

THE MAFEKING MAIL

SPECIAL SIEGE EDITION.

ISSUED DAILY, SHELLS PERMITTING. TERMS: ONE SHILLING PER WEEK, PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.

No. 29

Friday, December 8th, 1899.

NOTICE.

We regret that the indisposition of one of our limited staff has prevented us printing so much as we should like to have done. No paper will be published to-morrow, Saturday. The next issue will be on Monday.

The Mafeking Mail.

FRIDAY, 8TH DECEMBER, 1899.

Mafeking Garrison.

GENERAL ORDERS.

MAFEKING, DECEMBER 7TH, 1899.

Court of Summary Jurisdiction.—The Court of Summary Jurisdiction will meet in the Court House to-morrow at 10-15 a.m. Presiding Officer: Major Lord Edward Cecil and C. G. H. Bell, Esq., C.C. & R.M.

By order,
E. H. CECIL, Major,
C.S.O.

JEOPARDIZING UNNECESSARILY.

Wednesday's sad occurrence, we cannot call the concomitant of given circumstances an "accident," which has resulted in the death of one of the three injured men points out the un-wisdom of taking needless risk in a useless cause. Had the death and maiming been brought about through operations connected with the defence of the town we should, while commiserating the victims, have had the satisfaction of knowing that the loss and damage was in a good cause but we fail to recognise any justification whatever for this risk being incurred. Whatever the Boers might have done had they been courageous enough and expert enough would have been borne as becomes us, stoically, philosophically, but a wanton waste like this is foolish, wicked; as the work was calculated to serve no useful end. We have too much sincere regard for our respected townsman to find fault with him for undertaking what he may have regarded as a matter of duty, but we hope that if anyone else is desirous of having these hideous things rendered harmless he will execute the task himself or employ experts whose technical knowledge will reduce the risk to almost nil.

CUTTINGS FROM THE "BULAWAYO CHRONICLE."

Even the well informed "Diplomaticus" in the *Fortnightly Review* confesses that he never expected the Transvaal would go to war, but believed they would play the game of bluff to the end and then give way.

There is one thing about this deplorable war that makes us ask whether President Kruger has not been duped by his agents. We can scarcely believe that he would have entered upon this war unless he had the idea that the Cape Dutch would make a strong diversion in his favour, in short that they would rise. If this were so, he has been misled, the Cape Dutch having lost the opportunity. They will not rise now that General Buller's column has arrived; we never thought that they would. They had too much to lose, probably seeing the fatuousness of the movement, and intended only to threaten the Imperial Government. Paul Kruger, like Mr. Gladstone, will make a big and overwhelming mistake at the end of a long and brilliant career, a mistake which will eclipse all his past fame, and stamp him in history as a fourth-rate statesman.

AND EAST LONDON DAILY "DISPATCH."

MAFEKING DEFENDERS ALL PRISONERS.

LONDON, Tuesday, 5 a.m.—The Boer agents in London daily announce victories of the Boer forces over the Imperial troops.

Last night they declared as a fact, that the Boers, under Commandant Cronje, had captured Mafeking, and had taken the defenders as prisoners.

The troops in the Cape and Natal are sure to be deluged with luxuries of all kinds at Christmas tide.

Cut from a recent *Cape Times* :—

LOST.

AT Newlands, on Sunday, a Dark Bay Horse with a white spot on his forehead and on the nose; a right hind leg and a white left front leg.

It will be easy to recognise that horse by a "right hind leg."

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