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THE MORNING GUARDIAN

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 2, 1899.

THE BOER ARMY.

General Joubert, the Commander in Chief of the Boer forces, who is also the Vice President of the Transvaal, is credited with the statement that in the event of war he will have 50,000 armed men to command. This statement is absurd on its face. But it is to be observed that he claims only about 20,000 of these are to be furnished by the Transvaal, a less number by the Orange Free State, and the remainder from the British Provinces of Cape Colony and Natal.

The entire Dutch population of British and Dutch South Africa does not exceed 400,000 men, women and children. The Dutch population of the Transvaal and Orange State alone does not exceed 150,000 souls. It is upon these that General Joubert must depend—a population not more than 50 per cent in excess of that of Prince Edward Island. But the limited Dutch population referred to can furnish an unusually large proportion of fighting men. Old men and boys of sixteen will hold places in the ranks side by side with the stronger men of middle age. And it is to be observed that the Boers are expert riflemen and horsemen, and that all, or nearly all of them will be mounted warriors.

These men have proved in the past that they possess great endurance and dogged courage. They devoutly believe in the justice of their cause. They will fight on the defensive, as men who fight for their homes and firesides. They are confident that having defeated British forces in the war of 1881—2 they can do so again. They will be led by the same General Joubert who met the British at Majuba Hill, where the Boer loss was so trifling and the British loss so crushing. Every Boer child is familiar with the story of the victory for which their devout parents still return thanks to the God of Battles.

Their version of the battle of Majuba Hill is this, in substance:

General Colley took his 600 men to the top of this small and precipitous hill and exultingly challenged us. "Come up here, you beggars!" In broad daylight 150 picked Boer volunteers climbed from terrace to terrace, dodging behind boulders, and gained the top after five hours' climb with the loss of only one man.

At a range of thirty yards these brave men began a deadly fire from behind the rocks, and when a second party gained the summit and threatened to flank the English a wild panic spread among the latter.

General Colley and many other officers were killed, and the survivors fled in confusion, dropping and rolling down the hill, pursued by a storm of bullets that seldom missed.

When the casualties were counted it was found that the Boers had killed 92 Englishmen, wounded 134, and captured 59. The loss on the Boer side was one killed and five wounded.

After all it was a small affair as a battle, but great in its results, because when Britain made peace after this defeat and gave the Transvaal its independence the Boers naturally concluded that they were conceded to be invincible. This impression still prevails in the Boer mind and will operate as an inspiration to them when

again they face their English foes in battle. One crushing defeat at the outset of the coming campaign would, of course, change all this, but it has yet to be administered.

Yesterday at the Liberal convention held in Eldon Mr. David P. Irving was unanimously chosen as a candidate to contest the Belfast District, made vacant by the resignation of Hon. H. C. McDonald. Mr. Irving is a prosperous farmer resident at Vernon River. This nomination, following the appointment of Hon. D. A. McKinnon as Attorney General, must awaken considerable political interest in the Belfast and Murray Harbor Districts. Local politics had been rather dull for some time past, but are likely to be more brisk for some time to come.

Tomorrow, Tuesday October 3, the first of the great Anglo-American yacht races of the year will take place. The second race is set for Saturday October 7. Other races will follow on successive Thursdays and Saturdays until one boat has won three times. All races will start and finish at Sanday Hook light-ship. The course in each case will cover 30 miles. The first race will be 15 miles to windward or leeward and return. These and race will be over an equal sided triangle of ten miles to a side. Thereafter the course will be successively first straight and then triangular until either the Shamrock or the Columbia is declared the winner.

The Mazet committee now investigating the affairs of New York has put on the witness stand a number of the elected judges and asked them to tell how much they paid for their positions. Four of the judges stated that they had paid \$10,000 each to Tammany, while five others admitted having paid \$5,000 each, and one other \$1500. As to the propriety of these payments there was a difference of opinion. Five judges thought they

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ought not to be asked to contribute while six others thought it reasonable and proper that they should thus contribute toward the "legal" expenses of election. Of course, the money paid to Tammany by these candidates for judicial positions is spent according to Tammany methods.

In the interesting interview with Mr. W. S. Stewart, Q. C., a report of which appears elsewhere in this issue, it will be noted that he appears confident of victory for the Conservatives of Manitoba at the coming provincial election. Mr. Stewart being himself an active Conservative may have met some sanguine supporters of that party on his trip and formed his opinions from those he heard expressed by them. Premier Greenway has not lost hope, however, and for a good while past he has proved to be a hard man to beat.

Whatever Ingersoll might think of Moses the sanitary section of the scientific world continues to hold the ancient lawgiver in high estimation. The British Sanitary Congress met recently at Southampton, on which occasion Sir William Preece, the President, said that "Moses despised dust, and would have approved of our modern dust destroyers. His work, Leviticus, was a treatise on hygiene by the greatest sanitary engineer the world had ever known, one who taught that the first principles of health lay in pure air, pure water, pure food, pure soil, pure dwellings, and he might add a pure heart in a sound body. These were necessary sanitary conditions as laid down in the Mosaic code, and they are the sanitary conditions of the present era."

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