

THE MAFEKING MAIL

Special Siege Slip.

ISSUED DAILY, SHELLS PERMITTING.

TERMS: ONE SHILLING PER WEEK, PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.

No. 145

Saturday, May 19th, 1900.

THE Mafeking Mail.

SATURDAY, 19TH MAY, 1900

Our Relief.

After 217 days, Mafeking's endurance was rewarded by the long looked for relief. About 7 o'clock, on the evening of Wednesday 16th, Major Karri-Davis, with eight scouts of the Imperial Light Horse, reached the town, and on Thursday morning the welcome arrival of Major Brigadier-General Mahon and Colonel Plumer, with about 1,700 men, put an end to our beleaguering and the Siege of Mafeking was over. Seven months and four clear days severance from the remainder of the world, with a fighting force of less than a thousand volunteers, wound up with a list of casualties to the enemy of about one and a quarter man per every one of our garrison, and a loss of less than ten per cent to ourselves, is fit cause for rejoicing, congratulation and thankfulness. The remembrance of our privations and tribulations will now fade like mist under the sun, and we can all join in unreserved praise and gratefulness to the gallant Colonel and his officers who held the town and did their best to while away the tedious weeks as pleasantly as possible. In our next issue we hope to give some particulars of the Force to which we are indebted for our relief and their fight to get in.

The following account of last Saturday's attack on Mafeking is by a correspondent of the *Rand Post* who was with the invaders:—

"In the morning Eloff's commando together with the Marico and Rustenburg burghers, 215 men, stormed Mafeking, advanced under heavy rifle and Maxim fire and entered the native stadt, which we set on fire. We captured a strong fort near the Railway Station, and also a few smaller forts, altogether 30 prisoners taken. We were, towards evening, surrounded in the fort and native stadt and cut off from water. Captain Von Dalwig, with his cannon, drove the enemy out of a couple of small forts. There is no excuse for

the delay in sending up the promised reinforcements or of not taking steps for occupying the forts or of assisting us. Had this been done we would have taken the greater portion of Mafeking. We waited until about 8 o'clock in the evening and had then, with God's help, to try and force our way back through overwhelming numbers of the enemy, who were all over the plain and were supported by the armoured train, and proceeded first to the assistance of a small body of our men, and for two long hours we were in the Molopo River. The steep banks afforded us some little shelter through this period when we were again fired on with Maxims and rifles by the outposts and forts, but God shielded us. Those who remained behind in the fort will have to surrender. Three times we were called on to surrender but the majority of our men were decided to die rather than be taken prisoners.

"I shall later send you the total dead, wounded, and prisoners. This morning ten of our dead, amongst them two of the Johannesburg Laager, were buried at the Head Laager. Your correspondent who accompanied the attacking party could not telegraph you the dangers and hardships we had to go through, and above all, the men who fell and the heroes who volunteered to take Mafeking for the glory of the Transvaal. This plucky deed, which would have ended in our triumph, had the promised support been sent us, has now, alas, ended in our loss. The capture of Colonel Hore is, according to information received from the prisoners, a 'record in the world's history.' It speaks for itself that we had to leave the prisoners (30 in all) behind and allowed to go free. I should have informed you earlier, but owing to cold and wet, I am only able to do so now. I shall write you a long and complete account later. The enemy are marching on in two columns and we must fight again. Assistant General De la Rey is here.

MEMS.

It is said that Archdeacon Upcher has been taken prisoner by the Boers.

A Pretoria Despatch of Saturday 29th, says the British in Na-

tal are advancing at Helpmakaar and Van Tonders Nek. A skirmish took place at Pomeroy.

The Court, enquiring into the loss of the "Mexican," found that the Captains of the "Mexican" and "Winkfield" acted properly, and ordered their certificates to be returned. Every effort was made to save the ship and her abandonment was justified. Some of the firemen were drunk at the time of the collision, but discipline was observed, although some of the "Mexican" men were insubordinate on board the "Winkfield."

A member of the Relief Force brought from Kimberley a memorial card, with the following printed upon it:

In Remembrance of
CRONJE,
Who succumbed to an attack
of "Bobs"
ON MAJUBA DAY, FEB. 27th, 1900.
"Not lost, but gone before."
To St. Helena.

Though taken away from a world
strife,
He leaves a "STRIFE" behind him.

Philipus Christian Cronje, age 21, of Ficksburg, O.F.S., a Boer prisoner at Green Point, was taking exercise on Monday 7th, he went outside the limits and took no notice of the sentry's warning. The sentry shot him.

London, April 24th,—The Duke of Argyle is dead.

A lot of Griqualand West rebels took refuge in Christiana. We hope they are all on the list of casualties by now.

In Germany Dr. Leyds managed to get a par inserted in the "Klein Journal," Berlin, setting forth, in decided terms, that negotiations were on foot in Berlin, Washington, and London, with a view to bring about a peace between England and the Transvaal.

The American Senate has refused by 29 votes to 20, to consider a resolution of sympathy with the Boers.

The Imperial Government loan for carrying on the war has been subscribed ten times over. There were thirty-one thousand eight hundred applicants, and the total amount subscribed for, was three hundred and thirty-five and a half millions.

On April 11th the Queen reviewed 10,000 troops in Phoenix Park Dublin, amidst scenes of enthusiasm.

EXTRACTS OF LOCAL INTEREST.

From the Standard & Diggers' News of May 14th.

MAFEKING'S LAST HOUR.

AT THE WESTERN GATE.

STORMED & SHELLED.

FORT AFTER FORT CAPTURED

THE END APPOACHES.

BADEN-POWELL HARD PRESSED.

Pretoria 13th, (Special).—I am officially informed that Mafeking was stormed yesterday morning at daybreak. The Kaffir Stadt of Montsica was set alight by our shells and completely burnt before seven o'clock. Heavy fighting proceeded all day. Fort after fort being occupied by our men.

In its leader of same date the Standard & Diggers' News, for once, said something true "the long siege of Mafeking promises at any moment to come to a successful end," it did, but not exactly as this misleading journal predicted.

"Our forces (the Boers) are advancing again upon the Mafeking Relief Column, which left Vryburg and has reached Setlagoli."

TRANSVAAL AMAZONS.

At a meeting of women on Friday last, at Irene Hall, Plein Street, Johannesburg, Mrs. Neethling (who had permission to speak in English where her Dutch failed her,) said there were individual cases, amongst the burghers, where courage gave way, and it was suggested to form a Fighting Corps of Women, an Amazon Corps as it is popularly called. The proposition required consideration, she thought they might arrange for women to take the place of the able-bodied young men in the Commissariat and other offices, who, sheltering themselves behind a pen and a bottle of ink, were evading military duty. She said, amidst applause, their exemplary fidelity might be employed to better advantage at the fighting front.

Mrs. Dr. Van Dyk Matthey expressed herself vehemently concerning sturdy men skulking behind departments and evading commando by a pretence of public duties. It was the cowards that evaded their country's call who should be driven to the front.

Mrs. De Power strongly advocated the immediate formation of an Amazonian Corps of Afrikaner Women, and expressed her readiness to be nominated their General. Her husband's blood had been shed and it was for her to avenge him and protect their Fatherland from the invader.

Mrs. Beckwith, daughter of the last speaker, was for compelling every man shielding himself behind Commissariat and other frivolous excuses to go and fight the enemy.

Field-cornet H. J. Louw, who was acting as Chairman, agreed that a percentage of the fighting population deserved this scathing indictment.

A German lady said her husband was prepared to go to the front, but point blank declined to espouse an Afrikaner cause which certain Afrikaners declined to take up. When he (fighting) stood firm the Afrikaners would (deserting him) flee.

Mrs. Isabel Starr was of opinion the burghers now employed as Special Mining Police should be utilised.

The following propositions were carried:—

1. A message of encouragement to those in the field.

2. The enrollment of Burgheresses prepared to defend the Fatherland as an armed corps for active service.

3. The removal, where possible, of men from the post and telegraph offices [women to be substituted].

4. The ladies' insistence of a general call to arms of all burghers, including those over 60 and under 16.

A petition was to be presented to the Government asking that women should be supplied with revolvers and ammunition.

Mr. Johannes Joubert said: "If the English are near enough to be shot with revolvers."

"Dan kan ons maar vleesch bakken."

A controversy then ensued between two dames on the relative efficiency of revolvers and rifles, which the Chairman checked, remarking that "in his opinion a revolver is not always a judicious weapon in the home or in a woman's hand." [From which we infer he is a married man.]

A Commission of three ladies, Mesdames Sarel Eloff, Neethling and Johannes Joubert, was elected to put the arrangements into practical form and to apply to the Government for weapons, and various of those present having subscribed to the list of recruits, the ladies left to resume their domestic duties.—*Standard & Diggers' News.*

E. Platnauer,
Auctioneer, etc.,

Will sell at the Residence of Mr. F. G. MONTAGU,

On Wednesday, 22nd,

AT 10-30 A.M.

The following items of

HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE,

Double Bedsteads and Bedding, Single Bedsteads and Bedding, Tables, Chairs, Chests of Drawers, Cupboards, Crockery and Glassware, Stove complete, Kitchen Utensils, Baths, Child's Cot and Perambulator, Vases, Ornaments, Blinds, etc., Linoleum and Matting, Enamelware, etc., etc.

WANTED

A Punch and Judy Show Professor.—Apply to "S," this office.

Typewriting Machine.

Wanted to purchase or hire.—Apply "Y," Mail Office.

Thanksgiving Services

For our RELIEF

will be held at the

English Church,

ON SUNDAY, 20th MAY,

Holy Communion... 8 a.m.

Morning Prayer ... 10-30 am.

Evening Prayer ... 7-30 p.m.

The preacher at the Evening Service will be the

Ven. Archdeacon Upcher.

A collection will be made for the
NEW CHURCH FUND.

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