

The Transvaal War

THE BOERS OUTMANEUVERED

AN AMERICAN CORRESPONDENT'S TRIBUTE TO BRITISH PLUCK AND STRATEGY.

NEW YORK, February 19.—The New York Journal has the following from Capt. Wright, its special correspondent with Gen. French's force:

Modder River, Feb. 18.—For the first time the British Generals have completely outmaneuvered the Boers. French with cavalry has entered Kimberley. Cronje has evacuated his position at Magersfontein, and is trekking eastward toward Bloemfontein, with the British in hot but cautious pursuit.

The Sixth division started from Modder River to begin the march toward Jacobsdal on Thursday at 1 a. m., reaching Klip Drift on the Modder before midnight, doing 26 miles in 24 hours. The same afternoon the General went ahead, again supported by three batteries of horse artillery, the Boers flying at his approach. This left the road clear to Kimberley, and Thursday night saw French within striking distance of the beleaguered town.

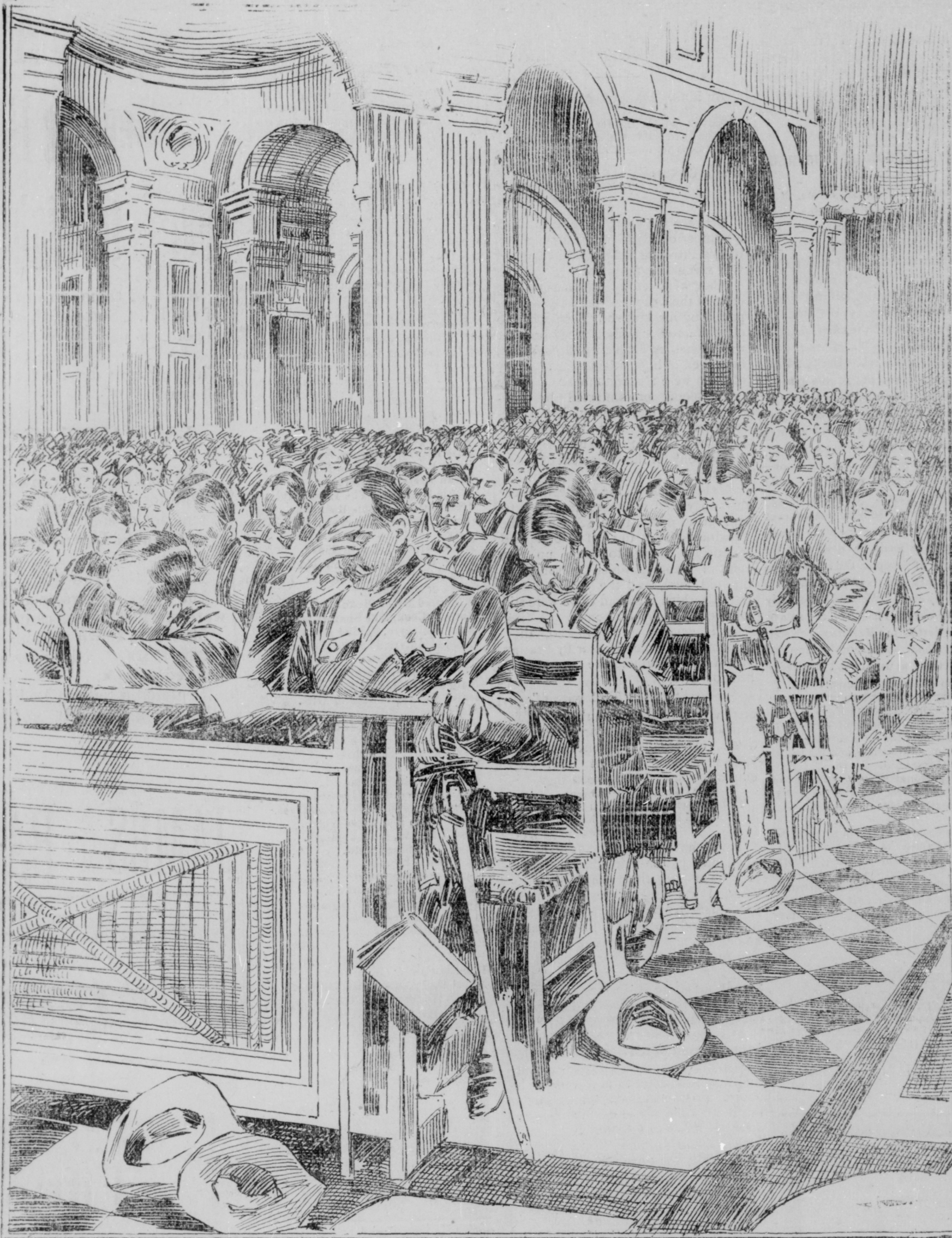
Then the Boers began trekking from their Magersfontein position. When daylight broke a large trekking force was visible in the distance. British cavalry and artillery immediately started in pursuit, and both forces soon disappeared over the veldt.

In the meantime Gen. Tucker, with the Eighth division had begun his advance on the right flank. Colonel Henry had been sent forward to Jacobsdal and finding the place vacated by the Boers, assured the inhabitants that their property would be respected and their personal safety assured if they kept quiet. On his return to Wegdraal, Henry's party was fired upon from kopjes 1,500 yards on his right flank. A few casualties occurred in the British force here, but the party regained the main body practically intact. The next day two battalions of infantry and a battery of artillery of the Ninth division occupied Jacobsdal. Here the scouts brought in the intelligence that the Boers were in full flight towards Bloemfontein. Scores of Boers, sick and wounded, were discovered in a laager three miles west, with 150 wagons, large quantities of ammunition, stores and personal effects, all showing that the retreat had been pell-mell. The Boer doctors attending the wounded say that this laager supplied the Boer entrenchments. Among the supplies captured were several cases of rifles, ammunition, and boxes of biscuits marked "via Delagoa Bay."

On Thursday the naval brigade did good work, shelling the kopjes where the Boers were supposed to be lurking. After a few shots the kopje suddenly became alive with the fleeing enemy. Over one thousand were seen galloping away at full speed. The Boer wounded bitterly revile Cronje for leaving them to fall into British hands. The British casualties were comparatively insignificant in view of the immense gain of the past 48 hours.

French's arrival at Kimberley was a veritable triumph for that dashing general. The inhabitants were already aware from the silence of the Boer guns that their long imprisonment had drawn to a close, and from every point of vantage, a look-out was kept for the first arrival. When the cavalrymen, in khaki, were espied in the distance, word was passed to the anxious watchers, and a few minutes later every road and pass, lately blocked with a Boer cordon of fire, swarmed with the sorely tired citizens rushing to greet their deliverers. Women and children, eager to taste the joy of long preferred freedom, ran hand in hand, while Colonel Kekewich's men formed an escort for the advancing cavalry.

The road to Kimberley is now open, and repairs to the railway are being pushed, so as to allow food supplies to enter, as well as for those desirous to leave to get away as quickly as possible. The ninth division with Generals Kitchener, Kelly-Kenny and Colville, meantime took a parallel road eastward for the purpose of cutting off the Boers' retreat, the prospects of hard fighting being more likely in this direction. The Highland brigade under General Macdonald was given a chance at their commander's request to retrieve the Magersfontein blunder, and quick as the men could be pushed ahead the march was continued that day. At Kip Drift a terrible thunderstorm broke over the silent marchers



A COMPANY OF THE ANCIENT AND HONORABLE ARTILLERY CO. ATTENDING CHURCH IN LONDON, PREVIOUS TO DEPARTURE FOR SOUTH AFRICA.—Boston Globe.

Under other circumstances this outburst of the elements would have forced the troops to shelter. The lightning struck all around the men, in many cases striking the gun barrels, and forcing the poor fellows to drop to the ground, but Scotchmen's blood was up and they continued to plod forward. One blinding flash struck a naval twelve pounder, while the men were hauling it up the hill. Three stars were struck down and to complete the disaster one of the wheels of the gun carriage was split in two. Nothing daunted other blue jackets rushed to the assistance of their disabled comrades to remount the gun on its broken carriage. This was impossible, but the men were not to be balked by a little thing like that shouldered the big weapon and carried it bodily ten miles and from an improvised platform on a kopje opened fire on the body of fleeing Boers. Gen. Kitchener witnessed the daring act, and praised the men's skill and bravery. The British are still pursuing the Boers to the eastward.

GIVES FRIENDLY WARNING.

Lord Roberts has issued a proclamation to the burghers of the Orange Free State, saying that he feels it his duty to make known to all the burghers the cause of the coming of the British, as well as to do all in his power to terminate the devastation caused by the war, and that he issues the proclamation in order that if the burghers should continue fighting they may not do so ignorantly, but with a full knowledge of their responsibility before God for the lives lost in the campaign. The proclamation goes on to say:

"The British Government believes

that the wanton and unjustifiable invasion of British territory was not committed with the general approval of the people of the Free State, with whom the British Government has lived in complete amity for so many years. It believes the responsibility to rest wholly with the Government of the Free State, acting not in the interests of the country, but under mischievous influence from without.

"Great Britain, therefore, wishes the people of the Free State to understand that it bears them no ill-will, and that, so far as is compatible with the successful conduct of the war in the re-establishment of peace, it is anxious to preserve them from the evils brought upon them by the wrongful action of their Government."

In conclusion, Lord Roberts warns all burghers to desist from further acts of hostility toward Her Majesty's Government and troops, and he gives directions regarding requisitions and complaints.

HYMN FOR ABSENT FRIENDS.

"The Lord watch between me and thee, when we are absent one from another."

Holy Father in Thy mercy  
Hear our anxious prayer,  
Keep our loved ones, now far absent,  
Neath Thy care.

Jesus, Saviour, let Thy presence  
Be their light and guide,  
Keep, oh, keep them, in their weakness  
At Thy Side.

When in sorrow, when in danger,  
When in loneliness,  
In Thy love look down and comfort  
Their distress.

May the joy of Thy salvation  
Be their strength and stay:  
May they love and may they praise Thee  
Day by day.

Holy Spirit, let Thy teaching  
Sanctify their life;  
Send Thy grace, that they may conquer  
In the strife  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
God the One in Three,  
Bless them, guide them, save them, keep them  
Near to Thee. Amen.

BOY BUGLER AND QUEEN.

The Queen's personal interest in the men fighting her battles is being constantly illustrated by her visits to Netley hospital and the private houses where lie officers and men wounded in South Africa. She stood godmother a few days ago to the child of a major's wife whose husband was killed at Elanslaagte, and she has now summoned to Osborne Bugler Dunn, aged fifteen, of the 1st Royal Dublin Fusiliers, who was the first to cross the Tugela River, though the men of the regiment tried to keep him back. While running with the soldiers, holding his bugle with his right hand, Dunn sounded the "Advance." A bullet struck his arm and the bugle fell. The boy immediately lifted it up and repeated the call. He was brought to Netley hospital, and was visited there by Princess Christian and Princess Henry of Battenberg, who asked the boy what he would like the Queen to do for him. He replied:—"I hope Her Majesty will send me back to the front. I'm to have a medal and three bars, because I was in three engagements. My father has only two bars to his medal." The lad's father, a sergeant, returned to the front last week, having recovered from his wound. On his arrival at Portsmouth young Dunn was tenderly borne on the shoulders of the delighted populace.

WELL-EARNED PROMOTION.

The Queen has promoted General French to be major-general. French, heretofore, had only ranked as a colonel in the army, with the local rank of lieutenant-general. Lieut.-Col. Kekewich, has been promoted colonel, for services in the defence of Kimberley.

BOERS FOOLED MACRUM.

SUCCESSFUL HOODWINKED THE UNITED STATES CONSUL AT PRETORIA.

Wilson D. Lyons, who visited the Transvaal shortly before the breaking out of the war, has written a published letter, in which he says former United States Consul Macrum was hoodwinked by the Boers. Mr. Lyons says in part:—

"Mr. Macrum was the first representative sent from the United States to Pretoria. Our interests were looked after by an agent, who had his own business to attend to. This being the first time a man had come direct from the United States Government, the Boer officials thought it their best policy to make him at home, and show up everything to him from their side, so that he would report favourably to the United States Government. They worked the game to perfection, as far as Macrum was concerned, and won him over to the pro-Boer side from the first.

"It was surprising that an American could have the wool pulled over his eyes in such a way, but Macrum mixed with few English, and saw few Americans, except on quick visits to Johannesburg. Well-informed people are all surprised that a young man of Macrum's intelligence should have been hoodwinked by the Boer Government, but they fool their own people, and are past-masters of the game."

BOERS CONFIDENT OF ULTIMATE SUCCESS.

A private letter from Pretoria, dated Jan. 10, is remarkable for the calm assumption that Europe will never permit England to rob the Transvaal and the Orange Free State of their independence. Reading between the lines, in fact, it assumes that President Kruger received assurances that if the burghers only made a good fight powerful friends at the last moment will step in and say "Hands off!" to the victor. The letter leaves no doubt of the confidence of the Boer leaders in their ability to keep the war going indefinitely. Twelve months hence is mentioned as the earliest date for the capture of Pretoria, and two years for the final subjugation of the Transvaal, while it is incidentally mentioned that all the leading foreign officers in the service of the two Republics have been engaged for three years, with one year's salary paid in advance.

The writer says that the republican forces have been reinforced since the war began by 10,000 Dutchmen and 2,000 Englishmen from Cape Colony and Natal, and 3,000 foreigners who have come via Delagoa Bay and paid their own expenses. It is declared that there are 75,000 men in the fighting line, with reserves to the number of about 30,000 more. The country is calm, the blacks working on the farms and in the towns as in normal times. There is not the slightest fear of a native rising, because every Kaffir was disarmed before the beginning of the war. Finally the writer estimated that big events would happen about the beginning of March, when the climatic advantages will all be on the Boer side, and Gen. Joubert will take the offensive.

FREE STATE WEARY OF WAR.

Judging from the conversation of the inhabitants the Free State is weary of the war. It is openly stated that President Steyn betrayed the people. When the latter became satisfied there was no truth in the stories of the looting proclivities of the British, the townspeople welcomed the troops as friends.

BOERS NONPLUSED.

A correspondent with the British army talked with a number of the Boer wounded, and they all acknowledged that the British movements had nonplussed the burgher commanders. Even now, it is added, they are under the impression that the sole object was to capture Jacobsdal. When informed of the relief of Kimberley, they were at first incredulous and then astounded.

ALL QUIET IN JACOBSDAL.

A telegram of the 15th inst., reports that the British Military police patrol the street, but not a stick of furniture, not even an apple from the trees has been taken. A sentry is placed before each store, and the soldiers are allowed to enter and purchase what they require. Everything is so peaceful that the inhabitants express the utmost surprise, as it has been diligently reported that the British occupation meant instant looting.