

THE MAFEKING MAIL

SPECIAL SIEGE SLIP.

ISSUED DAILY, SHELLS PERMITTING.

TERMS: ONE SHILLING PER WEEK, PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.

No. 42

Monday, January 1st, 1900.

We wish you a Happy New Year. Just as we had written this usual complimentary phrase, as a prelude to a most learned article upon old and modern New Years, the bell was rung and we dived into our dug-out with such force that knocked our ideas to smithereens whatever they are, therefore we can only add—and the speedy establishment of a United British South Africa.

The Mafeking Mail

MONDAY, 1st JANUARY, 1900.

WISE PRECAUTIONS.

Further down a notice appears asking that quantities of oatmeal, rice, &c., should be reported. A Scotch friend was naturally very anxious to know whether there was any chance of his "parritch" being cut short, so we set out on a voyage of discovery, with the result that we were able to assure him he need not fear as there is plenty of oatmeal, rice and other fattening stuffs, and the enquiry is only made with the view to find out whether we can hold out till next Christmas, as no doubt we can.

MAFEKING PUBLIC LIBRARY.

We are informed by the Chairman of the Library Committee that: a sum of Thirty Pounds One Shilling has been collected from members of the Garrison, in aid of the funds of the Public Library. As the financial condition was such as to cause the Committee a deal of anxiety this welcome addition will be of material assistance.

NOTICE.

All persons having in possession Oatmeal, Rice, Barley, Wheat in small or large quantities are required to declare stock giving amount in hand on 2nd January 1900.

C. M. RYAN, Capt.
D.A.A.G.

"COMING EVENTS CAST THEIR SHADOWS BEFORE THEM."

[CONTRIBUTED.]

Six months of the 20th Century had barely elapsed when a traveller strolling through the quiet street of Zeerust heard, through the open windows of the school house, the little baby Boers learning their alphabet in English in the following rhymes entitled the "Mafeking A.B.C."

A Stands for Africa, but not for the Dutch, Union Jack, equal rights and prosperity, such

As never was known in "Uncle Paul's" day
Were talked of before—but have now come to stay.

B's Baden-Powell, when history tells
The tale of this siege, bombardment and shells,
One voice will exclaim, one echo will ring:
"With loyal assistance, he saved Mafeking."

C Cape Police and the B.S.A.P.,
'Tis better their friends than opponents to be.

D For dug outs or bombproofs or holes,
When shells scream above, we burrow like moles.

E is "Paul's" Edict; the scheme was well laid,
But conquests on paper are easily made.

F is the famous gun, "Grietje" by name,
She's "boerish" in manners and mean at the game;
Where women are quartered, she'd just as lief kill,
And booms her GOOD NIGHT o'er a town sleeping still.

G Is Goid-Adams, C.M.G. and C.B.
In war or at peace, none more cheery than he.

H Colonel Hore and his officers bold,
Where all are well known, no names need be told.

I "In Memoriam," we sorrow for those
Brave fellows, good friends, deep be their repose.

J Is the Juggernaut car of Black Fate,
Let rebels beware lest they fall 'neath its weight.

K "Cannon Kopje"—our strength the true source
Walford's men held it 'gainst Cronje's whole force.

L Are the ladies who stuck to this place,
Good examples as showing what women can face.

M's Mafeking, in Dutch homes that word
Recalls such a failure, that 'tis now never heard.

N Are the Nurses and plucky Miss Hill,
So kind and so tender, 'tis good to be ill.

O Father Ogle—the Convent and Nuns,
Gentle ladies, their home was destroyed by Boer guns.

P Is Protectorate, a regiment whose name
Will be written one day in annals of fame,
With leaders struck down, while shot and shell thundered,
They walked up to Game Tree, Boers stood and wondered.

Q Is the Queen, may we merit Her praise,
God bless and preserve Her the length of Her days.

R Railwaymen and keen Captain More,
As imposing a lot as ever Boer saw.

S For the Staff, a well-chosen crew;
Tall Cecil, trim Wilson, and another bad "Blue,"
While Ryan does sums, and Ronald discourses
Of the war and his rations, of ladies and horses.

T The Town Guard—men trusty and true,
Our safety and weal are much owing to you.

U Is the Unit that makes up the whole
What matter the hardships when ours the goal.

V Volunteers, bold "Rifles" and Band
They all have their part in the "Mafeking stand."

W Mr. Weil, pluck is all very fine,
But where should we be, without food and wine?

X Is for Xmas—our swift thoughts fly home
To England and dear ones, wherever we roam.

Y For the Years that roll by like a stream,
Spring's faded to winter ere we wake from our dream.

Z Is the end of the Z.A.R.'s life,
The conclusion of, "Boerdom," race-hatred and strife;
As a landmark of ages, this century brings
Light and learning to all, and peace on its wings;
Old scores should be ended, old wrongs be made right,
And we'll stand all together for safety and might.

The traveller, who was somewhat of a philosopher, smiled as he walked on and muttered softly to himself: "Vanity of Vanities, saith the preacher, all is Vanity—there is nothing new under the Sun."

AN ECHO FROM MAFEKING?

From Ladysmith, November 27th, a letter says:—We are still safe though the Boers bombard us daily. It is wonderful what little damage is done considering the number of shells thrown in.

We are anxiously looking for the relieving column.

The Boers take every mean advantage possible under white flags, fire on the hospital, &c. We are treated to a midnight bombardment almost every night, and all have had wonderful escapes at one time and another.

LONDON "CHRONICLE" AND SOUTH AFRICA.

London, November 25th.—Mr. Masingham has resigned the editorship of the *Daily Chronicle* owing to differences with the proprietors on the South African policy.

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