

BRITISH OFFICERS TRAPPED. ONE KILLED, THREE WOUNDED. Mafeking Was "All Well" on Thirteenth of March, BUT VERY ANXIOUS FOR RELIEF. Pretoria Getting Ready for a Long Siege.

Expect Intervention in the Meantime—Much Sickness Among the Prisoners at Pretoria—Gen. Clements Talks to the Boers at Philippolis—Many Surrender—The Operations in Natal—Pedigree of the Trapped Guards Officers—Loyalists Not Pleased With Roberts' Proclamation —Griquatown Re-occupied by Boers—Total British Losses—Duke of Norfolk Going to the Front.

London, March 23.—The War Office has issued the following from General Sir Frederick Forestier Walker at Cape Town to the Secretary of War: "Cape Town, March 23.—The following telegrams have arrived from Nicholson, Bulawayo, March 16: "The following is from Plumer, Lobatse, March 14: Boers advanced from the south in considerable force this morning. They first advanced from Goode's siding. "After a sharp little engagement Lieut.-Col. Bodie's advanced post was compelled to retreat. "The retirement was excellently carried out to our main position. The casualties included Lieut. Chapman and a corporal prisoner, and two missing, probably prisoners. Five troopers were wounded. Chapman's horse fell with him close to the enemy, who immediately surrounded him. "The exact Boer casualties are unknown, but several were shot at short range. "In the afternoon the Boers advanced further north, and shelled our position from a ridge on the left. Our 120-pounder replied, the artillery duel continuing until sunset. Lieut. A. J. Taylor has since died of wounds. One native was killed."

An Artillery Duel.
Warrenton, March 22.—A reconnaissance of the Boer position was made yesterday by the 20th Battery of Royal Artillery, under command of Major Elswitt. The artillery was supported by the Kimberley Light Horse. There was a smart artillery duel, which lasted all morning. The Boers had four guns, two of which fired cordite. The Boer fire was ineffective, however, and the guns were eventually silenced. There were no casualties among the British.

Two citizens of Vryburg, who have been imprisoned by the Boers, arrived here under a flag of truce. They state that the big gun with which the Boers bombarded Kimberley was sent through Christmas to Pretoria. Trains are now running to within eight miles of Warrenton. The Boers left hurriedly, and had no time to damage the station.

The Boers have vacated Klipdam and Windfontein, which are almost deserted. Their wives and families have fled with them. They sank the pontoons or ferry boats at Riverton and Windfontein. The Vaal river can only be crossed by swimming. The country this side of the river is well patrolled by the British.

A Flanking Movement.
London, March 23.—Gen. Methuen's advance from the south, if it only has its objective is really Mafeking, proceeds slowly. A despatch from Warrenton reports a stubborn Boer opposition to his passage of the Vaal River. The Free States, however, in the northwest, who had returned to their farms, have been again commanded, and ordered into the Transvaal, presumably to resist the Boer advance.

Regarding the deliberation of the operations on the Vaal River, the Daily News correspondent at Warrenton, telegraphing under date of March 22nd, says that Gen. Methuen's advance has not been hurried to the relief of Mafeking, where the pressure has apparently been relaxed, as the result of operations elsewhere, but Gen. Methuen is confident of his ability to push aside the opposition at the river when the proper time comes.

The same correspondent reports the seizure of an important crossing east of Fouries Spruit, and says that a flanking movement is in progress.

French Has Engaged the Enemy.
London, March 23.—According to a special despatch from Cape Town, dated today, Gen. French's cavalry brigade is fighting eastward of Bloemfontein. This suggests more bad news, as Commandant Olvier's command, with 2,000 wagons, is reported on the Basuto front or rolling northward toward Kroonstad via Ladybrand. This enormous wagon train is supposed to be moving twenty-five miles a day. Gen. French's cavalry post, stretched from Bloemfontein eastward to the mountains.

A Huge Boer Force.
London, March 23.—A telegram announcing that the eighth army division is expected to land at Port Elizabeth and East London is interpreted to mean that this division will join Gen. Roberts, travelling by way of Springfield.

It is estimated that General Roberts will then have practically two army corps available for field operations, exclusive of the troops guarding his communications. In addition, he has General French's cavalry, thus outnumbering the Boers three to one.

Boers Retiring to Laing's Nek.
London, March 23.—The Morning Post's correspondent at Ladysmith, Winston Churchill, telegraphs particulars regarding the Boer positions in Natal on March 20. According to Briv-

day, the House adopted a resolution calling upon the Secretary of State for copies of letters on file in the department from citizens of the United States, complaining of ill-treatment while in the South African Republics.

A Canadian's Escape.
London, March 23.—Among the most interesting cases in the Canadian hospital is that of Lance-Corporal Octampart, of Montreal. During the operations at Paardeburg he became sick with cholera, and was removed to the hospital. He was recovered by the Boers, and found himself alone, and was soon taken prisoner by three Boers. They took his shoes and coat from him, and he was guarded by one or other of them all day. But he managed to escape early next morning.

He eluded their search and wandered for three days. At last he saw the lights of Kimberley and literally crawled into the town, having hurt his back by falling into a hole. He had been three days and a half without food or water, and had travelled forty-five miles without shoes. He found his putties round his feet. When he asked the Boers for water they replied they had not enough. They were also holding the Drakensberg range from Olive's look to Cundyleugh.

There are indications of important changes in their dispositions. Native deserters say the Boers have sent their women and children northward, and that they intend to withdraw their guns and stores to Laing's Nek. They have already sent wagons to remove the Hottentot detachment. Gen. Clery has recovered and has taken over the command of Gen. Lyttelton's division. Gen. Lyttelton has been appointed to the command of the Ladysmith division, which is still recuperating.

Still Arresting Rebels.
Cape Town, March 23.—Major Cunningham occupied Ronville, Orange Free State, on Tuesday. The raiders took the oath of allegiance, and was appointed magistrate. Attorney Smuts and six others have been arrested.

Sir Alfred's Mission.
It is understood that Sir Alfred Milner's mission northward is connected with the enforcement of martial law. He will use his personal influence towards the pacification of disaffected centers. The Cape Ministry is loyally supporting him. Martial law in response to requests from loyalists has been proclaimed in the Gardenia districts.

55 Additional Dead.
London, March 23.—The War Office publishes the names of fifty-five soldiers who have died in thirteen hospitals. Two of the deaths were from the effects of wounds, and the remainder from fever.

UNINJURED—A REMARKABLE ESCAPE.
A Shell Burst Under a Mounted Trooper of the Eighteenth Hussars at Ladysmith, but Neither Was Hurt.

The late Gen. Woodgate was born Nov. 1st, 1845, at Belloughton, Worcester. He served with the Abyssinian expedition in 1898, receiving a medal and served in the Ashanti war of 1873-74, receiving a medal with clasp and being mentioned in despatches. He served in the Zulu war in 1879 as staff officer (medal with clasp), mentioned in despatches, brevet major (December, 1880). He was promoted to lieutenant-colonel in 1893 and to colonel in 1897, and was placed in command of the regimental district of the King's Own at Lancaster. In April, 1898, he was sent to command the troops in Sierra Leone, where the natives were in rebellion.

Boers Giving Up Arms.
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S. S. Officers.
Washington, March 23.—Previous to proceeding with the regular order to-

GAY SOCIETY RUSHES TO CAPE TOWN NOW. London Regards the Transvaal War as Practically Over, AND CELEBRATES THE RESULT JOYOUSLY.

Talk of the Queen's Visit to Ireland—Some Apprehension—Ireland's Premier Peers Says the Dublin Rabble Does Not Represent Irish Feeling, Still There is Some Risk—The Stay-at-Homes—Theatrical Season Opened—General News Notes.

London, March 24.—The war, according to the average opinion, is practically over. To be sure, it may be months before Lord Roberts shall reach Pretoria, but his going there is regarded as sure, and it is asserted that he is not going to lose many men in getting there. A dozen defeats could scarcely spoil this dozen self-satisfaction and assurance of ultimate victory. It is not altogether shared by the press and officials, but it is what the great majority of the English people feel. In society the cry now is "Ho, for the Cape!" and the dressmakers are up to their eyes in work, making toilettes suited for the climate of the great war zone.

SOCIETY TOPICS.
For those who cannot participate in the prevailing rush to Cape Town there is an amount of gossip regarding the probable reception of the Queen in Ireland, and what kind of a greeting Mr. Cecil Rhodes will get in England after his scathing strictures upon General Buller and Colonel Kekewich, to say nothing of the curious stories which come from South Africa about women who have been out there. However, the quiety which reigns in London is more the less genuine because many of the gowns at dinner parties are sombre-hued for the sake of some relative lost on the battlefield. The period of a reverse seems to have vanished from the memory of Great Britain as quickly as any.

FLEETING DREAM.
The hand of the aged field marshal has taken the nation from nervous, apprehensive mourning into the opposite extreme, and it is time to stop to attempt to stem for the moment the stream of jubilation. In these celebrations the Americans resident in London are not behind hand, one of the most fashionable dinners being at the Carlton Hotel March 22nd, by Mr. Reginald Ward, of New York, whose party included the Belgian Minister, Baron Westhousen, Ladies Howe, Honblin and Dorchester, Lord and Lady Darnley, Mrs. Ward, Mrs. Marlon Frewen, Lord Glenesk and other distinguished English and American.

THE THEATRICAL SEASON.
The opera season promises to be better than ever. There is an imposing list of patrons, and the subscriptions are larger than in former years. The box owners, as usual, are headed by the Prince and Princess of Wales, and the list includes Lady William Bessborough, the Duchess of Marlborough, Mrs. W. Walden, Mrs. W. S. M. Burns, Mr. W. St. John Morgan, and Messrs. Arthur Paget, Adair, Ronalds and Bradley Martin.

THE QUEEN'S VISIT.
While London society celebrates it also speculates and not without misgivings regarding the queen's visit to Ireland. The sovereign's great age makes the trip itself one of serious risk, while the possibility of hostile demonstrations or even personal attack creates a nervousness that will only be stilling given for Majesty will be safely back in England. On this question an interview has been had with Ireland's premier peer, the Duke of Abercorn, who will be a visitor to Dublin Castle during the royal visit, and will receive Her Majesty as first, by right of blood in the island. The Duke said: "THE RABBLE MAY SQUAWK."
I do not think there will be hostile demonstrations. There may be a few black flags and other signs of disapproval. Still, there is no rabble of Dublin which cannot be answered for, and which is entirely representative of Irish feeling. I sincerely trust that the voice of national civility, apart from any political considerations, will not be overshadowed by some ready demonstration. I must admit there is no little risk, though if the preponderating Irish opinion from general sense of duty, irrespective of religion and politics, can have its way, Her Majesty will meet with the warmest reception that ever greeted the ruler of any country.

RUSH TO THE CAPE.
The tremendous influx at Cape Town of English society women and their retinue of more wealthy soldiers, especially those who have recently created many heartburnings among the majority of officers' families, who through lack of pecuniary resources are obliged to stay at home. It is pointed out that any such rush will have ample chance to write up another series of satires such as he wrote upon the Indian army society.

They declare that the Transvaalers are determined to fight to the bitter end. The majority of those who have hitherto taken part in the fighting have been Free States. The Transvaalers have been held in reserve. The Boers are preparing for another campaign, and will occupy a strongly fortified position in the Transvaal necessitating heavy fighting before they can be driven out. The Boers are not expected to make a stand at Johannesburg, but to concentrate at Pretoria.

Free State Records.
Bloemfontein, March 24.—A first examination of the financial records of the Orange Free State shows that the books dealing with investments, savings banks, deposits, state loans to farmers, etc., are in perfect order. Both the financial and judicial systems appear to be perfectly adapted to the country. A high British official, in talking with the correspondent, expressed surprise at finding such evidence of good management in the little State, where it has been said there was so much political and executive mismanagement. In response to Gen. Lord Roberts' proclamation, the Free State Boers are all coming in and surrendering their arms. Several groups came in yesterday.

Losses on Both Sides.
Revised reports are: Boer losses: Killed ————— 2,129 Wounded ————— 1,251 Sick ————— 4,351 British: Killed ————— 2,041 Wounded ————— 9,356 Dead of disease ————— 950

Negotiations Going on.
So far as the military situation is concerned, there is practically no change. Lord Roberts is quietly making preparations for the next move. As necessary to a beginning, General Gatacre and Brabant are swiftly moving from point to point in the southern district, and are considering the safety of Lord Roberts' communications before starting to attack Pretoria. A correspondent of the Daily News at Springfield, describing these movements, says: "Gen. Gatacre is sweeping through the country like a cyclone, with lightning and strategy have proved of inestimable value to Lord Roberts."

Clements Talks to Burghers.
Phillipolis, March 23, via Norval's Point, Saturday, March 24.—Gen. Clements entered Philippolis at noon today. He assembled the burghers, addressed them, and read Lord Roberts' proclamation in Dutch and English. The future of the Free State, he declared, would have to be decided by Her Majesty's advisers, but the burghers might be certain that the late Government at Bloemfontein would never be restored.

Effect on Basutos.
Everybody in Basutoland rejoices in the restoration of telegraph communication with Alliance North. The proclamation of Lord Roberts is being effectuated, as the Free States are surrendering to the Basuto and officials. The occupation of Tlaba Nchu and Rouxville by the British has produced an excellent impression, increasing the Basutos that the authority of the Queen is paramount.

also received a slight flesh wound in the thigh; Trotter was very seriously wounded in the right forearm, which was broken. The trooper was slightly wounded.
One of the wounded officers held up a white handkerchief. The Boers immediately came to their assistance and did all they could to alleviate their sufferings. They conveyed the wounded to the nearest farm, where they were cared for during the night.

The mishap to the Guards' officers is generally put down to their own recklessness in rushing into an old Boer trap. The Guards' camp lies fourteen miles north of Bloemfontein, and the disaster occurred six miles north of the camp.
One despatch mentions that the Boers are troublesome, and are raiding twenty miles to the north. The Guards' officers were probably investigating when they were attacked by the enemy.

Details of the Skirmish.
Bloemfontein, March 5.—While Lieutenant-Colonel A. E. Codrington, of the First Battalion of the Coldstream Guards; Lieut. Col. E. M. S. Crabbe, of the Third Battalion of the Grenadier Guards; Capt. Lyon, regimental adjutant of the Grenadiers; Lieut. G. F. Trotter, of the Grenadiers, an orderly, and a guide from Bloemfontein were riding north six miles beyond the Guards' lines in the direction of a farm in Bishop's Glen, they saw four Boers near a kopje. They rode towards the hill, and when they were 300 yards from it they encountered a sharp fire from the kopje. Captain Lyon was hit in the heart and killed, Lieut. Col. Godrington was hit below the left eye, and Lieut. Col. Crabbe in the wrist. Lieut. Trotter was wounded in the arm. The orderly and guide were also hit. The Boers, as it was subsequently learned, were from Johannesburg. They took the wounded British to a farm-house, where they dressed their wounds and otherwise attended to them, after which they left them. Captain Lyon was buried the afternoon following.
Heavy rains are falling here.

The Hon. Edward Hugh Lygon, who



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placed in the most prominent place, on account of them being Canadians. In this way the queen would be certain to notice. When Her Majesty passed along the ward she noticed them. She stopped and asked the Canadians how long they had been in the hospital, and after they had given her the information the Queen expressed her sympathy and hoped that they would soon be entirely recovered.

Her Majesty also inquired for their Canadian comrades, and trusted that they had been in good health and spirits when the two sick ones left South Africa.

Both the young men were presented with a bunch of flowers by Queen Victoria.

Gen. Woodgate is Dead.
London, March 24.—Advisors received from Bloemfontein yesterday of General Sir Edward Woodgate, who was wounded in the engagement at Spion Kop on January 24th.

The late Gen. Woodgate was born Nov. 1st, 1845, at Belloughton, Worcester. He served with the Abyssinian expedition in 1898, receiving a medal and served in the Ashanti war of 1873-74, receiving a medal with clasp and being mentioned in despatches. He served in the Zulu war in 1879 as staff officer (medal with clasp), mentioned in despatches, brevet major (December, 1880). He was promoted to lieutenant-colonel in 1893 and to colonel in 1897, and was placed in command of the regimental district of the King's Own at Lancaster. In April, 1898, he was sent to command the troops in Sierra Leone, where the natives were in rebellion.

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