

WITHIN THE BOER LINES.

The Burghers in Camp and on the Field of Battle.

TOUCHING RELIGIOUS CEREMONIES.

NOTHING has been more extraordinary in connection with the South African war than the lack of news that has come from the Boer side.

Of the foreigners within the Boer ranks, the most picturesque and one of the ablest is Count de Villebois-Mareuil, who won fame in the Foreign Legion, French Army, and who, it is said, threw up his commission and joined the Boers because he was not given the rank of Brigadier-General, which he felt he deserved.

But it appears that it was not personal ambition but genuine sympathy

"With its marabout tents, its kitchen in the open air, its Irish stews, the Boer laager would give the illusion of an Algerian camp but for the enormous wagons, drawn up in line or in square; the multiplicity of animals and the silence and calm of the men.

"Guard duty is taken in turns by successive groups all night long. The tent of the general, the major or the field cornet serves as a club for anyone who likes. The life of the chiefs is for me a mystery of physical and intellectual endurance in the midst of this continuous invasion.

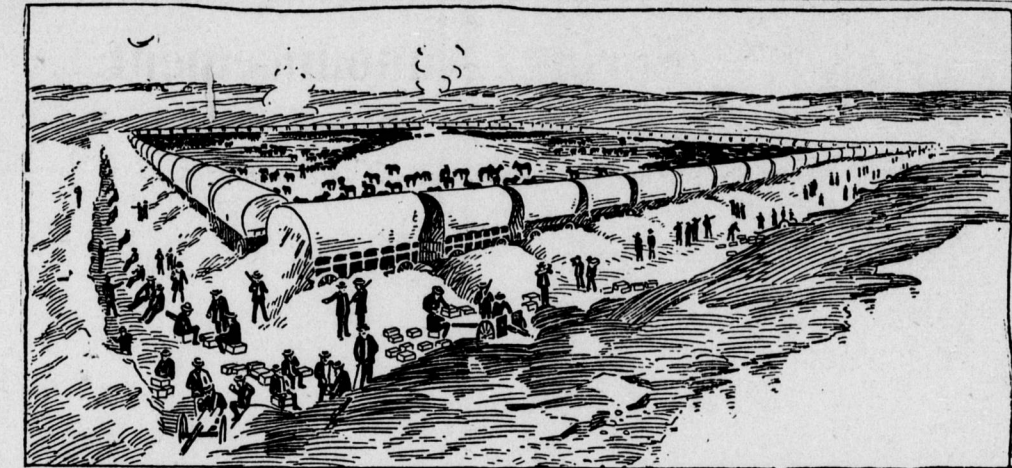
"There are no punishments, no recompenses, no alterations nor coercive measures, everything being done freely at stated hours as a duty. Though there is no restraint, there is never a reprehensible act.

"The laagers have a commissariat department that works with admirable regularity in spite of the extreme strain that is put upon it.

"But after all the laagers are chiefly

tent, which was excessively hot. Two candles were stuck in bottles placed on empty cases; the men squatted around, two or three reading from the same hymnbook. They had laid their pipes besides them and their rifles were stacked about the tentpole. They sang well in lusty, clear voices free from any nasal twang. The effect was strikingly picturesque, the strongly marked, earnest faces in the candle-light thrown out against the dark background of the shadows behind. Similar scenes were to be witnessed at each laager every evening, sometimes in three or four tents at the same time.

A letter from Sir George White to General Schalk Burger was taken by Lieutenant Orlebar, of the Nineteenth Hussars, during the siege of Ladysmith. He was accompanied by an orderly with a white flag, and when he reached the Boer outposts he was blindfolded and conducted to the General, the orderly being left behind in charge of the picket. His



A TYPICAL BOER LAAGER, FORMED OF THE WAGONS, HASTILY INTRENCHED, WITH THE STORES AND ANIMALS INSIDE.

for the Boer cause that influenced him. Not only Colonel Villebois-Mareuil a brilliant soldier, but a distinguished writer as well, and herewith are presented extracts from a letter contributed by him to La Liberté, of Paris. It gives much that is new concerning the Boers, from whose side little has been published.

Colonel Villebois-Mareuil writes: "If you consider both men and things, here is a curious mixture of very ancient and modern methods.



"BLINDFOLDED." AN ENGLISH OFFICER CARRYING A MESSAGE TO THE BOERS.

The concentration of troops was carried out by railway with the greatest ease and without a hitch, as with trained troops.

"Land transport is assured by those massive, canvas-covered wagons, drawn by sixteen pairs of oxen. Filled with blankets and provisions for the longest journey, they formed the only vehicle before the railway was constructed. To-day they are on all the Natal routes, and on the banks of the swollen rivers when it is impossible to discover a ford.

"In camp is a commissariat officer who serves out provisions with a liberality to which our commissariat officers have not accustomed me. The meat is admirable. Bread for the army is baked in Glencoe by a Frenchman named St. Croix, some of it in the ovens left there by the British. If bread should run out there is Boer biscuit, which is softer, more palatable and far better than ours.

"The Government still keeps the men supplied with tea, coffee, rice, potatoes and condiments; it is your universal provider, this Government—your tailor, outfitter, saddler, shoemaker, and all without the slightest

interesting for the spirit that animates them. An atmosphere of deep religious feeling pervades the camp, which commits everything to God—the fate of the Transvaal, the defense of its liberties, and the rights of its people, against the aggressor. If you compliment a general he replies: 'God has permitted it.' The Boer, whose secret aspirations are thus encouraged, lifts eyes of faith to heaven. The pastors are among the men, living their life, present at their death, simple, like the others, although treated with special respect.

"Any man who has seen the Boers, night after night, gathered in groups, some on horseback, others on foot, punctual in all weathers, taking up their nightly stations, is constrained to bow before the superior power which can transform lives so free as theirs and mould them to the needs of warlike discipline.

"The rain is often heavy, night falls, but they press stoically forward without noticing it, and until the hour of dawn, crouching among the rocks along a slope, bogged in the mire or drenched in the flooded fields, they will keep vigil or sleep under the southern sky, offering their lives in continual sacrifice to their country.

"No man who has seen them in battle, their eyes ever on the alert, their deadly magazines rifles in their hands, quick to change their position or to strengthen a weak point, inflexible, and yet at the same time generous, stopping their fire as soon as it has



BOER HYMN SERVICE IN THE LAAGER.

produced its effect, refusing to pursue after the enemy has been put to flight—no man who sees them such perfect masters of their strength can fail to understand that they are a people apart, these extraordinary Boers—sure of their eyes as of their nerve, of their resolution as of their endurance."

George Lynch, artist of the Illustrated London News in Natal, who was taken prisoner by the Boers, describes a hymn service in the Boer laager be-

eyes were not uncovered again until he was inside the General's tent, which was sumptuously furnished, there even being a big bed in it. When General Burger's answer was ready, the Lieutenant was again blindfolded and conducted back to the outposts.

There are ruffians on both sides,



BOERS HOLDING A BURIAL SERVICE OVER A BRITISH SLAIN.

(The correspondent of the Daily Telegraph with General French's column at Naauwpoort writes with regard to the burial of the unfortunate Suffolk men: "Our burying party sent out was received by the Boers sympathetically. They rendered assistance also to our men. Over the grave they sang a hymn, and some of the leaders made impressive speeches, expressing abhorrence of the war, regretting the heavy losses on both sides, and declaring the hope that the war would soon be ended.")

but on the whole the war seems to have been conducted as humanely as war can. British and Boer doctors and clergymen have combined to do all that science and religion can do to soften the hardships and mitigate the horrors of battle.

A Dutchman gives an interesting account of a visit he recently paid to the Boer camp. He made a short stay at the tent of General Joubert, who at the time was engaged with his secretary and the telegraph wires, while close at hand and under the same canvas his sturdy spouse was placidly peeling potatoes as if no fatal issues were hanging in the balance. The rites of hospitality were observed by the Commandant General ordering the native wench Eva, who has accompanied him and his good spouse through many a fierce campaign, to bring the national beverage, coffee.

John Chinaman as a Workman.

When he is paid by time, the Chinaman does not work more than he can help. When he is on piecework, however, his affection for the almighty dollar, developed in his race to the highest degree, makes it his tendency to scamp his work, and very ingenious indeed can be his devices in this direction. Running a machine tool would seem, therefore, to be the work wherein he would be most effective, but even then he wants a smart shop foreman, not of his own race, to see that tools are running at an effective speed and cutters held up to their work. What can certainly be said at present is that it takes more of him to do an equal amount of work in a given time as compared with the European. It took eleven coolies to carry the luggage of a representative of Engineering from a hotel to a railway station, where one man and a handcart would have sufficed. This overplus of labor and infinitesimal coinage is responsible also for the terrible amount of theft of small loose parts, or even fixed parts, of the loose or fixed plant on the railways.—London Globe.

A HOUSE THAT IS UNIQUE.

The Peculiar Architecture of an Oklahoma Man's Dwelling.

Charles Babcock, a Guthrie Alder man, is building the most remarkable house in Oklahoma. Babcock's house is three stories high and as round as a silver dollar just from the mint. The



ODD HOUSE AT GUTHRIE, OKLAHOMA.

upper stories are each smaller in diameter than the one below. On top of the third story is a staff, crowned with a glittering ball. The lower floor is divided into three rooms, each resembling in shape a slice of pie. Along the wall of one room is a narrow stairway to the second story.

One of Babcock's troubles is to get his furniture to fit. If his beds and tables and chairs and sofas were round he could arrange matters with less difficulty.

Babcock will complete his house by building a circular porch around it. His home is in West Guthrie and commands a pretty view of the Cottonwood Valley. Babcock drew his own plans and is proud of his architectural production. He said that he built the house just to have one different from any other.

A King's Boyhood.

Ludwig II. of Bavaria, the unfortunate crazy king, whose name is best known to Americans as that of the friend and patron of Richard Wagner, had a stormy youth, which seemed to prophesy the misfortunes of his later years. In her account of the romance of his life, Frances Gerard relates these characteristic incidents:

On one occasion Prince Otto, his younger brother, had made himself an enormous snowball, and cried out with pride to his brother: "Look, Ludwig, I have a snowball twice as big as your head!"

At these words the crown prince fell into a fury and tore the ball from the child, who burst into tears. The child's tutor came upon the scene and asked what had happened. Otto sobbed out his story.

"Oh, your highness," said the tutor, "I can't allow this. Prince Otto has a right to his own snowball; you mustn't take it from him."

Ludwig turned upon his tutor, his eyes glancing darts of indignation.

"Do you mean to tell me," he said, "that I, the crown prince, have no right to this snowball?"

After all, it was only a snowball but later on the wise men of Bavaria shook their heads and murmured. A pleasant story is told of the prince when, at eighteen, he received his allowance, in coins fresh from the mint. The amount was what would now be called a pittance. The first use made by the boy of his new wealth was to go to the court jeweler and order for his mother a locket which he had heard her admire. The jeweler inquired whether he should send the account to the castle, as usual.

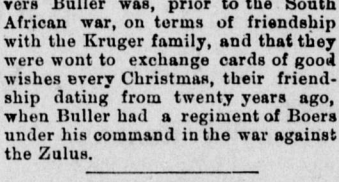
"No," replied the crown prince, "with an air of ineffable pride. 'I have now my own allowance. Here is my purse. Take what you want.'"

Butler's Friendship for the Krugers.

It is recalled that General Sir Redvers Buller was, prior to the South African war, on terms of friendship with the Kruger family, and that they were wont to exchange cards of good wishes every Christmas, their friendship dating from twenty years ago, when Buller had a regiment of Boers under his command in the war against the Zulus.

Judging a Dog.

There are only a few men who are capable of awarding the prizes at the annual bench shows because so few have made a study of the points about a dog which must be taken into con-



THE TECHNICAL POINTS OF A DOG.

sideration. The following diagram illustrates the features that competent judges examine in order to determine the blue-ribbon winner:

- A—Nasal bone.
- B—Stop.
- C—Occiput.
- D—Bricket.
- E—Frill.
- F—Top of shoulders.
- G—Forearm.
- H—Elbow.
- MM—Pasterns.
- I—Knee.
- J—Stifle joint.
- K—Hock.
- L—Feather.

SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY.

It appears from British consular reports that Morocco offers a considerable field for the engineer. There are at present no roads, railways, telegraphs, canals nor harbors.

Owing to the high price of copper, the imperial postal authorities of Germany propose to replace it for telephonic purposes with aluminum wire or iron wire coated with copper.

A series of photographs taken at Dover, England, during a thunderstorm have increased the public timidity about electricity. It is found that when a lightning flash occurs there are simultaneous discharges of bead or dotted lightning from electric arc lamps in the town. Professor Stokes says this is nature's wireless telegraphy. The flash of lightning influences the lamps by electric waves. He urges people to keep away from lamp-posts in thunderstorms.

The discovery of the remains of a mastodon near Newburgh, N. Y., last summer, recalls the fact that the best preserved skeleton of one of these huge animals now to be found in our museums was also discovered in a marsh near Newburgh. That part of the Hudson valley appears to have been a favorite haunt for these American elephants. Inspection of the place where the latest discovery was made emphasizes the fact that beavers were contemporaries of the mastodons, and that beaver-dams were as perilous as quicksands for the massive beasts who ventured to set foot in them.

Peasants of Thuringia prevent rot and other diseased conditions of winter-seed potatoes by a simple method. They lay the potatoes in a sunny place, as far apart from each other as possible. The tubers are turned over night and morning until they become thoroughly green, and are then placed in the cellar for the winter. It is claimed that potatoes treated thus do not rot and can withstand great cold without freezing. The effect of the treatment on early potatoes is to prevent their sprouting in the cellar, and so retain their full strength. In February the tubers are taken from the cellar and put into a moderately warm room until planting time. This plan gives a strongly and quickly sprouting planting potato, and insures a fine yield of healthy vegetables.

It is proposed to build at Duluth, Minn., a suspended bridge over the ship canal. A bridge of this kind has recently been constructed to cross the Seine at Rouen, and the city engineer of Duluth has proposed a similar structure to bridge the ship canal of that city, which would not interfere with the free passage of ships to and from the harbor. The plans provide for trussed girders carried on towers at a height of 152 feet clear above the water. These girders will be mainly supported by cables, and will thus make a stiff suspension bridge, on which rails will be laid. On these trucks will be run, and cars suspended at the level of the street. The machinery will be driven by electric motors, and the car or platform will carry both foot passengers and teams. The city power-house will supply the current to drive the machinery.

Sapphires That Aren't Blue.

"It is commonly believed that the sapphire is known only as a gem of a rich velvety blue in color," observed an experienced dealer in precious stones to the writer the other day. As a matter of fact the sapphire occurs in various hues. In Ceylon, for instance, where the finest specimens of this gem are found, it ranges from the soft velvety blue to the peacock blue, graduated in the latter to an almost faultless white. It also occurs in whites, greens and yellows, the latter shade being known as the Oriental topaz, and the green the Oriental emerald. The white sapphires are often found clouded or streaked with blue so that many specimens are cut which are white when looked at transversely, but having a bit of fine blue tint on the under point. Then there is the red sapphire, or Ceylon ruby. It is valued as highly as the finest Burmese rubies. Those most highly prized are the red pigeon blood or rose-red color. Some very fine sapphires have been found in Montana during the past ten years. The American gems are light-blue, blue-green, green and pink, but the deep blue and red stones, which are chiefly in demand as jewels, have so far never been discovered in any part of this country.—Washington Star.

Marvelous Textile Machine.

"Perhaps the most remarkable thing I saw in our line while abroad," remarked a buyer for a woolen house who has recently returned from a trip through England, Germany and France, "was a machine that shrinks, presses and finishes cloths simultaneously. It makes superfluous the sponging process and does away entirely with the necessity of flat pressing. It is the latest invention of the men who have carried the textile process the nearest to perfection of any people on the face of the globe, and seems to be the very last thing needed in our line of manufacture. German inventive faculty seems to be best shown in the textile line, and the people who devote themselves to it are away ahead of even the experts of our own country, whose bent seems in her directions. The new machines are in use in Germany, England and Austria, and the work they were devised to do seems to be done with rare perfection. It means quite a saving in the manufacture of the fine grades of cloth, but it will have no effect on prices that the consumer will feel the benefit of."

THE NEW NILE.

Greatest Engineering Feat the World Has Ever Known.

John Ward, F. S. A., writes as follows in Ansleer's Magazine: "When the Nile reservoirs planned by the great Willcocks were first made known to the world, and it was found that he, although offering six or seven sites for his cyclopean designs, really only highly recommended one, the construction of which would wipe out the island of Philæ, the loveliest spot on the Nile, there was a universal howl of opposition. This got to such a height that Sir W. Garstin and his engineers may have felt a grim kind of relief when they found that the French would allow them no money from the Caisse to realize their schemes for storing the blessed water, and they had for a time to abandon the whole affair. So when, one fine morning, Mr. John Aird, Sir Benjamin Baker, and their friends, unexpectedly called at the office of works in Cairo, and offered to make any amount of dams, canals and locks, wherever they pleased, for no present cash payment, in accepting their wonderful offer the government cut down the level of the great reservoir by nearly one-half. Willcocks wanted to store up 120 feet of water, Sir Benjamin Baker was told to content himself with 20 metres (about 65 feet) of Nile storage.

"And so the artists and the tourists and the general opponents of the drowning of Philæ were appeased, or at least silenced, and the greatest engineering work that the world has ever seen was quietly started, and within a year 20,000 men were employed at Assouan and at the supplemental dam of Assiout.

"When the dam is completed and at its high level, Philæ will have its temple pylons, and a few of the higher ruins standing out of the water, just to mark where its ancient beauties were; but all its loveliness, its verdure, its palms, several of its temples, its storied walls and its Nilometer, its colonades, its Roman quays, will disappear beneath the waters. An island will be lost, but a continent will be saved! For my part, I would rather they had made Willcocks' cyclpean granite barrier of about 150 feet (where the wall crossed the Bab el Kebir), and that the whole island had been sacrificed. The fragments left will only serve to reopen the sad affair in people's minds. However, we must make the best of it. Even with the 65 feet of water in the reservoir great advantages will be gained for Upper Egypt. If we lose Philæ for the tourist and the artist and the archaeologist, we will gain millions of acres more for the fellah-en's agriculture, and the revenue from the irrigation it will afford will double the return of annual income to the finances of the government—so much so that if the British were allowed a free hand, this increased revenue could be made in a short time to clear Egypt from debt.

Trained With a Derrick.

Ring horses are generally irritated when the rider first stands upon their backs. Probably the action of the foot pulls the short hair; but the irritation ceases in a short time. Riders are first trained to do their tricks on the ground. When complete masters of themselves on the ground they are put upon the back of a horse having an even gait and a reliable disposition. To the performer's belt, at the back, is attached a stout rope which runs to the end of a strong arm or beam running out from a post set in the centre of the ring. This arm is swung around by a helper, who keeps the loose end of the rope in his hand in order to regulate the slack and prevent the young performer from having a heavy fall should he lose his footing. Again and again the rider is pulled up just in time to prevent him from falling under the hoofs of his horse. He is swung forward, dangling from the arm of the derrick, until he regains his balance and his footing upon the back of his horse.

To describe in detail how every feat and specialty is taught would require a volume, but on general principles it may be said that all tricks are first learned on the ground, or at a safe and minimum elevation. Then when the performer has attained absolute self-confidence and is wholly without fear he is allowed to swing higher, until he finally reaches the height required in the public performance.—Philadelphia Saturday Evening Post.

The Blessings of Civilization.

The graceful, firm gait of the Hawaiian people, but especially that of the women, has been attributed to the habit of going barefoot. Shoes have never been used. Generally cheap straw sandals of the Chinese were used in muddy weather. The example of another near race, the Japanese, has had its sway, and clogs are also used, keeping the feet out of the dirt. Alas! the graceful walk must go, for Yankee shoes, with pointed toes and narrow soles and heels, are seen on the feet and in the stores.

When the women wiggle along the walk as do the tourists, they will no longer be able to lift their white gowns from the sidewalks to avoid the water which stands in the puddles after the sidewalks and streets are watered by hoses and carts.—The Woman's Journal.

A Meteorological Surname.

The Rev. Dr. Norman Macleod, moderator of the Church of Scotland, has a magnificent voice. An Englishman said to him one day, "Doctor, how do you pronounce your name?"

The doctor was somewhat taken aback, but answered with dignity and some force, "Think of a cloud, sir, a dark storm cloud."

"Thank you, doctor, but you need not use the voice of thunder to carry out the illustration."—Philadelphia Saturday Evening Post.



GENERAL JOUBERT, WITH HIS SON AND STAFF, AT BREAKFAST. (The General is seated in the centre. The young man on the right, with hat turned up at the side, is his son, and the man in front of him is General Joubert's chaplain.)

fuss, without the bother of filling up forms. All you want is a voucher from the field cornet, who is responsible to his own conscience for the reasonableness of the orders he signs.

hind Lombard's Kop, from which the Transvaal "Long Tom" daily bombards Ladysmith, as follows: "About fifteen men, mostly about thirty or forty years, were crowded into the