

ANOTHER BRITISH DISASTER. GATACRE LED INTO A TRAP.

Over Six Hundred of His Men Reported Missing.

THE BRITISH MISLED BY GUIDES.

Will Give a Great Impetus to the Disloyal Dutch.

Two Killed, Eleven Wounded and Six Hundred and Five Missing—One Gun Abandoned—Surprised by a Hot Boer Fire—Unable to See the Enemy—British Retired in Good Order—The Disaster Causes Gloom in London—Suffolk Regiment and Northumberland Fusiliers Suffer Most.

Killed, so far as reported ... 2
Wounded ... 11
Missing ... 606
K. W. M.

Second Royal Irish Fusiliers ... 6
Suffolk Regiment ... 12 284
Berkshire Mounted Infantry ... 1
Seventy-Fourth Battery ... 6
Northumberland Fusiliers ... 312

London, Dec. 10.—Lord Lansdowne, Secretary of State for War, has received the following despatches from Gen. Sir Frederick Forestier-Walker, commander of the British troops in Cape Colony:

"The following was received from Gen. Gatacre this morning: 'I deeply regret to inform you that I have met with a serious reverse. 'In an attack this morning on Stormberg I was misled by the guides, and found impracticable ground.'"

"In a later despatch to the War Office Gen. Forestier-Walker says: 'In reference to my telegram of this morning, the casualties, so far as known at present, are: 'Second Royal Irish Rifles—Killed, none; wounded, Lieut.-Col. Edgar, Major Seaton, Capt. Dell and Kelly, and Lieut. Stephens and Barnstoun.

"Suffolk Regiment—Capt. Weir and three lieutenants missing; rank and file, none killed, 12 wounded, and 290 missing.

"Berkshire Mounted Infantry—One killed.

"Seventy-Fourth Battery—A lieutenant and three men severely wounded; a major and one man slightly wounded, and one gunner killed.

"Northumberland Fusiliers—Major Stevens, Capt. Fletcher and Morley, and three lieutenants missing, also 306 non-commissioned officers and men missing.

"The remainder of the casualties will be wired as soon as known."

"The War Office also received the following despatch, dated Cape Town, Dec. 10, 8.30 p.m., showing the Boer force at Stormberg and in that district the day previous to Gen. Gatacre's attack:

"The position of the enemy in the Stormberg district last night was: 'At Stormberg—Six laagers. 'At Doradrecht—800 men. 'Twenty-three miles south of Sterkstroom—220 men.

"Major Elliott has reported: 'Dalgatty, with a force, has gone towards Doradrecht to co-operate with Gatacre.'"

The Disaster List.
Casualties so far as known:
Other officers wounded—
Lieut. Maynard, 1st Suffolk Regt.
Lieut. G. Lewis, 74th Field Battery.
Major Fervill, 77th Field Battery.
Men wounded, seventeen.
Officers missing:
Capt. A. V. Weir, 2nd Royal Irish Rifles.

Lieut. E. J. Christie, 2nd Royal Irish Rifles.
Lieut. L. G. B. Rodney, 2nd Royal Irish Rifles.
Lieut. Wake, 2nd Northumberland Fusiliers.

Men missing:
Dorsetshire Regiment ... 6
Royal Irish Rifles ... 293
Northumberland Fusiliers ... 306

Total ... 605
Lieut. Conison, 2nd Northumberland Fusiliers.
Lieut. Radcliff, 2nd Northumberland Fusiliers.

The remainder of my casualties will be wired as soon as ascertained.

Major-General Gatacre's force numbered about 2,000 men. Stormberg, against which the movement was, is on the East London line, running to the border of the Free State and joining the railway in that country. Molteno is quite close. The whole district is very mountainous, and well suited to Boer methods of fighting. Major-General Gatacre's total force was only 3,000, and of this 1,000 were left in Molteno. The whole district, according to earlier despatches, was full of rebels, and the danger of further spread of dissatisfaction is increased by the reverse. Major-General Gatacre appears to have had no cavalry.

STORY OF THE DISASTER.
A Night Surprise That Worked the Wrong Way.

London, Dec. 10.—The Central News correspondent at Molteno, Cape Colony, in a despatch dated today at noon, gives the first press account of the disaster that has befallen Gen. Gatacre's command.

At the time the despatch was sent the correspondent either did not know the extent of the disaster, or was not allowed by the censor to describe it. He says:

"Early yesterday morning Gen. Gatacre took a brigade northward to surprise the enemy and make a night attack at their Stormberg camp, but we ourselves were surprised, and had

Rifles behaved as if on review. I hear our losses are heavy. 'One of our guns we had to abandon.'"

GLOOM IN BRITAIN.
London Papers Fear the Worst About the Disaster.

London, Dec. 11, 4 a.m.—The War Office at midnight gave out the first news of Gen. Gatacre's serious disaster, which was meagre, and which was only slightly supplemented from other sources. Even these short independent accounts vary on several points, and none hint at the disaster which is admitted in the official despatches.

Three separate accounts give three different versions of the time Gen. Gatacre left Putter's Kraal, but all agree that the fight took place early Sunday morning. It is practically certain that Gen. Gatacre, with about 3,000 men, including the 1st Dorsetshire Regiment, the presence of which with Gen. Gatacre was unknown before, left Putter's kraal on Saturday afternoon.

The English comments on the reverse are universally of the most gloomy character. 'The Morning Post' says: 'After Nicholson's Nek this is the most serious reverse of the war. We do not yet know its full proportions, but the worst must remain behind.

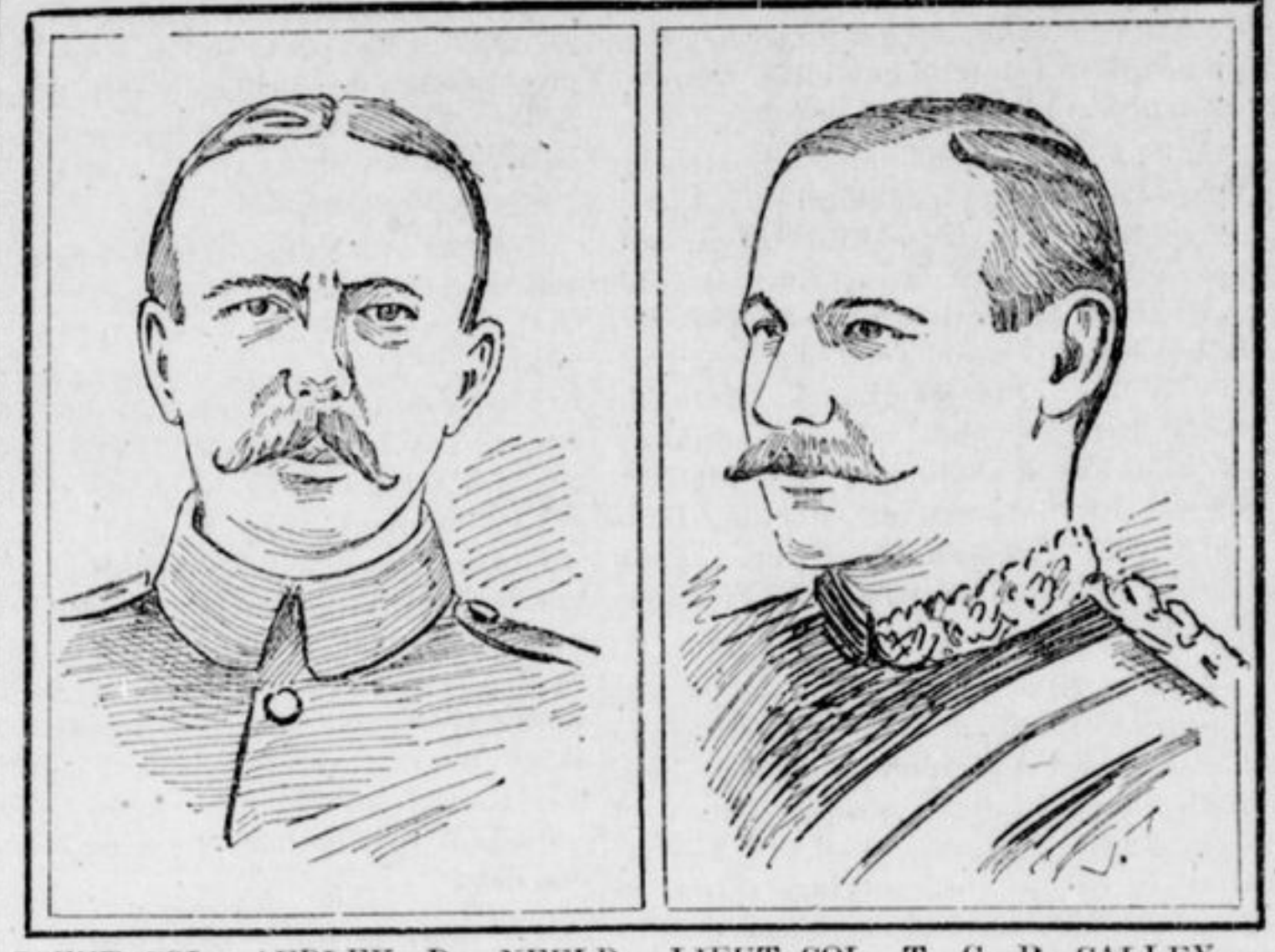
waiting to see which will prove the winning side. Wonder is expressed as to how the Boers increased their numbers at Stormberg, which all along has been Gen. Gatacre's immediate objective, without his knowing it.

Modder River, Dec. 10.—Sunday evening—The naval 4.7 inch gun again took up a position north of the camp this afternoon, while the howitzer battery was posted southeast on the left of the Boers. Both opened a hot fire with Lyddite shells, and shrapnel with which the Boers sharply replied to which the Boers sharply replied with a dozen guns, thus unmasking the Lyddite causing the whole ground over an extensive area to rise in the air in dense, brown clouds.

A Boer long gun was dismantled. It now appears that the Boers intended the next fight shall take place at Magersfontein. Apparently Spytfontein is not defended or the Boers are unwilling to unmask their position there, as the replies of the British artillery were all from guns at Magersfontein.

The Queen Anxious.
London, Dec. 11.—The Queen has sent her Private Secretary, Sir Arthur Bigge, especially from Windsor

OFFICERS OF THE HOUSEHOLD CAVALRY.



LIEUT.-COL. AUDLEY D. NEELD, Second Life Guards.

LIEUT.-COL. T. C. P. CALLEY, First Life Guards.

Already the list of missing is close to 600, and of the Northumberlands six officers are reported missing, but there are no details regarding the men, while of the Dorsetshire Regiment 306 men are missing, and there are no details in regard to the officers.

The paper comments on the extraordinary proportions of the various casualties. So far only one officer is reported to have been killed, 8 wounded, and 9 missing, while of non-commissioned officers and men, 2 were killed, 17 wounded, and 596 missing, and the Suffolk was one of the battalions sent to replace the men captured at Nicholson's Nek. It concludes:

"Men must be sent—cavalry and horse artillery especially—unless in sheer parsimony we throw away the men of the Empire."

ELABORATELY PREPARED TRAP.
The Daily Chronicle's critic remarks: 'It is curious to see an experienced soldier trusting so implicitly to his guides, and that his scouts and advance guard do not inform him that he was coming in close contact with the enemy and that the ground in front was impracticable. The fact seems clear that Gen. Gatacre was led unsuspectingly into an elaborately prepared trap, and it is almost wonderful that the disaster was no worse, when, as a correspondent says, the force was not molested by the enemy until it had actually reached the impregnable position occupied by

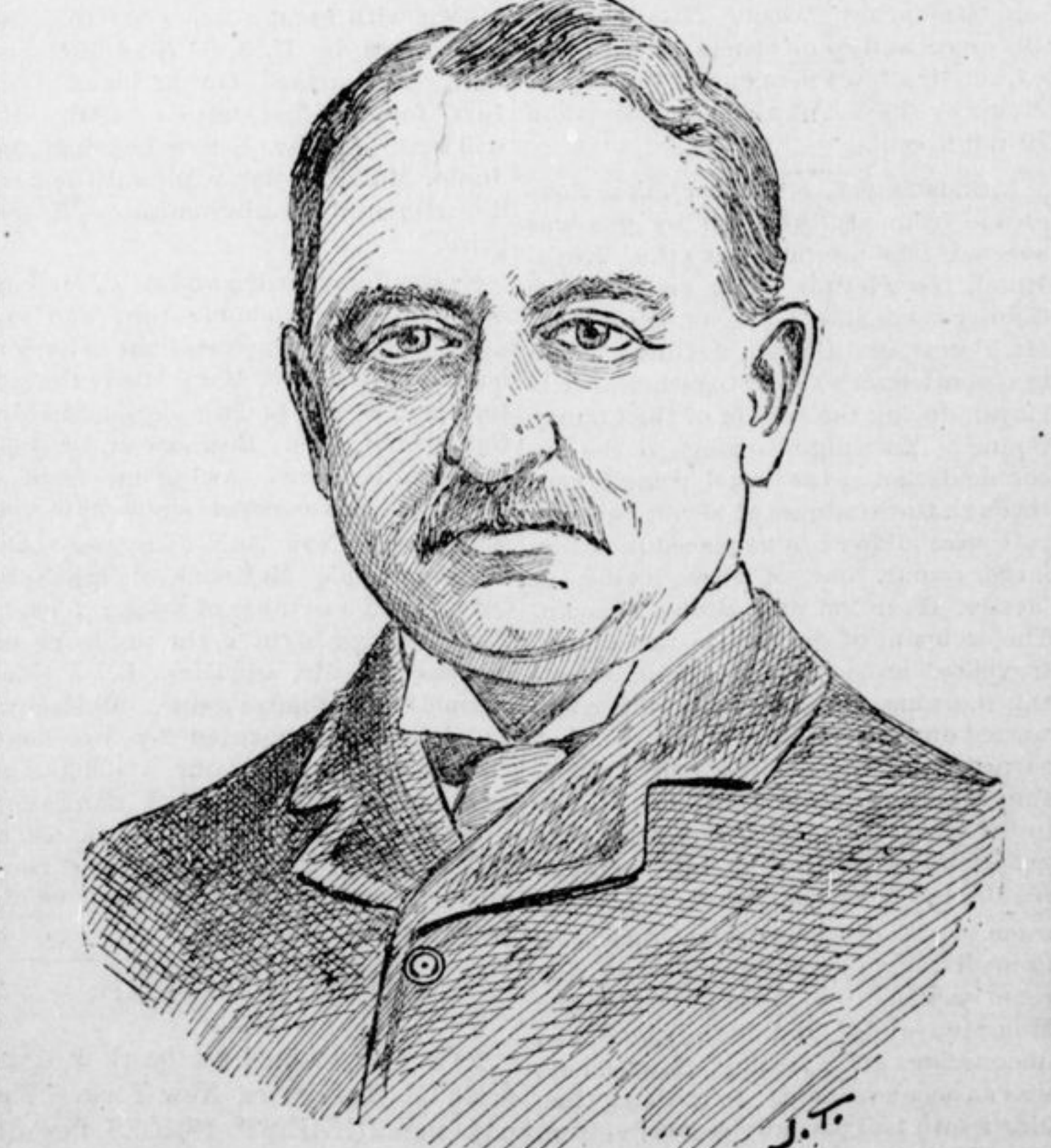
Castle to glean further details of the War Office for Her Majesty respecting Gen. Gatacre's reverse.

ARTILLERY WORK GOOD.
It Saved the Column From Overwhelming Disaster.

London, Dec. 11.—Later details regarding the disaster to Gen. Gatacre's column show that but for the magnificent work of the British artillery the disaster would have been far more extensive, as the incessant Boer shell fire in the midst of the repulsed infantry ultimately led to disorder, which only escaped developing into a rout through the batteries of artillery occupying successive positions, covering the retreat and thus drawing a portion of the Boers' galling fire.

Apparently, the British were set an impossible task, and were treacherously guided. After a trying march and being under arms sixteen hours, they attacked the wrong part of the Boer position, where the hill was impregnable, and the burghers were estimated to number 6,000 men, instead of 2,500, as the spies had reported.

There is little in the story to mitigate the intense humiliation occasioned by the episode, which is almost an exact counterpart of the battle of Nicholson's Nek. The War Office is besieged by anxious relatives, and the successive editions of the newspapers are eagerly scanned. The authorities, if they have any



CECIL RHODES, The Uncrowned King of Rhodesia.

information are not publishing it. A DEPRESSING INFLUENCE.

The affair caused the most depressing influence everywhere, not excepting the Stock Exchange, where consols were at the lowest price in many years, and South African securities slumped, not so much on account of the military reverse, which is retrievable, but owing to the profound apprehension as to its political effect. No great surprise would now be felt if Gen. Gatacre's reverse resulted in Cape Colony becoming a province of the Boer Republic.

London, Dec. 11.—Six hundred men of the Ladysmith garrison made a sortie Friday morning, stormed the hill upon which the Boer guns which have been doing so much damage with shells were located, and destroyed two guns with gun-cotton and brought back a Maxim into camp, with only one man killed and one officer wounded. A detachment of the 18th Hussars had circled around Popworth hill, burning kraals and cutting telegraph lines. It was a gallant and successful sortie, which proved that Gen. White's men were full of fight and in admirable condition for co-operating with Gen. Buller.

The correspondent of the Daily News at Ladysmith, describing Gen. Hunter's capture of the guns on Gun Hill, says: 'Major Henderson, with fourteen guns, who was directing the movements, led the force up the precipitous boulder-strewn heights.

EXPRESS OFFICE SAFE LOOTED BY ROBBERS.

Curzons Doing Good Work Among Plague Sufferers.

GOAT LYMPH CURES PARALYSIS.

Enormous Paintings Unveiled in Chicago—Death of Baron Penzance in London—The Date of the Opening of the Paris Exposition, April 14—Germany's Chancellor Has a Scheme for Doubling the Strength of the Navy—Will the People Bear the Expense?

Chicago, Dec. 11.—Six fine paintings, one of them "Calvary," said to be the largest picture on canvas in this country, were unveiled at St. Bernard's Roman Catholic Church last evening. The paintings are by Ferdinand Danton, a French artist, who spent three years on them. More than a month's time was required to hang them. "Calvary" hangs above the altar. It is a representation of the crucifixion, and is 32 feet high and 40 feet long. More than a thousand figures are represented in the painting, but of course the principal ones are those of Christ and the two thieves on the crosses. Many biblical characters are shown in the picture, and it is one of the most complete paintings of its kind in existence.

FOR A BIGGER NAVY.
Berlin, Dec. 11.—In the Reichstag today Prince Hohenlohe, the Imperial Chancellor, announced that the Federal Government had come to the conclusion that the present navy was insufficient for the country's needs and that estimates for doubling the present number of warships would be submitted.

ROBBERS' BIG HAUL.
Cheyenne, Wyoming, Dec. 11.—The office of the Pacific Express Company was robbed last night of several thousand dollars in money. No clue has been discovered. There is a small force of men in the express office at night to handle express on incoming and outgoing trains, and when these trains arrive the men have been in the habit of locking the office doors. This was done last night as usual, and when the express men returned twenty minutes later the

discovery was made that all of the money contained in the safe was missing. Officials of the company refuse to state the amount of money taken, which is reported to be between \$5,000 and \$25,000.

THE CURZONS PRAISED.
New York, Dec. 11.—Mail advices from Lady Curzon, wife of the Viceroy of India, Lord and Lady Curzon left Simla when the plague invaded the central provinces, and after having been inoculated made a tour of the stricken district in the face of awful danger. They literally lived among the sufferers, distributing relief, restoring confidence and advising the men charged with the weighty task of controlling the scourge.

THE PARIS SHOW.
New York, Dec. 11.—A cable from Paris says that it has been decided that the official opening of the Exposition is to be Saturday, April 14th, and not Easter Sunday, as originally fixed.

BARON PENZANCE DEAD.
London, Dec. 11.—Baron Penzance (James Plaisted Wilde), is dead. He was born July 12th, 1816.

CURED BY GOAT'S LYMPH.
Bloomfield, N. J., Dec. 11.—Friends of Mrs. Elizabeth M. Work, Post Department President of the Woman's Relief Corps, of New Jersey, are much interested in a cure which has been effected in her case. Mrs. Work, for three years past, has been suffering from paralysis of the legs, and was unable to walk. Her physician recently began the injection of goat's lymph, in from two to ten drops doses. When 700 drops had been administered Mrs. Work was cured. Calcutta told of the heroic work of

When nearly half way up the difficult ascent a Boer post, apparently just awake, challenged the British. Receiving no answer they called to their comrades above. The English are on us, shoot. They then fired their rifles, and explosive bullets flashed as the Boers struck the crest of the hill was answered by a single volley. Then our troops raised ringing cheers, apparently doubling their number by the repetition of the sounds.

"Gen. Hunter, leading his officers, took up the command, and ordered the men to fix their bayonets. They climbed like lizards over the huge boulders in an irregular but orderly-like manner. When they gained the crest they found the Boers in full retreat."

Are They Spies?
Belfast, Dec. 11.—Two American commercial travellers who have arrived here say they were detained at Queenstown on suspicion of being Boer spies. They add that the United States Consul obtained their release, and that he is making an enquiry into the matter.

A BRUSH AT ENSLIN.
Boers Seem to be in Force at Many Points.

London, Dec. 11.—Gen. Methuen received news on Friday that a force of a thousand Boers were attacking two companies of the 2nd Northamptonshire Regiment, which had been left to guard the lines of communication at Enslin. Accordingly, the general despatched the 12th Lancers and the Safford Highlanders, together with the 62nd Field Battery, to their assistance. The enemy attacked the British post at half-past four a.m., but withdrew at 11 o'clock, when our reinforcements approached the scene. The British cavalry is now pursuing them. Our loss was 1 killed and six wounded.

On Friday the first train ran over the temporary bridge which has been constructed over the river here. The Boers are close upon our outposts on all sides.

London Feels Better.
New York, N. Y., Dec. 11.—A cable from London says that the news from Ladysmith created great enthusiasm. The destruction of the two big guns and the capture of the Maxim was the severest blow that the Boers have received in the operations at Ladysmith. From the fact that the correspondent's telegram reached here on Saturday night, describing the fighting on Friday, it is inferred that the investment is not so strict as it was. News of the beginning of the general advance from here is momentarily expected. The trestle bridge over the river has been finished.

A Ladysmith resident who has escaped to Etecourt reports that he saw no Boers, and he believes large forces to be on the Upper Tugela and at Colenso. All indications point to the fact that there has been a weakening of the Boer forces around Ladysmith.

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Hussars Lost Heavily.
London, Dec. 11.—A special despatch from Ladysmith by way of Free adze to the War Office account called Saturday night of the capture of our guns near Popworth hill. It says: 'General Brocklehurst, with cavalry and artillery, reconnoitred in the direction of Popworth hill with a view of cutting off the Boer retreat. He found the position still strongly held.

'The 18th Hussars, pushing forward, drew a furious fire, and suffered severely, losing four killed and 17 wounded.

'The Boers fired incessantly as the British slowly retired.

'At a special parade afterwards General White thanked General Hunter and all engaged, especially Major Henderson, for brilliant work.'

Boer Official Account.
—A battery of Lancers, Dec. 8.—The British troops made a sortie between 1 and 2 o'clock in the morning. They crawled up a ravine and stormed and carried Lombard's Kop, which was held by the Boers, and on which were placed a Creuzot gun and a howitzer. These guns were destroyed with dynamite. The British captured a Maxim gun, and then retired.

Major Erasmus and Lieut. Malon will be court-martialed in connection with the loss of the guns.

The Bridge Completed.
Modder River, Dec. 10, 7.05 a. m.—A battery of artillery, a squadron of Lancers and part of the battalion of Argyll Highlanders went south to reinforce the rear guard which had an engagement with a thousand Boers, who had returned to their old position at Graspan. It is not known whether the Boers came from Grijpvald or are a Free State commando.

A train consisting of 16 carriages, came into the camp last evening over the completed bridge.