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### NO LIGHT FROM DARKEST AFRICA

"No News" Announced From war Office, But Important Information May Be Held Back.

### NATIVE RISINGS RUMORED

Johannesburg Refugees Describe the Fantastic Scenes Which Followed the Commencement of War

NEW YORK, Nov. 6.—A dispatch to the Tribune from London says:

With the war office reduced to the extremity of holding back important information and announcing from house to house that there is no news, and the war correspondents, in the phrase applied by Grant to Buller, "hulled up" and tightly corked, South Africa remained until midnight "darkest Africa."

There were splinters of belated news regarding Thursday's artillery duel at Ladysmith, in which a Boer 440-pounder was wrecked, and also a suspiciously brief account of a brilliant sortie by which a Boer camp was surprised at Bester's hill. Later came a message by pigeon post, forwarded by General Buller, showing the town holding out on Friday and hard fighting going on. There was also a brief reference to a Boer attack upon Colenso, the sequence of which had already come in the tidings from the colonial office that the British garrison had fallen back and abandoned the defense of the bridge over the Tugela.

Gen. Joubert's object was apparently secured in breaking communication with the coast, and preventing the movement of reinforcements to Ladysmith, but some military men were predicting that he would set a large force in motion for Pietermaritzburg and Durban, and complete the conquest of Natal before the arrival of the British army corps.

This would be a bolder and more reckless movement than Sherman's

march to Savannah, since the British fleet commands the sea coast. The more probable theory is that Joubert has closed in upon Ladysmith after driving the English out of Colenso and is making strenuous efforts to overwhelm White's army with his superior force.

A rumor of a general uprising of Basutos against the Orange Free State has not been officially confirmed at midnight. Their chief has a force of 60,000 well mounted, well-trained warriors, which is capable not only of placing the Free State on the defensive, but also of rousing the Swasib, Kaffirs, Zulus and other black races and setting all South Africa aflame as far as the Zambesi river.

This black menace adds a new terror to the darkness now brooding over the camps and garrisons of the two warring white races. The Orange Free State is the traditional foe of Basutoland, and those most familiar with the conditions of race resentment in South Africa have feared from the outset that Milner's agents may not be able to hold under restraint this tribe, once all powerful under Chief Mosheloh.

Public anxiety has been increased by their with a clear perception of the outcome of the war which may be the earliest results of the conflict. President Steyn is described as a shrewd, intelligent, ambitious man. The rear guard came away from Johannesburg with the conviction that President Kruger had been dragged into the war against his will and judgment, and that Steyn had involved the Orange Free State in a fatal struggle, in which it had everything to lose and nothing to gain, and that he had no other incentive than a dream of a powerful Dutch republic.

A representative of one of the largest mining properties, said after his arrival from the Transvaal that many intelligent burghers were bitterly opposed to the war. He quoted Johannes Risik, who surveyed the city named after him, as saying that he himself would gladly have granted to the Uilanders all that they had asked and these concessions would have been merely equitable. Risik and other Boers who shared his view of what would have been a just and reasonable solution are now fighting strenuously on the Dutch side. Risik is described as having no illusions respecting the ultimate result, but also as forecasting hard fighting by the Boers and great destruction of life

at Johannesburg when the mining camps were abandoned by the English residents.

Evacuation had been in progress for weeks before the final signal for war, and then the English rear guard of confidential advisers and trusted employees of every great mining corporation were ordered to go. The richest gold fields in the world, with the costliest mechanism for crushing and chemical treatment of the sandstone conglomerate and deep-level mining, were left under charge of foreign unjoking and native servants.

Palatial residences were turned over to care-takers, and their occupants locked and barred front doors and drove to the station, convinced that their furniture and art treasures would be looted before the end of the war. Strange as has been the mushroom growth of the English mining city, its sudden desertion was a grotesque marvel among the vicissitudes of human fortune.

The tolerance with which these returning pilgrims from Johannesburg speak of President Kruger astonishes their London friends. He is credited by them with a clear perception of the outcome of the war which may be the earliest results of the conflict. President Steyn is described as a shrewd, intelligent, ambitious man. The rear guard came away from Johannesburg with the conviction that President Kruger had been dragged into the war against his will and judgment, and that Steyn had involved the Orange Free State in a fatal struggle, in which it had everything to lose and nothing to gain, and that he had no other incentive than a dream of a powerful Dutch republic.

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### PRIVATERING IMPROBABLE.

The Boer Government Could Not Issue Letters of Marque if it Desired.

NEW YORK, Nov. 6.—A special to the Herald from Washington says: It is doubted here whether the Boer government could issue letters of marque to privateers that would give the vessels carrying them the right to be treated otherwise than as pirates. In the first place, the Boers have accepted the suzerainty of Great Britain by the treaty of 1881, the international status of the flag is very doubtful. Assuming, however, that the flag of the Transvaal would be recognized on the high seas, there are serious practical difficulties in the way of the issuance of letters of marque by a government that has no seacoast and no ports.

The vessels could not be armed and equipped in any neutral port without making the neutral government liable to heavy damages to the British government under the principles laid down in the Alabama case. They could not procure coal in any port in the world without a violation of the principles of neutrality. If any nation should allow privateers with letters from the Transvaal government to issue from its ports for to coal in its ports, it would be almost equivalent to a declaration of war against Great Britain and the British government would probably so regard it.

Aside from this, the general sentiment of the civilized world is strongly against privateering. By the declaration of Paris, the signatory powers agreed to the abolition of privateering. The only maritime nations not joining in this declaration were the United States, Spain and Mexico. The United States refused to join because it desired to secure from other nations a declaration exempting private property at sea from capture. While not pledged to abstain from privateering, the United States would probably never resort to it unless in retaliation.

In the recent war with this country, Spain was forced by the public opinion of Europe to abstain from issuing letters of marque.

### AN ARTIFICIAL FOOD PRODUCT.

Merchants' Review. Experiments in German hospitals with an albuminous powder called "tropon," a substitute for meat, have been so satisfactory that it is likely to

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taken at night will make you feel right, act right and look right. They cure Constipation.  
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become an article of commerce. It is claimed that one pound of tropon is equal in nutritive value to five pounds of meat or one hundred eggs, and its cost is only 70 cents. The hospital patients liked the tropon so well that nearly all of them preferred it to meat. It is now being used as an ingredient of various foods, as, for example, in flour, a roll containing five per cent of the powder equalling in nutritive value five eggs or half a pound of meat. It is needless to enlarge upon the future of tropon, if there has been no exaggeration in the accounts of the experiments with it. The inventor is a professor at Bonn.

An Ohio man by paying \$75 has secured a perpetual subscription to Harper's Magazine. This sum would pay for the magazine for only fifteen years, but it is to be noticed that four per cent of it is \$3, which is the annual subscription price of the publication. The subscription is assignable to the subscriber's heirs and since there can be little doubt but that the magazine will be published for at least fifteen years longer, the arrangement seems to be favorable to both parties.

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