

THE MAFEKING MAIL

SPECIAL SIEGE SLIP.

ISSUED DAILY, SHELLS PERMITTING.

TERMS: ONE SHILLING PER WEEK, PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.

No. 92

Thursday, March 15th, 1900.

154th Day of Siege

The Mafeking Mail.

THURSDAY, 15TH MARCH, 1900.

The late Duncan MacDonald

Last week there passed away one of those unnoticed and faithful soldiers of the Queen, who have done so much to build up the Empire on which the sun never sets. Working on in such an unassuming manner, regarding it so much a matter of course that it is only in moments of reflection caused by some such happening as the death of one of them, that we give enough thought to the meaning of the life and work of these staunch supporters of the nation, as to enable us to realise their value. Duncan MacDonald—Scotch, as the name implies—died of cancer at the Victoria Hospital, on Thursday, the 8th instant. Sixty-six years of age, of good stamina, he was still an active man and could try many younger ones at walking. He has been a soldier all his life; fought at Alma; served under Colin Campbell; was one of the "thin red line"; actively present at the Siege of Sebastopol; had served in the Police Force in New Zealand, and Australia; was under Sir Frederick Carrington; joined the Bechuanaland Border Police, and, at the Annexation, was transferred to the Cape Police. For some time he was stationed at Ramathlabama, withdrawing with the remainder of the detachment to Mafeking, just before the commencement of hostilities. He was an excellent shot, an enthusiastic sportsman and "knew a dog" when he saw one; while his genial disposition and straightforward sturdiness made him respected by all who knew him.

LATEST NEWS.

BOERS CONFER.

From reliable Native sources we learn that the Boers held a meeting on Monday, at Polfontein. Messages were sent on Sunday night to summon all to attend.

AFRAID TO BE ON GUARD ALONE.

The Boers' account of last Sunday night's attack by the Baralongs is: "A party of Boers were out scouting and came upon some Baralongs unawares. The Natives opened fire and the Boers tried to return for reinforcements and fought a long time, (all night) but were beaten back, losing three killed and others wounded." Natives report many came back without horses or rifles, therefore think the Boers have under-estimated their losses.

They are afraid to travel about alone now: hitherto they have travelled freely

through the country, murdering the defenceless at will. The action of the Baralongs has, however, put a stop to this.

WHY THE BIG GUN FIRED SO LITTLE.

The big gun was damaged so that it could not fire much last week. It is mended now, and is firing a new class of projectile, the fore part being a common shell and the latter shrapnel. This accounts for the increased power; hitherto shrapnel has done no particular damage. For the preservation of life and limb we must use greater caution.

BOERS WON'T LEAVE US.

A party of women went out, round by the railway line, to their gardens. When they reached their land they were stopped by some Boers' Natives, who told them the rule now was to capture the young women and let the old ones stay upon the land, but not allow them to return to Mafeking lest they should take food to their husbands. It was through their persistence in coming to the gardens, in contempt of the Boers' bullets and the risk of being killed, that made the Boers alter their minds and not leave, as they had intended to do a fortnight ago, because, they argued, "The people in Mafeking must be nearly starving or they would not take such risk to get food."

THE LAST ATTEMPT.

Two new Generals have arrived at the laager, they brought with them all the spare men they could get from the Transvaal, some of them will go North to oppose the re-construction of the railway line and delay our relief as much as they can, while others will remain here to "attack the place" and do their best to "take or at least harrass and annoy us."

Our informant told them they might be able to stop Plumer, she does not know him, but this place they will never be able to take, and if they bother us till Judgment Day, Mafeking will never surrender.

COMING EVENTS CAST THEIR SHADOWS BEFORE THEM.

Yesterday two Boers returned from the North of Pitsani, wounded by Plumer's scouts.

ST. PATRICK'S NIGHT.

IRISHMEN'S SMOKING CONCERT.

On Tuesday a meeting of Irishmen was held at Riesle's Hotel to determine the most fitting way in which St. Patrick's Night might be celebrated in Siege conditions. A committee was formed consisting of Major Goold-Adams, (Chairman) and Messrs. Byrne, Stokes,

Connolly, Hickson, and Neilly. Mr. Neilly was appointed Sec. and Treasurer, and with him Messrs. Campbell and McKenna were selected to act as a Concert Committee. After a discussion conducted with the usual harmony that marks Irish debates, it was decided that a Smoking Concert should be held at Riesle's Hotel, Mafeking, on Sunday evening, not for the purpose of breaking the Sabbath, but because that is the only evening on which our Irish defenders can be induced to leave the comforts of their trenches, even to toast their patron Saint, and to hear nice things sung of their Green Isle.

It was arranged, having regard to the limited seating accommodation, that only Irishmen should have the privilege of purchasing tickets, the price of which was fixed at 10s. Each ticket-holder will be entitled to bring a guest, no restriction being placed on the matter of sex. Messrs. Connolly and Byrne graciously consented to look after the seating arrangements.

It was unanimously resolved to give the surplus proceeds to the Superioress of the Convent.

A genuine Bumper Night has been provided for, and to save disappointment, those who wish to be present should purchase their tickets early. They can do this by applying to Mr. Campbell, Dixon's Hotel; Mr. McKenna, Volunteer Barracks, Town Hall; or J. E. Neilly, No. 1, Riesle's Hotel.

Shillelaghs at 9; Stretchers at 10-30 p.m.

Mafeking Garrison.

GENERAL ORDERS

By Colonel R. S. S. Baden-Powell, Commanding Frontier Force.

MAFEKING, 15TH MARCH, 1900.

Court of Summary Jurisdiction.—The Court of Summary Jurisdiction will meet to-morrow, the 16th instant, at the Court House, at 10-15 a.m., for the examination of such prisoners as may be brought before it. President: Major Lord Edward Cecil, D.S.O.; Member: C. G. H. Bell Esq., C.C. & R.M.

By order,
E. H. CECIL, Major,
Chief Staff Officer.

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