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SATURDAY - - - DEC. 16, 1899

#### IN SOUTH AFRICA.

England, in her hour of sorrow, centers all hope on General Sir Redvers Buller, who commands all the British forces in South Africa, and directs the attempted advance of three armies. The army under General Methuen has suffered withering losses at Modder river, and having been fought to a standstill, is going into entrenchments. Gen. Gatacre's army has been shot to pieces at Stormberg. Buller, who is somewhere between Pietermaritzberg and Ladysmith, is personally directing the movement for the relief of that town and General White's besieged forces.

Four lines of railway run from the coast of South Africa into the interior. One runs from Cape Town, a second from Port Elizabeth on Algoa bay, and a third from Durban. These all start in the British possessions of Cape Colony and Natal, and the three British columns have been advancing along them. The fourth railway starts from Delagoa bay, in Portuguese East Africa, and is not available for the British forces.

The British forces under Methuen and Gatacre having been blocked in their attempted advance along two of the three available lines of communication with the interior, it becomes of tremendous importance that Buller drive an opening along the third line into Ladysmith. But he must do more. He must, in addition to his task of relieving Ladysmith, inflict a crushing defeat on the Boer forces, else England will be in a bad plight in South Africa for many months to come. Ladysmith is at the junction of the two branches of railway, one running north and northeast to Johannesburg and Pretoria, and the other running west to a trunk line traversing the Orange Free State from north to south, and continuing into the Transvaal. The former, after leaving Ladysmith, enters the Transvaal through Lang's Nek, near Mejuba hill, the scene of the British repulse in 1881. The latter enters the Orange Free State through Van Reenan's pass. Unless the Boers confronting Buller's army are subjected to a crushing defeat, they will readily fall back on these two passes and impede indefinitely the advance of the British forces into the Transvaal and the Orange Free State.

It is possible that the outcome of Buller's plan of campaign will prove that the results justified the severe losses suffered by Methuen and Gatacre. Buller may have directed these generals to engage the Boer forces before them at all hazards, with a view to preventing the Boers from detaching portions of their forces before these generals and concentrating them around Ladysmith,

or possibly in the expectation that a determined onslaught by Methuen and Gatacre would force the Boers to hurry reinforcements in that direction, and thus make possible the speedy relief of Ladysmith, and an easier advance into the Transvaal and the Orange Free State.

If Buller could accomplish these ends, the British could hope to gain command of the net work of railroads in the Transvaal and the Orange Free State, and could advance at will to Pretoria, Johannesburg, Bloemfontein or Kimberley. They would encounter severe resistance, but they would be in a position to make feints first in one direction and then another, and by keeping the Boers guessing, would compel them to scatter their forces.

#### MURDERER ROSSER.

Some months ago a Tennessee soldier named Rosser inexcusably killed a man in a bar-room brawl in San Francisco. Partly because he was a soldier and partly because the San Francisco courts are instruments of injustice and wrong, he was acquitted, on no reasonable theory of defense whatever. Set at liberty and transferred to New York, and being duly inflamed with liquor and possessed of the notion that he was not amenable to the law, he shot and mortally wounded another victim, again without reasonable excuse. The defense will be that he was temporarily insane. If he gets clear this time, and kills a third man, the law would be doing him an injustice to punish him, for it will have twice said to him, in effect: "Get drunk and kill; slay and spare not; you are a soldier, an officer, and are above the law; it won't punish you." The San Francisco court and jury that let this murderer go scot free are really the murderers of the New York victim. If they had done their plain duty by the murderer, he would have been where he could kill no other man.—Telegram.

#### Hobbed the Grave.

A startling incident, of which Mr. John Oliver of Philadelphia, was the subject, is narrated by him as follows: "I was in a most dreadful condition. My skin was almost yellow, eyes sunken, tongue coated, pain continually in back and sides, no appetite—gradually growing weaker day by day. Three physicians had given me up. Fortunately, a friend advised 'Electric Bitters'; and to my great joy and surprise, the first bottle made a decided improvement. I continued their use for three weeks, and am now a well man. I know they saved my life, and robbed the grave of another victim." No one should fail to try them. Only 50c, guaranteed, at Blakeley & Houghton's drug store.

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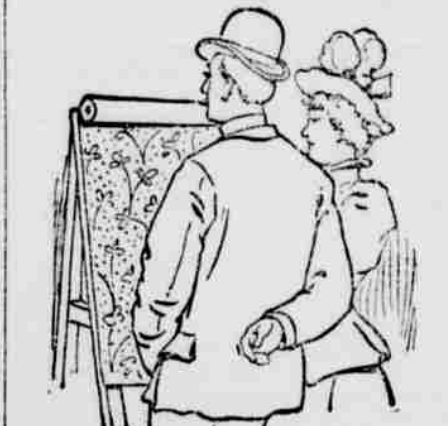
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8 p. m.	FROM PORTLAND. Ocean Steamships. For San Francisco—December 8, 15, 18, 23 and 28.	4 p. m.
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7 a. m. Tues, Thurs and Sat.	WILLAMETTE AND YAMHILL RIVERS. Oregon City, Dayton, and Way-Landings.	3:30 p. m. Mon, Wed and Fri.
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