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## BIG BATTLE BEGUN.

British Fighting Their Way Forward Steadily to the Relief of Ladysmith.

London, Jan. 21.—It is evident from Gen. Buller's dispatch to the war office and the advices of the Associated Press from Spearman's Camp, that a big battle is now being fought. As far as can be gathered from those dispatches, the result remains undecided, and unless the Boers withdraw during the night, the engagement, on which hangs the fate of Ladysmith, and which may prove the turning point of the whole war, will be resumed this morning.

### Boers Leaving Colesberg.

Rensburg, Cape Colony, Jan. 19.—A gentleman who has escaped from Colesberg reports that the Dutch inhabitants who are sympathizers with the Boers are proceeding to the Orange Free State, in anticipation of the evacuation of the town. Mr. Vanderwalt, a member of the Cape assembly, has already gone. The Boer force there is estimated to number from 6,000 to 7,000 men, besides a strong force at Norval's Point.

The British shells did much execution eastward of the town. The Boer loss up to date is probably 200 men.

Carefully compiled figures from reliable sources, some of which have been investigated and found to be correct, show that the Boer losses up to date are approximately 6,425 men, including 2,000 casualties during the siege of Ladysmith. Spearman's Camp, Natal, Jan. 20, 11:45 a. m.—The firing of field guns was heard early this morning from the left. Evidently Gen. Warren has commenced the bombardment of the Boer trenches on the Tabanmyana mountains. There was also a brief musketry fire. Among the prisoners captured Thursday was a grandson-in-law of President Kruger.

### Boers Bombarding Ladysmith.

Ladysmith, Jan. 20, via Spearman's Camp.—The enemy has placed in position new guns throwing 8 inch shells, and have been bombarding more vigorously for the last few days, though little damage has been done. Three of the British force have been wounded. The troops are jubilant over Gen. Buller's successful advance. His troops can be heard distinctly, and the bursting of shells can be plainly seen.

### Warren's Troops in Action.

London, Jan. 21.—The war office shortly after midnight posted the following dispatch from Gen. Buller, dated Spearman's Camp, Jan. 20th, evening:

"Gen. Clery, with a part of Gen. Warren's force, has been in action from 6 a. m. to 7 p. m. today. By a judicious use of his artillery he has fought his way up, capturing ridge after ridge, for several miles.

"The troops are now bivouacking on the ground he has gained but the main position is still in front of them.

"The casualties were not heavy. About 100 wounded have been brought in by 6:30 p. m. The number of killed has not yet been ascertained."

### Shelling the Boers.

Spearman's Camp, Jan. 20, evening.—The Boer trenches were shelled continuously today. Gen. Littleton's brigade advanced and occupied a kopje 2,000 yards from the Boer position at Brakfontein. A company of rifles advanced with a balloon into action, and was received with a heavy fire from the Boers. The artillery and musketry fire continues from Gen. Warren's position. Lord Dundonald's force on Thursday surprised 350 Boers. The British, who were posted on a kopje, allowed the Boers to advance leisurely before opening fire. The Boers did not reply, and a majority of them galloped off. It is reported that the remainder surrendered.

### Successive Waves.

The following waif is going the rounds of the state press: We are told of a young lady in a neighboring town who waved her hand at a stranger, and in three days they were married. Two days later the young lady waved a staffon at her husband, and the next evening he came home waving a divorce.—Nashville Banner.

### Spanish Are Charitable.

The Spanish are among the most charitable people on earth. Without a poor tax, Spanish communities of 50,000 self supporters feed a pauper population of 5,000 or more.

## PEACHES AND BLUBBER.

A Story of Arthur Stringer and an Oxford Professor.

Canadians are very touchy on the subject of climate, as Rudyard Kipling discovered when he somewhat thoughtlessly dubbed the Dominion "Our Lady of the Snows." When Arthur Stringer, the young Canadian poet and author, first went to Oxford, he carried with him letters from Professor Goldwin Smith of Toronto to Professor York Powell, the distinguished historian of Christchurch.

The old Oxford don, like one or two other Englishmen, had very vague ideas about Canada and somewhat surprised the young stranger by inquiring if he got along nicely on English roast mutton after living so long on frozen seal meat. The young poet gravely protested that he perhaps missed his whale blubber a little, but the next day cabled home, and in less than a week the finest basket of autumn peaches ever grown in Ontario, carefully packed in sawdust, was on its way to Oxford. A short time afterward the young author was again dining with the regius professor at Oxford, and that gentleman produced at the meal a fruit dish loaded with tremendous peaches.

"Most extraordinary," said the old professor, "but these peaches were sent to me today, and I'm blessed if I know who sent them. From the south of France, I suspect, so I saved a few of them for you, Stringer. They will be such a novelty, you know."

The Canadian very quietly took a steamship company's bill of lading from his pocket and handed it to the professor. The professor gazed at the bill, then at the fruit, then at the poet.

"I had some whale blubber, too, professor," said that young man, "but I simply had to eat that. These other things were grown on my uncle's farm in Kent county, Ont., you know. He has 200 bushels of them every year, and he sent me over a basket of little ones along with the whale blubber."—Saturday Evening Post.

### Samon's Talking Man.

Samon's talking man, or "tolafall," is a character. All the affairs of state of the village in which he holds office are carried upon his shoulders. In ordinary he is the chief adviser, persuader, convincer and restrainer of the leading chiefs.

Having the gift of eloquence, he makes the most of it. He enjoys immunity from many things. He cannot be spoken of in ordinary terms. If it should be necessary to speak of his eyes or his mouth or his limbs, special honorable words must be used, words which attach to him alone and have never been applied to the personal parts of ordinary men.

As he stands to deliver his soft, persuasive, mellifluous oratory, with staff of office in his hand and his fly duster thrown over his shoulder, any one can see that he is a man of great importance, or if this is not apparent from his attitude it may be gathered from the attention paid to his utterances by gray haired chiefs and by youths and maidens. If the talking man is a clever fellow and understands his business, he is the chief ruling power in his tribe, although the nominal headship is always vested in a chief or patriarchal figurehead.

### Turkish Humor.

The Turk is proverbially sedate. His serious demeanor has led people to doubt his capacity for wit or for relishing a joke. To disprove this opinion Mr. Buckley, author of "Travels in Three Continents," gives the following specimens of Turkish humor:

Said a dervish to a camel, "What makes your lip so crooked?" To which the camel replied, "What is there straight about me that you should take exception to my lip?"

A man called upon a Turk to borrow his donkey. The owner declared that the donkey was not at home. While the conversation was going on the donkey from within brayed. Said the applicant: "There, he is here. Let me have him."

Said the Turk, "I will lend no man anything who will believe a donkey's voice against mine."

## STATE NEWS.

Interesting North Carolina Items in Condensed Form.

Ed McClure, a negro, has acknowledged shooting a white man named Sherron in the Smoky Hollow section of Durham. McClure was captured at Burlington and taken back to Durham.

Lem Bennett, who is in Stokes county jail awaiting trial for the murder of James Smith during the Christmas holidays, tried to commit suicide Thursday night by breaking bottles and swallowing a lot of the glass. His condition is serious.

W. P. Hallyburton, for several years manager of the Piedmont Springs hotel, on Thursday night stabbed James Ryeon, a lively man, twice in the back at Walnut Cove. The wounded man's condition is serious. The difficulty originated from a discussion.

Six prisoners broke jail at Winston Saturday. They were released by a negro prisoner who broke the lock with a pick. While he was in the act of breaking the lock to another cell the jailor's attention was attracted by the noise, and he captured the negro who was responsible for the release of the other five men. The sheriff says those who got away are bad men and were to be tried for serious offenses.

Fayetteville Observer: Capt. E. C. Cox, conductor of through freight train No. 209, due here at 10 o'clock this morning, while passing Kenly, in attempting to get off the caboose, was struck on the head by a switch stand and seriously hurt. He was left at Kenly and will be taken to the A. C. L. hospital, at Rocky Mount, this afternoon. The train was brought here by the flagman.

The Baptist University is now in debt \$35,000 and a strenuous effort is being made to raise money to pay off the indebtedness. Rev. O. L. Stringfield, the financial agent of the institution, is working all the time to this end. And he is being assisted by Mr. J. W. Bailey and Rev. J. E. White. Mr. Stringfield left yesterday for the eastern part of the State. On Sunday Mr. Bailey will be at Clayton and Mr. White at Holly Springs. Later they will go to Wilmington, Durham, Chapel Hill, Franklinton and other points. The debt was made principally for the purchase of the Adams property, when the large attendance of students at the University made more room necessary.

Congressman White, colored, of the second N. C. district, on Saturday presented a petition signed by 2,413 persons for national legislation against lynching and mob violence, and asked that it be read at the clerk's desk. Mr. Richardson (Tenn.) objected, saying that there was no reason why this petition should not take the usual course. White also introduced a bill providing that whenever any citizen is murdered by mob violence all parties participating shall be guilty of treason against the government of the United States and tried in the United States courts, and upon conviction the principals, aiders, abettors and accessories, before and after the fact, shall be punished as now prescribed by law for punishment of persons convicted of treason.

### COVE ITEMS.

January 22, 1900.

Mrs. D. P. Kennedy spent Saturday and Sunday visiting relatives in Kinston.

Rev. Mr. Durant was called yesterday to attend the funeral of Mr. Ed White, near Dover.

Mrs. W. H. Rhodes, of Trenton High School, stopped over in Cove Saturday night on her way home.

Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Robinson and children came from their home, near Cross yesterday to visit relatives here.

Mrs. Hinnant, wife of Assistant Roadmaster Hinnant, came up from Newbern yesterday and spent the day with Mrs. Jarrat White.

The heaviest rain for a number of years fell here last Thursday night and Friday. Streams are overflowed and bridges washed away so that it is impossible to travel. The Trenton mail has failed to reach Cove since Friday morning.

Mrs. T. G. Hyman and little daughter came up from Newbern yesterday and went out to be with Mrs. W. B. Lane, mother of Mrs. Hyman. Mrs. Lane has been for some time very sick. Her condition is said to be very serious, but her many friends hope for her recovery.

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## UP HEAD ON A BLUNDER.

Erroneous Answer Wins Commendation From a Latin Teacher.

"The class in Latin will now recite," said the Latin teacher at one of the city high schools the other day.

The members of the class in Latin, consisting of 30 or more bright looking girls, with three or four boys, came forward and took their places. All moved along smoothly until the declination of the noun "donum" was in order, and there was trouble. It was the ablative that caused the trouble. For the benefit of those not acquainted with the mysteries of Latin it may be mentioned right here that the ablative is "dono," and the pronunciation is the same as if one should say "don't know," slurring the two words, as is so frequently done, to "don' know."

"Miss Jones," said the teacher to the head of the class, "what is the ablative of 'donum?'"

Miss Jones gave her version and was told to sit down. The question in turn went down the entire length of the class, all failing, until it reached the last, a boy who had a reputation for baseball and football, but none for scholarship.

"Well, Percy, the ablative of 'donum?'" asked the teacher.

Percy scratched his head and despairingly looked at his grinning classmates.

"Don' know," he finally blurted out.

"Right," said the teacher: "go up head."

And then the class broke out into a laugh that cost each member ten marks, but none peached on Percy, and the teacher to this day cannot understand what there is so comical in the ablative of "donum."—Chicago Inter Ocean.

## LIGHTS FOR BIRDS' NESTS.

Some Curious Habits Practiced in the World of Songdom.

Many birds suspend their nests from the branches of trees, one of the most curious nests of that kind being that of the baya bird of India. It is hung from the branch, with its opening at the bottom, and hangs like an inverted bottle, secure from the approach of tree snakes and other reptiles. The most curious thing about the baya bird is that it is said to light up its nest by sticking fireflies on its sides with clay or soft mud. There seems to be little doubt of the fact.

Dr. Buchanan says: "At night each of the habitations is lighted up by a firefly stuck in the top with a piece of clay. The nest consists of two rooms. Sometimes there are three or four fireflies, and their blaze in the little cells dazzles the eyes of the bats, which often destroy the young of these birds."

Perhaps other animals are scared off by the baya bird's electric light, since a writer in Nature records this curious observation: "I have been informed on safe authority that the Indian bottle bird protects his nest at night by sticking several of these glow beetles around the entrance by means of clay, and only a few days back an intimate friend of my own was watching three rats on a roof rafter of his bungalow. When a glow fly lodged very close to them, the rats immediately scampered off."—Our Dumb Animals.

### Broken Commandments.

The brilliant young preacher, when he makes his parochial calls, endeavors to cultivate an acquaintance with the development of the younger minds, thus after a fashion keeping tab upon his Sunday school teachers.

The other afternoon, while he was waiting in the drawing room of a beautiful Cass avenue residence for the delayed appearance of Elsie's mamma, he was entertained by the little daughter herself. Taking her upon his lap, he began a review of the church lessons that had been given to the little maid of 5.

"Can you tell me, Elsie, how many commandments there are?"

"Yes, sir; seven or eight."

"Oh, no, dear; there are ten."

"Yes, I know there used to be, but I heard papa tell mamma yesterday that you had broken two or three of them at least, and that would leave only seven or eight, you know."

## GENERAL NEWS.

Matters of Interest Condensed Into Brief Paragraphs.

Six additional cases of bubonic plague are reported at Honolulu.

The cargo of the German steamer Bundesrath has been re-delivered to her agents.

Six persons were seriously hurt in a trolley car collision Friday at Baltimore. Two cars collided at a corner crossing.

At Fort Scott, Kas., George Silbee and Ed Meeks, half brothers, who were convicted of murder early in the week, were lynched by a mob in the county jail yard Saturday night.

John Ruskin, the famous writer, died at his home at Brantwood, England, on Saturday, aged 81 years. He was much admired by the English speaking world for the beauty and force of his rhetoric.

A dispatch from Nogales, Mexico, says that a battle has been fought by the Mexicans and Yaques Indians, in which the Yaques were defeated, with a heavy loss. Their killed numbered 200. Five hundred were taken prisoners.

Exporters in New York who make a specialty of the South African trade, believe that the Boers are remarkably well provisioned, and that any attempt to starve them out is hardly likely to soon succeed. The United States is the source of the cereal supplies of the fighting republic.

Richard Carter, a colored youth 10 years old, was hanged at Cumberland court house, Va., Friday, for attempting to commit a criminal assault on Martha Hatcher, a 6-year-old white child. He made a speech from the gallows, warning negroes in strong language to desist from outraging white women. This is the second execution in Virginia for attempted assault.

Fire at Barnum and Bailey's winter quarters at Bridgeport, Conn., Friday, destroyed one of the large car-barns containing 11 cars, and also the quarters of the Italian laborers of the railroad and improvements near by, causing a loss estimated, all told, at \$70,000. The sleepers, the Buffalo Bill show buffet car and Mr. Bailey's private car, formerly used by the late P. T. Barnum, were destroyed. No insurance. The fire is believed to have been caused by spontaneous combustion.

### 2,700 WITNESSES

Subpoenaed. Republicans Making Mighty Preparations in the Kentucky Contests.

Frankfort, Ky., Jan. 19.—The reading of the counter-claim of the Republican incumbents in the gubernatorial contests arguments over its admissibility, and arguments to strike it partially out on its admission, comprised the work of the contesting boards today. The last mentioned arguments were not concluded when an adjournment was taken until tomorrow.

The Democratic attorneys made a determined fight against the admission of the counter-claim, saying that it covered so much ground and so many different counties, that it would be impossible for them to prepare evidence to controvert it inside of three months. After it has been admitted, they declared they would make no attempt to offset its allegations, because of the physical impossibility of bringing to Frankfort the great number of witnesses necessary for the operation.

Ex-Gov. Bradley, in asking the board to grant them as much time as possible, announced that the Republicans had subpoenaed 2,700 witnesses.

### HORTICULTURISTS MEET.

The North Carolina Association Discusses San Jose Scale and Other Matters.

Raleigh, Jan. 19.—The annual meeting of the State Horticultural society was held at Southern Pines today. Mayor Smith welcomed the delegates and President George T. Winston, of the Agricultural and Mechanical College, responded.

B. Von Heff, of New York, on whose lands the horticultural experiment farm at Southern Pines is located, delivered an address on the prospects of exterminating the San Jose scale. J. Van Lindley, the president of the society, has very large peach orchards at Southern Pines, and last year, finding that the scale had gained a footing, cut down and burned 60,000 trees, which were valued at at least \$1 each. President Van Lindley made his annual address.

Among the other speakers were W. F. Massey, Gerald McCarthy, George E. Boggs, A. Rhodes, P. H. Beck, Dr. Sadleson, Eugene Levitt, Otto Katzenstein, H. F. Bahnsen and Thomas L. Brown.