

GREAT PREPARATIONS FOR GERMAN EMPEROR'S VISIT

England and the Continent Impressed With the Significance of the Occasion.

VICTORIA DRILLING HER HOUSEHOLD

The Theatrical Effects Will Be Stupendous and the Attention of the Whole World Is Expected To Be Riveted.

NEW YORK, Nov. 14.—A dispatch to the Tribune from London, says: The German emperor's visit to England is the chief topic of serious discussion and ingenious conjecture. On the continent he has suddenly loomed up as the commanding figure in European diplomacy who has thrown his influence on the winning side at a moment when England is making a supreme military effort seven miles from Landsend.

Even the commercial classes of Germany are impressed with the power and consequence of their emperor to great affairs of the world and acrid French criticism is forced to admit that England and Germany have been drawn into a close understanding which does not differ essentially from a formal alliance and forecasts a momentous change in the trend of European diplomacy.

The stage business of this imperial journey is well worked both at Windsor and Berlin. The queen is evidently taking the liveliest interest in the reception of her grandson and, after her manner, is recasting the details and assigning parts to all the members of the royal family. There will be a family reunion with every sign of affection and cordiality and there will also be stately functions in honor of the nation's illustrious guest.

The program of the festivities has already been enlarged so as to include Oxford and Cambridge, London, Sarum and Chatworth and the prime minister will be at his sovereign's right hand at Windsor. The German emperor, who has a conspicuous talent for stage effects, is enlarging his own suite until it includes Count Von Buelow, Count Eulenberg and three military attaches and he is meeting every fresh advance with sympathetic interest.

The English press is taking its cue from the court and is magnifying the importance of the emperor's visit. Radical journals are minimizing their prejudice against the emperor caused by his course in the Armenian-Greek affair, and the unionists are explaining away the ordering out of a flying squadron as a matter of no importance. America comments on the relations of England and Germany are read with marked interest and the suggestion of a widening sphere of good feeling between England and America, so as to include Germany is received with great favor as a permanent safeguard of the peace of the world and the freedom of commerce. There are signs of a recurrence of the spirit of overconfidence in the certainty of the success of the British arms without a further set back of reverse to the British troops.

The situation surely is steadily improving every day with the arrival of the reinforcements at Cape Town and Durban and also with the increasing evidence that the Dutch allies have made a fatal tactical mistake in scattering their commands at too many points instead of concentrating their forces against Kimberly and Ladysmith and marching like Sherman to the sea and sweeping down on Durban. The British campaign, however, has not yet been won and a full fortnight remains in which Kimberly may be captured and Ladysmith exposed to a destructive long range fire.

General White has done great work in holding back General Joubert's forces from lower Natal, but it is premature to conclude that the latter is wasting time, ammunition and men laying siege to a camp which he can never render untenable.

While the meagre news received from Natal and the western border is favorable, the best military writers in

today's London journals caution Englishmen against shouting until well out of the woods.

WATCHING THE METEORS

Professors of Small Western Colleges (7) Making Extensive Observations.

CHICAGO, Nov. 14.—The rain last night and early this morning dampened the enthusiasm of Dr. Laves, and other professors and students at the University of Chicago who had planned to watch for the first appearance of the swarm of meteors.

Prof. Hough, director of Dearborn observatory at Northwestern university, will, with a corps of scientific professors, make elaborate observations of the meteoric shower tomorrow morning if conditions permit.

At Williams Bay, Wis., the special apparatus for observing and photographing the meteoric shower is in place on the roof of the Yerkes observatory.

Professor Barnard has spent a considerable time for a few nights searching for the Ephemerides of the meteoric cloud. The position of this cloud in our sky has been quite inaccurately determined. The main body should now be entering the constellation Leo. Though he has searched carefully with the big Yerkes telescope, the professor has not yet discovered anything which he could identify as the meteoric cloud. In his search Prof. Barnard has discovered many new Nebulae and one seen last night is exactly in the spot where the meteors should be. This signifies nothing, however, unless on further observations the Nebulae is found to have moved.

The sky last night was totally obscured with clouds.

WON'T HAVE TO GO.

Chaplain Seibold Will Avoid Service in the Philippines by Retiring.

NEW YORK, Nov. 14.—A special to the Times from Washington says: The efforts made by army chaplains who have been ordered to the Philippines to have their orders revoked have excited considerable comment. The case of Chaplain J. S. Seibold, now stationed at Fort Canby, Wash., is a case in point. When the Reverend officer discovered that he would have to go to the Philippines he found that he was three years older than he supposed, having been born in 1855 instead of 1858 as recorded on the files of the war department and was therefore old enough to retire. He produced affidavits which conclusively proved that he had been mistaken in his age up to that time. Accordingly his orders were revoked and he was retired.

Chaplain O. J. Nave has also applied for retirement after being ordered to the Philippines. A board has been ordered to convene in this city for his examination.

Chaplain E. W. Pilchard has secured the revocation of his orders. Rev. W. D. McKinnon, the Catholic priest who served in the Philippines with the California volunteers and who is now a chaplain in the army, has offered a contrast to the action of these clergymen by applying for duty in the islands again, but he is the only chaplain now in this country who has done so.

EFFECT OF NEW SURVEY.

The Outline of Porto Rico Will be Different From the Spanish Maps.

NEW YORK, Nov. 14.—A special to the Times from Washington says: One of the most curious results of the annexation of Porto Rico will be an

alteration in the shape of the island, as it is known to the world. The coast survey is now at work finding out what the real shape of Porto Rico is, and it has already learned enough to show that the old Spanish surveys are not only unreliable and worthless but that they give a positively false impression of the formation of the coast. Porto Rico has been of an oblong shape. It has looked as if the sea, disgusted with the queer shape assumed by the islands, had determined to throw above its surface at least one island as even in contour as a cigar box, just to show that it could be done.

The coast survey is beginning to find out that Porto Rico has considerable irregularities. At the eastern end there is a long northwestern slant into the ocean. This will make the island bigger than had been supposed.

No one can tell what shape Porto Rico will be when it is finally surveyed as an American possession, but it seems certain that it will not be the insular freak it has appeared on the Spanish surveys.

A DASTARDLY THREAT.

Boers Will Execute Six British Officers Unless Buller Releases a Spy.

LONDON, Nov. 14.—A special dispatch from Cape Town dated Friday, Nov. 10, says that State Secretary Reitz has demanded that General Buller immediately release the supposed spy, Nathan Marks, who is confined at Ladysmith, coupling his demand with a threat to execute six British officers.

General Buller replied, according to the special dispatch, that he was entitled to retain the man until he should render a satisfactory account of himself.

LITTLE DAMAGE DONE.

PIETERMARITZBURG, Nov. 10.—Morning.—It is officially stated that the long range bombardment of Ladysmith with heavy guns continues daily, but without serious damage.

GOOD HEALTH OF NAVAL SQUADRON

THE REMARKABLE RECORD

But Thirty-Four Patients, Including the Natives Employed At Cavite.

NEW YORK, Nov. 14.—A special to the Herald from Washington says: Rear Admiral Van Reypen, surgeon general of the navy has received a personal letter from medical inspector, R. C. Pearson, fleet surgeon of the Asiatic squadron, informing him that the general health of the squadron is good.

The official report submitted by this officer shows that of the entire naval force there are only 34 patients, several of whom are natives employed in the navy yard and most of whom are suffering from minor complaints.

"The condition of Admiral Watson," he states, "continues good. The reports of his condition that were printed in the home papers were exaggerated. He has not been on the sick list."

Considerable satisfaction is felt by Admiral Van Reypen at the excellent health of the naval forces and much satisfaction is expressed by officials of the department who appreciate that almost a thousand marines stationed in the Cavite navy yards are subject to the same conditions which make the sick list of the army so large.

Admiral Van Reypen has information that unless congress places the assistant surgeons of the navy on a better footing four officers holding this rank and attached to the Asiatic squadron will resign their commission and enter the army.

Assistant surgeons have to occupy the stateroom aboard ship and receive the pay of a second lieutenant while a junior surgeon of the army receives the pay and allowance of a first lieutenant. There are now seven vacancies in the marine corps of the navy and it is difficult to secure educated men willing to accept the small pay and allowance which an assistant surgeon of the navy receives. Admiral Van Reypen will appeal to congress for relief.



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The Advance Guard of the Meteoric Shower was Seen Early Yesterday Morning.

NEW YORK, Nov. 14.—With a brilliant swish that lighted up the heavens for quite 15 seconds, the first of the Leonids announced its arrival just before midnight last night. Following the first were others of equal intensity, enough to make the display satisfactory to those who waited up to see it. However the meteoric shower will not appear at its greatest brilliancy until Thursday morning after midnight.

During the next 48 hours this earth will have such a meteoric pelting as it has not enjoyed since 1866, when the heavy belt of Leonids was last penetrated. Those seen last night and this morning gave evidence of what may be expected. The first appeared in the northeast, bursting into the atmosphere at a point about 45 degrees above the horizon. Their journey was a long one and it left behind a fiery trail of greenish tint that was visible for many seconds.

After the appearance of the constellation Leo above the horizon, the fall of meteors was fairly steady, though it could hardly be called a shower. All over the city watchers were stationed and from many street corners the itinerant astronomers did a thriving business with their portable telescopes.

Some of the earlier meteors were of the magnitude of a planet of the first class, but as Leo mounted higher in the heavens the period of flight appeared shorter and they lost their brilliancy. Fortunately the atmosphere was clear and few clouds interrupted the view of the heavens. Equally satisfactory conditions should prevail tonight.

While observations of the meteoric shower are being made from every university in the country, Harvard seems to be taking the lead in gathering data. From the Harvard observatory reports have been issued for reports of all regular observations of Leonids. Those reports will be compared and much valuable data are expected to result.

BOERS SHELLING KIMBERLEY.

KIMBERLEY, Nov. 7, morning, via Hopetown, Friday, Nov. 10.—The Boers are now throwing shells at the reservoir and waterworks. The weather is fine.

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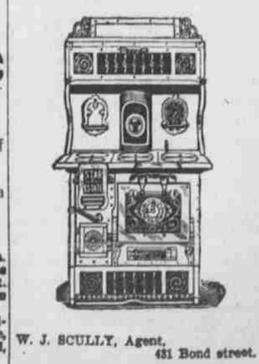
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