

THE WAR IN AFRICA.

London Gets No Light on the Situation.

WAR OFFICE ORDERS MORE BATTERIES

Boers Repulsed in Attack Upon the British With Heavy Loss—Methuen's Terrible Blunder at Magerfontein Confirmed.

LONDON, Jan. 17.—Even rumors are no longer telegraphed from Natal. The conclusion deduced from this silence of the military experts generally is that no decisive blow has been struck either way, as in such an event there would be no necessity for silence.

The war office has issued orders for the formation of five new batteries. Some idea of the extent of the artillery resources to be drawn upon may be gained from the fact, according to the statement of a military expert this morning, that an old practice howitzer at Lydd, in Kent, with which it is impossible to do accurate shooting, but which for some time has been solely used to test shells, has been laid under requisition for the front.

Seventeen more militia battalions will be embodied in the course of a fortnight. All the regulars are now out of the country except 14 infantry battalions and 11



GENERAL METHUEN.

cavalry battalions. The war office has placed an order for 32,000,000 cartridges in cases.

The yeomanry committee announces that it has accepted 3,000 out of the 10,000 which it wishes to raise and still has 20,000 applicants to be examined. The Daily Chronicle asserts that the committee was goaded into this statement by the reports that there was no hope of getting the full number.

A dispatch to The Daily Mail from Pietermaritzburg, dated Tuesday, says: "There was very heavy firing to the north yesterday. I believe the Boers are contesting General Buller's passage of the Tugela. Howitzers were evidently busy, as the firing is described as the heaviest yet heard in Natal."

The Exchange and Telegraph company has received the following dispatch, dated Tuesday, Jan. 16, from Pietermaritzburg: "There is no news from the front, but heavy firing was heard today in the direction of Frere. It is probable that General Buller is engaging the enemy."

"A rumor is current here that a portion of the British force is near Ladysmith." A dispatch from Rensburg, Cape Colony, dated Jan. 15, says: "The Boers, this morning, attempted to rush a hill held by a company of the Yorkshires and the New Zealanders, but they were repulsed at the point of the bayonet. The Boers had 21 men killed and about 50 wounded."

The hill commands a tract of country east of the main position of the Boers, and they had determined to make an attempt to advance the heights.

They advanced cautiously, directing their fire at a small wall held by the Yorkshires and compelling the latter to keep close under cover. When the Boers rushed the wall, the Yorkshires fixed bayonets and charged. Just at that moment Captain Maddocks, with a small party of New Zealanders, came up, and the combined force leaped over the wall and charged straight for the enemy, who fled, followed by a withering fire at close range.

The Boers literally tumbled over each other in their hurry to escape, but the persistent fire of the British inflicted a heavy loss.

A dispatch from Pretoria, dated Jan. 13, says: "As a result of the bombardment of Mafeking yesterday the British fort eastward was demolished and the British retired. One Boer was wounded. Advice from the head laager at Ladysmith reports that the attack on that place, Jan. 6, was disastrous to the British and that Ladysmith accumulates that General Methuen's so designated gigantic blunder at Magerfontein has lost him the confidence of his entire force to such an extent that, it is declared, it is doubtful if the troops would follow him in another attack on the Boers."

The war office is understood to be in possession of a letter written by General Wauchope the night before the battle saying that would be the last letter he would ever write, as he had been asked to perform an impossible task, and he had either to obey or surrender his sword. An immediate change in the command of the force may therefore be expected. It is anticipated in some quarters that Lieutenant General Tucker will succeed General Methuen.

As Exchange of Shells. MODDER RIVER, Jan. 17.—There was a brisk exchange of shells yesterday morning, the Boers returning our fire for the first time in several days. The British intrenchments are being continually strengthened and extended. The permanent railway bridge is almost completed. Heavy rains have fallen in the hills recently, and the floods of the River are all impassable. It is reported that it will be necessary to relay the rails over almost the entire distance from Modder River to Kimberley, the Boers having used the rails and sleepers in building their fortifications. Stories still reach camp that the Free Staters desire to end the war. The latest report is that a council was held recently at Bloemfontein, at which President Steyn and General Cronje were present.

LIVE HIGH ON CREDIT

DAINTY DINERS WHO GET COSTLY MEALS FOR NOTHING.

How Some Big Accounts That Are Never Paid Are Run Up at the Fashionable Restaurants That Flourish in New York City.

Legal proceedings recently taken to recover from a well known citizen who belongs to the "fashionable" class the amount of a tailor's bill revealed the fact that the man was poor, had no money and no means of support and owed many bills. Besides tailors, shoemakers and batters, he owed money to florists, jewelers, livery stable keepers, dealers in theater tickets, shirtmakers, stationers and restaurateurs. One of the largest bills against the man was contracted in the course of several years at a prominent up town restaurant.

"You must have been hung up for a great spread," said a patron of the place to the manager, pointing to the item. "Not at all," he answered. "That bill represents hundreds of charges and has grown slowly to its present magnificent proportions."

"But how is it done—how do people run big bills in a restaurant?"

"Well, in the first place, because we look upon men who come here as gentlemen and treat them accordingly. I don't remember just how the account in question was opened, but usually it is done in this way: Some day, after a man receives his check, he scratches his name across its face and tells the waiter, 'I'll pay this tomorrow; it's all right,' and then if the person in charge at the desk marks it 'O. K.' the check is 'hung up,' and an account is opened with the man.

"In most instances the man comes back, as he said he would, the next day and settles his little bill and thanks us for accommodating him. If, however, the man intends to work the house, he does not come back the next day and settle, but waits three or four days. Then he drops in and orders a modest luncheon or a not elaborate dinner and scribbles his name across the check, gives the waiter a tip, and the new account receives its first addition.

"Little by little the account grows, but never by any really large charge, and when at last the man has a little dinner party with a big appetite the check is liable to be 'O. K.' because the account is already so large that it would be poor policy to turn it down.

"When the account has grown so large that we think it should have attention, we give the head waiter a tip, and without telling the man in so many words he is given to understand that cash would be preferred to an autograph. Sometimes the man takes the hint and makes a payment or asks for more time and tells us that he will pay as he goes, and he remains a customer without increasing his account, but generally he leaves us and goes to some other place and complains about poor service here and in other ways tries to injure our business because he can't have what he wants to eat and drink for nothing. His account remains open, and when it becomes outlawed we put it on the list which bears many good names, but we never dun the man."

To show how anxious some people are to have it known that they are well acquainted in the fashionable restaurants the following story was told:

"Some months ago a man came here early in the day and said that he would have a little party of friends to supper with him after the theater that evening and ordered what he wanted. His order showed that he was unaccustomed to the part, but it is our business to fill orders, and we said that his supper would be served all right. Then he laid down a sum of money, more than enough to pay the bill, and said, 'This will save me the trouble this evening,' and went away. The supper passed off nicely, the man's friends from the country or the country part of the city seemed to enjoy their spree, and finally the host asked for his check, looked at it and then said grandly and loud enough for all to hear, 'Charge it.' The supper was a 'grand' affair in the eyes of the guests, but the climax—the order to 'charge it'—overwhelmed them, and I dare say the man accomplished his object, which was evidently to make himself solid with his guests."—New York Tribune.

A One Sided One.

There are times, even in the best regulated families, when it becomes necessary to discipline some young and stirring member of the household. The other evening an indulgent father concluded that such a time had arrived, as his 8-year-old son had committed an act of insubordination and threatened to repeat it. Rebukes and warnings were in vain, and at last the youngster was given a sound spanking. Half an hour later, after friendly relations had been resumed, an older son came home and was somewhat surprised when the 8-year-old said to him: "You ought to have been here awhile ago. Me and papa had a fight."—Pittsburg Chronicle-Telegraph.

A Mystery of the Sea.

A mystery with which every sailor is familiar is the formation of dust at sea. Those who are familiar with sailing ships know that, no matter how carefully the decks may be washed down in the morning and how little work of any kind may be done during the day, nevertheless if the decks are swept at nightfall an enormous quantity of dust will be collected.

When a girl says that some other girl is pretty, the men present can always make a ten strike by disagreeing with her.—Atchison Globe.

CALIFORNIA.

Thirty-One Days' Tour via Pennsylvania Railroad.

The Pennsylvania Railroad Company has arranged for a special personally conducted tour through California, to leave New York and Philadelphia on February 27, by special Pullman drawing-room sleeping car and connecting at El Paso with the "Mexico and California Special," composed exclusively of Pullman parlor smoking, dining, drawing room sleeping, compartment, and observation cars, for tour through California, returning by March 29.

Round-trip tickets, covering all necessary expenses, \$375 from all points on Pennsylvania Railroad.

For further information apply to ticket agents; Tourist Agent, 1196 Broadway, New York; 4 Court Street, Brooklyn; 789 Broad Street, Newark, N. J.; B. Courlaender, Jr., Passenger Agent Baltimore District, Baltimore, Md.; Colin Studds, Passenger Agent Southern District, Washington, D. C.; Thos. E. Watt, Passenger Agent Western District, Pittsburg, Pa.; or address Geo. W. Boyd, Assistant General Passenger Agent, Philadelphia. 1-18 4.

Guns Figure in Student Battle.

The Sophomore class of Susquehanna University held their second annual banquet in Milton Friday night. The Sophomores' departure from Selin's Grove was one of the most exciting in the history of the school. Through some unknown means the Freshmen learned of the intentions of the upper classmen and waylaid them while they were on their way to the train.

The Freshmen immediately gave battle, peiting their rivals with snow balls, and then two members of the Sophomore class drew revolvers and fired.

It was only upon defending themselves with guns that the Sophomores were enabled to board their train. They were conveyed to and from Milton in a specially decorated car.

OLD MEXICO.

Twenty-three Days' Tour via Pennsylvania Railroad.

The Pennsylvania Railroad Company has arranged for a special personally conducted tour through Old Mexico by special Pullman train of parlor-smoking, dining, sleeping, compartment, and observation cars, to leave New York and Philadelphia February 12, visiting all the principal points of interest in the "Land of Montezuma," and spending five days in the City of Mexico.

Round-trip tickets, covering all necessary expenses, \$300 from all points on the Pennsylvania Railroad.

For further information apply to ticket agents; Tourist Agent, 1196 Broadway, New York; 4 Court Street, Brooklyn; 789 Broad Street, Newark, N. J.; B. Courlaender, Jr., Passenger Agent, Baltimore District, Baltimore, Md.; Colin Studds, Passenger Agent, Southeastern District, Washington, D. C.; Thos. E. Watt, Passenger Agent, Western District, Pittsburg, Pa.; or address Geo. W. Boyd, Assistant General Passenger Agent, Phila. 1-4-4.

FLORIDA.

Two Weeks' Tour via Pennsylvania Railroad.

The first Pennsylvania Railroad tour of the season to Jacksonville, allowing two weeks in Florida, will leave New York and Philadelphia February 6.

Excursion tickets, including railway transportation, Pullman accommodations (one berth), and meals en route in both directions while traveling on the special train, will be sold at the following rates: New York, \$50.00; Philadelphia, Harrisburg, Baltimore and Washington, \$48.00; Pittsburg, \$53.00 and at proportionate rates from other points.

For tickets, itineraries, and other information apply to ticket agents, Tourist Agent at 1196 Broadway, New York; 4 Court Street, Brooklyn; 789 Broad Street, Newark, N. J.; B. Courlaender, Jr., Passenger Agent, Baltimore District, Baltimore, Md.; Colin Studds, Passenger Agent Southeastern District, Washington, D. C.; Thos. E. Watt, Passenger Agent Western District, Pittsburg, Pa.; or to Geo. W. Boyd, Assistant General Passenger Agent, Broad Street Station, Philadelphia. 2-4 4t.

A fire, supposed to be the work of an incendiary, totally destroyed the large frame ice house, owned by the Clement estate, at Sunbury, on Sunday morning, entailing a loss of \$2,500, with no insurance. The building, which contained about 1100 tons of ice, was located near the Reading depot, and it took hard work on the part of the firemen to save it from destruction. It having a slate roof, the depot was very little damaged.

The saloon presents a bar to many a man's success.

CASTORIA. The Kind You Have Always Bought. Bears the Signature of J. H. Fletcher.

SEARCHING FOR A MISSING SON.

Unable to find his son, who has been missing from home for more than two years past, W. B. Koch, of Nescopeck, is soliciting the assistance of the newspapers to aid him in his search. On October 4, 1897, the boy, whose name is James Russel Koch, left home to attend the State Convention of Fireman, held at Wilkes-Barre. He arrived at the Luzerne County seat in safety, and on October 10th, six days later took dinner with a friend in that city. From that day to the present his parents have not heard a word as to his whereabouts, and his absence is the cause of a great deal of worry to them. Any information concerning him will be thankfully received. He is about five feet in height, and weighs about 110 pounds, is the possessor of a luxuriant growth of hair, and his face is considerably freckled.

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Satan Stopped the Game.

The little town of Eckville, near Reading, is all agog over the sudden appearance of the evil one at a card game Friday evening. The game had proceeded for some time, and the players ready to stop, when one of them remarked: "We'll play just one game yet, even if the devil himself shall come."

No sooner was this said than a form like a man, with huge horns on his head, appeared in their midst, with chains around his body, and a long tail trailing around him. He opened a black book and requested one of the party to sign his name, promising that untold wealth should be his.

The person addressed refused to comply with the request, and all bolted from the room, some jumping out of the windows. While it is generally believed that a trick was perpetrated upon the card players, some of them insist that it was not. For some time, at least, there will be no more card playing in Eckville.

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