

TO CRONJE'S RELIEF.

Four Boer Generals are Hastening With Reinforcements For Him.

THE SITUATION UNCHANGED.

Bombardment of Cronje's Lager Continues — Boers Press the Siege of Mafeking — Sensational Reports Sent From Durban are Not Confirmed.

By Telegraph to the News.
LONDON, Feb. 24.—A Durban dispatch contains rumors of British successes which, if true, mean the practical ending of the Boer war. These reports, which are believed at Durban, are that Ladysmith has been relieved and Cronje and eight thousand men have surrendered. It is reported that Kitchener and Cronje were both slightly wounded. Seventeen hundred Boers were killed or wounded at Modder River.

REPORTS NOT BELIEVED.

LONDON, Feb. 24.—(Noon).—The War Office has no news of the reported surrender of Cronje and the military experts place little credence in the Durban dispatches.

BOMBARDMENT CONTINUES.

MODDER RIVER, Feb. 23.—(De-laid in transmission).—The bombardment of Cronje continues. Part of the Boers endeavored to break out of the lager, but were driven back.

LITTLE CHANGE IN SITUATION.

PAARDEBURG, Feb. 24.—There is little change in the situation. There was intermittent shelling to-day and all during the night. A large supply column has arrived.

It is reported that two thousand Boers are operating to the north of this place.

Last night, after the last gun had been fired the Shropshires rushed forward two hundred yards further towards the bed of the river. They found a number of Boers dead. General French captured seventy-five more prisoners, who had previously escaped the cordon patrol and the westward side took thirty more.

BRITISH STEAMER SINKS.

LONDON, Feb. 24.—The British steamer "Bath City" struck on Lundy Island in the night, and sank. Half the crew were saved; the others are missing.

PRESSING THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING.

LONDON, Feb. 24.—The latest news dispatch from Pretoria is dated the 22nd. It states that communication with Cronje is yet open but no news has been received.

Reinforcements have reached the Boers at Garberones, where Col. Plummer has been attempting to pass the Burgheers on his way to Mafeking.

February 16th four regiments of natives were impressed at Mafeking to press the siege. The Rhodesian regiment came to the contest; then the two hundred Boers retired.

TO REINFORCE CRONJE.

LONDON, Feb. 24.—Four generals are known to be hurrying to re-inforce Cronje. They are Prinnsloo, Botha, Grobler and Dewet.

CAPE BOERS READY TO QUIT.

LONDON, Feb. 24.—The retreat of Cronje from Magersfontein seems to have had its effect on the Cape Boers. A Dordrecht dispatch dated the 22nd says the rebel Afrikaners have opened negotiations for submission. Brabant is treating with them and in deference to the wishes of the governor of Cape Colony is offering them lenient terms. Meanwhile they have ceased offensive operations.

FOR SECOND PLACE.

Bliss Will be New York's Candidate for Vice President.

By Telegraph to the News.
NEW YORK, Feb. 24.—It is the understanding among Republican leaders that if New York presents any name to the national convention as that of its candidate for the vice presidential nomination it will be that of Cornelius N. Bliss and not Gen. Fred Grant.

It is also learned that, while Bliss will not permit any one to say he desires the nomination, yet if it is made, he will accept.

THE "McPHERSON" IN TOW.

By Telegraph to the News.
NORFOLK, Feb. 24.—The steamship "Admiral Sampson," passed Cape Henry this morning towing the United States transport "McPherson" in the direction of Hampton Roads.

—Dr. J. P. McCombs is homeward bound. The last heard from him he was in Tampa. Today, he is supposed to be in or around Jacksonville.

—"Taxes are coming in slowly," said Tax Collector Peoples, today.

CONFERENCE OF REPUBLICANS

Twenty-Six Will Vote Against Porto Rican Bill.

By Telegraph to the News.
WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—The Washington Post this morning says: "A conference of Republicans was held at the residence of Representative McCall last night, regarding the Porto Rico tariff bill.

"Sixteen members of Congress were present and assurances were received that twenty-six Republicans could be relied upon to oppose the passage of the same substitute bill, which provides for a tariff of 25 per cent. on Porto Rican products."

COTTON REACHES 9 CENTS.

The Receipts are Not as Heavy as Expected.

Cotton reached nine cents to-day and the farmers who brought the staple to market to-day wore a broad smile on their faces. Yesterday, the highest point reached, was 8.75. Today the market showed unusual strength and the local buyers seemed anxious for it, even at the advanced price.

While the majority of Mecklenburg farmers have disposed of their cotton, there remains a number who have held on for better prices and are now receiving their reward.

One buyer to-day bought 51 bales to be delivered next week. He paid 9 cents all around. Farmers now are talking of 10 cent cotton and it would seem that their talk is well grounded. The receipts at the cotton platform to-day amounted to about 100 bales.

MARRIED BY PHONOGRAPH.

Bride and Groom Respond to Questions Asked by the Talking Machine.

By Telegraph to the News.
BINGHAMTON, N. Y., Feb. 24.—Edith L. Smith and Frank T. Merceau were married under peculiar circumstances last evening.

The father of the bride died before the return of his daughter from the South, where she was spending the winter.

Before he died he recited the marriage service into a phonograph, which was used at the ceremony. The bride and groom responded to the questions asked by the machine, and the machine pronounced them man and wife.

It is claimed this is the first marriage by phonograph that has ever taken place.

A PETITION IN BANKRUPTCY.

A voluntary petition in bankruptcy was filed in this city yesterday by Rev. T. J. Gattis, of the Methodist Church. Mr. Gattis states that his assets are \$1,500 and his liabilities are \$8,000.

Mr. Gattis has held the position of Colporteur for the conferences in this State and South Carolina. He claims that owing to a division of sentiment and a withdrawal of a certain amount of patronage it was impossible for him to further continue his business.

Mr. Gattis makes the direct charge that Dr. John C. Kilgo is in a large measure responsible for his financial downfall.

THE 22ND AT CHAPEL HILL.

Correspondence of the News.
CHAPEL HILL, Feb. 23.—The Washington birthday exercises passed off very pleasantly yesterday. There were three orations. Mr. J. E. Latta spoke on "Industrialism," Mr. G. N. Coffey on "Saxon versus Latin," Judge J. C. McRae made the closing address on "Washington." The exercises were unusually good. The exercises were held in the chapel which was crowded.

LIVELY RUCUS THIS MORNING.

There was a lively rucus on South Tryon street, near Tyzzer's store this morning. Two women, Lizzie Johnston and Carrie Station and one man, Jim Burroughs, were the principals. All were taken to the toms. Burroughs was released on a \$10 bond, but the women will remain in the toms until their trial comes off Monday.

WHISKEY SEIZED.

Six barrels of illegally stamped whiskey were found in two of the saloons of the city. Government officers confiscated the liquor and are now on the hunt for the party who "fetched" it to Charlotte. They know it came from Davie county but the trouble is that is about all they do know.

A HANDSOME SOUVENIR.

Mr. Maner Erwin, assistant city ticket agent of the S. A. L. sends the News a beautiful folder that has just been sent out by the Southern Pacific. It is gotten up in handsome style and is without question one of the most complete and prettiest of the season.

A SMALLPOX WARNING.

A Des Moines dispatch of the 4th says: "Charles Frank, of Carpenter, Ia., attended a church social just across the State line in Minnesota a few days ago. In a kissing game he bestowed kisses on three young women of the church. Shortly afterward Frank was taken ill with the smallpox. So were all the young women. Eight cases have resulted in all and one death has occurred."

A SMALLPOX WARNING.

—A prominent mill man said to-day that his mill had orders ahead that would take until the 15th of June to fill.

PROF. M'LAURY DEAD.

The End Came This Morning at 11 O'Clock at St. Peter's Home and Hospital.

A MOST EVENTFUL LIFE.

Was Jay Gould's Teacher and Knew all the Members of the Family—Was a Native of New York State and Came South for His Health.

Prof. John W. McLaury, who has been ill for several days at St. Peter's Home and Hospital, died this morning at 11 o'clock. For some time, Prof. McLaury has been connected with Lee's Business College. Two weeks ago he was taken sick and at first nothing serious was thought of his illness, but instead of improving he gradually grew worse. Just a week ago, his condition became much worse and at the advice of friends, he was taken to the hospital.

Mr. E. M. McLaury, who resides in Waycross, Ga., was with him when the end came.

Yesterday afternoon his condition changed very much for the worse, and he was not expected to live through the night. Early this morning there were some signs of improving, but these were quickly dispelled and death came at the hour named.

Deceased was a native of Rockberry, Delaware county, New York. For many years he was engaged in teaching school in New York State. At one time he numbered among his scholars the late Jay Gould. He often spoke of this and talked interestingly of the Gould family, with all of whom he had a personal acquaintance.

He came to Charlotte several years ago in search of health. The cold winters of the North were more than he could stand. Coming here, he found great relief and decided to make this his home. Owing to serious business reverses, he was, in his declining years, thrown on the world to again struggle for a livelihood. Owing to his feeble condition he found this a great hardship. Finally, he secured a position in Lee's Business College and for some months he seemed to be gaining both in health and strength. He seemed to take on new energy and although in bad health battled bravely.

When stricken 15 days ago, he never complained but seemed sure that his illness would terminate in death. He talked occasionally, but only when he was drawn out. He seemed better satisfied when he was alone and his wishes were, to a great extent, complied with. Those who were nearest to him speak well of him and all say that he was kind, considerate and manly.

Deceased was a member of the Presbyterian church, holding his membership at the First Church.

The funeral will take place from this church to-morrow afternoon at 3:30 o'clock. Rev. Dr. J. R. Howerton will conduct the services. The pallbearers will be Messrs. P. M. Brown, W. S. Alexander, J. M. Sims, R. E. Cochran, H. H. Orr, R. C. Carson, W. W. Ward and G. H. Brockenborough.

MAGISTRATE McLEOD SKIPS.

LUMBER BRIDGE, Feb. 22.—The Rev. Sam McLeod, Fusion magistrate, who was to have been tried yesterday for raping a colored woman failed to appear at trial this morning, and it is reported that he left the State last night for parts unknown. This is one of the most dastardly crimes that has ever committed in this county. He was the most important witness against Ross, swearing that he saw prints of the negro's fingers on the woman's neck at the preliminary trial. He leaves a small number of friends to mourn his departure.

CIGAR STORE SOLD.

Mr. J. W. Provost, who has for some time been connected with the Southern Express Company, has purchased from Mr. Theo. W. Brown, the cigar store, one door south of the News office. Mr. C. D. Warlick will have charge of the business until the first of the month when Mr. Provost will come in. Mr. Joseph Piper who conducted the store for Mr. Brown does not know whether he will remain in Charlotte or not.

A BAD BRIDGE.

The attention of the authorities is called to the bridge in front of Mr. J. C. Springs residence, on West Trade street. It is all to pieces and some one passing at night might be seriously injured.

SEWER FORCE VACCINATED.

Officer Hall, of the sewer force, had all of the hands vaccinated this morning. There was not one but who was willing to submit to the vaccination ordinance. Most of them were negroes.

WHEN THE PHILLIES WILL COME.

A letter to Mr. R. L. Lucas from the manager of the Philadelphia base ball club states that the boys will leave Philadelphia either the 12th or 14th of March for Charlotte. They will remain for a month at least.

MRS. HOWELL OPERATED ON.

Mrs. Geo. A. Howell, who recently went to New York for treatment, was operated on Monday for appendicitis at Dr. Gill Wylie's hospital in Brooklyn. Mrs. H. H. Orr has been with Mrs. Howell since Monday. A letter states that her condition is improving daily.

FUNERAL OF MR. ADAMS.

The funeral of the late Mr. Lindsay Adams took place this morning at 10:30 o'clock from Tryon street Methodist Church, Rev. Dr. Christyburg conducting the service. The interment was in Elmwood.

WATERMELON IN FEBRUARY.

A small watermelon was on exhibition in Charlotte to-day. It was raised by a farmer in Paw Creek and had been in a hay stack since last October. It was well preserved.

ONE OF THE LOCAL SPORTS LOST \$500.

—One of the local sports lost \$500 in future cotton yesterday. He took a drive yesterday afternoon and while gone the market took a turn. The consequence is he is now \$500 to the bad.

MANY SPECIAL CARS.

Big Florida Travel Over the Southern Just Now.

Just at this time the Southern railway is handling more private and special cars than any other Southern road. The cream of the Florida travel, which was for a number of years controlled by the Atlantic Coast Line, has been divided and the Southern is not only getting its share but a majority of the Florida travelers.

Tomorrow morning President Rogers, of the Ohio River road, will pass through Charlotte aboard a special en route to points in Florida.

Yesterday morning the Southern handled Mr. George Gould and Mr. Hamilton Fish. They occupied Mr. Gould's private car and were en route to Palm Beach, Fla., where they will spend a month.

Attached to No. 36, this morning, was the private car "Genthias" occupied by Mr. George Vanderbilt and party who were en route to New York from Palm Beach, Fla., where the party has been for several weeks.

BEGIN WORK AT ONCE.

Plans to be Secured for the New Presbyterian College Building.

Last night the executive committee of the Presbyterian College met for the purpose of receiving the subscriptions recently secured through the different churches of the city. Rev. Dr. J. B. Shearer, of Davidson College, is chairman of the committee and called the meeting to order.

It was decided to arrange matters in such a way that enough money will be forthcoming to begin work on the new college building at once.

A committee was appointed to secure plans for the new building. Drs. Howerton and Stagg were appointed a committee to secure funds for the payment of the interest on the old college debt.

MR. WALTON HEARS BAD NEWS.

Mr. F. O. Walton, of the Charlotte Supply Co., left this morning for Morganton in answer to a dispatch stating that his father, Mr. W. M. Walton, was very ill. Several days ago, Mr. Walton fell and sustained injuries that at first were not thought to be serious. It has developed later that these injuries are serious and on account of his extreme age, the worst is feared. Mr. Walton is 80 years old and has not been very strong of late.

DR. STAGG ON THE RACE PROBLEM.

Rev. John W. Stagg, of the Second Presbyterian Church has accepted the invitation of the Unity Club of New Bedford, Mass., to deliver a lecture on the "Race Problem." The date is April 7th. Mr. Stagg has also accepted the invitation of the American Academy of Social and Political Science of Philadelphia to deliver the same lecture the last of April.

MARRIED AT NOON.

Some days are dark and dreary, but this one was not too much so for Thomas Hammond and Maggie Graham, who were united in marriage by Squire C. L. Hunter to-day at high noon. There were no attendants and no bridal bouquet but the hearty congratulations of those present, gave evidence of the good wishes that the couple starts out in life with.

THESE WERE FLOATERS.

Drs. Hawley and Strong have been busily engaged to-day vaccinating the floating negro population. In most cases these were found hanging around hot stoves in the back of saloons on College and East Trade streets.

PAYING OFF TEACHERS.

County Treasurer Walker has been busy to-day paying school warrants. For the past few Saturdays the weather has been so bad that few of the teachers came to town. Their time was limited therefore they came in droves to-day.

TO OPEN A KENNEL AT GASTONIA.

Mr. Robert Craig have about decided to go into the dog raising business. Mr. Hoffman came down from Philadelphia this morning to see Mr. Craig in regard to opening a large kennel at Gastonia. These young men have had this under consideration for some time and they are of the opinion that good results will follow. Mr. Hoffman brought with him from Philadelphia several fine dogs.

SENT TO JAIL.

Jim Torrance, the negro charged with the larceny of a lot of pig lead, the property of the Charlotte Oil and Fertilizer Company, was before Mayor McCall this morning. He was bound over to the criminal court in the sum of \$100. Failing to give this, he went to jail.

MR. TORRANCE FIRST LIEUT.

At the meeting of the Queen City Guards held last night Mr. Lloyd C. Torrance was elected first lieutenant. The position of second lieutenant will not be filled until the next meeting, which will be the first of March.

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FOR WHITE RULE.

Dr. W. P. Craven Comes Out for the Constitutional Amendment.

IS A PROMINENT POPULIST

He Was Elected to the Legislature on the Fusion Ticket in 1896 — Says Butler Cannot Make a Republican Out of Him — Amendment Best for All.

Dr. W. P. Craven, one of the best known Populists of Mecklenburg and a member of the legislature of '96, from this county, has come out squarely for the amendment. Dr. Craven was in Charlotte today and a News reporter had a long talk with him. In regard to the amendment Dr. Craven said:

"I am a Populist from principle and have always been. As an individual I am in favor of the amendment and shall vote for it. I do not think it is a partisan measure and no Populist in the State should so consider it. I think each individual should vote as he thinks best. If he is a Populist and thinks the amendment a good thing, I think he should support the measure. If a Republican and thinks the amendment is right, he should vote for it. I think we should all unite and support what we honestly think is best for the masses."

When asked why he thought the amendment should carry, he said: "Ever since the war the negro has been an incompetent voter. He has been in the possession of a club which he has used to his own detriment and to the detriment of all three political parties. In taking this club from the negro we not only help all three parties but do the negro a kind act for, being incompetent, he does not know whether he is voting right or wrong."

Continuing, Dr. Craven said, "I am a Populist but never have been a Republican. I joined the Populist party because I thought that a division, at the time, was necessary. Marion Butler nor any other man can make a Republican out of me. I do not think that the Populists of the State will sit idly by and allow him to sell them to the Republican party just to gratify his own personal ambition. I, for one, re-own personal ambition. I, for one, re-own the constitutional amendment. I would not join hands with the fusion party that seeks to carry the Populist vote."

"I long for the time to come when the gold bug Democracy of Mecklenburg can go to the Republican party where they belong. The constitutional amendment opens the way and should I carry, then the gold bugs will not have any just reason to keep out of the party of their choice."

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REPLY TO THE MAYOR.

Rev. J. A. Baldwin Closes His Side of the Vaccination Question.

Mr. Editor:—I regret that our worthy mayor let his "angry passions rise," and thus compel me to reply. I wrote a letter asking for an explanation of some things that were spoken of. Most of the information I asked for was not given, but in lieu thereof, he made use of several unpleasant personalities. Before publishing my article I read it to a man well known over the whole State for his learning, pety, common sense and prudence. He said he thought the letter was written in good spirit and would do good. I am said to be "ignorant" of what I am talking about, as if an ignorant man can't ask questions. My article is called "a gross and wanton misrepresentation." It is also called "ill-timed." In reply to that, I will simply say that if it was, it was because it came too late. He says that I ought to try to get my people to submit to vaccination. This I have done. After the law was passed I advised from house to house, as I visited, obedience to the law, and I can say that the members of my flock who work in the mill have been vaccinated and gave no one any trouble. The law two years ago was about as rigid as this. None of my flock gave any body any trouble. I was vaccinated myself because I wanted to be a law-abiding citizen, though no one said anything to me about it. I would like to ask Mayor McCall if he was vaccinated two years ago. I don't demand an answer to this unless he wants to continue any personalities. My article was not written until practically all the mill operatives were vaccinated. Nor did it occur to me that I ought to write until I read and heard so many things that seemed to me unjust. My blood boiled with indignation (I think it was the righteous kind) as I heard and read some things there were being done.

Now as to negroes and white people. The first three friends I met this morning that have cooks, told me that the cooks had not been vaccinated, neither two years ago nor this year. I have it on good authority, that the negroes at the Oliver Oil and Fertilizer Works, have not been vaccinated. There are, I'm told, about 200 congregated together there, and right adjoining Atherton Cotton mill.

School children are not to be compared with wage earners. I saw yesterday a good woman. She and all her six children (the oldest about 17) are in delicate health, and she herself has been right sick for some time. Two of the children that work are out on account of sore arms. These little children furnish the bread and meat for the family. They must be compared with wage-workers, not with school children. I am not complaining of this, nor is she; but I say if it is necessary for her children to be vaccinated, everybody ought to be.

Well, the clerks, agents, etc., up town come next. I consider it real unkind in the mayor to expect me to do my work and his too. I don't ask him to tell me when my members are sick and where they live. I find out