# The Matching Mail.

SATURDAY, 23rd DECEMBER, 1899.

NO. 37.

## LATEST NEWS.

By the courtesy of the Colonel Commanding we are enabled to print the following:—

The following news received to-day is published for information, but is not very recent, being only up to 9th December.

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H.E. the High Commissioner telegraphed.

to Col. Nicholson at Bulawayo: -

Up North we have been getting on very well. Golonel Plumer reports the enemy have retired back from Rhodes' Drift towards Pietersburg. He followed their spoor as far as Brack River but could, for the time, get no further owing to want of water. The Crocodile River is now up, so there is no fear of the Boers invading the border, but Colonel Plumer is making rafts to transport his wagons across the river in order to follow up the enemy into their own country.

Colonel Holdsworth has moved forward his headquarters from Magalapye to

Mochudi.

Captain Llewellyn, with armoured trains, is at Gaberones, which has been entirely abandoned by Boers. They have now retired on Crocodile Pools from Gaberones and Bamoutsa. A Native arrived to-day says there was fighting at Crocodile Pools on Tuesday last, so probably our forces are pressing on to them there.

Natives on the border have received notice from the truthful Paul Kruger to say that in all the battles in Natal, Kimberley, and at Bloemfontein the Boers have defeated the British. From this it looks as though Lord Methuen had followed them to Bloemfontein after his victory at Modder River and relief of Kimberley.

Modder River and relief of Kimberley.

General Gatacre is meantime coming up through the Eastern Province and act-

ing in support of Lord Methuen.

Sir Redvers Buller is with 25,090 men at Maritzburg in support of Sir G. White with 10,000 at Ladysmith. At this place we had two successful engagements with the Boers on 9th and 14th November.

Mafeking was relieved at the end of last month by a column of 3,000 men; we lost 223, the enemy losing 1,000. [This news was a little premature.]

SOME CHEERING MESSAGES.

From the High Commissioner.

40,000 Additional Troops.

Half here; Half on Way.

Through the courtesy of Colonel Baden Powell we are enabled to print the following inspiring telegrams:—

From High Commissioner, Cape Town, to Commandant-General, Bula wayo.

November 15th.—Best greeting to you all. We are having a hard fight all round, but have no doubt of the ultimate issue. You have done splendid work in Rhodesia. Greatest credit due to you all and the engineers for turning out those armoured trains so promptly and sending help so smartly to distressed places in the Protectorate. We are all very proud of Mafeking and Rhodesia. I hope Baden-Powell has succeeded in holding his own and that the Natives continue quiet.

the Natives continue quiet.

November 20th.—Thanks for your telegrams of 10th and 12th, giving news of Mafeking up to the 6th. They have made a splendid defence, and I hope that now they will hold out till the pressure on the enemy in other quarters compels the abandonment of the siege. About 20,000 have arrived from England this week, half going to Natal and half to Orange River for the relief of Kimberley. General Clery commands in Natal, Lord Methuen at Orange River. General Buller is still here. Another 20,000 men were on the way from England. There has been no action of importance since my last telegram. In skirmishes at Kimberley on the 11th and 15th the garrison held their own and inflicted loss on the attackers. I have just arranged for a tug to serve regularly between Lourency Marques and Beira. She will start from here immediately and bring the latest papers. I am sending another telegram to the Resident Commissioner at Salisbury and asking him to repeat it to you.

P.O. P. For sale, 2 packets ½ plate, one matt, one Highest offer.—X, Mail office.

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