

THE WAR IN AFRICA.

A Review of Last Week's Events—Scraps of News That Have Been Received.

London, Feb 24 — Spencer Wilkinson summarizing the weeks events in the war with south Africa tonight said:

"On the night of Thursday, Feb 15, Gen Cronje marched out from Magerfontein between Gen French, who had just entered Kimberley and Gen Kelly Kenny, then at Kilip drift on the Modder river. The next day Gen Kelly-Kenny pursued him, attacked his rear guard and delayed him until the Highland brigade was on its way to stop him on the south bank of the Modder, and General French could pass him on the north bank.

"After a three days' running fight Gen Cronje was stopped at Koodoosand, near Paardeberg, where he was surrounded. His force was between the river bank; which gave him a defensive position facing either way, so that attacks on him involved heavy loss, but he was held until on Tuesday, Lord Roberts arranged to grip him with a girdle of infantry in his position, while cannonading him with fifty guns enfilading the river bed. In the meantime Lord Roberts with a spare division or two beyond the three brigades helping Cronje, set himself to intercept and drive away any Boer reinforcements.

"This was the situation on Wednesday and it offered a reasonable probability of the capture of Cronje's force, and of the defeat of any reinforcements.

"We have little news beyond Wednesday. On Thursday the shelling of Cronje was continued at intervals, continuous shelling probably involving a too lavish use of ammunition. Boers have been giving themselves up by fifties a day. On Tuesday Lord Roberts drove off reinforcements coming from Colesberg and from Natal.

"A Berlin report declares that Cronje has forced his way through. This is improbable, but may refer to a small party who may have escaped in the night.

"Lord Roberts' advance has drawn away some of the Boer forces from Colesberg, Sterkstroom and Natal, as is seen from the diminished resistance to the British at all those points.

"Gen Buller, after taking Inblawe hill, has crossed the Tugela, and according to the latest telegrams, has been fighting continuously since Thursday morning. This looks like a decided attempt to relieve Ladysmith, wherein I expect Gen Buller will succeed if he does not, as before, interrupt his advance by stopping to count his losses and declaring that he has lost enough. A general has never lost enough to justify the giving up of his enterprise, so long as his troops are willing to go on with him. Ladysmith can probably hold out for several weeks longer, and in that time the effect of Lord Roberts' advance will probably be even more marked than it has yet been.

London, Feb 25, 4 35 a. m.—Since 2 15 o'clock yesterday afternoon nothing has been received from the scene of what the London papers call General Cronje's death struggle, the war officials announcing at midnight that they had nothing to give out. They stated that they believed it impossible for Cronje to escape from the grip of Lord Roberts.

The report circulated in Berlin that Cronje had succeeded in making his escape, came from the Boer headquarters in Brussels, where it was stated that details were still lacking.

The only news from other parts of the seat of war received during the night is a special dispatch from Coleso, under date of February 24, stating that the British in spite of strong opposition, were advancing slowly but surely, and driving the Boers from the kopjes between Grobler's kloof and Hlaogwane.

Ladysmith reports by heliograph on Friday that the Boers were retiring northward in large numbers. Meanwhile the certainty of relief is so strong at Durban that the authorities are actively preparing train loads of provisions, luxuries and medical comforts for dispatch to the beleaguered town as soon as communications are reopened.

HOT FIGHTING CONTINUES TO THE NORTH OF COLENSO

Coleenso, Natal, 25 —The Boers who had been reinforced made a strong attack Thursday at Gobler's kloof and on a range of hills ranging east. They had been forced from all their positions on the right.

Gen Lyttleton's division on Thursday advanced under cover of the kopjes. The Boers fired a Creusot and a 'Long Tom.' The British artillery was well sheltered in the action at daybreak and until late in the afternoon, when a heavy rifle fire on both sides developed.

The British infantry had advanced a mile and a half and a continuous fire was kept up until after dark. The Boers stuck to their positions. The British artillery fire was irregular. A few salvos were sent toward the thickly wooded spots and ravines from which the Boer fire was heaviest. The Boers

sent shells into the headquarters baggage, close to the hospital, but no material damage was done. General Wynne was slightly wounded.

The Boer positions are not considered strong, with the exception of Gobler's kloof. The hills eastward are not so high and cannot be entrenched so well as the mountains which the British have taken. The Somersets were the first across the pontoons on Wednesday. They were subjected to a heavy fire for five hours in an isolated position. It was the first time they had been under fire, and they behaved excellently.

Early on Friday a severe rifle fire was resumed on the right and front, from the positions held over night, by both sides. The British naval guns, howitzers, mountain and field batteries shelled the Boer trenches incessantly. The Boers replied with two heavy guns, some of their shells bursting over the hospital. As a result the British wounded were removed.

During the afternoon the Fifth brigade Inniskillins and Dublins leading, began to advance up the hills in spite of the constant shelling the Boers stood up in their trenches aiming deliberately down the hills.

The infantry advance was further covered by parties on the right and left firing volleys. It was slow, the British taking advantage of every bit of natural cover. The Boers on the crest of the hills, as well as from the trenches part of the way down, poured lead along the advancing line.

At dark the British infantry had reached within a few hundred yards of the first line of the Boer trenches.

London, Feb 26, 4 35 a. m.—Perhaps never before in the course of the present campaign have such crowds visited the war office as went there yesterday. As the Times remarks today, "the dearth of news is somewhat trying at a time when a considerable success was generally regarded as imminent."

No diminution of confidence in Lord Roberts is felt, however, and the public is ready to believe that he has good reasons for not mentioning Gen Cronje in the official dispatches. Probably he is in no hurry to end a situation which is daily bringing small parties of Boers in a vain endeavor to reinforce Gen Cronje. These he can deal with in detail.

Lord Roberts has already captured over 500 Boers, and at this rate he will soon have quite a respectable array of prisoners to be held as hostages for the 3,000 British already in Pretoria.

Gen Cronje's refusal to accept the offer of Lord Roberts regarding the women and children indicates either that the position is less desperate than has been supposed or that he has been able to dig an absolutely safe place for them.

Everything goes to show that Gen Buller's advance is most stubbornly resisted and most cautiously carried out. It is hoped that he will soon be in a position where Gen White will be able to assist him materially.

The campaign is now approaching a most interesting phase. In about a fortnight the congress of the Afrikaner bond will meet, and it is rumored that Mr Hofmeyr will then propose peace terms on the basis of the republics retaining absolute independence, but offering to disarm. If these terms are rejected it is understood that a manifesto will be boldly issued to the Dutch throughout South Africa, calling upon them to throw off their allegiance to Great Britain.

Probably these rumors are exaggerated, but there is no doubt that the greatest anxiety prevails in Cape Town regarding coming events.

Germany, through the semi official Berliner Post, reiterates that all reports of German intervention are quite without foundation.

Capt Raymond Harvey de Montmorency, who was killed in Gen Gatacre's reconnaissance Saturday, was the heir of Viscount Frankfort de Montmorency, and was the fourth heir to a peerage who has fallen in the course of the campaign.

London, Feb 27, 4 20 a. m.—The Boers are assembling an army near Bioemfontein, with which to dispute the invasion of Lord Roberts. This intelligence comes from Pretoria by way of Lorenzo Marques. The commandoes are described as "hastening from all quarters of the two republics."

No estimate is made of their numbers, but the withdrawal of the Boers from most of the places where they have been in contact with the British except the district near Ladysmith, may raise the resisting force to 30,000 men. This figure assumes that the Boers have between 60,000 and 70,000 men in the field. The gathering of this army across the path of Lord Roberts gives significance to Gen Cronje's steadfast defense. He has engaged the corps of Lord Roberts for ten days now, and whether he is relieved or not, he has given time for the dispersed Boer factions to get together and to prepare positions to receive the British advance when Cronje is overcome and Lord Roberts moves forward.

It is difficult to conceive that the Boers are strong enough to take the offensive and to rescue Gen Cronje from his precarious situation. The war office has nothing after midnight to indicate his collapse, and he may hold out for a few days. The correspondents seem to have no exact information respecting his resources. Some say he has plenty of

food but is short of ammunition. Others assert that he abandoned his food supplies but kept abundant supplies of cartridges.

Gen Buller on Saturday faced the last and strongest positions of the Boers who bar his way to Ladysmith. The strenuous fighting indicates a battle between armies, rather than rear guard actions protecting a retreat.

On Thursday and Friday he lost 43 officers killed and wounded, representing probably a total loss of from 400 to 500.

Gen White's gun's worked on Saturday upon the Boer position, and a heliogram from Ladysmith reported that the Boers were retreating and that larger rations were being issued in view of the fact that relief seemed at hand.

Nothing has been heard from Mafeking since Feb 12th. The movement on the vein away from the railway is becoming increasingly difficult for large bodies of troops, as the grass is burned up. Gen French has to wagon forage for his horses, and even the infantry finds long marches harder than before, as forage for the transport animals must be carried. This requires the formation of garrisoned depots.

The ordinary campaigning season is over, and a sickly season for both men and animals has set in.

Technical military writers take these things into consideration in forecasting events.

The Daily Chronicle says it learns from private letters that British rifles and ammunition have been landed on the southern coast of Cape Colony, presumably for the Dutch colonists.

Lord Roberts has recently received 72 additional pieces of artillery. Whether all have been sent to Paardeberg is not known.

Probably the Eighth division will leave England next Monday.

GEN CRONJE'S POSITION PROTECTED FROM BRITISH SHELLS.

London, Feb 26 —Dispatches from Paardeberg show that Gen Cronje's forces have far more protection from Field Marshal Lord Roberts' heavy fire than at first indicated. A special dispatch from Paardeberg, published in the second edition of the Daily Chronicle and dated Saturday, Feb 24, says: "A balloon has discovered the enemy well covered by a system of burrowing in the river bank which resembles a rabbit-warren and affords shell proof positions."

It will not be much of a surprise if today or tomorrow which is the anniversary of Majuba hill, will be marked by the surrender or annihilation of the gallant band so overwhelmingly hemmed in, though the closeness of the investment appears open to criticism. Small bodies of Boers, apparently, are able to make their escape, causing comparison here with the Boer methods of investment, with their quickly dug surrounding trenches, impassable barbed wire, etc., and those of the British.

Lord Roberts holds a position almost analogous with that held so long by the Boers at Ladysmith. As Gen Cronje is reported to have plenty of food, the plan of starving him out can scarcely avail, as Lord Roberts must either wait until his ammunition, which is said to be short, runs out, or those of Gen Cronje's forces who are counselling surrender prevail. So indefinite is the information that either of these alternatives may occur at any moment.

Meanwhile Lord Roberts' engineers are sapping steadily towards the Boer laager and, according to a special from Paardeberg, dated Sunday, Feb 25, the cordon is gradually drawing closer.

Gen Buller's march on Ladysmith is being marked by sharp fighting. A Pietermaritzburg dispatch of today's date says he is still heavily engaged in fighting. In Gobler's kloof of Gen Buller seems to have discovered a hornet's nest.

In Cape Colony the British arms are steadily advancing.

Barkley East is now in their possession, according to a dispatch from that district, the Boers evacuating the place, retreating on Ladygrey and wiring President Steyn for reinforcements to prevent their surrender.

DEADLY ROAD TO LADYSMITH

London, Feb 26 —Gen Buller, in a dispatch from Colenso dated Sunday, Feb 25, reports that the British casualties Feb 20 were 12 killed and 99 wounded, among the Somersets and Dorsets, and that Feb 22 and Feb 23, 12 officers were wounded.

The war office today issued an additional list of the casualties sustained by the Fifth brigade under Gen Buller Feb 23 and Feb 24, which include 7 officers killed, 23 wounded and 1 missing.

Gen Buller's death list contains the names of three lieutenant colonels, Thackeray of the First Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers; Sitwell, of the Second Royal Dublin Fusiliers, and Thorold, of the Royal Welch Fusiliers.

An additional list of the British casualties at Paardeberg, Feb 18, is announced and gives a lieutenant and eight men killed, a lieutenant and seven men missing, and 38 men wounded.

BOERS STILL THERE

London, Feb 27 —Winston Churchill, in a dispatch to the Morning Post from Frere Camp, dated Sunday, says:

"The idea that the Boers are raising the siege of Ladysmith is premature. The advance is being pursued in the face of the most stubborn opposition, and of heavy loss. President Kruger's grandson is among the Boers killed."

THE GALLANT IRISHMEN

London, Feb 27 —The Times has the following from Pietermaritzburg, dated Friday, Feb 23: "The Dublin Fusiliers have again distinguished themselves by volunteering to take Gobler's kloof, which they did. This gallant battalion, which began the campaign 850 strong, can today be said to muster on parade only between 100 and 200 of its original members."

A Bright Jeweler.

A gentleman tells the following joke on a jeweler: A young man who was on the verge of matrimony went to the jeweler and bought a ring and left instructions that in it be engraved the legend, "From A to Z," which, being interpreted, meant from Anthony to Zenobia. To his astonishment, on calling for the ring the next day he found it engraved like an Egyptian obelisk and on closer examination found that the jeweler had put the whole alphabet "from A to Z" on it.

Music For Fish Bait.

An eccentric hermit named William Schueller, who lives at Franklin, Mich., is said to be one of the most successful fishermen in his part of the country, and he claims to call the fish to him by singing "Old Hundredth." He goes out in his boat and takes a station in fairly deep water. Then he sings, at the same time keeping his eyes on the water in search of fish. Gradually the fish crowd about his boat, he claims, and when enough are gathered together the wily fisherman casts a net and catches dozens at a single haul. The old gentleman has a famous voice, and his neighbors are inclined to believe his strange story.—Chicago Record.

Bloody Battle in Mexico.

Potomac Somor, Mexico, Feb 25 —The Mexican Federal troops under Gen Torres have saved Guayamas from the Yaquis, but by dint of the fiercest fighting of the war and at a sacrifice of 200 soldiers. The town here is filled with wounded and all the public buildings are utilized. Torres anticipated the surprise the Yaquis intended. The Indians were accompanied by ten adventurers, miners and cowboys, who acted as commanders of separate companies of forty men each. The Yaquis had also a Maxim gun, which had been smuggled through at Bisbee, Ariz, in a load of machinery. The gun was manipulated the Mexicans claim, by two Ex Rough Riders.

Torres reached here Thursday afternoon and decided to divide his army of 700 men into two divisions. The first and strongest flanked by the gunboat Democrats, left here at daybreak Friday morning. No scouts preceded the force, and the first intimation of the presence of the Yaquis was a withering fire from the Maxim and a rifle volley from concealed fortifications in a dense thicket. The first division retreated in confusion and was sheltered in the timber growth along the river. More than 100 men fell at the first fire. The Democrats then steamed up and swept the thicket with her machine guns, but evidently ineffectively. Her forward decks were swept and the protected upper deck peppered with bullets from the Maxim. Ten sailors and First Lieut Rambold, of the army, were killed. The Democrats drifted for more than a half mile until a bend in the river sheltered her. Late in the afternoon hill signals showed the waiting commanders of the first division that the second detachment had reached the neighboring heights to the southeast in its flank movements.

A simultaneous attack was then made from the front and flank, and the Indians retreated. The Maxim gun, disabled and useless, was brought into Potomac and seventy three Indians, the official report states, were found dead. There was no pursuit and the Indians must have withdrawn in good order. During the first fire of the Yaquis twenty three Mexican Federals were driven into the river in a panic and were drowned. The total Mexican loss was 227. The Democrats has been sent to Guayamas for repairs. This is the first time the Yaquis have made use of fortifications.

Walsh's Shoe Store

Again in "full blast,"

NEW SHOES ARRIVING EVERY WEEK FROM HEADQUARTERS

All shoes that were on shelves August 1st sold regardless of what they cost.

Walsh's Shoe Store

Under City Clock.

Sep 27—v

A FEW WORDS TO OUR FRIENDS.

MR. EDITOR:

You may have had us in mind when referring in a recent issue of your paper to the peculiarity of merchants in regard to advertising, in which you quoted them as saying that "in good times it was not necessary to advertise, and in hard times it did not pay." While we have always found that advertising paid us, we must confess that for the past sixty days any increase of business that we might secure by that means, could not have been satisfactorily waited on, as our clerical force has been taxed to its utmost capacity.

Now that the rush of cotton is over and we have an opportunity to say a few words to our friends in the country, we desire to acknowledge, through the columns of the Watchman and Southron, our grateful thanks to them for the liberal patronage bestowed upon us, for which we can offer nothing in return except our promise that their interests will be as carefully guarded by us in the future as they have been in the past.

It is particularly gratifying to us to acknowledge a very liberal trade during the months of September and October from our farming friends, to whom it was our pleasure to extend a credit during the summer. It proves to us that they appreciate our endeavor to be just and reasonable with them, when they need assistance, as we have always tried to be—our motto being

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Although we tried to anticipate this season's wants by buying a heavier stock than ever before, our trade has so far exceeded our expectations, that we have been obliged to replenish frequently and freely every department of our store.

In Dry Goods

We bought a very heavy stock of staples, a fair percentage of which we still have on hand and are selling at old prices. Those

Tar Heel Blankets

Which you have been waiting for so long have come at last. It was not our fault that they were not here sooner as our contracts were made in May for September delivery, but the mill has been so crowded with orders it was impossible to deliver them sooner. These goods are made in

A Southern Mill. From Southern Wool, By Southern Men

and there are none better. They are improving on the finish every year. We are selling at the same price as last year; but if we have to duplicate we will be obliged to charge an advance. We only have about

FIFTY PAIRS,

so don't put off buying, or you may get left.

SHOES.

Why the advance in cotton should have affected the price of shoes, but strange to say they too have gone up. We don't know whether it was judgment or luck, but our purchases for Fall were nearly double our usual contracts. We are buying now for Spring and paying 10 to 15 per cent more for the same class of goods, but those on hand will go at the old prices while they last.

In our write-up about Shoes last Fall we had something special to say about

The H. C. Godman Line for Women and Children.

Our increased sales for these goods prove that we told the truth. Bear in mind we are still the SOLE AGENTS FOR THEM AND GUARANTEE EVERY PAIR.

THE L. M. REYNOLDS LINE OF MEN'S SHOES, sold exclusively by us, are trade-winners. The prices range from \$1.75 to \$3.50, and every pair warranted. If you want the best \$3.00 shoe buy a Reynolds.

CLOTHING.

This has certainly been our banner season in the clothing business, and if there are any of the men or boys in the county who have not bought a suit, it has not been our fault; but fearing there still may be a few unprovided, we are keeping up our stock by telegraphing orders for shipment by express.

If you need an overcoat see us before buying, as we have some great values.

In our Hat and Furnishing Goods Department will be found some values that compare favorably with the balance of our stock.

This announcement would not be complete without a word about our

GROCERY STOCK.

This department is up to the usual standard, and that is saying about all that is necessary for it. Our MILLBURNE FLOUR, of which we believe there is more sold in this county than other brand, is pronounced by those who use it, unsurpassed.

O'Donnell & Co.