

BRITISH REVERSES IN SOUTH AFRICA.

The Virility and Pluck With Which the Situation is Met Excites Admiration.

VICTORY MUST BE SECURED.

No Matter What the Cost—None Come Through the Army—No Offer of Resistance Would be Accepted From Any Quarter.

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LONDON, December 21.—Not for many years past has Great Britain faced such a situation as confronts her this Christmas. To meet it there has arisen a new Boer, which, by its virility and pluck, expects admittance even from hottest continental critics. Since the boastfulness has disappeared from the British press, the comments of the foreign papers, at least such as are printed here, are couched in tones far more friendly than when it believed a speedy victory awaited General Buller. As repeatedly asserted, there is no likelihood now of a British victory. In his fourth month of active service, Mr. Thomas, the engineer on his fourth trip, went to the bottom with fourteen men and gave the signal for the cage to rise when the explosion occurred. The cage was blown with terrific force to the top of the shaft and back to the bottom, completely blocking access to the cage. The cage had been dropped hundreds of feet, the lower ropes were broken in the air shaft, and had to be unknotted to get into the mine as all. Eleven men have been gotten out, one died after reaching the air. Mr. Stead points out how easily, in his opinion, the mine might be secured. He says: "It is not difficult to see how the capture of the mine would stop the mining of a number of rich veins. Under the circumstances and with mines of the present war fever, it is really a broken reed." Woolwich Arsenal might be in flames and the French troops flying over Westminster Palace before the first of these new recruits would have learned to handle a rifle.

BEST TALK OF MEDICATION.

Though Great Britain's plight in South Africa seems temporarily critical, the Associated Press learns that the Boers are straining every nerve to secure the mediation of President McKinley towards a favorable peace. But an end with the Englishmen is known. The Boers, fearing greatly that they will not be received in a manner that commences any result but an all-out Boer triumph, and all sections unite in saying this must be secured, no matter what the cost. Hence the Boer agents themselves have only slight hopes that mediation would be accepted. They are anxious, however, to prefer to Lord Salisbury, thought perhaps bound to refuse, would exert maximum sympathy in the United States and thus drive to the Boers much wavering sentiment.

WILL NOT LET IT CURE YOU?

From the black embers of the wintry earth
The West withdraws the reddening flame of day;
So ends the seventh annual of my life—
And still a Star—to mock our braver gray.
Does that remember how at hours like these—
Yes, mother, I was not too young to know—
They would get humbly down upon thy knees,
And opening wide our rustic cover, show
The Mag's golden tributes treasured there;
The caskets with its heap of gleaming stones
And coins of mystic kingdoms old and rare;
The incense arks the myrrh's bejewelled cones
With covetous anthropophyphic graven o'er.
These would then lift into my baby hands
The lap and breast and arms could hold no more;
Then pour out the precious incense nectars
Over the brainer coals, while all the room
Grew white with wreathing odors sanctified.
They would prostrate thyself amid the gloom.
Sweet mother, on the ground before thy child
To wait there is no incense for thy Son.
The chill wind finds the bracer back as death;
Nay, do not kneel here, here, my breast upon.
Let startings show the vapor of thy breath.

—The New Lippincott.

SUNDAY SELECTIONS.

—Fretting and swearing are first cousins.
—Patience is the secret charm of greatness.
—The grumbler never helps his purpose is to hinder.
—You can't whale and thine at the same time.
—Pouting and stubbornness are the fruits of selfishness.
—Selfishness is the hand of the church, the leacher's greatest foe.
—God's first act after the creation was the organization of a home.
—Kindness is a characteristic of culture; a cruelty is a characteristic of barbarity.

—Regrets are not the worst things in life. We would never have experienced them if we had not regretted that which caused them, and therefore attained a higher moral view point.
—The way through the Red sea was safe enough for Israel, but not for Pharaoh. He had no business to go that way. It was a private road God had opened up for his own family.—*Thus Spake Deuter.*

I believe that this world utterly and absolutely belongs to Christ and His life this world, without any reference to the future, a lost and dying world.—*Robert E. Speer.*

—Each man, for the most part, live his own life; and until motives are visible and can be accurately interpreted, they should not be criticized adversely. Life should be held to a finer strain than one of fret and fear.—*William Whiting.*

—What we need is an elastic currency," said Mr. Geeson, who was eliminating the money situation to his wife. "Then why doesn't the government print bank notes on thin sheets of rubber?" demanded Mrs. Geeson, with the air of one who has solved a great problem.

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