

THE MAFEKING MAIL

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Wednesday, December 6th, 1899.

The Mafeking Mail.

WEDNESDAY, 6TH DECEMBER, 1899.

Mafeking Garrison.

GENERAL ORDERS.

MAFEKING, DECEMBER 5TH, 1899.

Court of Summary Jurisdiction.—
The Court of Summary Jurisdiction will meet to-morrow, at the Court House, 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.

RAIN, RAIN, RAIN.

"Dead puppies, stinking sprats, all drenched in mud, drowned cats and turnips came tumbling down the flood" is what Dean Swift said in his description of a city shower. We suppose from his mentioning dead puppies and drowned cats that he meant it was raining "cats and dogs." We don't know the origin of the "cats and dogs" shower, but if its root is "Kata doxas," as some learned writer suggested, or "contrary to experience," we think it rained "cats and dogs" yesterday. A sprinkle of over eight inches in about one hour is decidedly contrary to experience. Fortunately we are so positioned that there is ample natural drainage to take away even the enormous quantity of water which fell yesterday, but the trenches were soon filled, and from them the water could not run. More damage to property was done by the storm than the Boers have accomplished in their "storming." Rations were destroyed, kits washed away, and in one case a man was nearly drowned, or smothered in mud. He slipped in, fortunately feet downwards, and had not two of his companions been near him and promptly "hauled him back again," he would have been done for. At the Hospital Redan the underground kitchen was flooded with six feet of water, the dinner beef spoiled and various little "extras" the men had subscribed to buy, were lost. The Women's Laager trench was an underground canal. The Sisters were washed out

from their "bomb-proof" and the C.P. had an hour's diving in a seven feet deep, coffee coloured pool, for Maxim ammunition, while everyone had an experience of wetness and discomfort, which it is to be hoped will remain unique, but which was borne by the whole garrison in the same cheery manner which has been shown during all the time of the siege. We hope our friend the enemy enjoyed himself, and to help cheer him up, should like to tell him that through his lack of nous and pluck he missed a chance yesterday to annoy us, which is never likely to present itself again.

PROMENADE CONCERT.

When the Railway Division do a thing they do it well, and the second Siege Concert which they gave on Sunday proves it. Although the Gymkhana kept visitors away during the first part, the many late arrivals showed how the entertainment was appreciated. The management was able to keep better to the published programme than last week, and Mrs. Lees having sufficiently recovered her indisposition to enable her to appear, made an additional attraction. This lady, who possesses a sweet voice and can manage it well, will prove a musical acquisition to Mafeking. We hope soon to hear her indoors without the disadvantage of the open air to contend with. Our Orchestral Society also acquitted themselves most creditably. Mr. Layton, we beg his pardon, Sergt.-Major, Layton sang two songs and was deservedly encored. Mr. Tony Cooper sang "The Promised Land" and another of his own composition: "Let 'em all come" (revised), in which allusion is made to the gallantry of Trooper Stevens, who carried Webb to the Hospital when "Spider" was wounded. It is unnecessary to say this was well received. Captain Ryan sang artistically and well "In Friendship's Name," and showed his versatility by responding to the determined call for an encore with one of "Chevalier's" songs. The remainder of the programme comprised "Saku Bona Zonka" and "The Blathermskite" by Mr. King. "In Old Madrid" by Mr. Crittenden, and "The Old Brigade" by Mr. Russell, completing an excellent concert. Refreshments were served and a most enjoyable entertainment was provided, for which the thanks of the community are certainly due to the Railway Division.

THE FIGHT NEAR KIMBERLEY.

Where Botha was Killed.

Official Account.

Colonial Kekewich to Chief Staff Officer, October 24th, 9 p.m.—Lieut.-Colonel Scott Turner proceeded northward with about 270 mounted men about four this morning. The party off-saddled at McFarlane's at about 8-40. Continued the journey towards Riverton Road Station. Almost at once scattered parties of Boers were seen on right flank. Turner took up a position at McFarlane's and saw 135 Boers south of his position about 1,200 yards range. Turner opened fire and saw Boers falling. At 10 a.m. two hundred Boers were seen advancing from the north to reinforce the Boers already in position. Turner opened fire at 1,700 yards on this body and emptied several saddles. The enemy now moved to a sandheap and opened fire at Turner's force at 2,000 yards, which we returned. Turner endeavoured to cut off the Boers advancing against Murray at 2 p.m., but was met by a heavy magazine fire from dam wall not previously noticed, about 600 yards from his left flank. At 11 a.m. I ordered Lieut.-Colonel Murray to proceed north with 130 men of the Lancashire Regiment by train, which had been kept ready. The armoured train was already in support of Turner's forces. At 11-56 Murray left Kimberley, and at the same time two guns, two Maxims, with an escort of 70 mounted men, advanced by road towards McFarlanes. Murray's force proceeded direct to Turner's position, now six miles from here. The fold of ground hid the train from view. At 1-10 I saw our two guns suddenly come into action against the Boers on hills north-east of them in a very unfavourable position in low ground. Their artillery fire was very brisk. I at once ordered a second train to be held in readiness. About 1-30 p.m. it was noticed through the smoke of guns that Murray's train had returned, and his men were in support of guns. At 2 p.m. the second train was forwarded with seventy of the Kimberley regiment and additional ammunition for the guns. Two coaches were also sent on the train to bring back the wounded. The North Lancashires behaved most excellently and cleared the Boers out of the kopjes. Turner cannot be too highly commended for the part he took in to-day's engagement. Commandant Botha, of Boshof (commandant), and many Boers were killed. The estimated strength of the Boer forces engaged to-day were 700 men. Our success will have very good effect in this neighbourhood. The Boers twice attempted to make treacherous use of the white flag. List of our killed: Private H. J. Elliott, Cape Police; Private R. S. Mackenzie, Cape Police; Trooper Leopold, K.L.H. Wounded: Lieut. R. L. McClintock, R.E., slightly; Lieuts. J. G. Lowndes and C. H. Bingham, North Lancashires both severely. Private A. Milner

severely and Private H. Lee slightly, both North Lancashires; C. H. Hoskins, Dye, Gow, Simpson, Peterson, and Gradwell, Cape Police; Dodds, Harris, Chapman, McCaskial, Brady, and Beddy (?), K.L.H.; M. N. Hartigan, F. D. Paynes, A. F. Dickenson, A Bankier, D.F.A., K.L.H. is Kimberley Light Horse, raised three days ago.

SAD ACCIDENT.

A regrettable occurrence took place this afternoon by which Town Councillor Gerrans and his assistant, Mr. Green, also a passer-by, named Smith, was injured. An unexploded shell was being opened for the purpose of extracting the charge when by some means—the details of which have not yet been made clear—the thing exploded. The three were removed to the Hospital.

BEEF FOR CHRISTMAS.

Watching and feeding cattle just now must cause the Boers a deal of anxiety, therefore we feel glad to learn that some of our natives have relieved them of part of their worry by bringing in a lot of nice fat oxen which the Boers have been taking care of.

THE CONCHOLOGICAL MARKET

Is drooping, probably in sympathy with the depressed state of the big gun. Directly settling day arrives we may expect a rush for it, when, no doubt, a lot of other shells will go suddenly up. In the meantime holders of ninety-four pounders are hanging fire, awaiting the "boom" in this stock. Till it comes let your maxim be: "Sit tight and do not be alarmed at the various reports." Buyers and lenders of five-pounders are very scarce. The fortunate holders of paper of this denomination positively declining to part.

TRUTH IS STRANGER THAN FICTION.

This is the latest "narrow escape" which we relate as was told us:—

"He was on the roof looking through a spy glass when the shell struck. The concussion sent him up several feet in the air. While he was thus travelling the shell exploded underneath him. He dropped back on to the roof just after the explosion and rolled into the gutter; unhurt."

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