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A BOER VICTORY

British Troops Meet a Disastrous Reverse.

2,000 TAKEN PRISONERS BY BOERS

The Engagement Was a Severe One and the Boer Loss is Heavy. England Sends More Troops.

LONDON, Oct. 31.—A dispatch from General White, commanding the British forces at Ladysmith, reports that the Royal Irish fusiliers, a mounted battery and the Gloucestershire regiment were surrounded in the hills by the Boers, and that, after losing heavily, they were obliged to capitulate. The casualties have not yet been ascertained. Following is the text of General White's dispatch to the war office:

"Ladysmith, Oct. 30. 10:45 p. m.—I have to report a disaster to the column sent by me to take a position on a hill to guard the left flank of the troops. In these operations today the Royal Irish fusiliers, No. 10 mountain battery and the Gloucestershire regiment were surrounded in the hills, and after losing heavily, had to capitulate. The casualties have not yet been ascertained.

"A man of the fusiliers, employed as a hospital orderly, came in under a flag of truce with a letter from the survivors of the column, who asked for assistance to bury the dead.

"I fear there is no doubt of the truth of the report. I formed the plan in the carrying out of which the disaster occurred, and I am alone responsible for the plan. There is no blame whatever to the troops, as the position was untenable."

General White, in a subsequent dispatch, says:

"The following is a list of officers taken prisoner today:

"Staff Major Adye.
"Irish fusiliers: Colonel Carleton, Major Munn, Major Kincaid, Captains Burrows, Rice and Silver, Lieutenants Harj, Southey, Phibbs, McGregor, Holmes, Kelly, Dooner, Kentish, Killehan, Jendwine, Chaplain Matthews. Of the above, Captains Rice and Silver and Lieutenant Dooner were wounded.

"Gloucestershire regiment: Majors Humphrey, Capetiere and Wallace, Captain Duncan, Captain Connor, Lieutenants Bryant, Nesbitt, Ingham, Davey, Knox, Temple, Radice, Brou, Hill, Smith, Mackenzie, Beasley and Gray. Of the above, Captains Duncan and Connor were wounded.

"Royal artillery: Major Bryan.

"Mounted battery: Lieutenants Wheeler Nugent, Moore and Webb."

A special dispatch from Ladysmith says the Boers suffered severely during the engagement, some persons estimating their loss at 900 to 1000 killed and wounded.

Reports are current here that General White may retire to Pietermaritzburg while the railroad is intact. There is much divergence of opinion in military circles as to the advisability of such a step.

The war office has sent the following dispatch to General Buller: "Three extra battalions of feet and one mountain battery, with reserves, will leave England during the course of 10 days, to make good your casualties."

Anxiety at Ladysmith.

LONDON, Oct. 31.—Public anxiety was increased today by a special dispatch from Ladysmith, published in the late editions of the London afternoon papers, to the effect that before darkness yesterday the Boers reoccupied the old position held by their heavy artillery, which General White had reported silenced by the guns of the naval brigade from the Powerful, and had opened fire again. The dispatch further says:

"The enemy are again closing in, and the situation is one of grave anxiety. Beyond doubt the Boer retreat yesterday (Monday) was a ruse to draw General White into the hilly country and away from the British camp."

This last sentence is significant, and confirms the opinion of military experts here that General White is allowing himself to be outgeneraled by Commandant-General Joubert.

The Battle Still Raging.

CAPE TOWN, Oct. 31.—The South African News publishes the following dispatch: "Ladysmith, Oct. 31.—The battle is proceeding at the foot of Ubanhane, a few miles from Ladysmith. Several shells have dropped into the town."

Boers Gathering in Force.

LONDON, Oct. 31.—Advices from Cape Town show that the Boers are gathering in considerable force at Dordrecht, southwest of Ladysmith, while large forces of Boers are advancing over the Helpmakar road. A big camp of Boers is to be formed between Harrismith bridge and Potgieters farm camp, at Dordrecht, which, it is said, will extend four miles

A VOLUNTEER PROTEST.

The False and Misleading Statements of "Anti" Correspondents Exposed. Plain Talk by a Returned Volunteer.

The Courier-Herald publishes in its issue of Oct. 27, an article written by H. B. Nichols which it says was refused publication by the Portland Telegram. The writer pretends to be attempting to prove that anarchy does not exist outside the American lines but his real object is to show that the attempt by the U. S. to control the lawless element is unjust and murderous, and that the American army is a set of libertines, drunkards and gamblers.

To begin at the beginning. He says, quoting some consular agent, "From the time the Filipinos took charge of affairs in Luzon law and order prevailed, life and property were protected, and a woman's honor was sacred as it had not been in 30 years."

Life and property may have been protected; but every man in the Oregon regiment certainly knows of instances where Filipino men were killed without any form of trial, all that was required being an order from some one high in the insurgent councils. Luna was killed because he was becoming too popular among the Filipinos. Beatrice because Aguinaldo owed him and he was trying to get what was his due. When we abandoned San Iridro the Filipinos returned and proceeded to kill the Chinese population. You need not take my word for these statements, but ask the men who have been in the Philippines, ones who have been there long enough to know what they are talking about, whether or not my statements are true.

As to protection of property, a little later; but when he speaks of the honor of Filipino women, he deals in myths indeeds. The Spanish woman is virtuous and true and so are the high class Filipino women but among the masses—Mr. Nicholas had better spend a few months in Manila on the police force.

It is a little queer that General Anderson should outrank a hospital steward, but what does the general say, "they are not far below the Japanese in intelligence and capabilities of culture. (Mind you "capabilities of culture") There is only the soil there which may produce much if properly cultivated. General Anderson has said that these people are not fit to govern themselves. Dewey says they are a child race capable of culture but not fit at the present time to govern themselves.

If they are superior to the Negro of our Southern states as General King says or more fit for self-government than the Cubans as Dewey says, does it necessarily follow that they are capable of governing themselves and ought to be granted independence? If some wise man should rise and say, "The lunatics at Salem, Oregon, are not as crazy as those at Stockton, Calif., should we immediately give the insane confined in the asylum at Salem their liberty? He says "General Miller reported that when he went to Ilo Ilo to take that city, the foreign residents and business men sent a letter begging him not to attack the place, assuring him that the natives' government had established law and order and that life and property were amply protected." In order to be fair and honest he should have made the further statement that, in order to save these same business men and foreign residents from harm, General Miller did not attack the city. He laid there in the bay with his troops on transport. The natives looted and set fire to the city and American soldiers were then sent on shore to save the property not already destroyed or stolen.

He also says General Reeves, late chief of police says, "the natives were engaged in all branches of industry. They were intelligent, industrious, peaceable and fond of home life. The diffusion of knowledge was general." In all this General Reeves does not say that the natives engaged in all branches of industry are on the war path. Those industrious, peaceable, home-loving people are doing all they can to bring the islands under American control. General Reeves came in contact with the natives of Manila alone and he speaks of them only.

The universities with their vast enrollment are Spanish Catholic institutions. Grown up under the motherly care of the Spanish government, and the Filipinos have assisted in building them up only to the extent of the tax money wrung from them. H. B. N. would lead you to believe that the natives had managed their own affairs during the last three hundred years. In every political division of the country resided a Spanish military officer who acted as civil and military governor of that division. These officers ranked from major general down. Natives held the minor positions but all positions of responsibility were held by Spaniards. Natives acted as tax-gatherers usually because they were more heartless than even the Spaniard and would bring more to the public treasury, but even all of this was directly under the control of the Spaniards and Spaniards spent the money.

It is certainly true that the natives

received the most brutal treatment from the Spanish but Oscar F. Williams' statement as reported by H. B. N. is not absolutely true. With thousands of tons of food everywhere, I have seen the Spanish prisoner at Cavite begging for food. Poor, bagged, and cank-eyed, showing most certainly the marks of starvation. Don't take my word for this, ask the boys who were in Cavite during the time the Spanish prisoners were confined there. At that time the Tagalos were playing for sympathy, doing everything possible, as they now are, to make a good appearance to the world, but still their natural brutality would crop out.

Who ever heard of a hostile army going outside of its lines to preserve order. It preserves order within its lines, outside is presumed to be enemy's territory, and it is not all likely the enemy would permit us to maintain order unless we overcome them and seize the territory where the disorder exists. How does this strike you? No single instance has been found where it was necessary for our forces to interfere outside of our own army lines, to protect etc."

Families of officers are not allowed in Manila because if a man's loved ones are in danger his first thought and care is to guard them. It increases the work of the private soldier because those women must be protected and every man there, officer and private has all he can do without guarding a lot of non-combatants who are but a burden. Officers and men are not to be hampered by this extra care.

Hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of property has been destroyed. If there ever was a war where men were not killed and property destroyed, let someone rise and cite the instance. Buildings were burned because they were used to harbor insurgents and contained stores which were being used in the insurgent army, buildings with stone walls were destroyed because they were used as forts. I never heard of friendly natives being wantonly killed as H. B. N. states. Some suffered through mistakes perhaps, but to say that eight men friendly to us were murdered is putting rather strong.

Our scouts were chosen from the best men, known to be brave, strong and good marksmen and good soldiers generally. Men who are true soldiers do not mutilate the enemy's dead, neither do they kill or injure prisoners, and they always gave the wounded Tagalo soldiers the very best of care. American soldiers, after fighting and marching all day would not rest until the enemy's wounded in our hands had been cared for. I have seen them walk a mile to get an armful of straw to make one of the poor devils a bed so that he would be comfortable until the ambulance could take him to the hospital. There are murderers among all classes of men but no more of them among the men in the army than elsewhere and a man who was thought to have willfully committed a brutal act was treated with contempt by everybody. Ninety-nine cases in a hundred if an act of barbarity was committed it was done by some cold-footer or camp-follower that was too cowardly to do the duty of a soldier in the field. I here ask that strict search be made and if any man can be found who knows that our scouts cut off the ears of our enemy's dead, let us hear all the facts known, time, place, under whose command the scouts were, every particular so far as possible.

He presumes that soldiers pillaged churches because they brought home sacred relics. It is just as fair to presume that H. B. N. stole the coat he wears because we do not know how he got it. There are no churches in that part of the world but Catholic churches. McKinnon is a Catholic of the most ardent type and it is his duty as a priest of that church to protect church property. He says the Tagalos, those brave liberty-loving men whom H. B. N. defends, looted the churches. Read what he says in his speech to Catholics at St. Louis. Some churches were destroyed by us, they were being used by Tagalos for fortifications and were destroyed by our artillery. It was like the burning of the houses—it had to be done in the prosecution of the war. No nation can carry an enemy on a feather bed and hope to conquer him.

Almost every soldier who has taken an active part in the campaign has at some time or another been one of the first to enter a captured town or city. He will tell you that nearly every secretary, book case and desk had been tumbled into the yard and broken open before an American soldier had ever entered the town, books would be scattered in the street, the contents of drawers scattered under foot and confusion everywhere. H. B. N.'s friends, the Tagalos, did it, not the Americans. It is but natural that some of those valuable tomes were saved from certain destruction and if H. B. N. had been there he would have carried away just as many as any one else. It is noticeable that men who have the least interest in

(Continued on page 5)