

Religious Intelligencer.

THAT GOD IN ALL THINGS MAY BE GLORIFIED THROUGH CHRIST.—Peter

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V. HOLE No. 2449

WAR NOTES.

Lord Roberts' advance towards Pretoria has begun in earnest, and he is moving on at a more rapid rate than was expected by the war experts. His long wait at Bloemfontein, about which the people who would manage the war from their bedside grew impatient, was to get ready for the movement which is now on, and about which, with the wisdom that characterizes him, he kept his own council. Certain classes cry out for some stirring announcements from the front every day, and certain newspapers voice the senseless impatience in silly scoldings about inaction and equally silly suggestions as to what ought to be done. It is fairly safe to leave the movements of the army and the management of the war generally in the hands of the General in charge and his officers. They know what they are about, what they have to do, how to do it, and they are doing it all right.

Under date May 3rd Lord Roberts reported: "We occupied Brandfort to day without much opposition and without, I hope, many casualties. The Boer army, which was under the command of Delarey, retired in a northeasterly direction."

Brandfort is thirty-five miles north of Bloemfontein. The news of its occupancy was heard with much satisfaction. The position gives the key to one of the main roads leading to the Drakensberg passes, which possibly may be the means of co-operation with General Buller later on, provides an advance base of supplies, and at the same time menaces the Boers now southeast of Bloemfontein.

A Saturday despatch told that the mounted infantry, with Lord Roberts among whom are the Canadians, have picked their horses on the north bank of the Vet river, 18 miles north of Brandfort. The head of Lord Roberts' columns has thus advanced 32 miles from Kamek Siding in two days, or 52 miles north of Bloemfontein. Gen. French's cavalry are sweeping the country northward.

Lord Roberts' Saturday night report of his arrival at Vet River, as given out by the War Office on Sunday, says: "I marched here to-day with Pole-Carew's division. The enemy are in considerable strength on the opposite bank of the river. Our guns engaged theirs for some three hours without our being able to force a passage of the river, but shortly before dusk, the mounted infantry, under General Hutton, turned the enemy's right and, in a very dashing manner, pushed across the river under heavy shell and musketry fire."

We are now bivouacking for the night within three miles of Vet River. Our casualties, I hope, are not numerous."

General Hutton's dashing charge was made with Canadians. The occupation of Winburg is reported, and though not officially confirmed at this writing, there is little doubt of the correctness of the report. The Royal Regiment of Canadian Infantry is with Lord Roberts' forces, being included in the Nineteenth division.

The Canadian Mounted Rifles and at least three of the batteries of Royal Canadian Artillery are believed to be also with Lord Roberts, the Mounted Rifles forming part of the cavalry division under command of General Ian Hamilton.

It is not yet certain whether Strathcona's Horse has yet gone to the front. C. Battery, R. C. A., is in Rhodesia taking part in General Carrington's expedition to the relief of Mafeking.

It was reported a few days ago that Sir Redvers Buller sent his resignation to Lord Roberts after the Spion Kop censures were published, and that Lord Roberts declined to accept it.

The first Canadian contingent left Canada 1,039 strong. On the 23rd of last month the strength of the contingent was 751. There were sick in hospital and wounded 206, and one officer and 33 men killed.

There has been some anxiety in Canada concerning the winter clothing of the soldiers. It will relieve those who have been anxious to know that Lord Lansdowne, Secretary of War, replying to a question about it, read this despatch from Lord Roberts:

WAR NOTES.

There is no necessity to appeal for warm clothing. Some corps have received more than they require, and all will be amply provided for as soon as the numerous cases of clothing and comforts of various descriptions can be brought here from the base."

It is also stated that the army clothing factory at Millbank is sending to South Africa 15,000 full kits weekly. Up to March 200,000 pairs of drawers had been sent, and now 20,000 pairs are going out weekly in addition to vast quantities of socks and woollen jerseys. The orders are increasing, and it is expected that the factory will work at the present rate until the end of the war.

Lord Roberts has adopted the plan of commandeering forage through the Free State districts as they are occupied by the British, thus preventing the Boers who return to their farms from again joining the Boer forces.

Lord Roberts has adopted a policy of more stringent measures towards the Boers who, having sworn to give up arms and keep the peace, broke out again when they got a chance.

It is stated that at the conference held between members of the Boer mission and Dr. de Beaufort, the Dutch Minister of Foreign Affairs, the latter did his best to convince the Boer delegates of the necessity of their mission. At the pressing request of the mission Dr. de Beaufort put himself in communication with the cabinets in Berlin, Vienna, St. Petersburg and Paris, and naturally received from all of them the answer that any intervention was impossible. All the powers without exception, advised the Boers to make overtures of peace to England. Even if their independence should be sacrificed, the conclusion of peace would, at least, put an end to civil bloodshed.

Secretary of State Reitz of the South African Republic, is credited with saying to a recent visitor at Pretoria that not only would every Englishman be cleared out of the state, but also every American, German or any man of another nationality who was not prepared to shoulder a musket and fight for the country.

It is expected that a batch of Boer prisoners will be sent to Ceylon. The Imperial government has approached the Ceylon authorities on the subject and has asked them to suggest a good site for a camp.

A Wednesday despatch from Thaba N'chu says: "In yesterday's flanking movement Capt. Towse and 50 Gordon Highlanders were surrounded by 250 Boers who demanded their surrender. Capt. Towse ordered his men to fix bayonets and charge. With a wild cheer the Gordons rushed at the enemy and swept them away with great slaughter."

Sir George and Lady White were guests of the Queen last week at Windsor Castle. They received an enthusiastic greeting from townspeople. Sir George told modestly and graphically stories of the siege of Ladysmith to which the royal household listened with intense interest. At the conclusion of General Sir George White's visit the Queen decorated the defender of Ladysmith with the Cross and Star of the Royal Victorian Order.

The British prisoners at Pretoria are evidently not very well cared for. A late despatch from there says that 46 of them have died in six weeks. Two hundred of them are sick with fever and dysentery at Waterval.

Lord Roberts' kindness and sympathy finds many outlets. During the wait at Bloemfontein he visited every man in hospital, carrying with him many little comforts.

Of one of the wounded he asked cheerily:—"Can I do anything for you?"

"Yes," the reply was, "I would like you to keep my name out of the casualty list."

This man's name did not appear, and his anxiety lest his relatives should be alarmed was appeased.

A dying officer Lord Roberts comforted by promising to watch over the future of his only child.

It is scarcely surprising that the nation adores its little general.

RUM TRAFFIC NOTES.

No Apology. The liquor traffic is like the devil, nothing can be said about it so bad as to need an apology.

Whose Boys? The rum traffic must have boys to take the places of the old soaks who die from the effects of drink. Whose boys will they be?

Juvenile Societies. There are two thousand seven hundred and fifty juvenile temperance societies in the primary schools of Belgium, more than half of all these schools in the country containing such societies.

Catholics Working. In the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of St. Paul, Minn., a lecture bureau has recently been organized by priests and laymen to promote the interests of Catholic total abstinence societies. Its members are ready to respond to invitations to address meetings and organize branches of the society.

DRINK MAKES THEM.

Kentucky has three insane asylums, several penitentiaries, feeble minded institutes and other places for the care of defectives and delinquents. By far the largest part of all these people are on the State b-cause of drink. Yet there are some people who say that the country can not afford to close the saloons and distilleries because of the revenue they pay. A man who will consider all the facts and still argue thus is either a knave or a hopeless idiot.

SOLDIERS AND DRINK.

General Lord Roberts, shortly before leaving England for South Africa, said in a public address that drink is the one demoralizing force in the service, the one thing which unfits men for soldierly duty. There were two points it was impossible to gainsay; the one, that there were nine times as many drinking soldiers sent to the guard-house as abstainers, and fifty per cent. more sent to the hospital. "It is not," he added, "a friendly thing to give drink to soldiers." The American General Miles, Commander-in-chief, gives his testimony that during his twenty-five years upon the frontier he "saw more soldiers killed by the bottle than by the bullet."

THEY KNOW BETTER.

It is a somewhat notable fact that many of the most determined total abstainers in any country are men engaged in the liquor trade. A young man asked a bartender, "Jack, why is it you never drink with the boys?" The answer was direct and unequivocal "Because I know too well what is in it." There was no mistake about that. The owners of a brewery capitalized at \$1,000,000, never suffer a drop of beer to pass their own lips. And now comes the press report of the Liquor Men's Convention at some town in Oklahoma. The reporter could not refrain from expressing his surprise that the banquet which followed the convention was "dry." The fact is that the whole trade is one grand swindle, and no one knows it better than the people engaged in it.

MUST OPPOSE THEM.

Many unthinking people set off to talk by saying: "I have nothing to say against men engaged in the liquor business. It is against the sale of drink that I take my stand." We hold that it is very difficult to draw these nice distinctions between a ruinous, murderous business and those who carry it on. Universally the hand that puts wrong in motion is held responsible for the results. This, of course, applies to governments and peoples as well as individuals. But the liquor seller is far worse than a mere trafficker in evil. He is almost invariably a notorious law-breaker. Attempts to punish his infractions are generally frustrated by the most glaring perjury. He is usually a scoffer at religion and morality, and stamps men and women who work for God and home and country as hypocrites, or something worse.

We are against the rum-seller because against his traffic.

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tyranny of worse than the Turk, a slavery a hundredfold more savage than that which bound the negro, fastened upon our body politic. We have licensed hell. We grant the devil for a consideration absolute freedom to produce misery and profligacy, cruelty and wickedness, disgrace and social demoralization; to transform creatures of heaven into the felon, the harlot, the pauper and the madman. We have permitted an organized satanic despot to be reared in our midst, which has boundless resources, moves forward with gigantic strides, crushes millions of victims, infuses society with all the passions of the pit. It is the school of anarchy, the breeding-ground of criminals, the nursery of woe, the sworn foe of the church. Economically, politically, religiously, this is the problem.

Woman's Foreign Missionary Society.

"Rise up ye women that are at ease," Isaiah 32: 9.

[All contributions for this column should be addressed to Mrs. Jos. McLeod, Fredericton.]

A CHAMBER OF HORRORS.

At a meeting addressed by women missionaries during the great missionary Conference, the awful recitals of hell-then-cruelty, in'am, and degradation, told in direct, unvarnished language by earnest women who well knew whereof they spoke, so thrilled an immense audience, that before all was told Dr. Wood, the Chairman, interrupted the exercises by exclaiming: "Of all the meetings of this great council, this room this afternoon is the Chamber of Horrors, but it is filled with rays of hope, and, as the darkest hour comes just before the dawn, so we see that the light of the Kingdom of God is breaking forth in these dark places of the earth."

WIDOWS IN INDIA.

"The word 'widow' in every land," said Miss Abbott, a Bombay missionary, "is a synonym for sorrow. In Christian lands it is associated with tender sympathy, but in non-Christian lands it means reproach and despoiling, and I think in no land is that more true than in India."

The Hindu scriptures, so far as I can learn, say very little about the treatment of widows. We know that in Vedic times widows were permitted to remarry. One section of the law deals almost wholly with the relation between husband and wife. The woman is the property of her husband. He is her god and her priest, and a her duties relate to him, and therefore if he is removed from life she is a stray animal—ownerless.

Miss Abbott then read the following declaration from the Brahmin laws:

The wife who commits herself to the flames with the body of her husband shall reside with him in Swargia, as long as there are 35,000,000 hairs on the human body, and rank as a goddess, but the woman who shall not burn herself with her husband shall be subject to transmigration in female form.

"It was found in 1817," she continued, "that two widows were burned alive every day in Bengal alone, and the horror of the British Army united them with the civilians in a protest against that crime. It was not until 1831 that the suttee was a thing of the past, in spite of the angry protest of the Brahmins and appeals for its restoration, on the ground that England had agreed not to interfere with their religious customs."

Most of 27,000,000.

"There are 417,000,000 women in India, of whom 27,000,000 are widows, and of these 14,000 are less than ten years old. The widow is accursed of the gods, for in some former state of existence she committed a crime for which she is now paying the penalty. She may be a woman who did not burn herself with her husband, or she may be a wife who gave a disrespectful answer to her husband. She may then have become a dog, who in turn stole the dinner of some Brahmin priest, and is being further punished by being returned as a widow. If she had been something good she would not now be a woman."

"When her husband dies—and it is the prayer of every woman that she might die before her husband—she is

godless, priestless, without religion, accursed. Her touch is pollution, the sight of her a bad omen. If a widow crosses the path of a Brahmin he is defiled and must take a bath.

"When her husband dies the barber is sent for, but before he arrives a great lock of hair is laid upon his bier. Her hair is all burned, her ornaments are all removed, sometimes forcibly; the little jacket, the woman's pride, is taken from her, and the little garments which she has so treasured must all be changed for a single coarse robe of red or white.

"Then she is put in seclusion for thirteen days, or seclusion only broken by the curses of her husband's relatives and then she must go through life jacketless, jewelless, moneyless, have only one hot meal in twenty-four hours, and she must have many fastings and many baths. She must still mourn her husband, and who knows what she will be in the next world, a jester, a snake—or a widow."

EARLY WIDOWHOOD THE WORST.

"It is the early widowhood that appeals most strongly to sympathy. If the husband dies young, the greater is her sin. She becomes the slave of his family, and she can be beaten without redress. Even worse than all this, the priests and their emissaries prowl around and try to lure the bright and pretty girls among them to temple service. The great temple in Benares is called the 'Charne House of Widows.'"

"Nearly all the converts to Christianity among the women are older women who are bereft of kindred and therefore have had larger opportunities for action."

Miss Abbott closed by saying that the famines of recent years and the plague had brought many of them under Christian missionary influence, and into homes and schools founded for their benefit. They either re-marry Christian men or else go into service as Bible women.

ST. JOHN WEST SOCIETY.

It is a blessed secret, this of living by the day. Anyone can carry his burden, however heavy, till nightfall. Anyone can do his work, however hard, for one day. Anyone can live sweetly, patiently, lovingly, and purely till the sun goes down. And this is all that life ever really means to us, just one little day. Do to-day's duty, fight to-day's temptations, and do not weaken and distract yourself by looking forward to things you cannot see and could not understand if you saw them. God gives nights to shut down the curtain of darkness on our little days. We cannot see beyond. Short horizons make life easier and give us one of the blessed secrets of brave, true, holy living.—Christian Work.

At one of our meetings, not long ago, this little message was read, and thinking that it may rest and uplift others as it did those who listened, unfasten its wings and let it fly away on its mission of helpfulness.

As was noted in a previous communication, it was decided soon after the annual meeting last Autumn that a programme be prepared for each meeting, and, to that end, a committee was appointed. This duty has, however, come to devolve entirely upon our zealous and efficient President, and most faithfully has she performed the service. Since then the meetings have steadily grown in interest, and several new names have been added to the membership; some if not all will, we believe, grow to be useful workers. Our last meeting, held April 26, was an especial good one. Some of the subjects were as follows:

"A brief sketch of the ecumenical Conference," read by the President, Mrs. G. A. Hartley; it was a most interesting, clear, and concise account of the organization and aims of this most wonderful Christian gathering, and also an outline of the work appointed to each day of the session. We all look forward eagerly for the account of it, promised from the pen of Rev. C. T. Phillips.

Another interesting paper was, "Fruits and Vegetables of India and the foods of the Hindoos." We hope soon to see these published in the column. Then followed "Questions and answers on India," prepared from a little pamphlet. Mrs. Hartley has copies of the pamphlet, and will gladly send to any address on receipt of the price, 5c. each and postage. One of these little books would be an invaluable aid to any auxiliary.

Next in order was the minutes of the previous meeting and the collection. This last is an important feature of each meeting, and adds materially to the amount in the treasury.

SECRETARY.