"IT IS THE LAST TIME."

T he Rev. Dr. Talmage Preaches a Timely Sermon.

A despatch from Washington says:—Rev. Dr. Talmage preached from the following text:—"It is the last time."—I. John ii. 18.

John is here enforcing certain truths by the consideration that the people to whom he writes have come to the closing dispensation of the world, and says, "It is the last time."

I am standing in the last Service of the Sabbath of the last month of the year. Four more ringings of the city clock and the year, with all its joys, griefs, and achievements, will be done. It is the last time, and so I shall speak to you of last things.

I. My hearers are coming nearer their last business day. You move in routine. You rise at seven o'clock, breakfast, start for the store, enter your counting-room, read your letters, and give consequent orders. Yet a day is not far distant which may seem to be like all the others, but shall be entirely different. It will have two twilights—that of the morning and that of the evening. There will be a meridian. You will go to business—you will come back. Yet it will be, in the calendar of eternity, as marked a day as though it had no twilight; as though every hour the sky rang a fire-bell; as though faces looked out from the clouds; as though the wind had voices; as though every hour an angel shot past your store door. It will be your last business day. Unknown and unexpected by yourself, you will terminate all your business engagements. You will shut your cash-drawers, will close your portfolio, will slam shut the money safe, will take your hat and go out. Nothing that ever happens in the store can take you back again. Good-bye to the store! Good-bye to all your business friends! It is the last time.

II. I remark that man are coming nearer to their last sinful amusement. A dissipated life soon stops. The machinery of life is so delicate that it will not endure much trifling. As the herdsman throws a peck of corn under the swine's snout to be craunched and devoured, so dissipation is throwing the bodies and souls of men, by the scores, into the maw of death. They think they can stand night carousal; are as well satisfied to retire at one o'clock in the morning as at ten at night; feel as safe in drinking wine as water; walk without compunction with the unclean. But they will soon be through. The time comes, when, with flushed countenances they will turn back from the gaming-table, or come reeling from the midnight debauch, and, wrapping themselves about with sin as a garment, will stagger on, and, striking their foot against the corner of their own tombstone, will fall flat into hell.

III. Again I remark that men are coming nearer to their last Sabbath. The week seems to me like a sted Sea, tossing, tossing; the Sabbath like a path cut through it, where we may walk dry shod. God lifting his hand again above the waters, all our cares and annoyances are whelmed in the flood.

Where did you pass your boyhood Sabbaths? With some of you it was the Scotch Kirk, or the English chapel, or the city church. Somehow ever since then you loved Sunday to come. Its sunrise seems more golden; its noonday more bright; its evening more suggestive; and although you feel, before God, that many of your Sundays have been wasted, you still say, "Sweet, Sabbath!" Messenger from God! Pillow on which to put the aching head! Day fragrant of all sweet memories! How I love thee!"

IV. Again, we come near the last year of our life. The world is at least six thousand years old. Six thousand years may yet come, and the procession may seem interminable, but our own closing earthly year is not far off. Fifteen hundred and forty-six was a memorable year, because in it Luther died. Eighteen hundred and fifty-two was a marked year, because in it Lord Wellington died. Eighteen hundred and fifty-six was a marked year, because in it Hugh Miller died. Eighteen hundred and fifteen was a memorable year, for in it Waterloo was fought. Eighteen hundred and fifty-nine was a memorable year, because in it Solferino was fought. But there will be a more memorable year to us, and that will be the year in which we fight our battle with our last enemy. The spring grass may be cleft of the spade to let us down to our resting-place; or while the summer grain is falling to the sickle, we may be harvested for another world; or, while the autumnal leaves are flying in the November gale, we may fade and fall; or the driving sleet may cut the faces of the black tasseled horses that pull us out in our last ride. But it will be the year in which our body and soul part; the year in which for us, time ends and eternity begins. All other years are as nothing. The year in which you were born, the year in which you were married, the year in which you began business for yourself, the year in which your father died—all of them are of less importance than this last year of your life.

During the past year how many have gone into the next world? About five million five hundred thousand souls. It was their last year. Some of them may have expected it, but the great majority of them, if foretold that this would be their closing year, would have laughed outright and said, "Is not my arm strong? Is not my eye clear? Is not my lung sound? Who can skip, or climb, or lift, or run better than I? The doctor of the 'Life Insurance Company,' pronounced me sound. All my friends congratulate me on my healthy appearance. Begone with your evil prophecy! I shall see my threescore and ten!" Yet those five million five hundred thousand have gone. No more motion in their heart than if it had never pulsated. No more brightness in their eye than if it had always been blind. The earth sails on—a great hearse containing thousands, millions, billions, trillions, quadrillions of the dead. I beat the seconds with my hand! At every stroke a spirit flies. There goes one, another, and another. It was the last time!"

V. Again I remark that we are coming nearer the last moment of our life. But it will be a dark moment if we are unfitted for it. When we get in the last two minutes of our lives, there will be no time left for anything. You might as well try to strike a match and get a light on a ship's deck in the midst of a hurricane as to prepare for eternity when the winds of death are in full blast. It is a poor time to start to get your house insured when the flames are bursting out of all the windows, and it is a poor time to attempt to prepare for death when the realities of eternity are taking hold of us. Fortunately for those who stay behind, the remorse of those who leave the world unprepared is not usually observed. In the exhausted physical condition nothing is especially evident. But I suppose the soul flies around terribly, and tries to hold back, and flutters its wings like a captured eagle, and writhes, and turns, and tries to batter itself loose from its pursuers. If you come to a precipice, and look a thousand feet down, you get dizzy and want to hold fast. How then must the unprepared soul feel when it comes to the brink of this life and looks down—further than a stone could drop in a thousand years, and irresistible forces are pushing it to the verge, and it knows that there is nothing to clutch, nothing to brace itself against! The soul says, "The last minute has come. No time to pray, or to rehearse the past or to cry for mercy. Everything done, and irrevocably done. Here I stand on the dividing line between two worlds. Shall I jump? Which way shall I jump? Shall I fly? Which way shall I fly?

So there are those whose entire life is made up of poverty and misfortune. When success comes it comes too late and they cannot enjoy it. But, glory to God! the path of tears has a terminus. The storm will not blow on for ever. Child of God, you are not far off from the last disappointment and the last groan. The Lamb, which is in the midst of the throne, shall lead you to living fountains of water, and God shall wipe away all tears from your eyes.

To others my subject brings arousal. Just as the Book closes tonight at twelve o'clock, it will be until the archangel wrenches it open. The recording angel is this moment writing the last sentence of the tremendous volume. It is the last time. Holy Spirit, fly away! Angels, cease to hover! Sword of truth, be sheathed! Gate of heaven, clang shut! Done! Done! It is the last last time!"

SEASONABLE STYLES.

The brace of evening bodices in the left column each show as good balance as John Gilpin himself required on his famous ride. There's no Frenchy one-sidedness, but rather due regard for keeping "weights" even; note the black velvet baby ribbon on the lace-trimmed model, and the chenille rosette which evens up the chiffon rosette at the right of the chiffon-bordered decollete example.

From the land of John Bull comes this sable jacket with the ermine yoke, and the lace bow, and the pretty new side part of the hair.

First in the column on the right there's the little box-coat suit in cheviot, trimmed very simply with stitching. It is in deep blue, and is shown with a draped hat in blue velvet and corded green and blue silk.

Next you see a strapped arrangement, with sailor collar in harmonious effect. The costume is of fine brown cloth, with miroir velvet under the slashings, and tiny gilt buttons to hold the straps. The entire hat is formed of folds of the cloth edged with chenille, and it is further embellished with a dull gilt buckle, and a castor plume curved round to the left.

Then comes a charming ruche, which is evidently an adopted and naturalized French child. It is of brown glace silk, and is edged with mink; the finish in front is a cluster of three mink tails at each end, with long ends of accordioned silk edged with the fur.

Very English is the adopted "Empire" coat in biscuit beaver, trimmed solely with appliques of the cloth and enamel buttons. The collar is faced with sable, and the biscuit velvet hat, which is bound with sable, is on "Continental" lines, and is topped off with a pompon-like bunch of ostrich feathers at the left.

THE S. S. LESSON.

INTERNATIONAL LESSON, JAN. 6.

"Jesus Anointed at Bethany." Matt. 26. 1-6. Golden Text. Mark 14. 8.

PRACTICAL NOTES.

Verse 6. When Jesus was in Bethany. During the first visit he had made since his most wonderful miracle. The house of Simon the leper. A man concerning whom we know nothing; Simon was a common name among the Jews. John tells us that the incident we are now about to study occurred in a house where "Martha served" and "Lazarus was one of them that sat at the table with him." The house may have borne the name of a former owner, and the leper may long have been dead, or, as is more pleasing to conjecture, Simon may have been a relative of Lazarus and his sisters and possibly had been cured by Jesus. It would almost seem that this "supper," made in our Lord's honor, was in certain moration of the raising of Lazarus from the dead.

7. There came unto him a woman, Mary the sister of Lazarus. It is hardly to be supposed that Matthew and Mark did not know the name of this woman, which, however, John only gives. Some have supposed that the early spirit of persecution made it necessary for Matthew and Mark to conceal as much as possible facts concerning the family at Bethany. Probably when John wrote, Lazarus, Martha, and Mary were all dead. An alabaster box of very precious ointment. A cruse or flask which derived its name from Alabastron, a town in Egypt, whence the hard and brilliant stalactite known as alabster was brought. The contents of the cruse were evidently liquid perfume, an attar, or fragrant oil. As a great luxury such cruses were sometimes so made that their contents could be poured forth only when they were broken. Dr. Adam Clarke, however, translates a clause of Mark 14.3, "she brake the seal." He reasons that it was customary in ancient Asia to seal such bottles with wax; argues against the likelihood of so precious an article as a carven alabastron being willfully broken by Mary, and suggests that the breaking of it would be apt to hurt both the head of our Lord and the hands of Mary, and that it would be almost impossible to separate the oil from the shattered fragments of the cruse. We presently read that the woman poured the perfume on his head, as he sat at meat. This Dr. Clarke believes she could not have done had she broken the bottle. John tells us that she poured it on his feet also.

8. When his disciples saw it, they had indignation. In John 12. 4 the murmuring is attributed to Judas. But the other disciples, without the base and sordid motives of the traitor, were nevertheless easily swayed in their moral judgment. He was wicked; they were weak. It is startling to note that the word for waste in the Greek is the very word which in John 17. 12, where Judas is characterized by our Lord, is translated perdition.

9. This ointment might have been sold for much, and given to the poor. Mark and John tell us for how much—three hundred denarii—as much as a laboring man would earn in a whole year. John tells us plainly that the proposition to give it to the poor was hypocritical, for Judas was a thief. The measure of a man's beneficence is not to what object he gives, but from what motive. Only a loving heart can properly estimate another heart's expression of love.

10. Why trouble ye the woman? Mark says they were bitterly reproaching her. Her sensitive soul shrank from the imputation of unworthy motive and silly performance. "It troubled Jesus that his friend should be troubled." She hath wrought a good work upon me. "A noble, generous work, not measured by its utility, but by the feeling it expressed." Bengel remarks that most good deeds are either greater or less than the doer thinks; "Here was no waste at all—no waste as regards the poor, for there were abundant opportunities to help them; no waste as regards the disciples, for they could help the poor at any time; no waste as regards the woman, for this deed would be told for a memorial of her; no waste as regards the Lord, for he was pleased to regard it as a burial gift."

11. Ye have the poor always with you. Our Lord Assumes the honesty of the critics; like Judas he uses a word which specifies the unemployed poor who depend on charity; he does not teach that we must always have this forlorn class in society, but simply asserts a painfully obvious fact. Me ye have not always. That is, not in a condition which your gifts can relieve. Dr. Cuyler thus paraphrases the thought; "Ordinary benevolence is to be the habit of our lives, but noble deeds find rare occasions."

12. In that she hath poured this ointment on my body, she did it for my burial. Whether our Lord means that this was Mary's purpose, is not plain. It is not unlikely that her tender love had revealed to her more the future than most of the disciples conjectured, and she may have so understood priestly malice and popular prejudice as to have feared that our Lord's murder would be followed by such public ignominy that the usual funereal honors might be neglected. At our Lord's burial even in the opinion of the disciples such an expenditure as this would not have been too lavish.

13. Wheresoever this Gospel shall be preached in the whole world. That is, everywhere, that all men may learn the lesson of her faith and love. For a memorial. All people long to be remembered, but no memorial for a more delightful cause than this, that she had a heart and an opportunity to do the tenderest of all affectionate duties for her Lord. Every expression of genuine love has its intrinsic value.

14. Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot. The iniquity of his conduct is emphasized by first of all stating his high privilege; he was one of the twelve chosen friends and disciples. "Then" means immediately after the supper at Simon's house; probably, therefore, immediately after the close of the Sabbath. Judas had nearly five days for reflection before the accomplishment of his treason. Went unto the chief priests, who for weeks had been seeking a man who could be bought; Judas now sought for one who would buy him.

15. What will ye give me. Every man has his special weakness; Judas's weakness was love of money. Thirty pieces of silver. The exact sum fixed by the Mosaic law as compensation for the life of a slave. A sordid mind is eager for even little gains, and for a vile price will barter faith and loyalty.

16. From that time he sought opportunity to betray him. Opportunity in the absence of the multitudes.

FIXED.

Judge—Now, my boy, you are on your oath. Do you understand what that means?

Witness—Why-er-I don't jest-er-reckon.

Judge—Do you know what you're expected to tell?

Witness—Oh, yes, the lawyer that brought me here wrote it all down so's I could study it.

STILL ANXIOUS.

Have you fastened the windows, dear? she asked, as they were about to retire for the night.

No! What's the use? I gave you the last dollar I had to buy that new winter hat, and we needn't fear burglars.

But they might sit down on the hat, you know!

A VERY TIGHT CORNER.

British Force Mistook Boers for British.

A despatch from London, says;—The news from South Africa is fragmentary, and adds little to the knowledge of the situation. Gen. Kitchener has left Naauwpoort and gone northward. His destination is unknown.

An unofficial report from Cape Town says that a squadron of Yeomanry who were pursuing the Boers who retired from Britstown, were ambuscaded by the burghers, and that several were killed and wounded and the rest captured. The War Office denies any knowledge of the affair.

There is a report that a British force mistaking 300 Boers at Rooipoort, near Burghersdorp, for Brabant's Horse, withheld their fire, and shortly found themselves in a very tight corner. Their commander extricated them with the loss of one prisoner and one man wounded. The British lost six horses. It is stated that the Boers lost a number of horses, and had several men killed and wounded.

It is reasserted that the Dutch colonists continue to hold themselves aloof from the invaders, and although the presence of the latter in the Cape Colony renders the position serious, confidence is felt in the final result.

Mr. Duplessis, a member of the Afrikander Bond and of the Cape Assembly, has sent a letter to the electors of Cradock expressing sympathy for the Boers, but urging the Dutch colonists to remain calm and quiet, and not to forget that they are British subjects.

Gen. Clements' success against the Boers in the Magaliesburg region is doubtful, the last despatch reporting that "it was considered advisable not to force the Boers from their positions."

The Daily Mail, which makes a strong appeal to the Government to "face the facts and send Lord Kitchener more troops," says:—"There is a real risk in being lulled to sleep by carefully censured messages."

SPARKS FROM THE WIRES

Newsy Items About Ourselves and Our Neighbors—Something of Interest From Every Quarter of the Globe.

CANADA.

Six automobiles have reached Dawson, and will be used on the run to the creeks.

Discoveries of rich quartz mines have been made on Bonanza and elsewhere in the Klondike district.

The proposed addition to the Bank of Montreal in Montreal will cost between $800,000 and $1,000,000.

A life-size bust of Sir George Burton, former Chief Justice of the Court of Appeal, has been presented to the Hamilton Law Association by Hon. J. M. Gibson.

Miss Wilson, matron of the Brockville General Hospital, has received a cheque for $1,000 from a resident of the United States who was a patient at the hospital last summer.

Manager Whyte of the Canadian Pacific states that if the present rate of expenditure is maintained, the road, by the end of 1902, will have a ballasted track—and the only one—across the prairies.

The shareholders of the Nickel-Copper Company of Hamilton have received a message from the Sudbury nickel mine district that one of their mines—the Worthington—has turned out to be a bonanza, and that the ore being taken from it is worth $2,000 per car load in nickel alone, laid down in Hamilton.

The Department of Finance is about to issue a new four-dollar note.

Winnipeg's exhibition dates are fixed for July 29 and Aug. 2.

There are now 104 men employed in the Kingston locomotive works.

Trooper Mulloy, the blind hero of Winchester, has been paid a gratuity of $1,000 from the Patriotic Fund.

All the schools and churches have been closed in Botsford district, New Brunswick, to prevent the spread of smallpox.

Mr. N. E. Frawes, F.G.S., a South African expert, confirms Mr. Blue's theory that diamonds may be found in Northern Ontario.

Employes of Griffin's pork packing establishment at Winnipeg killed 750 pigs in 8 hours and 15 minutes, a record for Western Canada.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Twenty-two fishermen have been drowned from Shetland boats.

Russian railways are purchasing large quantities of Cardiff coal.

The Cheque Bank of London, England, is going into voluntary liquidation.

Lord Edward Cecil is credited with the intention of writing a book on the siege of Mafeking.

Lord William George Armstrong, inventor of the Armstrong gun and a writer upon electrical and scientific topics, is dead.

The Canadian exhibits at Paris have been shipped to Glasgow, where they will occupy 25,000 square feet of space at the May Exhibition.

UNITED STATES.

Grand Rapids, Mich, offers Kruger the freedom of the city.

R. H. Ingram, treasurer of the Central Vermont Railway, will be secretary for President Hays, of the Southern Pacific.

Owing to the epidemic of highway robbery in Toledo, Ohio, women as well as men are arming themselves with revolvers.

Miss Mary Mahoney, of Chicago, has a new scalp, 4,500 pieces of skin having been grafted on the top of her head in the Chicago hospital.

J. L. Donough, a private soldier, attacked and wounded a sergeant and four privates with a bayonet while frenzied with liquor at Washington on Tuesday.

A race war is in progress at Cementville, Indiana, and serious trouble is expected. The negroes are armed, and the whites are keeping within doors to avoid them.

An Indian outbreak is threatened in Sitka, Alaska.

The Cramps will build a cruiser for the Sultan of Turkey.

The Philadelphia & Reading Railway Company will re-equip its road with new cars and locomotives at a cost of $22,000,000.

Mrs. Lulu C. Jenkins, now of Chicago, has just been awarded $4,000 for the lynching of her husband in Ripley County, Ind., three years ago.

John B. Lynch, a well-known Chicago man is dangerously ill with a sore throat and tongue, the result of over-indulgence in tobacco, he having smoked over 60 cigars a day for years.

Joseph and Jacob Davidson, two brothers, killed Henry Fox and wounded Joseph Platt, a bystander, in a shooting affray at Carbondale, Ill., and after a running fight with a posse were both wounded and captured.

Judge Baker of Indianapolis, in commenting upon the increase of lynching before a jury, said that in view of this state of affairs the old legal precept might be reconstructed to read; "Better that 99 innocent be found guilty than one guilty man escape."

GENERAL.

The Czar is entirely well.

Edmund Barton will be the first Premier of Australia.

The steamer Mariposa, from Sydney for San Francisco, has 200,000 sovereigns on board.

Governor McCallum of Newfoundland is forming a volunteer force of rifles to number 600 men.

The Albanian peasant rising in Turkey is spreading and the Sultan has directed that no quarter shall be given.

Since the appearance of the bubonic plague in 1898, 25,000 deaths from the disease have occurred in the Mysore State, India.

The Government of New Zealand will send drafts to fill vacancies in its contingent in South Africa, and an additional force of mounted men.

The Cape-to-Cairo telegraph line is now in operation to a point 50 miles north of Katanga, which is 1,300 miles from the Cape, and 100 miles beyond the southern line of Lake Tanganyika. By the terms of the contract of 1899 the line must be finished within five years of that date.

WOODEN MATCHES.

Sweden and Norway export 2,000 tons of wooden matches a year.

MARKETS OF THE WORLD

Prices of Cattle, Cheese, Grain, &c in the Leading Markets.

BREADSTUFFS, ETC.

Toronto, Dec. 31.—Wheat—The local market was very slow again to-day. Quotations are as follows:—Red winter, 63 1-2c, and white, 63 1-2c, middle freights; spring wheat, east, 66c; Manitoba, No. 1 hard, old, g.t., 92 1-2c; No. 2, at 87c; No. 1 hard, North Bay, 91c.

Millfeed—Scarce; ton lots, at the mill door, sell as follows:—Bran, $12 to $12.50; and shorts at $14 to $14.50, west.

Corn—Easy; No. 1 American, yellow, 45c, on track here, and mixed at 44 1-2c.

Peas—Steady; No. 2 sold, middle freights, at 61 1-2c; and east at 62c.

Barley—Very dull at present; No. 2 east, 41c; and middle freights, 40c; No. 3 extra, 39 1-2c, east; and 38 1-2c, middle freights.

Rye—Easy. New rye, 46c, west; and 47c, east.

Buckwheat—About steady. Car lots, west, are quoted at 49c; and east at 50c.

Oats—In fair demand; No. 1 white, east, 27c; No. 2 white, north and west, 26c.

Flour—Dull. Holders ask $2.65 for 90 per cent. patents, in buyers' bags, middle freights, and exporters bid $2.55. Special brands sell locally from 10 to 20c above these figures.

PRODUCE.

Toronto, Dec. 31.—Eggs—Trade fair, mostly in cold stored. Prices are as follows:—New laid, 26 to 28c; cold stored, 18c; limed, 15 to 16c.

Poultry—Receipts to-day were large, consisting of stock held by country storekeepers over Christmas. Quality was not up to the mark, and demand was slow; Turkeys sold at 7 1-2 to 8 1-2c; geese, at 6 to 7c; chickens, at 30 to 35c; and ducks, at 40 to 70c.

Potatoes—Firm. Car lots, on track here, 32c. Sales, out of store, are made at 40 to 45c.

Field produce, etc.—Turnips, out of store, 30c per bag; onions, 60c per bag; carrots, 40c per bag; apples, per bbl., 40c to $1; sweet potatoes, per bbl, $2.50.

Dried fruits—Dried apples sell at $1-2 to 4c; and evaporated at 5 to 5 1-2c.

Beans—Ordinary white beans bring $1.20 to $1.25; choice hand-picked beans are quoted at $1.40 to $1.45.

Honey—Firm. Dealers quote from 9 1-2 to 10c per lb for 5, 10, or 60-lb tins, according to the size of the order. Comb honey sells at $2.40 to $2.75 per dozen sections.

Baled hay.—Firm. Choice timothy, on track, $10.75. Two-ton lots, delivered, $11.

Straw—Scarce. Car lots of straw, on track, here, $7.

DRESSED HOGS AND PROVISIONS.

Toronto, Dec. 31.—Dressed hogs on the street to-day were unchanged at $7.40 to $7.75. Car lots, on track here, were quoted firm at $7.10 bid for mixed lots. Provisions continue in good demand at firm prices.

Quotations for provisions are as follows:—Dry salted shoulders, 8c; long clear bacon, loose, in car lots, 10c; and in case lots, 10 1-4 to 10 1-2c; short cut pork, $19.50 to $20; heavy mess, $17.50 to $18.

Smoked meats—Hams, heavy, 12c, medium, 12 1-2 to 13 1-2c; light, 13 1-2c; breakfast bacon, 13 to 13 1-2c; picnic hams, 10c; roll bacon, 11c; smoked backs, 13c. All meats out of pickle 1c less than prices quoted for smoked meats.

Lard—Tierces, 10c; tubs, 10 to 10 1-4c; pails, 10 1-4 to 10 1-2c.

Chicago, Dec. 31.—December corn closed 1c lower, January a shade higher, and May unchanged. Oats closed unchanged. Provisions at the close were 2 1-2 to 7 1-2c lower.

Minneapolis, Dec. 31.—Wheat Cash 72 1-2c; May, 73 3-4c; July, 75c. On track, No. 1 hard, 74 1-4c; No. 1 Northern, 72 1-4c; No. 2 Northern, 68 3-4 to 69 1-4c. Flour—First patents, $4; second patents, $3.90; first clears, $2.80 to $2.90; second clears, $1.90 to $2. Bran higher; in bulk, $11.75 to $12.

Duluth, Dec. 31.—Wheat—Cash, hard, 72 7-8c; No. 1 Northern, 70 7-8c; No. 2 Northern, 61 1-2 to 66 1-2c; No. 3 spring, 52 1-2 to 59 1-2c; to arrive, No. 1 hard, 73 1-2c; No. 1 Northern, 71 1-2c; December, 70 7-8c; May, 75c. Corn—33 1-2c. Oats—24 3-4 to 24 1-2c.

Buffalo, Dec. 31.—Flour — Dull. Wheat—Spring, No. 1 hard, carloads, old, 83 3-4c; No. 1 Northern, old, carloads, 80 3-4c; winter, no offerings of spot; No. 2 red closing steady; No. 2 red, 77c; mixed, 76c; No. 1 white, 75c bid, on track. Corn—Easier; No. 2 yellow, 41c. No. 3 do, 40 3-4c; No. 2 corn, 40 1-4 to 40 1-2c; No. 3 do, 40c.

THE YEOMANRY RELEASED.

Boer Commandant Abandons His Maxims and Carts.

A despatch from London says:—The Evening Standard says it understands that the squadron of Yeomanry which was entrapped and captured by the Boers, whom they were following from Britstown, was relieved after the men had been relieved of their horses and other equipment. Ten of the Yeomanry, the paper adds, were wounded.

Lord Kitchener cables the War Office:—

"The Boers eastern column in Cape Colony has been apparently headed by our troops about Reitport spruit, and driven in the direction of Venterstadt. The Boers' western column is reported to have gone north in two portions, one towards Prieska and the other through Strydenburg. They are being followed up."

It would appear from Lord Kitchener's despatches that all the Boer commandoes are being driven toward the Orange river border.

A despatch from Burghersdorp states that Colonel Grenfell continues in touch with Kruitzinger's commando of 700 men, who are carrying off the British prisoners. Kruitzinger has abandoned his Maxims and carts. An attempt of the 9th Lancers to turn Kruitzinger's flank at Plaisterheuvel resulted in eight casualties among the Lancers, including Lord Frederick Blackwood, son of the Marquis of Dufferin, who was wounded.

COLVILLE REMOVED.

The British War Office Begins Reform of the Army.

A despatch from London says:—The War Office has begun the promised reform of the army in a sensational manner. It has demanded the resignation of Major-General Sir Henry Colville, commanding an infantry brigade at Gibraltar, and recently commanding the 9th division of the South African field force. Gen. Colville refuses to resign, and he is now on his way to England. The news is all the more startling as the question of Gen. Colville's responsibility for the Yeomanry disaster at Lindley, last May, was fully investigated by the authorities when Gen. Colville returned from South Africa last summer. After the enquiry, Gen. Colville was reinstated in his command at Gibraltar in September last.

The attitude of the War Office indicates that the new regime in Pall Mall will reverse the decision of Lord Lansdowne and Lord Wolseley in regard to some of the recent commanders in South Africa. Gen. Colville, like Gen. Methuen, has always been a great social personage in London, and a prominent club man. He has had a most distinguished military career, has been repeatedly mentioned in despatches, and is familiarly known as "Odgers." He is also a well-known author, and on the occasion of his marriage created a stir by going on his honeymoon in a balloon.

MUST NOW SURRENDER.

The Boer Falders Defeated With Great Loss.

A despatch from Naauwpoort says:—Gen. Delisle has severely defeated Hertzog's commando eighteen miles west of De Aar, and has driven them towards Prieska. He captured a number of waggons, and released the Cape police who were captured at Philipstown.

Gen. Grenfell has turned back Kritzinger's commando toward Venterstad.

Both sections of the raiders are in a desperate plight, and it is probable that they will never be able to return to the Orange River Colonies.

They have received little accession in strength from colonial Dutch. The invasion will probably be a complete failure. It is held here that the rapid movement of British forces, which has brought about this result, reflects the greatest credit on the army.

OUT OF FIGHTING ZONE.

All British officers Must Remove Their Families.

A despatch from Cape Town, says:—Gen. Kitchener is informing the officers who brought their families and and established homes in the Orange River and Vaal River Colonies that they are still in active service, and that their families must not be stationed within the fighting zone.

HELD UP A TRAIN.

Reinforcements Arrived and the Boers Were Driven Off.

A despatch from London, says:—Lord Kitchener telegraphs that the Boers held up a train three miles west of Pan station, below Kimberley, on Wednesday. Reinforcements arrived and the Boers were driven off. They lost one killed and seven wounded. Our loss was one killed and four wounded.

FALSEHOODS FROM PULPIT.

How the Burghers are Deceived by Their Advisers.

A despatch from Pretoria, says:—Sunday four troopers who were severely wounded in the course of Gen. French's march to Machadodorp, and have since been prisoners in the hands of the Boers, were sent from Ermelo to Grobelaar's farm, three miles distant, where they were met and brought into camp on an ambulance. The men state that they were well treated. Dr. Everard, who accompanied them, reports that food is very scarce at Ermelo. All the flour, sugar, and coffee is finished, and the supplies consist of meat and mealies. The residents are kept utterly in the dark as to what takes place outside Ermelo. The Dutch minister last Sunday informed them from the pulpit that Queen Victoria was dead, that De Wet had crossed into Cape Colony and was carrying everything before him, and that Mr. Kruger was returning from Europe, having arranged intervention. Gen. Louis Botha with his staff paid them a visit a few days ago, and seemed inclined to advocate peace.

HORRIBLE BRUTALITY.

Greek Church Set on Fire and Worshipers Burned to Death.

A despatch from New York, says:—A telegram from Salonica says a body of Bashi-Bazouks surrounded a Greek church in Albani and after smashing the windows set fire to the edifice. When the worshippers tried to escape they were driven back into the flames, and twenty were burned to death. Many of the Christians were wounded by stones and knives.

DISAFFECTED DISTRICTS.

Lord Kitchener Pouring in Thousands of Troops.

A despatch from London, Wednesday, says;—Lord Kitchener is in the heart of the disaffected districts, and has the advantage of being personally acquainted with local conditions. Last March he supervised the suppression of the rising which occurred then. He is bringing down thousands of troops from the north.

The Standard's Cape Town correspondent says the loyalists demand that martial law shall be proclaimed throughout Cape Colony, but adds;—"Such a step is now impossible owing to the lack of sufficient troops to enforce it."

Civil railway traffic has been suspended largely in all parts of the colony, and movements of both Boers and British are almost unknown in Cape Town. It appears that one Boer column attacked Steynsburg, but was repulsed, and fled from entrenching in the mountains.

Another Boer commando captured a party of police at Venterstad. Mounted colonial troops surprised 300 Boers, 15 miles from Burghersdorp December 23, and after a brisk interchange of volleys, retired with a loss of two men.

The Cape Town correspondent of the Times telegraphs that scarcely any Cape colonists have joined the invaders.