

The Watchman and Southron.

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"Be Just and Fear not—Let all the Ends thou Aims't at, be thy Country's, thy God's and Truth's."

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THE WAR IN AFRICA.

The Boers Concentrating For a Last Stand in Defense of Their Homes.

London, March 7, 4 10 a. m.—Lord Roberts still pauses in the neighborhood of Osonfontein, while stores, magazines and fresh troops stream toward him from the Cape. The British position also continues to improve in the minor spheres of the campaign. Natal is clear of Boers and Cape Colony is nearly so. The Boers seemingly are pursuing the course commended by the strategists and are concentrating to resist the British main army. Various messages from correspondents with Lord Roberts report that the enemy are increasing continually on his front, extending, as one correspondent wires, eight miles, and, as another says, 18 miles. The lowest estimate of their number gives the Boers from 8,000 to 10,000 men, with similar bodies moving north and south of the British lines. Each army is on both sides of the Modder river. Although the Boers have mounted eight guns on the tops of kopjes and appear to be too far away for inspection, the British scouts report that they are diligently using pick and shovel.

Military opinion is that their present position merely screens more easily defended ones deeper in the region. It is suggested that Lord Roberts is quite willing to give the Boers time to assemble all their men in order to deliver a smashing blow effectively.

The round robin in favor of the annexation of the Transvaal and the Free State, which is being promoted among the supporters of the government in the house of commons, continues to receive signatures. The signatures of the memorial to Mr. Balfour affirm that the time has arrived for plain speaking inside and outside the parliament, and that Lord Salisbury's words are being construed into a pledge against annexation and Lord Roberts' proclamation into a promise of no confiscation of Boer property.

The Transvaal agency at Brussels threatens a rising of the Cape Dutch in the event of annexation, though why the Dutch should rise then rather than now is not explained.

DUTCH IN REBELLION

Cape Town, March 6.—Nearly the whole of the Dutch population of the Prieska and Kenhardt districts are in rebellion. Many of the Dutch from neighboring districts are reported to have joined them, notably Piet Moolman who will lead the rebels to Brandles. Lucas Steinkamp, commanding the Boers, is reported marching on Carasvrou. It is believed that Gordina and Victoria West will rise. It is thought that the total number of men in arms will exceed three thousand. The general opinion of loyalists is that a strong force of British will be required as a reverse would spread the rebellion.

400 CASES OF TYPHOID AT LADYSMITH.

London, March 6, 9 05 p. m.—The possession of Stormberg puts Gen Gatacre in railroad communication with Gen Clements at Colesberg, for though the Boers partially wrecked the railroad it is understood that it can be quickly repaired and thus the entrance of additional British troops into the Free State will be greatly facilitated.

The position gained by Gen Brabant at Dordrecht is reported to be exceedingly strong. According to The Times correspondent, the Boer numbers also enable them to retreat from Dordrecht, practically unhindered. He also reports a violation of the white flag by the Boers and that they deliberately fired, at close range, on a stretcher party.

Gen White's garrison has begun to leave Ladysmith and is arriving at the Mool river camp, where the troops will remain several days, after which they will go further south. They are encouraged and exhorted and say the road to Colesberg presents scenes that exceed in horror those depicted in Dante's "Inferno." Dead men and animals are

lying, mutilated and putrified, in the trenches formerly occupied by the Boers and fill the air with a sickening stench. In cases where hurried burial had been attempted the rains have washed the earth away and out of the earth stick ghastly legs and arms of burghers.

A dispatch from Osonfontein says that according to the Boer prisoners another important British success will cause President Steyn to flee to Pretoria, leaving a provisional government at Bloemfontein, which is likely to make peace overtures, those Free Staters not wishing for peace taking into the Transvaal and there being to make a stand which most of the British military critics now point out will constitute the most difficult and deciding feature of the war. Surgeon Treves cables from Ladysmith that the condition of the town is most deplorable and that there are 800 cases of typhoid fever. Lavish supplies of comforts are now in the place, however.

THE BOERS BEATEN AT SEVERAL POINTS.

Osonfontein, March 7.—Lord Roberts' force advanced early this morning. Gen French turned the southern part of the position of the Boers who fled leaving guns, immense quantities of forage and tents. He is now in pursuit.

The Boers on the north bank are also evacuating the position.

London, March 7.—Field Marshal Lord Roberts has telegraphed as follows:

Osonfontein, March 7, 4 30 p. m.—Our operations today promise to be a success. The enemy occupied a position four miles north and 11 miles south of Modder river. I placed Gen Colville's division on the north bank and Gen Kelly Kenny's and Tucker's divisions, with cavalry on the south bank. The cavalry division succeeded in turning the enemy's left flank, opening a road for the Sixth division, which is advancing without having been obliged to fire a shot up to the present time. The enemy are in full retreat towards the north and east. They are being closely followed by cavalry, horse artillery and mounted infantry, while Tucker's Seventh division, Colville's Ninth division and the Guards' brigade under Pole Carew are making their way across the river at Poplar's drift, where I propose to place my headquarters this evening.

Our casualties will, I trust, be few as the enemy were quite unprepared for being attacked by the flank and having their communications with Bloemfontein threatened.

Midnight.—The war office has just posted the following advices from Lord Roberts: "Poplar Grove, Wednesday, March 7, Evening.—We had a very successful day and have completely routed the enemy who are in full retreat.

"The position which they occupied is extremely strong and cunningly arranged with a second line of entrenchments which would have caused us heavy loss had a direct attack been made.

"The turning movement was necessarily wide, owing to the nature of the ground and the cavalry and horse artillery horses are much done up.

"The fighting was practically confined to the cavalry division, which as usual, did exceedingly well, and Gen French reports that the horse artillery batteries did great execution against the enemy.

"Our casualties were about 50. I regret to say that Lieut Keswick was killed and Lieut Bailey was severely wounded, both of the Twelfth Lancers. Lieut De Craspiigny of the Second Life Guards, was severely wounded. Remaining casualties will be telegraphed tomorrow.

Gen Dewet and Delarey commanded the Boer forces."

DUTCH RISING IN CAPE COLONY

London, March 8.—Lord Roberts wired yesterday morning from Osonfontein and again from Poplar Grove, 14 miles eastward. By an application of the elementary principle of strategy the Boer position, 15 miles long across his path, have been emptied and their holders have been obliged to retire in confusion consequent upon hasty withdrawal.

Nothing was done by Lord Roberts to disturb the symmetry, the deadly ingenuity, of the Boer trenches in front of him. He marched out in infantry estimated, from the commands named, at 30,000 men, and sent 10,000 horsemen and horse artillery in a bold sweep around the Boer left, whereupon the Boer centre and right became untenable.

Fifty British fell when the cavalry came into contact with the Boers. The correspondents differ as to the enemy's strength. The Daily Mail's representative thinks the Boer num-

ber something more than 4,000. The Daily News man estimates them at 10,000. As these figures come from observers at headquarters it is clear that Lord Roberts was overwhelmingly superior. He can scarcely have fewer than 45,000 immediately available, as the Guards' brigade reached him from Lord Methuen Tuesday.

Lord Methuen now commands only volunteers and the local forces at Kimberley, some of whom have gone toward Mafeking.

The Boers do not yet appear to appreciate the mobility of Lord Roberts' corps, which was able to strike so swiftly in this affair that the enemy had to abandon a gun, much forage and a large quantity of camp equipment.

The Standard cautions Englishmen against "rising to a height of serene contentment which the actual positions does not justify."

It suggests that a large number of the Boers are still in a wide range of country and although their morale is somewhat damaged, it would be too much to say that they will not stand again.

The Dutch risings in the north-western districts of Cape Colony are the only cloudlets visible in the sky of British prospects.

The military authorities have decided that Gen Cronje and the other Boer prisoners shall be sent immediately to the island of St Helena, there to remain until the end of the war.

Lord Roberts has chosen Lord Bathurst, colonel of a militia regiment at the front, to command the escort to St Helena, which was last month placed in cable communication with Cape Town and London. It is also asserted that the cabinet has resolved neither to propose nor to entertain a proposal at the present juncture for an exchange of prisoners.

BULLER'S LOSSES

London, March 7.—Another list of casualties sustained by Gen Buller's forces from Feb 14 to Feb 27 shows: Killed, 123; wounded, 573; missing, 54. Of these the losses of the Inniskillings were as follows: Killed, 54; wounded, 162; missing, 22. Dublin Fusiliers: Killed, 15; wounded, 97; missing, 18. Connaught Rangers: Killed, 19; wounded, 105; missing, 8. Royal Irish Fusiliers: Killed, 11; wounded, 63; missing, 2. Scots Fusiliers: Killed, 18; wounded, 68.

With the list of casualties issued Monday, this makes the total cost to the rank and file in the final fight of Ladysmith 1,859 men.

BOERS EXPLAIN RETREAT

Boer Camp, Biggarsberg, Saturday, March 3.—The federalis have fallen back on the Biggarsberg chain that crosses Natal south of Dundee. The retreat from Ladysmith was due to the mistake of a certain commandant in ordering his men to retire from the key of the position without any reason for the move.

On the receipt of the bad news from the Modder river Wednesday it was resolved to send the wagons back to Biggarsberg, and soon long strings of wagons lined the roads. Over a thousand wagons took the westerly route to the laager southwest of Ladysmith. Another convoy was sent to the foot of the Drakensberg. A large number of tents captured from the British at Dundee and also the ammunition were abandoned. The chief difficulty was in dismounting "Long Tom."

INDEPENDENT OF RAILROADS.

The Boers were independent of the railroad, as is shown by the fact that not one of their two thousand wagons went by rail. All traveled by road, together with the field batteries. Only heavy guns, the infantry and wounded went by rail.

"When the last train had left Elands-laage, a workmen's train followed, carefully blowing up every bridge and culvert between Ladysmith and Glen oos and when this had been done, setting fire to the Elands-laage collieries. Thus the British with Natal's southernmost collieries in their hands, are unable to draw supplies therefrom.

Under cover of the night and with the collieries sending lurid flames to heaven, the bullock wagons wound over the hills, making roads where none before existed, and the four months' siege of Ladysmith was raised.

It is impossible as yet to give the burgher casualties owing to the disorganization of ambulance and the circumstances of the retreat."

Cape Town, March 7.—An official notification has been issued that the Queenstown proclamation of Feb 22 regarding certain terms offered the rebels by Gen Brabant in event of their surrender, has been withdrawn, but those in arms against England may return to their farms upon surrendering their weapons, receiving a pass, but they are liable to be called to account later.

Driven Back By Lord Roberts on all Points.

London, March 9, 4 15 a. m.—The Boers appear to have made no stand whatever, except that while in retreat they twice repulsed General French's cavalry with rifle fire. The enemy probably got away with their entire force. General French is still following them and keeping between them and Bloemfontein.

The evacuation of the northern districts of Cape Colony is now complete. The British are in possession of the railroad crossings.

Col Baden Powell at Mafeking seems to be in grave need of outside help. Otherwise he would not allow the correspondents to send out information respecting the distress of the garrison.

A readjustment of some of the higher commands is taking place. General White is to go to Stormberg to take supreme command of General Gatacre's division and the British Tenth division, now in process of formation, which will be under the immediate command of General Hunter, Sir George White's chief of staff.

The Daily News makes the following editorial announcement: "It was rumored in London yesterday—and we have some reason for believing the rumor to be correct—that the two republics made informal and unofficial overtures of peace on the preceding day."

Unfortunately the conditions were of such a character as to preclude the possibility of leading to any result. Terms which might have been gladly accepted before the war, in order to avert it, are impossible after the war, with all the sacrifices it has entailed."

WEDNESDAY'S OPERATIONS.

Osonfontein, March 7.—Lord Roberts' movement today again thoroughly surprised, outwitted and outmanoeuvred the Boers, who fled almost without firing a shot. The plan of battle was as follows: General Colville's division extended along the north bank; General Tucker held the centre reserve and the Guards brigade had the centre advanced. General Kelly Kenny's division was ordered to make a huge flanking movement on the Boers left, following General French, who was instructed to move southeast until opposite the Boer flank and then to swing around the rear.

Every movement was admirably executed and entirely successful. The Boers were surprised as was evident from the state of the deserted camps. Twice the British cavalry were almost in a position to charge but they admit that they were foiled by the manoeuvring of the Boers.

"When last seen General French was pursuing the enemy vigorously. He was between them and Bloemfontein, about 11 miles from the right wing.

General Colville merely demonstrated against a high mountain occupied by the Transvaal troops who are now fleeing, in consequence of the flight of the Free Staters south of the river. It is impossible at present to give the Boer numbers, but it is estimated that they reach 14,000, all of whom are now in flight.

The Ninth Lancers attempted to get close to the Boers' right, with the object of charging, but the Boers came out in great force and the Lancers were compelled to retire. A battery was then sent forward to hold the enemy in check, while the Grahams town volunteers and a company of mounted infantry, supported by another battery, engaged the Boers on their right flank.

The Boers fired shell, failing short, however, and they made a stubborn defense on the kopje on our right, enfilading the battery and killing 18 of the battery horses. The mounted infantry gradually repelled the Boers and the battery then took position and expelled them from their laager in confusion.

The Boers held a strong position on the north bank of the river but the flight from the southern bank compelled them to retreat. They showed great adroitness in getting away the wagons and displayed a bold front while the rest of the force was busy in spanning.

General French's division consisted of three brigades of cavalry, two of mounted infantry and seven horse batteries.

PRESIDENT KRUGER'S SPEECH

Pretoria, March 6.—A special dispatch from Bloemfontein says that President Kruger addressing a crowd of people said: "Although God is testing our people, my personal opinion is that the limit of the test is nearly reached. If the people are sustained by faith in the time of adversity God will soon again turn the tide in our favor. If we have strong faith in God he will surely deliver us. The God of deliverance of olden time is the same God now."

The speech of the venerable president brought tears to the eyes of men and women alike. The Free State's volkied (national anthem) was then sung.

Discension in Boer Army Reported.

London, March 10, 4 15 a. m.—Sir Michael Hicks Beach, chancellor of the exchequer, when explaining to the bankers the terms of the new loan, gave them an intimation that the government considered the end of the war near. "Since the estimates were prepared," he said, "events have taken place that have changed the situation, and probably not all the money will be required."

Whatever the government may know or intend, unofficial opinion seems everywhere to think that the Boer power is collapsing.

The Eighth division has been under orders to embark for several weeks, but these orders, so far as the artillery contingent is concerned, have been recalled, Lord Roberts having reported that no more artillery from home is necessary. This is the first pause in reinforcements since the war began. Sir Redvers Buller, second in command in the field, and Lord Wolsley are understood also to consider that no more artillery is needed. Lord Roberts has altogether 452 guns, including siege pieces.

It is quite clear that Gen Buller will not try anything large in the future, as he is to lose Sir Charles Warren and the latter's 10,000 men, who have been ordered to join Lord Roberts. It is the expectation of the war office that Lord Roberts, notwithstanding the necessity of garrisoning his depots, will be able to operate a constantly increasing force, until by the time the Transvaal frontier is reached he will have 70,000 troops.

His telegrams dealing with non-essentials are taken to mean that he is up to some mischief, as his apparent inactivity usually spells uncommon activity.

Mafeking, as a beleaguered town, attracts much sentiment and sympathy. Nothing has been heard from there since Feb 19. There is a rumor this morning that Col Baden Powell has been relieved, but this cannot be traced to any substantial basis.

KRUGER AND STEYN PRESENT.

London, March 9.—The war office has received the following dispatch from Lord Roberts:

"Poplar Grove, Friday Morning.—Presidents Kruger and Steyn were both present at the fight of March 7 and did all in their power to rally their troops. The rout, however, was complete, the men declaring that they could not stand against the British artillery and such a formidable force of cavalry."

Dispatches from Poplar Grove confirm the reports of the complete panic of the Boers. The Morning Post's correspondent says: "President Kruger shed tears at his ineffectual attempts to rally the Boers who were completely paralyzed by Lord Roberts' masterly tactics. They were too demoralized to heed his exhortations and declared that the British cannon were everywhere."

Poplar Grove, O. F. S., Friday Morning, March 9.—Gen French, who is 10 miles ahead, reports that his front is clear of the Boers. All other reports tend to confirm the state of disorganization of the Boer forces, Transvaal as well as Free State. The general impression is that the further progress of the British to Bloemfontein will not be opposed.

A great amount of ammunition was destroyed today. This included several boxes of explosive bullets on the outside of which the Boers had marked "manufactured for the British government."

KRUGER MAY TAKE COMMAND

London, March 9.—The British correspondent of the Daily Mail says: "I learn there is disension between President Kruger and Gen Joubert and that the latter has resigned. Probably President Kruger will assume the chief command. Gen Schalburger and other prominent commandants are also likely to resign for similar reasons and because President Kruger ignored their advice to make peace overtures after the first Boer victory."

THREATS NOT LIKELY TO BE FULFILLED

London, March 10.—A correspondent of the Daily Mail at Lorenzo Marques, telegraphing Thursday,

says: "I am reliably informed that high officials openly avow that the British flag shall never fly at Johannesburg. The place will be razed to the ground and the mines put in readiness to be electrically exploded from the fort as occasion requires."

"Most of the gold mines, except those which the government controls, are in a shocking state. They are flooded and the machinery is rusting and being wilfully smashed."

NO INDEPENDENCE.

London, March 9.—The Standard, which is closer touch with the policy of the government than any other ministerial organ, says this morning: "We have reason to believe that an authoritative statement will shortly be made by the government reaffirming the impossibility of conceding any terms of peace to the Boer republics which would involve a perpetuation of the political and military independence that led to the present costly and sanguinary conflict."

G. A. R. Lynchers.

Fitzgerald, Ga, March 6.—At about 2 o'clock this morning a negro named Bill Clark entered the home of Mrs Sarah Baker, white, aged nearly 70 years, and committed a criminal assault upon her. Mrs Baker came here from Minneapolis, Minn. Nearly all the residents of the town are from the north and northwest. It was several hours before Mrs Baker was able to apprise her neighbors of the outrage. The man was captured and positively identified by his victim. Arrangements were made for a lynching when cooler counsel prevailed for the time and a preliminary examination was held and Clark was ordered committed to jail. While the trial was in progress the lynching spirit arose again and arrangements were made to hang Clark as soon as hands could be laid upon him. Learning of this the officers spirited him away out of a back door. The mob, made up of both northern and southern men, is still looking for him. Should he be found he will be hanged.

McKINLEY EXPLAINS.

Washington, March 6.—The Post tomorrow will say: President McKinley, in a conversation with callers at the White House yesterday, reiterated his belief that the people of Porto Rico were entitled to free trade with the United States. He made it clear that his views had undergone no change since he wrote his message to congress. He still adhered to the sentiment therein expressed. At the same time he said he was unable to subscribe to the theory that the constitution followed the flag; that the Porto Ricans must have free trade as a necessary legal right. When he found that the House deemed it the part of wisdom, the president explained, to impose a small tariff upon condition that the revenues so collected all be returned to the island, he had been constrained to yield to the judgment of the House. The tariff under such condition should be no hardship to the Porto Ricans. Moreover, he believed it advisable, at the earliest moment, to secure a decision of the Supreme Court on the constitutional question involved. Therefore he had given his consent to the nominal tariff and agreed to sign such a bill. He left no doubt in the minds of his callers whom he questioned closely regarding the drift of public sentiment, that Congress, not the Executive, was responsible for the change of policy.

Yorkville, March 5.—Fred Stewart, a negro, shot his wife, Eneine, on a plantation two miles south of here this afternoon. The woman died within a few minutes and the negro made his escape. It was a case of cold blooded murder, so far as all the facts go to show. The sheriff is now trying to catch Stewart with bloodhounds.

Philadelphia, March 7.—A fire entailing an estimated loss of over \$700,000, occurred early today in the retail dry good district. The conflagration originated in the engine room of Steneman Brothers, dry goods, millinery store, at 8th and Arch streets. A general alarm was sounded, but all efforts to save the building were fruitless and it was levelled. The loss is placed at \$300,000. Marks Brothers dry goods, adjoining, was damaged by smoke and water, and their store house was completely gutted entailing an estimated loss of \$300,000. The Steneman building was four stories and Marks' five stories in height.

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