

**THE WAR IN AFRICA.**

**NO SPEEDY END OF WAR EXPECTED.**

London, March 4, 4 10 a. m.—It is evident that a strict censorship is being exercised over the news at the seat of war, as the night has not added anything to the scanty dispatches received during the day, most of which referred to matters preceding the recent stirring events.

London, March 3.—President Kruger is said to have left Pretoria with the intention of meeting President Steyn. The place where they will meet is not mentioned, but it is believed to be somewhere in the Orange Free State. Those in South Africa who are conversant with the effect the recent reverses have had on the Boers express the opinion that the meeting of the two presidents is preliminary to a suggestion of negotiations for peace.

But the closest observers do not anticipate any sudden cessation of hostilities and, certainly, the reports from the theatre of war do not tend to encourage the advocates of immediate peace. The Boers are apparently rallying with their accustomed ability to repair a temporary reverse, and Great Britain has yet to test their force as a defensive power under the new conditions of warfare.

**SPENCER WILKINSON ON THE WAR SITUATION**

London, March 4.—Spencer Wilkinson, reviewing the situation in South Africa for The Associated Press, at midnight tonight says: "Gen Buller seems to have been surprised to find that he had beaten the Boers on Tuesday. Nothing is commoner in war than for an army, after hard fighting, to be doubtful of the extent of its success. Few generals learn, as Grant did in his first command, that the enemy was as much frightened of me as I was of him."

"The question now is as to the future course of events. There cannot be much doubt as to the issue provided no foreign powers or power interfere.

"Lord Roberts can either order Gen Buller with the 40,000 men of the Jointed Natal army to advance on Pretoria, while he himself moves by Bloemfontein and the Free State railway, or he can bring round most of Buller's force to reinforce his own army. In either case the Boers strategists will have a hard task to make a promising plan of campaign.

"The best Boer plan is, perhaps, to leave the rear guard to cover the passes from Natal and to concentrate all the rest of their forces to resist Lord Roberts. In this way they might in a week from now meet Lord Roberts, with, perhaps, equal numbers, but Roberts will be reinforced from week to week, while the Boers cannot be for the moment.

"The position seems to be that there are six thousand or seven thousand Boers within striking distance of Roberts at Ofontein. If this is the case he will either disperse or capture the small Boer force unless it retreats rapidly until reinforced.

"Lord Roberts will probably contrive to push forward a small force on the Mafeking line and raise the siege while he is drawing the principal Boer army on to himself."

**AT ABRAHAM'S KRAAL.**

London, March 5.—A dispatch to The Times from Ofontein dated March 2, dilates upon the "increasing difficulty of telegraphing as the army advances through the enemy's country."

The correspondent says: "Forage for horses is almost unobtainable on the journey. The whereabouts of the enemy is not exactly known but the mobile commandoes are hovering around our army. We anticipate opposition at Abraham's Kraal, 30 miles east of Paardeberg, where Gen Joubert is reported collecting a force from the whole of the Ladysmith force with the northeastern Free Staters.

**REPORT FROM ROBERTS**

London, March 4, 11.45 p. m.—The war office has received the following dispatch from Lord Roberts, dated Ofontein, Sunday March 4:

"Gen Cronje, on behalf of his party and Commandant Wolmarans, on behalf of 4,000 other prisoners, who have all now left Modder river asked the British officers to thank me for the consideration and kindness with which they have been treated.

"Gen Clements reports that his advanced troops hold Achtertang and that railway communication would be opened to Joubert's siding today. The enemy is still in force at Norval's Point bridge.

"Gen Gatacre telegraphs that the number of Boers at Stormberg is daily diminishing.

"Col Baden Powell reports that all was well at Mafeking on Feb 15, and that the enemy's activity was being met everywhere by equal activity on the part of the defenders.

"The position is unchanged at Ofontein, except that frequent heavy showers have materially improved grazing, to the benefit of the horses and transport animals."

**FIGHTING AT LABURCHAGNE'S NEK.**

Dordrecht, Cape Colony, Sunday, March 4, 9 a. m.—Gen Brabant's colonial division, after a night's march, is now attacking the Boers in a strong position at La Burchagne's Nek, on the road from Dordrecht to Jamestown.

Later—The engagement is proceeding with great vigor and the Boers are gradually retiring before the British shell fire from three positions.

A heavy rifle fire is being exchanged where the British are engaging the Boers on the right flank.

So far the Boers have had no big guns in action.

Evening—Gen Brabant's advance today was most satisfactory. After marching and bivouacking over night, the force reached the strong entrenched positions which occupied and now hold the Boers being on the opposite hill.

The British will remain tonight in the captured positions although the Boers brought two guns into action and made determined efforts to retake them.

The British losses are 6 killed and 18 wounded.

**ENGLAND MAY ACQUIRE A PORT**

London, March 5.—The Standard says: "We believe that negotiations for England's acquisition of a port in Portuguese, East Africa, giving easy access to Rhodesia, are on foot and are likely to succeed in view of the turn the war has taken."

**BOERS MAKE REPORT.**

Bloemfontein, Orange Free State, Friday, March 2, via Lorenzo Marques, March 3.—The federals have resolved to abandon the territory around Rensburg and the retreat has been effected under the protection of mounted burghers.

It is officially announced that on Feb 27 Gen Cronje, with from 2,000 to 3,000 men, surrendered, owing to the scarcity of food and ammunition.

The president (Kruger?) is issuing a stirring address to the burghers in Natal, who are falling back on Biggarsberg.

The president will return to Pretoria Sunday.

**ARMY OF THE TRANSVAAL**

Berlin, March 4.—The Post asserts, on the authority of a private letter from the Transvaal received at Hamburg, that the Boer republic on Jan 15 had issued altogether 46,000 identification cards to Boers in the field.

The writer of the letter claims that these figures represented the total federal forces at that time.

**FRENCH FINDS ENEMY IN FORCE**

London, March 5.—The Morning Post has the following dispatch from Ofontein, dated March 3:

"Gen French made a reconnaissance today and encountered the enemy in force. They were occupying a table-shaded kopje. Shots were exchanged, a Boer gun replying.

**ATTEMPT TO CUT OFF BOERS.**

Durban, March 4.—Yesterday a number of horses were sent into Zululand with the object of marching a British force through Zululand and intercepting the Boers north of Biggarsberg.

A complete system of heliographic communication is established between Weenen and Ehowe.

**Australian Bushmen Called Out to Hunt Down Boers.**

London, March 6, 4 a. m.—Mafeking is to be relieved as soon as the British force already on the way from Kimberley can raise the siege. This force is described vaguely as "strong." The Kimberley Light Horse is mentioned as a component in view of the fact that the Kimberley Light Horse is under the control of the Debeers company, Lord Roberts' visit to Kimberley probably had to do with the arrangement with Cecil Rhodes to use this company of troops.

Mr Rhodes and Col Kekewich have had differences of policy, it appears, which did not end with the relief of Kimberley. "What shall I do with him?" Col Kekewich is said to have wired to Lord Roberts, who half humorously replied, according to a story circulated at the clubs: "Put him in chains."

Fresh intelligence as to what Lord Roberts is doing has ceased again. This silence is taken to mean that something has happened or is about to happen.

Boer raiders are uncommonly active in the northwestern section of Cape Colony, where they are stirring up the Dutch.

Martial law has consequently been declared.

Mr Chamberlain's request for 2,500 additional Australian bushmen is understood to be explained by the fact that the war office requires this force for the pursuit of irreconcilable Boers who, according to the intelligence department, have been quietly collecting great quantities of ammuni-

tion and stores in the mountain fastnesses of the Zoutpansberg district in the north of the Transvaal, where they are preparing to carry on guerrilla warfare.

The mobilization of a powerful fleet began yesterday evening at Torbay. Fifteen battleships arrived.

A dispatch to the Standard from Ofontein, dated Sunday, March 4, says:

"Lord Roberts' army now occupies a most advantageous position. The Sixth Division, under Gen Kelly Kenn, is posted on the right and holds all the kopjes for a distance of five miles south of the Modder. The Seventh division, under Gen Tucker, is in the centre, immediately south of the river, and Gen Colville, with the Ninth division, is on the north bank. The cavalry brigade, under Gen French, is posted on the left front, and the mounted infantry, under Col Ridley Martyr, on the right front.

"The country around consists of wide, grassy plains, broken only by ridges and isolated kopjes.

"A body of the enemy has taken up a position on one of the latter, a flat topped hill to the north of the river, five miles beyond Gen French, who today took out horse artillery and shelled them. Another force—4,000 strong—holds an isolated group of kopjes south of the Modder and in front of the British mounted infantry. Their position is surrounded on all sides by level plains over which the Boers must make their way in order to reach the river.

"The veldt is now in beautiful condition. Water is plentiful, supplies being obtainable not only from the river but also from numerous small springs. The health and spirits of the troops are excellent. The British cavalry and mounted infantry have been reconnoitering the enemy's positions. There has been little fighting."

A dispatch to the Daily Telegraph from Ofontein, dated Sunday, says: "The Boer front covers 18 miles to the south of Modder river."

**MILITARY LAW DECLARED**

Cape Town, March 5.—Sir Alfred Milner has issued the following proclamation:

"Whereas the enemy's forces have invaded the districts of Prieska, Kenhardt, Britshtown and Barkley West; and, whereas many British subjects have taken up arms, and whereas it is necessary to repel invasion and suppress rebellion, now, therefore, martial law is hereby proclaimed in these districts."

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**BULLER'S CASUALTIES**

London, March 5.—Gen Buller's casualties from Feb 14th to Feb 27, were killed, 72; wounded, 708; missing, 24.

London, March 5.—A special to The Times from Lorenzo Marques, dated Sunday, March 4 says that persistent reports continue to prevail that the Transvaal government has opened negotiations looking to the securing of peace. On the other hand, it is asserted the Boers will make a stand at Glencoe and Laing's Nek and that in the meantime the entrenchments at Pretoria are being extended in anticipation of a siege.

A conference between the Boer presidents, it is asserted, and the general commanding of the Boers in northern Natal was hurriedly arranged on receipt of the news of Gen Cronje's surrender. Until Thursday night official confirmation of the surrender was withheld from the public. President Kruger sent a fervid religious appeal, with orders that it should be read by all the officers of the burghers, urging them to stand fast and strive in the name of the Lord, for unless they had faith in Him, cowardice would set in and their position would be hopeless the moment they turned their backs on the enemy. Their past victories, he declared, showed that the Lord was on their side. The president beseeched the burghers not to bring destruction on their progeny.

Continuing, the special says that a high authority in Bloemfontein declares that in the event of a repulse will retire toward the Transvaal and unite with their brethren there, maintaining the struggle to the last.

The Boer casualties at Colenso during the week ending Feb 25 are reported to be 31 men killed and 130 wounded.

It has been asserted by Gen Wheeler's friends that Gen Otis and his advisers were jealous of Wheeler and contrived to keep him away from fighting ground while fighting was going on. There seems to be some mistake about this view, however. The Memphis Appeal says: "Nor is this the worst. There is not wanting evidence to prove that Gen Otis sought to have Gen Wheeler captured by the insurgents. He was given a handful of men to defend a small town called San Rita, and this place was attacked eleven nights in succession by a vastly superior force and no effort was made by Gen Otis to aid the beleaguered garrison in driving off the insurgents. Had Gen Wheeler been taken prisoner there would have been joy in the Otis camp, where the gallant ex-Confederate cavalryman is hated because of his known fighting qualities." But only think what a chance for "fighting" was thus thrown in his way. He couldn't have had a better.—News and Courier.

**WASHINGTON LETTER**

Washington, March 5.—Two violations of the constitution in a single week is the record of the republican majority in the house—a record that should drive the republican party from power. It does not mitigate the offense against constitutional government that one of these violations should have been an attempt to partially right the wrong committed in the other. A rightful thing wrongly done is often as bad or worse than a wrong. When the republican majority, driven by the party whip, passed the bill levying a 15 per cent duty on the products of Porto Rico for a period of two years, a grievous wrong was inflicted upon the Porto Ricans and the constitution of the United States was violated. Later, when the republicans became alarmed at the vigorous protests from all sections of all the country against the proposed robbery of the helpless Porto Ricans, they again violated the Constitution by doing a thing right in principle in the wrong way, passing a bill placing more than \$2,000,000, already in the Treasury, and all future collections under Dingley duties under Porto Rican products, at the disposal of the President, to be expended under his discretion for the benefit of Porto Rico. It is perfectly right that every dollar of this money should be spent for the benefit of Porto Rico, but, as Representative Bailey so forcibly pointed out, it is everlastingly wrong, to turn over to the discretion of one man money in the Treasury of the U. S., when the Constitution expressly gives the right to dispose of money in the Treasury to Congress, and not to the Executive. But good may come out of evil. These things serve to accentuate in the minds of the people the attitude of the two great political parties towards the Constitution, to make plain that there is only one Constitutional party and that is the democratic party.

Senator Jones, of Arkansas, said of the attitude of the democratic senators toward the Porto Rico bill: "The democrats accept the issues tendered by the republicans. Porto Rico has been annexed to the U. S. It is an integral part of the country. The flag proclaims our sovereignty there, and the Constitution follows the flag. The republican position that we can enact discriminating legislation against the Porto Ricans and Porto Rican products is monstrous. We will fight it before the people from now until the ballots are cast in November."

Senator Stewart, who has been counted as a countenancer if not an actual supporter of imperialism, said in a speech against the Porto Rico tariff: "I don't want any territory in which the constitution does not follow the flag. We cannot discriminate against any section of their own country. If our principles of free government are not broad enough to cover any territory under the flag, then we would bring back the flag."

Instead of avoiding the collision of imperialism and protection, as the republicans who favored it intended, the Porto Rico tariff bill seem likely to precipitate the collision, and the republicans to be called on to say whether the country shall give up the Philippines or the protective tariff. If the supreme court decides, as many believe it will, that all territory owned by the United States is constitutionally speaking, a part of the United States, the choice will have to be speedily made and Senator Foraker has openly said on the floor of the senate, that he would favor giving up the Philippines.

Junkeeting is catching. Secretary Root, accompanied by three members of his family is officially junkeeting in Cuban waters, aboard a government transport; Secretary Long is arranging to take the house naval committee to Newport News, on a government vessel, and there is talk of a congressional junkeeting party to Porto Rico, made up of the joint house and senate committee and their families.

There seems to be trouble ahead for the administration bill providing that the adjutant general of the army shall have the rank of major general. The senate has adopted a resolution, offered by Senator Pettigrew, directing the secretary of war to send to the senate the record of the court martial of Gen Corbin, who was then a lieutenant colonel, during the civil war, and a copy of a report made about the same time by Colonel Thomas J. Morgan, relating to the first colored brigade, and Lieut Col Corbin's relations therewith.

Corbin was court martialled upon the charge of cowardice, one of the specifications being that while under fire he got off his horse and hid behind a tree. He was acquitted, but the record, as well as the report of Col Morgan, is said to contain matter which will cause senators and representatives to do some hard thinking before they vote to make such a man a major general.

The republican leaders of the house are preparing for some sort of a political performance during the present week, as they have issued orders to every republican member to be in his seat every day during the week.

**AS TO CUBA**

**American Visitor Talks for the Press.**

Nashville, Tenn., March 4.—Col Frank M. Gardenshire, prominent citizen of Chattanooga, well known over the State, has just returned from a trip to Habana. Gardenshire in an interview predicts an uprising on the day of the Habana municipal election this month. He says: "In my opinion there will be serious trouble in Habana on the day of election. I have several personal friends in Habana, and this seems to be the impression among them. According to a late regulation promulgated by Gen Wood and other authorities, 60 per cent of the voters will be disfranchised. Under a recent order of qualifications of a voter are that he must be able to read and write and own \$250 worth of property. This rule was advocated by the Spaniards and the more intelligent classes in Habana. The regulation almost shuts out the average run of natives, and many of them declare that if they are not permitted to vote in the election there will be some throat cutting on election day. The people from the outside country are moving into Habana and all want offices. Some of them are fighting for places on the police force, while there are just 12 candidates in the race for mayor.

"The natives seem to hate our soldiers even worse than the Spaniards, but the impression prevails among the officials at Habana that the Cubans will engage in rows among themselves the moment our troops are withdrawn. The Cubans appear to be doing little work. In fact, so far as I could see, the gardening and farm work is being done by Chinamen."

**GEN WILSON'S VIEWS.**

Matanzas, March 4.—Gen James H. Wilson, military governor of the department of Matanzas Santa Clara, in the course of an interview today regarding Cuban affairs, said to the correspondent of the Associated Press: "Trouble is absolutely out of the question. The future depends largely upon agricultural prosperity and where work is plentiful, wages are good and a country is prosperous, no sensible man wishes to alter conditions. If sugar goes to the United States free or nearly so, there will be such an influx of capital and of immigrants as would render Cuba ere long one of the richest and most prosperous places in the world.

"The cattle industry yields enormous profits, particularly as respects working cattle, which can never be replaced by mules, because the peculiar conditions are better adapted to cattle. Coffee, timber and fruit also offer great inducements to capitalists and tobacco planting yields almost immediate returns."

**DESTROYING THE POINT.**

Every one knows the man who is notorious for so telling a story as to destroy its point. An English nobleman, Lord P., was noted for his success in thus ruining the prosperity of a story. The author of "Collections and Recollections" exhibits a specimen of his lordship's peculiar art.

Thirty years ago two large houses were built at Albert Gate, London, the size and cost of which seemed likely to prohibit tenants from hiring them. A wag christened them "Malta and Gibraltar" because they can never be taken.

Lord P. thought this an excellent joke and ran round the town, saying to every friend he met:

"I say, do you know what they call those houses at Albert Gate? They call them Malta and Gibraltar because they can never let them. Isn't it awfully good?"

Some one told Lord P. the old riddle, "Why was the elephant the last animal to get into the ark?" to which the answer is, "Because he had to pack his trunk."

Lord P. asked the riddle of the next friend he met and gave as the answer, "Because he had to pack his portmanteau."

**THE CENTER OF POPULATION.**

"Census experts estimate," says the Chicago Post, "that the center of population will be found next year to be in Indiana, close to the Illinois line, at a point not far removed from the town of Vincennes. The last census showed the population center to be between Columbus, Ind., and Cincinnati. The increase in the population of Georgia, Texas, the Indian Territory, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Arizona during the last ten years has been sufficient, it is thought, to offset any increase in the northwest and to possibly pull the center somewhat to the south of the 1890 parallel. The wealth center is thought to be in the neighborhood of Sandusky, O."

**ANIMAL CRIMINALS.**

A writer in Forest and Stream says that the criminal tendency is manifested to a greater or less extent by all the lower animals, and he has compiled a list of 18 crimes which are commonly committed by birds, beasts or reptiles. The indictment includes murder, paricide, fratricide, suicide, theft, kidnaping, highway robbery, polygamy and drunkenness.

Age is not to be feared. The older a good and healthy person grows the greater becomes his capacity to enjoy the deeper, sweeter and more noble kinds of happiness which the world affords.

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**RAN A RACE WITH DEATH.**

**Narrow Margin by Which a Man on a Railway Bridge Won.**

A high trestle bridge more than a quarter of a mile long, supporting the single track of the Nickel Plate railroad, spans the valley of Grand river, east of Painesville, O. The bridge is little wider than the distance between the rails, and the ties are placed eight or ten inches apart, the space between being open to the river below.

A young man who crossed recently had a thrilling experience on the bridge. He had just passed the center when a fast train rounded the curve behind him. As the engine whistled he quickened his pace. With every step the train was rushing nearer, and there was not a moment to lose.

Once the young man stumbled and seemed about to fall, but quickly regained his balance and hurried on. As he reached the place for which he had started the train was close behind, and he had just time to swing himself over the side of the bridge as the locomotive thundered by. The ends of the ties were slippery with grease from dripping axle boxes, and his foot slipped wide as he left the track. His right hand, stretched blindly out before him, touched a round iron bar, bracing two parts of the bridge, and, with a grip like that of a drowning man, his fingers clasped around it. For a moment he swung in empty air. In another his left hand had found a place beside his right, and his feet touched the welcome edge of a brace below. With bleeding fingers clutching the slender iron bar that vibrated widely from side to side, moments seemed hours.

At last the train passed, and the young man was able to climb slowly to the track above. Unnerved by the trying experience, he lay for a moment stretched across the rails and, then rising to his feet, with blanched face and unsteady limbs, made his way to firm ground.—Cleveland Leader.

**A Dinner in a Seraglio.**

We seated ourselves on cushions, and each took possession of the flat piece of scone which supplied the place of a plate during the meal, those articles not being considered a necessary luxury. In the center of the table stood a large bowl full of white soup, from which everybody ate, taking as many spoonfuls as they chose from the common tureen with the long handled wooden ladles provided for each guest.

When this was removed, a large piece of meat boiled to rags took its place and was speedily diminished under the violent treatment it received from us all, each one pulling a lump of meat from the joint with the fingers and eating it off with her own flat scone. We then had a curry of vegetables, followed by the Zagazig pudding, fruit and rice, called so from a native of that village having brought the recipe to the harem.

Our meal was concluded by coffee, made in a corner of the room over red-hot charcoal in a copper pot and poured thick into small glasses fitted in gold filigree cups. The lady who made this rather disagreeable beverage was the same who had removed the center dishes during dinner. She was black as a coal and bore the delightfully descriptive name, translated to us, of Lily in the Desert.—Good Words.

**Table Talk.**

Rather curiously Roxane in "Cyrano de Bergerac" belongs to the modern type which dates from the days of the Hotel de Rambouillet and has always had its votaries in France. To those precious mere conversation was one betise. They liked declamations; discussion, not on the right of woman to the ballot, but whether she should be held a little higher than the angels or consent to be beloved. This phase of preciosity led up to the French salon, where that hot-house fashion of preparing an intellectual bill of fare for guests found its most acceptable phase.

Mme. Campan, whose advice may be said to have formed a whole generation of charming women, used to prescribe the subject of talk for dinner tables, just as certain coteries of women prescribe it today. This was her system: "With 12 at table, talk voyages and literature; with eight, the fine arts, science, invention; with six, politics or philosophy; with four, sentiment, romantic adventure; with two, talk of yourself; egoism belongs to the tete-a-tete."—Ellen Olney Kirk in Lippincott's.

**A Race With the Sun.**

The London Daily Mail says if an aerial machine were capable of traveling at any rate up to 1,000 miles an hour a traveler in it, starting westward from London at a speed of 660 miles an hour, would arrest the progress of time. If he started at 10 a. m., it would always be to him 10 a. m. So could he find his unending day monotonous, he could reverse his direction and get a quick succession of short days and nights of some six hours' duration, but he could regulate the length by the speed of his machine. Suppose he traveled from London one night at 10 o'clock westward at a speed of 1,000 miles per hour. He would soon experience the sensation of seeing the sun rising in the west where it had set a short time before.

**"The young man who gets cheated,"**

said the corn fed philosopher, "thinks the other fellow wonderfully smart, but the elderly person who goes up against it admits himself to be a fool."—Indianapolis Journal.

**When old bachelors kiss babies,**

the babies don't like it any better than do the old bachelors.—Chicago Record.

**Our sentiments, our thoughts, our words**

lose rectitude on entering certain minds, as sticks plunged into the water look bent.

**After a woman has reached the age**

of 30 she wonders how many years will have passed before she is 31.—Chicago News.