METHUEN WAS FOILED.

British Fail to Drive the Boers From Their Position at Magersfontein.

Methuen's Soldiers Retired to Original Position at Modder River—The Boer Loss Was Terrible—Gen. Wauchope, Commander of the Highland Brigade, Among the Killed—Fine Work of British Artillery.

A despatch from London says:—The following despatch was received on Wednesday from Gen. Methuen to the War Office, dated Tuesday Dec. 12:—

"Our artillery shelled a very strong position held by the enemy in a long, high kopje, from 4 until dusk Sunday. It rained hard last night.

"The Highland Brigade attacked at daybreak on Monday the south end of the kopje. The attack was properly timed, but failed.

"The Guards were ordered to protect the Highlanders' right and rear.

"The cavalry and mounted infantry, with a howitzer artillery battery, attacked the enemy on the left, and the Guards on the right, supported by field artillery.

"They shelled the position from daybreak, and at 1.15 I sent the Gordons to support the Highland Brigade.

"The troops held their own in front of the enemy's entrenchments until dusk, the position extending, including the kopje, from a distance of six miles towards the Modder River.

"To-day am holding my position and entrenching myself.

"I had to face at least 12,000 men. Our loss was great.

"Gen. Wauchope, in command of the Highland Brigade, was killed."

This despatch was received by the War Office later from Gen. Methuen:

"Modder River, Dec. 12, 7.30 p.m.—As the Boers occupied the trenches strongly this morning, I retreated in perfect order here, where I am in security.

"I gather from prisoners and from Boers speaking to ambulance men that their losses were terrible, some corps being quite wiped out.

"They have been most kind to my wounded."

HIGHLANDERS MOWN DOWN.

The London Daily News' correspondent with Gen. Methuen cables:—

"After shelling the Boers all day Sunday with our howitzers and naval guns, the whole force, with the exception of those left to guard the camp, moved forward.

"The attack was opened at 3.20 Monday morning by the Highland brigade. In front were the Seaforths, Argylls, and the Black Watch, with the Gordons and the Highland Light Infantry in support. The men marched in quarter column formation.

"The Highlanders had reached to within 200 yards of the Boer trenches when a leadly fire was opened on the front and the right flank.

"Here about 200 men were mown down, and those leading were forced to retire.

"The supports were then brought up, but they also failed to carry the kopje, and the right flank was thus in serious jeopardy.

"The guns, however, dashed to the rescue, and, protected by their fire, our shattered force was able to retire.

"The 4.7-inch naval gun opened on the enemy at 6 a.m. When our right flank was threatened, two squadrons of the 12th Lancers were dismounted and skirmished through the bushy country, clearing and holding it until the afternoon.

"Our terrific artillery fire provoked no response, except from the enemy's rifles.

"All efforts to carry the position having failed, the action at midday sank into a desultory artillery fire, with the exception of some sharp skirmishing on the right flank.

"At 3.45 the Highlanders formed up to renew the attack on the trenched kopje, but the Boers, who had made no use of their artillery during the whole day, now opened on them with a heavy shrapnel fire. The brigade was immediately forced to retire again and the fight between the guns continued until dark.

"The losses on both sides were very severe. Many Boers were killed in the trenches and wire entanglements."

The entanglements mentioned in the foregoing are probably explained by the fact mentioned in another press despatch that the Boers came upon open ground on the British front for the purpose of attacking the British flank, but were arrested by the Guards and the artillery.

THREE TO ONE.

The special correspondent of the London Daily Mail at Modder river, describing the fighting, says:—

"The Boer trenches extended far beyond the kopje, into the open plain. Those on the plain were hidden by screens of leaves. Those near the kopje were guarded by a double line of barbed wire. Evidently they fear our storming and bayonet attack.

"We raked the kopje and trenches with an intense well-directed fire of thirty guns, including a naval gun and a howitzer battery, both using lyddite. It is believed they effected heavy damage.

"The Boer prisoners report that one lyddite shell fell among forty men, only five of whom escaped unhurt. Other shells burst in the enemy's laager, causing its complete destruction.

"The Boers are in still larger force than we found them at Modder river, outnumbering us by almost three to one. The Transvaalers are apparently dominating in their military councils, although in a minority."

GEN. WAUCHOPE KILLED.

A despatch from London says:—The War Office has received the following despatch from General Forestier-Walker:—"Cape Town, Tuesday, Dec. 12.—Methuen wires that General Wauchope was killed in action yesterday."

General Wauchope, of the Black Watch, was in command of the Highland brigade with General Methuen's column. He was a great favorite in the army, and his death is much deplored. General Wauchope's wife was among the enquirers at the War Office a few minutes before the telegram announcing his death was posted.

ANOTHER ARMY FOR BULLER.

A despatch from London, Friday, says:—The most serious fact of the moment from the British point of view is the undoubted great Dutch disaffection in Cape Colony, not only on the borders, but in the south as far as King William's Town, and elsewhere in the neighbourhood of East London. The critics are impressed by what this portends, and demand that more troops be sent to South Africa.

The Morning Post's critic, whose identity is to-day revealed, he being Henry Spenser Wilkinson, for many years a volunteer officer, treats of the outlook with great gravity, and raises the question of the desirability of placing in commission all the ships of the navy without delay.

There is no indication of the origin of the report that Ladysmith had been relieved, nor is there the least confirmation of it. There is eager, even painful anxiety, for news from Gen. Buller, whose advance is widely believed to have begun Thursday. "When it begins," says one critic, "the fate of the Empire will be centred in his camp."

The Government's announcement that a seventh army division will be mobilized is everywhere welcomed. It will consist of about 13,000 men. It is understood that preparations have already begun to mobilize an eighth division, comprising 16 regiments of infantry and three of cavalry. This will necessitate the summoning of all the remaining services of the regular army.

THE SEVENTH MOBILIZED.

The War Office Thursday evening made the following announcement:—"The sixth division has been mobilized, and four battalions of this division will have embarked by Sunday. The Government has also approved of the immediate mobilization of the seventh division."

WAR OFFICE SCENES.

The scenes at the War Office on Thursday when Gen. Methuen's casualties were posted, were highly dramatic. There was a steady incursion of anxious enquirers from the moment the doors opened, and there was intense excitement when an official appeared bearing the ominously long lists of names. The women present crowded eagerly forward and begged for copies of the lists. The supply was not sufficient, so the official read out the lists. Intense feeling was evident on all the faces, and the pitiable anguish of the bereaved was extreme. It was a memorable scene. Some of the women were so overcome that they had to be assisted from the room.

HER MAJESTY'S SORROW.

A despatch from London says:—The Royal Household is intensely anxious over the mental suffering which the Queen endures anent the repulses to the British arms in South Africa and the loss of life in the regiments. Her Majesty is continually sending to the War Office for the minutest information concerning the state of affairs, and when she receives the information breaks down under the weight of her sorrow. It is asserted that frequently when engaged in correspondence or other business the Queen suddenly bursts into tears and talks of the sufferings endured not only by the soldiers, but by their relatives at home, and even the Boers are said to be included in her sympathies.

Her Majesty has sent a message of deep sympathy to the widow of Gen. Wauchope.

PICKING OFF OFFICERS.

According to the Boer stories at Magersfontein, it was impossible for the burghers to escape fearful loss. One Boer prisoner said a single lyddite shell killed or wounded over 70 Boers, and that two other shells burst over two bodies of Boers ensconed behind the range, doing fearful damage.

All agree that the Boers fought throughout with the utmost gallantry. Their sharpshooters seldom missed the mark.

A Seaforth Highlander says that while he was lying wounded on the field he saw a Boer, of typical German appearance, faultlessly dressed, with polished top boots, a shirt with silk ruffles, and a cigar, in his mouth walking among the anthills picking off the British. This Boer was quite alone, and it was apparent from his frequent use of field glasses that he was singling out officers.

Another wounded Boer says that a lyddite shell fired on Sunday fell in the middle of an open-air prayer meeting held to offer supplications for the success of the Boer arms.

All the wounded are full of praise for the treatment they received from the medical department on the battlefield.

STORMING OF GUN HILL.

The London Standard's Ladysmith correspondent tells a graphic story of the storming of Gun hill. After describing the ascent of the hill and the flight of the Boers in fear of the British bayonets, which were not there, he says: "There was a hurried search for the big guns. For a moment the horrible thought seized us that there might be no guns at all; that the enemy, as had so often been the case, had somehow got wind of the projected attack and removed their cannon to a safe distance; but at last, to the delight of everybody, the 'Long Tom' itself was discovered snugly ensconced behind a parapet of sand bags 31 feet thick. A 4.7-inch howitzer was found in an emplacement hardly less strong, with a Maxim gun between the two, posted apparently for the purpose of repelling such an assault as the one we had actually delivered.

"Lieut. Turner, with two sappers and six artillerymen, at once took charge of the Long Tom,' and with crowbars and hammers smashed the breech and elevating gear. Two charges of gun-cotton were then placed in the breech and muzzle and connected with fuses. While the 'Long Tom' was thus being provided for, similar attention was bestowed on the howitzer by Captain Fowke and other sappers and gunners.

"The preparations being completed, General Hunter ordered the men down the hill. The fuses were lit with the burning ends of officers' cigars. Everybody fell back with the exception of Captain Fowke, who remained midway between the two big guns, and after a couple of minutes of suspense a loud report showed that our object had been accomplished.

"Capt. Fowke hastened to examine the debris. He found the six-inch gun with two gaping holes in the muzzle which was badly bulged, and that the breech rifling had been destroyed beyond all chance of repair. The howitzer was in even a worse plight, the explosion having wrecked the carriage as well as the gun. The Maxim was seized and carried off.

"The men returned to camp across the plain unmolested.

"Other trophies of the sortie were an English song book that was found in a cave underneath the parapet, where the gunner evidently took refuge, and a private letter, in which it was said that the burghers were not a bit frightened."

MESSAGE OF SYMPATHY.

A special cable from London, says the Princess of Wales, through the columns of a woman's weekly newspaper, sends a message of sympathy to the women of England. The Princess' words are:—"My heart bleeds for the poor widows and fatherless whose loved ones have met glorious death in fighting for their Queen and country. May God help and comfort them in their saddened Christmas, and give them that peace which passeth understanding. Alexandra, Princess of Wales."

TO DESTROY THE BRIDGES.

The London Daily Telegraph's Pietermaritzburg correspondent says that the Government has been informed that a force of Boers is advancing towards Weenen, from Ladysmith, with the object of destroying the bridges over the Mooi river. The Government notified General Buller, who has sent out reconnoitrers.

MR. KNIGHT LOSES HIS ARM.

A despatch from London says:—Mr. E. F. Knight, the distinguished war correspondent of the Morning Post, has suffered amputation of the right arm in consequence of the wound he received during Lord Methuen's advance.

Mr. Knight, it will be remembered, was shot at Belmont by Boers who had raised a flag of truce. His wound was caused by a dum-dum bullet.

MAFEKING CHEERFUL.

A despatch from Mafeking says:—The garrison is cheerful, although the shelling has increased in effect. The rations have been reduced, meat by half a pound and bread by a quarter of a pound. On Sundays there are church concerts and games of cricket and polo.

TRANSPORT ASHORE

A despatch from the Las Palmas, Canary Islands, says:—The freight steamer Denton Grange, bound for Cape Town, is ashore near here. Her crew were saved. There are hopes of saving the vessel's cargo, which includes a number of traction engines for the British army and remounts to take the places of horses that have been killed in battle or died from disease.

PARCELS FOR ABROAD.

An Important Regulation That Senders Should Observe.

A despatch from Ottawa says:—The Post-Office Department has sent out a circular calling the attention of postmasters to the fact that under the parcel post regulations no parcel can be forwarded to Great Britain or any country with which closed parcels are exchanged unless duly accompanied by a Customs declaration giving the name of the sender, and the contents, value, and weight of the parcel. This regulation applies only to parcels forwarded under parcel post regulations; it has no application to packages of fourth-class matter, general merchandise, open to inspection, circulating in Canada, or addressed to the United States.

The object of the department in calling attention to this matter is to prevent the disappointment which arises when parcels, especially Christmas parcels, are detained for want of compliance with the formality mentioned.

VILLE MARIE BANK CASE.

The Accountant Arrested for Stealing $173,000 From the Funds.

A despatch from Montreal says:—There was a sensational development in the Banque Ville Marie, case on Monday evening, when Ferdinand Lemieux, the accountant, was arrested on a charge of stealing $173,000 from the funds of the bank.

In the testimony in the case of President Weir, who was convicted of sending a false statement of the bank's affairs to the Government, it transpired that there was a sum of $175,000 unaccounted for on the bank's circulation, and Lemieux is now charged with stealing the amount.

Bail was refused, and Lemieux is locked up to await appearance before the Police Court.

THE NEWS IN A NUTSHELL

THE VERY LATEST FROM ALL THE WORLD OVER.

Interesting Items About Our Own Country, Great Britain, the United States, and All Parts of the Globe, Condensed and Assorted for Easy Reading.

CANADA.

The Hamilton Chief of Police wants the force enlarged.

Hamilton talks of appointing a plumbing inspector.

British Columbia has subscribed over $3,000 for the relatives of the troops ordered to South Africa.

London electors are to vote on the proposal to abolish the ward system of electing aldermen.

Verdicts of $200 and $175 have been given against the London Street Ry. in actions for damages and injuries.

An anonymous gift of $10,000 has been received by McGill University to found a chair in electrical research.

Orillia has sold $75,000 thirty-year power scheme debentures to the Central Loan and Saving Company at a premium.

The Ottawa St. Patrick's Literary and Scientific Society has decided to erect a building to cost in the neighborhood of $15,000.

Dunnville has blossomed from a village into a town, and the next issue of the Ontario Gazette will contain a proclamation to that effect.

Henceforth the Canadian regulars serving in the Yukon will be officially known as the Yukon Garrison in place of the Yukon Field Force.

It is said that a big trust, backed by English and American capital, to the extent of about $5,000,000, is after the knitting factories in Canada.

The War Office has ordered from a firm in Belleville twenty five thousand pounds of evaporated vegetables for the use of the troops in South Africa.

Mr. James Ross, the well known Montreal millionaire, has been elected a director of the Bank of Montreal, to succeed the late Mr. Hugh McLennan.

Robert Mackie has completed the first year of his ten years sentence in Kingston Penitentiary. It is estimated that he will be released in one year more.

Messrs. Flavelle Bros, of Lindsay have just finished a consignment of 20,000 turkeys, 2,000 geese and 4,000 chickens for the British Christmas markets.

Mr. W. E. Bennett of the Postoffice Department is in Vancouver to inquire into recent complaints of letter-carriers and mail-sorters regarding insufficient pay.

Thomas Powell, a farmer residing near Ancaster, is dying of blood-poisoning, the result of a knife wound sustained while whittling a stick with a rusty jack-knife.

At Montreal a man climbed to the top of the new Victoria bridge and jumped into the river. He is supposed to have been a wealthy resident of St. Lambeth, named Ennis.

It is reported that the Canadian manufacturers of paper have in contemplation the formation of an association for mutual protection and for the regulation of the trade.

Geo Nicholson, a foreman in the James Smart Mfg. Co.'s foundry at Brockville, had one of his legs badly shattered by the explosion of a tank beside which he was working.

Mr. W. G. Parmelee, Deputy Minister of Trade and Commerce, has gone to the West Indies to enquire into trade and steamship subsidy matters. He will be gone probably two months.

Her Excellency the Countess of Minto sent three dozen beautiful paint-boxes and paint books to the Ottawa branch of the Aberdeen Association as Christmas gifts to the boys and girls of the Northwest.

Dr. Beaudry, Inspector of the Provincial Health Board of Quebec, reports the smallpox epidemic at Kamouraska completely under control. In all there were 198 cases. The disease was in so mild a form that no deaths occurred.

Prof Robertson, Dominion Commissioner of Agriculture, reports that arrangements are being rapidly completed for the establishment of manual training in Canadian schools, which has been made possible by the generous gift of Sir William C. McDonald of Montreal.

Dawson City is to have an electric railway line. A line is being built through the city, which will cross the Klondike River and connect Dawson City and Klondike City, if Parliamentary sanction is obtained. It is proposed to extend this line up the Klondike River to the mouth of Bonanza Creek, and thence to the forts of Bonanza and Eldorado.

The difficulty raised by the Auditor-General regarding the Government allowance to the wives and children of the Royal Canadians serving in South Africa has been adjusted by the Minister of Militia. Under the Imperial regulations the wives get 16c, and each child 4c. a day, while the husband and father is on active service.

Twenty-five American fishing vessels have sailed from the Bay of Islands, Newfoundland, for Boston and Gloucester with herring cargoes. This represents the biggest fishery on record in that quarter. Herring are still abundant but the fishermen are waiting for cold weather, the shipments so far having been packed in salt.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The report of the British Board of Trade for the month of November shows increases of £2,175,000 in imports and £4,751,700 in exports.

It is announced that the Bull Hotel at Rochester, England, associated with the late Charles Dickens, is to be sold at auction during the present month. One little sitting room is entirely furnished with things formerly used by the novelist.

UNITED STATES.

By a vote of 26 to 14 in the Georgia State Senate, state prohibition was defeated.

A concerted movement will be made in Chicago and other western cities against the bucket-shop system.

The movement to advance wages in cotton mill centers has become general throughout the New England States.

Mr. John Wanamaker gave evidence before the Industrial Commission at Washington in favor of department stores.

Rev. D. E. Cheney, of the First Baptist Church, at Racine, Wis., and his wife were shot and probably fatally injured by a burglar who entered their house.

The Red Star liner Friesland collided with and sank the British steamer Lassell, a Santos steamer carrying 23,000 sacks of coffee, in New York bay Tuesday.

Walter Rosser and Fred Slater of Rahway, N. J., quarrelled over a bet on the bicycle race in Madison Square Garden, New York, and Rosser shot and mortally wounded Slater.

U. S. Government expenditure for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1901, according to estimates presented to Congress, will be $631,081,994, an increase over the present year of $38,000,000.

Representatives Corliss, of Michigan, has introduced a bill for a Pacific cable to be built by the United States of Hawaii, the Philippines, Japan and China, at a limit of cost of $8,000,000, of which $500,000 is to be immediately available.

The House of Representatives at Washington, by a vote of 322 to 30, adopted the resolution offered by Mr. Taylor, of Ohio, for the appointment of a special committee to investigate the charges against Brigham H. Roberts, the Mormon representative from Utah.

At Butte, Mont., Prof. Malachy Dwyer, 68 years old, during a heated religious discussion, with J. S. Charlebois, a divine healer, attempted to strike the latter. Charlebois called on God to protect him and Dwyer dropped dead. The coroner's inquest developed the fact that death was due to heart failure, produced by excitement.

GENERAL.

Count Tolstoi has been seriously ill. For two days he was unconscious, but he is now slightly better.

The German Reichstag has repealed the law, passed at the last session, prohibiting workmen's associations.

Admiral Fournier, commander of the French naval squadron, is visiting the Russian Minister of the Navy at Sebastopol.

It is reported that the De Beers mines are filling with water and that Mr. Rhodes estimates the damage at $50,000 per day.

A German trader has been murdered and devoured by cannibals on the Island of St. Andrew to the north of German New Guinea.

Reports from Costa Rica indicate that yellow fever has broken out in the interior of the country, for the first time on record.

Maximo Gomez is reported to be stirring up the Cubans to fight the United States, which is reducing the number of its troops in the island.

There were 843,933 births registered in France, during 1898, a decrease of 15,174. The deaths for the same period numbered 810,073, an increase of 59,004, as compared with 1897.

The American forces in the Philippines have abandoned the pursuit of Aguinaldo, who, it is believed, has slipped back to Cavite Province, where the Filipinos have resumed the aggressive.

The Governor of the Province of Shang-Tung, China, has been dismissed in consequence of his inability to deal with the anti-missionary troubles which have been rife throughout that province.

M. Osiris, of Paris, has given the Institute of France, a sum to provide a triennial prize of $20,000 for the most remarkable work of discovery of general interest, especially in surgery and medicine, the prize being open to all countries.

The Socialist Congress, which has been in session in Paris, decided to meet annually and to elect an Executive Committee. When the Congress broke up red flags were displayed and revolutionary songs were sung. The police interfered and blows were struck, but the delegates were dispersed without difficulty.

SIR GEO. KIRKPATRICK DEAD.

Former Lieut.-Governor of Ontario and Speaker of the House of Commons Passes Away.

A despatch from Toronto, says:—Sir George Airey Kirkpatrick, former member of Parliament, Speaker of the House of Commons, and Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, died at his residence on Simcoe street, in this city, at an early hour on Wednesday morning. His illness, which had extended over some years, had confined him entirely to the house for some time past, and for the last few days it had been known that the end could not be long postponed. Throughout Tuesday his physicians were in constant attendance at his bedside, and everything that could be done was done to prolong the life of the man who was among Canada's foremost sons. Sir George, however, sank steadily, until at length the vital spark was extinguished, and he passed quietly away.

FIRE HORROR AT REGINA.

Three Children Burnt to Death—Mother Barely Escaped.

A despatch from Regina says:—Early Monday morning fire broke out in a house on the barracks flats occupied by Constable Saunders. The house was situated some little distance from the Mounted Police barracks, and owing to the high wind prevailing, was completely consumed.

Mrs. Saunders was alone in the house with her three small sons and a baby. The three boys were burned to death, and Mrs. Saunders barely escaped with the baby, being badly cut and burned in trying to save the lives of her children.

MARKETS OF THE WORLD.

Grain, Cattle, Cheese, &c. Leading Marts.

Toronto, Dec. 19.—We had 60 carloads of cattle, this morning, comprising 2,000 cattle, 400 sheep and lambs, 400 milkers and calves. The market was quiet, featureless and unchanged as far as quotations are concerned.

We had a fair movement in butcher cattle, choice stuff that was held for, of ordinary and common cattle prices were slow.

Stockers and feeders, and export bulls are unchanged.

Sheep and lambs were steady, and all sold at Tuesday's figures, and a few lambs sold up to 4 1-8 and 4 1-4 per pound.

Veal calves are wanted.

Hogs were steady and unchanged, a few fat hogs coming in, weighing from 160 to 200 lbs. sold at $4.37 1-2 per cwt.; thin hogs and fat hogs $1 per cwt. not wanted.

The following is the range of current quotations:

Cattle.		
Shippers	per cwt.	$ 4 00 $ 5 00
Butchers' cattle, choice	"	3 75 4 50
Butchers' cattle, fair to good	"	3 00 3 30
Butchers' cattle, inferior	"	2 50 2 75
Stockers	"	2 25 3 00
Sheep and Lambs.		
Sheep, export	"	3 00 3 25
Sheep, rams	"	3 50 4 00
Lambs	"	4 25 4 50
Calves.		
Cows, milkers	each	25 00 50 00
Calves	"	2 00 10 00
Hogs.		
Choice	per cwt.	4 00 4 37 1-2
Light	"	4 00 4 10
Heavy	"	3 75 4 00

Toronto, Dec. 19.—Wheat—We term about steady. Local quiet and business was dull. Red and white Ontario is quoted at 66c, according to north and west. Goose wheat is firm, quoted at 66c for fresh. Manitoba, higher; No. 1 hard, 76c, and No. 1 northern and No. 2 northern on track, Midland and east, 73c.

Flour—Ontario straight roller, in bulk, East or west, freights, $2 65 bid, Toronto freights, $2 65 bid. Manitoba flour, Sauge, in wood, for export, $3 per bbl asked, and $3 90 per bbl asked, and $3 80 per bbl for single car lots.

Millfeed—Ontario bran is quoted at $12 and shorts at $14 in bulk.

Corn—No. 2 American, yellow, 40 1-2c, Toronto; and mixed, at 40c, Toronto. Canadian corn dull, at 39 1-2 to 40c, Toronto.

Oats—Ontario, but quiet. Car lots sold at 37c, east, and west, and at 38c east.

Barley—Malting barley is dull and rather easier. Car lots of malting barley, middle freights, sold at 38c. Feed barley, middle freights, sold at 36c.

Rye—Ontario rye was quoted at 50c. Car lots, east, sold at 49c west, and 50c east.

Peas—Ontario peas are nominal at 61 1-2c, north and west.

Buckwheat—Ontario buckwheat is nominal at 49c, north and west.

Buckwheat flour—Ontario buckwheat flour is nominal at $2 60 per bbl, Toronto.

Millfeed—Ontario bran is quoted at $12 per ton, and shorts at $14 per ton, Toronto.

Toronto, Dec. 19.—Wheat—Ontario, northern, December, 66 1-4c; May, 66 3-4c; July, 81-3c asked. Manitoba, track, No. 1 hard, 76c; No. 1 northern, 73 1-2; No. 2 Northern, 70 1-2c.

Montreal, Dec. 19.—Wheat—Steady; Ontario, 66 1-2 to 67c; No. 2, 65 1-2c. Rye—Steady; 56c. Barley—Firmer; Ontario, 36 1-2 to 44c.

Buffalo, Dec. 19.—Spring wheat—No. 1 hard, 76 1-2c; No. 1 northern, 75c; No. 2 Northern, 72c. Corn—Firmer; held above parity; No. 2 yellow, 70 1-2c; No. 1 white, 70c. Oats—Steady; strong; No. 2 yellow, 35c; No. 3 corn, 34c. Oats—Quiet; No. 2 white, 34c; No. 3 white, 32 to 34c. Barley—Nominal; No. 2 white, 27 1-2c; No. 2 mixed, 27c; No. 3 mixed, 26c. Rye—Nominal; 58c in store for No. 2.

Flour—Steady.

Chicago, Dec. 19.—Flaxseed—Closed Northwestern and South Western, $1 43 1-4 to $1 43 3-4; December, $1.48; May, $1 43 1-4; cash, $1.41; May, $1 43.

Detroit, Dec. 19.—Wheat—Closed—No. 1 white, cash, 70 3-4c; No. 2 red, cash and December, 70 3-4c; May, 73 3-4c.

MANITOBA CROPS.

Martin Reduces the Wheat Estimate 3,000,000.

A despatch from Winnipeg says:—The Manitoba Government crop bulletin, by the Agriculture Department, reduces the August estimate of the wheat crop from 33,000,000 bushels to 30,000,000. The principal shrinkage were a period of drought in August, when wheat was filling. The ravages of the Hessian fly, the unfavorable, early in the season, and the harvest time was favorable, a heavy snowstorm delayed stacking and threshing a week or ten days. But the fall wheat disappeared, and up to the first of December there has been without the finest experienced in Manitoba for over twenty years. The weather continued in all parts of the province to the end of November.

SHOT HIS WIFE, KILLED MAN.

Mistook the Animal While a Bear Shot It.

A despatch from Vancouver, B. C., says:—Alexander Grant, an Englishman, met his death on Tuesday morning in a peculiar manner. To oblige a butcher at Sicamous, he was holding a cow while he shot the animal. The bullet glanced off the animal's skull, and went through Grant's temple. The poor fellow gave one cry and fell to the ground dead.

The Mystery

CHAPTER X.

"Work thou within, we'll work without,
And I'll be sworn we'll set thee free."

Jack glanced swiftly around the court and found it empty, for Elizabeth was not there.

Thank God, that she was not, that she did not hear herself called in open day what all, save her own friends, believed her to be; and though later on she would read the newspaper, and her cheeks would burn, and her heart be seared by it, at least she would not be put to public shame.

When the counsel for the prosecution stood up, Jack as well knew what was coming, as if he had heard it already rehearsed, and indeed the case was so clear, the facts were so few and pitiless, that they needed little embroidery, and had none.

"It was the old story," said the counsel, "of a man trusting his wife and friend, and betrayed by both. This poor gentleman—poor in the sense of his wrongs, and in that he had not the moral courage to stand up against the discovery he made—had undoubtedly surprised his wife and her lover together, and on becoming aware of his dishonor had, in a moment of passion and madness, slain the betrayer, slain him, too, in a manner at once cowardly and indefensible, for Mr. Ross was unarmed. The wife, presumably, witnessed the crime and that she held herself immediately responsible for it is evidenced by the fact that she afterwards persistently accused herself of it, and begged to be committed for trial and punishment instead of her husband.

"Yet what astounding nerve she displayed during that night! Such a scene as may be imagined, can hardly be described, she slept—slept with the body of her murdered lover at her very feet, and to all appearance so dreamlessly, only the entry of her maid next morning awoke her! The prisoner too showed a most inhuman carelessness, for he, too, went to bed after the murder—presumably slept. It has been urged that Mrs. St. George throughout the whole tragedy, was it credible that her husband should slay, and leave a body upon her eyes to fall upon when she wakened? Such barbarity was impossible.

"But with the point of St. George's ignorance or knowledge of the events of that night, I have nothing to do, but simply whether the evidence points to the prisoner as the person who slew Mr. Ross. His own confession, his possession of the pistol, and the independent testimony that was brought forward, must be too bring the guilt home to him thoroughly as if the evidence were conclusively positive, instead of circumstantial.

"It would probably be suggested by the defence that a surprised thief had fired the shot, but as Mr. St. George's jewels were safe, and the gent inquiry had failed to detect a trace of the house being entered that night from without, but fell to the ground, and by no possible combination of circumstances could the prisoner have stood in his present position had he not been guilty.

"This theory, too, was urged by the wife; her self-accusation, being so obvious that she suspected no one but her husband; obvious, too, that she well knew the motive, that inspired the murder, and which no person could possibly have.

"It was true that the prisoner received the most terrible provocation a man could have, he has been betrayed alike by wife and friend, he had come unexpectedly on what must madden, most men, and he had been seized by the terrible temptation to kill, and he had yielded to the temptation savagely, and to the forgetting his manliness—since Mr. Ross was unarmed."

Jack bowed his head as if in shame.

"Had there been a fight between the two, or the prisoner had not used a deadly weapon, the case might have been one of manslaughter only.

"But so long as human life is invested with sacredness, the life so guarded it must be respected. If a cowardly crime had in his instance been committed was clear, and first we were satisfied that the prisoner was guilty of it, it would be useless to say so."

The peroration was plain to a fault, and the creatures who go to hear a cause celebre, as they go to a play expressly arranged for their edification, had a distinct sense of disappointment as the counsel for the prosecution sat down.

Why had not that judge, Elizabeth, been set higher in the place of public scorn, and for a longer space? We would have liked to have her gloat over her misery—to watch her to count each heart-thrust—to gloat as she gazed upon the wreck and desolation she had brought upon the poor gentleman who had so sincerely loved her.

But with the first witness called for the prosecution—Rose Lamont—a curious hush fell upon the assemblage, for one glance at the prisoner had shown how powerfully her presence there affected him.

Rose — as a witness against him! The devoted servant—the woman who would apparently have gone through fire and water for her mistress—what had she come hither to say? To speak against Elizabeth—to corroborate his wife's mad story? Perhaps Rose had been in her confidence all through, and now the woman had come here to betray her.

He hardly breathed as he looked at the slight, graceful, dark eyed woman, who had that genius for dress which belongs to the born Parisian, and which will almost cover up the ravages of time or suffering and misspent days. She fixed all eyes for one breathless moment; then the women softly said "Ah!" and some of the men muttered, "What a little devil."

Having been sworn, her examination commenced.