcomed at Kimberley. Gen. French's division was distinctly welcomed at Kimberley distinct at the Club las

The officers dined at the Club evening. news of the entry into Kim-The berley has greatly cheered the troops who are working splendidly.

Roberts' Despatch.

London, Feb. 17 .- Following is th text of Lord Roberts' despatch and acobsdal, Feb. 17.—5.50 a.m.—Gen. Kelly-Kenny's brigade captured yesterday seventy-eight wagons laden with stores, two wagons of Mauser rifes, eight boxes of clock. boxes of shells, ten barand a large quantite elonging to Cronje as still being shelle when Kitchener des senge:s."

Thousands of Stock. The Chronicle also has the follow ing despatch from Wegedlies, undated, via Modder River, Feb. 16th: Gen. Kelly-Kenny, with the sixth divihas entered Jacobsdal. The Box nade a feeble attempt to held the eastern ridges, but were outflanked by the mounted infantry, and re-tired. There were few British casual-ties. The divi ion then evacuated Jacobsdal, marching north in the track of French's cavalry, which crossed the Modder River and engaged the enemy, who retired with heavy

"The seventh division crossed the Riet River east of Koffylontein and drove the enemy before them.

Gen. Tucker is now on Col. Kelly-Kenny's right, and probably will effect a junction with his forces. The enemy is retiring north. The Ninth Division, under Gen. Colville, is in the ear of the Sixth Division. The enemy has made no determined stand. e have captured thousands

Don't Wire Kimberley yet. New York, Feb. 17.—The Commercial able (ompany this morning sent out the following notice: "The British ost-office request us to cancel yester-ay's notice in regard to bir barley. ere is no telegrant

ttion with Kimber

to-day, says the Boers, with artillery, commenced an attack carly this morning on Molteno, rear that place, occupied by troops commanded by Gen.

The March on Kimberley.

London, Feb. 16.—The Chronicle's econd edition this morning has the following despatch from Watervaal Drilt, dated Feb. 16.h, morning:
"Lord Roberts, with the sixth and
seventh divisions and the cavalry division, marching to relieve Kimberley. rendezvoused at Enslin and then marched toward the Free State. The sixth division crossed the lifet River at Watervaal Drift, and marched along the right bank. The Boers showed fight, and we had several casu-nities. The division of the control of the control altles. The division tach marched on to Jacobsdal. The cavalry captured Brown's Drift, on the left flank of the

Boers' main position.

Both columns are now marching north, parallel with each other.

"The British captured many prisoners, but their casualties were slight."

Sikhs and Zulus.

London cable says: Lord Roseberr's investigate the allegations against the Boars

while not committing the Government directly, Mr. Balfoar's special opened the distinct possibility that before the end of the campaign Sikhs and Ghoorkas will be fighting along-side the pairt.

side the British.

Mr. Chamberlain's declaration of the

Government's decision to encourage and assist the natives in every way in defending their territory against Boer invasion, though loudly cheered by the Ministerialists in the House, meets with adverse criticism in various quarters, especially on the ground of the complete uncertainty regarding the side for which the natives will dealers the state of the complete uncertainty regarding the side for which the natives will dealers the state of the side of the side

the side for which the natives will declare themselves.

Mr. A. J. Balfour, the Government leader, dealing with the same subject and the possibility of employing Indian troops, said his former statement to the effect that the Government would not complay natives in the present wire. not employ natives in the present war was based on the belief that, by comnon consent, the war would be inel to the two European races, adding

"If the Foers adopt a course inconsistent with that like, we hold our-selves free to reconsider our decision." Mr. T. P. O'Connor thus describes the

cere in the Commons:

"Mr. Chamberlain's coil penetrating ones, with a terrible emphasis underving an imperturbable manner, somilathrough the silence like a note of doom. Everybody saw what it meant, but no odv spoke: everybody understood all its terror and ferocity."

Times Editorial View.

Times Editorial View.

London cable: The Times in an editorial commenting upon Lord Roberts' dexterous and brillant movement, says: "The Boers have shown themselves too wary and too skilful for us to assume that the success of these operations must disconcert their scheme of defence or compel them to raise the siege of Kimberley without a further struggle, but, so far as it is possible to judge in the absence of detailed information and good maps, the operations should be followed by strategic consequences of the highest value. The presence of a large British force inside the Free State borders and within relatively easy striking distance of the capital must largely alter the whole aspect Jacobsdal, Friday, Feb. 16, via Modder River.—Gen. Cronje, with 10, 000 men, is in full retreat towards Bloemfontein. Gen. Kelly-Kenny is fighting the rear guard and harassing the retreat.

The Boers are reported to be leaving Spytfontein, going in a northwesterly direction.

The Boers captured a large control of yesterday's (Thurshope."

hope."
The New York General Committee of the Transvaal war relief fund has raised so far \$12,900.52, which will be forwarded to London to be applied to the Lord Mayor's fund.

War Notes:

An English correspondent at Chieve ley, in a despatch dated Feb. 13th, says: "We are still hopeful of relieving Ladysmith." Nothing has been received from the latter place direct. A Boer report dated Feb. 13th says that everything is quiet

there.

A statement is ascribed to a citizen of Pretoria who arrived at Lorenzo Marquez Wednesday from the Boer camp at Ladysmith to the effect that the bombardment is desuitory. There is a shortage of big gun ammunition, and fresh supplies from Johannesburg are being awaited.

An unprecise Boer report states that a large British army moved towards

sh army moved toward Colenso last Monday, and camped nea: Bosonkop. This seems to refer to Gen. Buller's withdrawal from Spring-

A despatch from Pretoria, dated Feb. 12th, reports that the burghers A despatch from Pretoria, dated Feb. 12th, reports that the burghers have taken all the British positions around Colesberg, and the Daily Chronicle's sorrespondent at Cape Town, dating his despatch Feb. 14th, says there are rumors that the British have evacuated Rensberg and returned to Arundel. This, if correct, supports the belief here that Gen. Clements, Gen. French's successor, was insrtucted to withdraw when pressed by the enemy, so as to risk no loss of his reduced force, Gen. Roberts relying on his own advance to compet the Boers to return to protect their own territory.

General Buller's Pet Dog.

Gen. Buller is very fond of horses, and has a weak side for dors also. In an article in the Lady's Realm we read hat during the Kaffir war he received a present of two Zulu dogs. one, however, was killed in battle, but the inter, Tumi, came home with him to I ownes and was for some years his inseparable companion. He would newly jump a hedge or a gate and it was no uncommon thing for Sir Redvers to open the gate for his dog. When Sir Redvers went but to the Sudan war he took Tumi along with him, thinking that he his died there. During mi's illness Sir Redvers sat up eral nights to nurse him. So deeply aached was he to Tumi that he has Gen. Buller is very fond of horses, ached was he to Tumi that has r had a pet dog since