

THE MAFEKING MAIL

SPECIAL SIEGE SLIP.

ISSUED DAILY, SHELLS PERMITTING.

TERMS: ONE SHILLING PER WEEK, PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.

No. 75

Tuesday, February 20th, 1900.

131st Day of Siege

The Mafeking Mail.

TUESDAY, 20TH FEBRUARY, 1900.

LATEST NEWS.

The scraps of news coming to hand, in addition to their general scantiness, are remarkably bare of detail. Most particularly are we interested in what goes on at Natal and in the fate of Ladysmith, as it is there the war is to be decided, yet nothing has reached us beyond the bald fact that there was fighting at Spionskop, the Boers were driven away, and that the newspapers say 1,100 Boers were knocked out, although it is now more than a month ago since this happened. It is this dearth of information as to the progress of the campaign that adds so materially to the exasperation caused by our prolonged beleaguering. Its continuance makes even the mildest mannered amongst us feel he has the making of a cut-throat in him, and he whose life's abhorrence has been war or anything appertaining to it, surprisedly finds himself anxious to go "sniping"; join in a sortie, or do something desperate "on his own." "Hope deferred maketh the heart sick" the Wise King was supposed to remark nearly three thousand years ago, but if Mr. Solomon had been in Mafeking, cut off from telegraphic communication for 132 days he would have jammed that truth to the front with a deal more force. We have been hoping day after day, week after week, to hear that the siege of Ladysmith is raised. We regard that as the hub upon which the wheel of our fortune turns. Another batch of wires came on Sunday but they did not bring the much desired news. We believe Ladysmith is relieved; we have believed it for three weeks and until information to the contrary is received we do not mean to have that fond belief bumped out of us by such pebbles in the path as

"Capetown, Feby. 4th.—Buller failed to reach Ladysmith after a week's hard fighting."

We regret our lack of imaginative faculty, as never was there such a glorious opportunity for practice. For instance we learned a fortnight ago that Buller crossed the Tugela on the 17th, with Warren on his left. Our forces commenced bombarding the Boers, who were strongly entrenched on the North banks on the fifteenth of January, and on the 17th we crossed the river. From Durban, on Jan-

uary 27th, it was wired: "Warren re-joined Buller on 27th." This is deliciously vague. Where did they re-join. Did they "meet beyond the River" or did Warren stay at Spion Kop 10 days till Buller came back from thirty miles North of Ladysmith to re-join him? Oh, for a clairvoyant in proper working order, we would just turn her (all the clairvoyants we know, are "hers") on to Spion Kop and find out what our forces were doing there, fooling about with Boers when they had "crossed the Tugela" ten days earlier, and the Boers themselves admit recognising their exhilarating presence at Helpmakaar, two days before. These are things "no fellah can understand don'cher 'no" and we would prefer spending our time at the "fifteen puzzle" than wasting it in tying our brains into knots over these insufficient messages. In the mean time Mafeking waits, as contentedly as ever, quite ready to receive Mr. Snyman and his friends if they wish to carry out their instructions.

We were pleased to have a visit from our respected Town Councillor, Mr. Gerrans, and to see that he has sufficiently recovered from the effects of his accident to be able to look around his works, and we are glad to know that Mr. Green has also arrived at a corresponding stage of convalescence. Mr. Gerrans desires to express his appreciation of the treatment, both medical and nursing, that he has received and to tender his thanks to the staff of the Victoria Hospital.

DIED of Diphtheria at the Women's Laager, Mafeking, on the 19th February, 1900, MAGDALENE JOSEPHINE, eldest daughter of John Henry and Maria Veronica Voss.

NOTICE.

ALL persons having claims against the Estate of the late Captain Raymond Herbert Girdwood are requested to render the same as soon as possible to the undersigned.

H. GOOLD-ADAMS,
Executor.

Mafeking, 20th Feb., 1900.

NOTICE.

WOOD having become rather scarce, it is notified for general information that it may be necessary to collect and remove all fencings and polings round private properties. It will not be possible to notify owners prior to every removal being made. They are at liberty, however, to file claims for restoration of polings and fencings at termination of operations, or to receive payment per 100 lbs. weight wood removed should they prefer to do so.

C. M. RYAN, Capt.,
D.A.A.G.B.
Mafeking, 20th Feb., 1900.

UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF

Colonel R. S. S. Baden-Powell and
Officers of the Garrison,

A GRAND CONCERT

WILL BE HELD AT THE

MASONIC HALL,

— ON —

Sunday, February 25th 1900,

(The 20th Sunday of the Siege.)

AT 5 P.M.

Prices of Admission, 1s.

Reserved Seats, 4s.

Proceeds to be given to the Sports and
Prize Funds.

Early application for Reserved Seats,
of which there will be but a limited number,
must be made to

ALDRED & ROSS,
MARKET SQUARE.

Reuben,

TAILOR & HABITMAKER,

(Late Cutter with I. Cohen.)

MARKET SQUARE,

(NEXT DOOR TO MR. ELLITSON'S.)

GOOD WORKMANSHIP GUARANTEED.

All Regimental work done on shortest
notice; also Cleaning.

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