

# THE MAFEKING MAIL

## SPECIAL SIEGE SLIP.

ISSUED DAILY, SHELLS PERMITTING.

TERMS: ONE SHILLING PER WEEK, PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.

No. 46 (No. 45 cancelled)

Friday, January 5th, 1900.

86th Day of Siege.

Reprints of Nos. 1, 2 and 3  
are now ready.

The Mafeking Mail.

FRIDAY, 5TH JANUARY, 1900.

### "GENTLE ANNIE" TO THE RESCUE.

Last evening our pups set on to the enemy's boar hound and worried it considerably. No sooner had the brute began its usual afternoon barking than our seven-pound terriers yelped. One of them bit it. "Gentle Annie" sprang at it, at first too far, then getting the distance better, took a piece out of the Boers' front works. The whole crowd were so alarmed, they evidently thought our men were coming at them again, for they swarmed up to reinforce the big gun fort. Impossible as it might have appeared our small artillery stopped the noise of their one-pound maxim and Greitje was quiet last night and all this morning. We hear, but do not vouch for its truth, that there was a funeral by the big gun fort this morning. Whether or not, much credit is due to Major Panzera and his men for the manner in which they manipulated their guns. They have evidently given the enemy a shock.

The following is the Official Notice referring to the Operation:—

The Colonel Commanding desires to congratulate Major Panzera, commanding Artillery, and all concerned, on the very successful Artillery action of yesterday evening.

For two nights previously Col. Wyvyan had been making gun emplacements and shelter trenches in which to conceal and give security to guns and men. During the day yesterday the enemy had evidently no knowledge of their presence, and the Artillery duel on the western face in the morning tended to allay any suspicion. Consequently when, at 5 p.m., our hidden guns suddenly opened a concentrated fire on the enemy's main battery at 2,300 yards, it came as a surprise to them. Their guns replied with great accuracy at first, but, under the continuous fire of our 7-pounders and Nordenfelt, assisted by the old ship's gun, and the long range volleys of covering parties of B.S.A.P. and "Bechuanaland Rifles," they could not do much. The enemy's musketry fire, although heavy at first, was eventually silenced, and after an hour's cannonade their 94-pounder was unable to continue firing, being evidently damaged in her elevating gear. The one-pounder Maxim was silenced, and the 9-pounder Krupp was withdrawn. Our guns continued the fire up till dark but the enemy made no reply. They were completely silenced.

The Boers sent strong reinforcements of mounted and dismounted men from both their eastern and western laagers, but these did not venture within range; had they done so they would have met with a warm reception from the "Bechuanaland Rifles" and a troop of the Protectorate Regiment, who had been brought up as supports to meet their move.

Our gunners, under Major Panzera and Lieutenant Daniel, worked with con-

spicuous coolness and energy in spite of heavy musketry and accurate gun fire from the enemy. Happily none were hit. Lowe and Mulholland, Railway Division, in charge of the Nordenfelt, again distinguished themselves by their coolness and accurate shooting. Their gun was struck more than once.

This decided silencing of the enemy's guns cannot fail to cause the Boers to lose much faith in their Artillery, while it must enhance in their eyes the pluck of our own men in beating them with inferior weapons. Mafeking, 4th Jan., 1900.

### Mafeking Garrison.

#### GENERAL ORDERS.

MAFEKING, 4TH JANUARY, 1900.

*Trial of Military Offenders.*—All cases of crime occurring in enlisted Corps will be brought before a Field General Court Martial, and not before the Court of Summary Jurisdiction.

*Court of Summary Jurisdiction.*—The Court of Summary Jurisdiction will meet to-morrow, Friday, the 5th instant, at the Court House, at 10.15 a.m., for the examination of such prisoners as may be brought before it. President: H. H. Major Gould-Adams, C.B., C.M.G.; Member: Lieut.-Colonel C. O. Hore.

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

#### ASSESSMENT OF PROPERTY.

List of names of owners whose property will probably be assessed on Sunday next, 7th instant—

Messrs. J. Weil, Mahomed Dada, R. F. Appelbe, H. Noach, G. Riesle, E. C. Wright, D. E. McConnell, O. Fodisch, Rev. Hudson, Messrs. J. W. de Kock, R. H. Martin, and Mafeking Club.

#### OUR HOPE-OMETER.

##### Mercury still Firm.

By the courtesy of Mr. Ben Weil we reproduce the following from a wire he received, through Bulawayo, from Mr. Julius Weil, M.L.A., now at Capetown. The date of the original would be now about a month old. After explaining some business details relating to the transport wagons and oxen for use of the Imperial troops, he says: "General Lord Methuen's forces, after three brilliant successes at Belmont, Grasspans, and Modder River, are successfully advancing, driving the enemy in front of them; many Boers have been killed and wounded. Kimberley garrison is now reported to have joined hands with the Relief Column. [It will be noticed that the time agrees with and corroborates former accounts to hand]. Continuing, Mr. Weil says: Our troops in Natal are also pushing the Boers hard and driving them back. Ladysmith and all our garrisons are safe.

"Convey my congratulations to Colonel Baden-Powell, Lord E. Cecil, Colonels Hore and Walford, Major Vyvyan, and all engaged in the brilliant and plucky defence

of Mafeking." The message also includes expression of congratulations and good wishes to His Honour the Mayor and various other inhabitants of the town, the names of Mr. Gerrans, Captain Goodyear, and Mr. Frances are also included, nor are the members of the establishment forgotten. It winds up with reference to several previous messages which have evidently been intercepted.

#### FROM THE "NATAL MERCURY."

"Nothing takes courage out of men more easily than failure. The news that the late fights with the Boers have disheartened the enemy, and caused many of them to bitterly regret their absence from their farms, and to wish themselves back again, does not come as a surprise. They have had a taste of British metal, and British mettle, too, which has come as a great surprise to them. Doubtless the Boers have all along imagined that fighting British troops was child's play. They have learnt, to their great calamity, that this has been a grave error. Then, their crops are all rotting, and their season's work is waiting to be done. The "picnic" on which they set out has resolved itself into something farthest from their expectation."

#### POETS CORNER.

##### THE ARMoured TRAIN.

There's risk on the ballasted roadway;  
There's death on the girdered bridge,  
Red ruin from sleeper to sleeper,  
And wreck on the bouldered ridge,  
No signal to herald my coming,  
No whistle to waken the plain;  
Stand clear—I am warned for patrolling!  
Make way for the Armoured Train!

I run not to time, nor to table,  
I'm neither an "up" nor a "down";  
But "Full speed ahead" is my order,  
When skirting the enemy's town,  
My miles have a backing of cordite,  
My luggage is powder and shell,  
With smoke-stack ablazing I thunder  
A traveller's sample of hell!

They have laid me a mine by a culvert,  
They have loosened a bolt by a curve,  
But thrice tested still is my muscle,  
And thrice tested brass is my nerve.  
A curse for their bungling folly,  
A laugh for the death-trap that fails,  
A hang for the enemy's miner  
So long as I keep to the rails.

A cheer—and I pull from the township  
To spy out the enemy's line;  
A plunge—and I rush into darkness  
As reckless of wreckage as mine.  
And what if a rail had been lifted?  
And what if a river's unspanned?  
I fail, but I know in the failing  
I strove at the Empire's command.

They were men who at Badajos conquered,  
They were men who for Wellington struck  
And a man is the man at the throttle,  
And a man is the man on the truck.  
Undismayed I may go to destruction,  
For I know at the end I may feel  
I die with the men on the footplate,  
I pass with my brothers in steel.

—EDGAR WALLACE.

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