

THE DAILY EXAMINER

DECEMBER 30, 1899.

1899.

This was a year of universal activity and expansion. Trade was good and prices high. The United States particularly, Australia and Canada in a less marked degree, with the Mother Country and all European nations, enjoyed a large measure of commercial prosperity. Many ocean steamships, including the Labrador, the Paris, the Castilian, the Scotsman and the Portia went down,—fortunately without great loss of human lives. There were terrifying earthquakes in Italy, Japan and California. There were hurricanes in the West Indies, Bermuda and Newfoundland, destroying much property,—but productive industry in field and factory, in mine and shipyard much more than made up all the losses that were sustained. In a material sense the world at large is considerably better off than it was a year ago.

With activity in industry and commerce, there were, continuously, wars and rumors of wars. The Philippine war, begun last year by the United States, or rather by the Filipino rebels against the States, is not yet ended. Only the other day an able and popular general of the Great Republic was killed in the Philippines. The extreme difficulty of conducting successful military operations in a distant country, even when abundance of means are available, and even against an ill-armed and unwarlike people, has been made manifest to our cousins across the way. If Aguinaldo should prove to be dogged and persistent our neighbours may have to sacrifice men and money for many a year before they conquer the Philippines and fulfil the beneficent mission of carrying to them the blessing of American civilization.

Great Britain has been much more fortunate in respect to the Sudan. Early in the year Lord Kitchener decided to send a strong force against the Khalifa; and not long since that disturber of the peace of North Africa, with the remnant of his Dervishes left after Omdurman, was brought to bay and completely routed. Northern Africa, or at least Egypt and the Sudan, will now probably have peace and be enabled to prosper under the improved conditions resulting from partnership with Great Britain.

But Southern Africa has yet to be made subject to progressive ideas and free government. President Kruger and those who support his policy of reaction remain to be dealt with. At the beginning of the year a petition setting forth the civil and political disabilities of the British people resident in the Transvaal was presented to the Queen. When the convention of 1881 was entered into, Mr. Kruger, representing the Transvaal, promised that the British people resident in the Transvaal should have the same political and civil rights as the Boers themselves; and it was upon this understanding that the privilege of internal self-government was granted. The stipulation was never fulfilled. On the contrary, the exactions and tyrannies of the Boers increased year by year until they became unbearable. The Queen's Government took the Uitlanders' petition into consideration and called upon President Kruger to introduce reforms. The wily President spent much time in diplomacy. After a long correspondence with Mr. Chamberlain, a conference was arranged between him and Sir Alfred Milner, the Queen's representative in Cape Colony. The conference was held in Bloemfontein. Certain propositions were made on the part of the British, every one of which President Kruger refused to entertain. Upon his return to Pretoria, however, the Volksraad passed a law which provided that upon certain conditions, after a residence in the country of seven years, a Uitlander might be permitted to vote in the election of members of the Volksraad which imposes the taxes that the Uitlanders were compelled to pay. The Uitlanders contended that the conditions were such that the franchise privilege extended was merely nominal. It was then suggested that a joint commission of enquiry into the matter should be appointed. But this was,—after much correspondence and several counter propositions had been made—refused. The British Government at last awoke to a knowledge of the fact that the Boers were bent upon war and that the British possessions in South Africa were in danger of invasion. Correspondents resident in Johannesburg ascertained that they had certain information that a conspiracy was on foot for the destruction of British power in South Africa

and the establishment there of a great Boer Federation. The British government could afford to dally no longer. They had, indeed, dalled too long. While the negotiations with Kruger were pending, the Transvaal and the Orange Free State completed the preparations which had been begun years before, and with the money paid by the Uitlanders who developed and worked the Transvaal mines, had purchased immense quantities of all kind of munitions of war, had armed every man and boy in the country, had practiced sharp-shooting and military evolutions, had provided themselves with officers drawn from the German and other European armies—killed in every device of war. A first measure of precaution on the British Government sent about 12,000 troops into the country to supplement the small force already there.

President Kruger continued his correspondence making offers and propositions that could not be accepted, pretending all the while to fear the annihilation of his small country and to be extremely anxious for peace. Finally, on the 10th of October, when ready for instant action, a joint ultimatum was issued on behalf of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State, demanding that the British troops stationed near the Transvaal border should be withdrawn, that all troops landed in South Africa after the negotiations began, should be sent home, and threatening that if the demands were not complied with in forty-eight hours the British possessions would at once be invaded. Of course this ultimatum was treated with the scorn it deserved; and the threat was at once carried out. The Boers took possession of Laing's Nek and Ingogo Heights, invested Mafeking and Kimberley, and invaded Natal in what they deemed to be overwhelming force. Prisoners taken by the British since the war began have stated that they "thought the war would be a picnic," that they "would rush Natal before the imperial troops arrived," and that "England would be involved in foreign complications," and that the victorious Boers "would be able to dictate terms from Pietermaritzburg or Durban."

But the Boers reckoned without the valour of "Tommy Atkins." The small, detached British forces, scattered in little groups at various points near the frontier were ill-disposed for effective defence. They were attacked in such a way as won the admiration of military critics for the Boer commanders. But they met the attack fearlessly,—and so successfully that the object of the Boers has not yet been achieved, and is not likely ever to be obtained. At Glencoe and at Eland's Laagte, and other points, they met the invaders in greatly superior numbers, and they were victorious. At Mafeking, Kimberley and Ladysmith they have repulsed the heaviest assaults that a numerically stronger enemy, aided by the heaviest guns, could make. Disappointments and reverses have been met by the British—but no serious defeat. All along the extended line, the Britons hold their own. The losses they have suffered, as at Nicholson's Nek, Stormberg and Colenso, have for the most part been the results of reckless daring and over confidence,—in the face of a hidden enemy, strongly entrenched, and a dead shot. These losses have taught them the necessity of greater carefulness, a lesson that is not likely to be forgotten. We may therefore hope that, reinforced by troops now hastening to the front and by the generalship of Roberts and Kitchener, they will soon win the success which those who fight for the cause of freedom and progress deserve. That which is most to be feared is foreign interference at a critical juncture. But of this—thanks to the admirable diplomacy and good management of Lord Salisbury—there is not much probability. The United States, Germany and Italy occupy in respect to Great Britain the position of friendly neutrals. Their success and prosperity are so closely connected with the success and prosperity of the British Empire throughout the world, with its "open door" and "equality of privilege," that we cannot conceive of any contingency, short of an irreparable

British disaster, in which either of them could be induced to interfere offensively to the detriment of British arms. Russia is checked by Japan, and by the knowledge that domestic and financial complications are certain to arise to the confusion of her despotic rule if she should attack the citadel of human freedom held by Great Britain. France, has without doubt, a grudge to satisfy against Great Britain because she was compelled to retreat from Fashoda, of which Major Marchand had unwarrantably taken possession on her behalf. But the moral weakness and rottenness of her political and military systems, revealed in the Deryfus trial of last September, and in the social excitements and disgraceful riots at Paris, render any strong national effort upon her part impossible at this juncture. Austria, too, is so torn by the race antagonisms of the Czechs and Germans within her borders that she is practically impotent in respect to foreign affairs. It has been reported that France and Russia have been trying to induce the King of Abyssinia to create a diversion into Lower Egypt. But before King Menelek can do this he must overrun the Italian possessions which lie between him and the Sudan. In view of all these points in the situation it is, we think, unlikely that either Great Britain or the Boers will in any way be checked by other nations; and we hope for a satisfactory conclusion of the war in the South, as in the North, of Africa.

In view of the warlike spirit that is now all but universal, it is a curious fact that the most notable continental event of the past year was the Peace Conference, at which the principle of arbitration for the settlement of national disputes was discussed and maintained. The sincerity of the great promoter of the Conference was ridiculed, not without reason, in view of the fact that never for a moment did the Czar stay his military preparations, and that while talking peace he was forcing the Finns to do military service outside of Finland. The continuance of the Philippine war, and the outbreak of the Boer war seems to show that the conference was not of any practical value. But the ideas evolved and spread abroad by means of the Conference may be turned to good account in future years. That will be a truly glorious time in which the nations shall not any more learn war.

(Continued on page 4.)

TOMMY AND DISCIPLINE

"Tommy is not to have any more goose," said his mother.

"You let Bill have some more," grumbled Tommy.

"Willie is a great deal bigger than you are," replied Willie's mother, who did not know Dodd's Dyspepsia Tablets counteract the effects of too hearty eating.

"No wonder, when you give him twice as much to eat as me," said Tommy.

"I do not wish to argue," said his mother, with dignity.

"Please give me some more goose, then," said Tommy.

"Did I not say you were not to have any more?"

"Yes."

"Well."

"But I want some more."

Tommy's father seemed to be struggling with something that had gone down the wrong way. Tommy's mother tried to look as stiff and unbecoming as possible. It was Christmas day but rules are rules and discipline must be maintained. Besides she was ignorant of Dodd's Dyspepsia Tablets.

"I don't see why Bill should have some more and not me."

Bill gazed at Tommy with the greatest scorn.

"You're only a kid," said he.

"Who's a kid," demanded Tommy.

"Be quiet, both of you, interposed Tommy's mother.

"He's only a year older'n me," murmured Tommy.

"I'm fourteen months older," said Willie.

"If you don't hold your tongues you shan't get any pudding," said the mother.

"I want some more goose," said Tommy.

"Leave the table," ordered Tommy's mother.

"What for?" exclaimed Tommy, affecting indignation.

"Because I tell you," said his mother.

"What did I do?" demanded Tommy, utterly mystified.

"Leave the table, before I box your ears," said his mother.

Tommy left the table greatly aggrieved. Of course goose is indigestible, but then Christmas comes but once a year, and a Dodd's Dyspepsia Tablet would have prevented any unhappy effects.

DR. H. L. DICKEY

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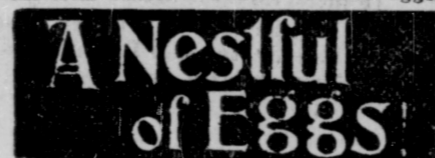
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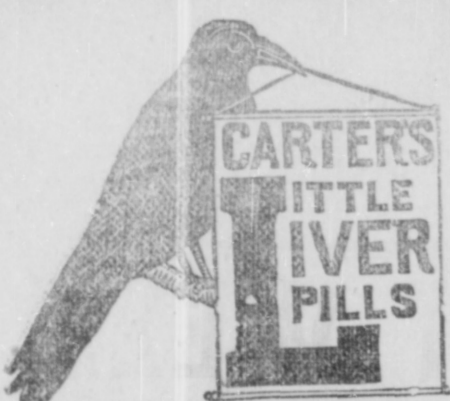
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Liberal-Conservative Convention.

A convention of the Liberal Conservative electors of the Second District of King's County will be held at Morell Hall, on Wednesday, the third day of January, A. D., 1900, at 2 o'clock, p. m., for the purpose of selecting two candidates to contest the district at the approaching election. A full attendance of delegates from each poll is requested.

L. P. DOYLE, Convener. St. Peter's Bay, Dec 19, 1899.