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When Does the 20th Century Begin?

We'll not Discuss that Question now

We are starting this year in good spirits and great hopes of making this our banner year in the

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The success of 1899 has more than filled our most sanguine expectations, which makes us feel like spurring ourselves to greater achievements. Our facilities for better buying increases with every year. The best manufacturers are approaching us to sell us their goods direct. These advantages we will this year share with our customers. In order to get the best Suits, Overcoats, Trousers, etc., turned out under the magic touch of an artistic cutter, in the person of Mr. SEXTUS McLELLAN, and a picked, thoroughly trained staff of workmen.

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Men's Stylish Outfitters.....

INTERESTING PARTICULARS ABOUT THE TRANSVAAL WAR.

The Gorsedd Sword.
 UNSHEATHED FOR THE FIRST TIME FOR CENTURIES.

WELSH BARDS AND THE WAR.
 ["Daily Chronicle" Special.]

The Chief Bard Positive of the institutional Order of Welsh Bards, Gwilym Cowlyd, to wit, having come to the conclusion that the war in South Africa is merely a phase of the war against all falsehood, iniquity, and error, eternally being waged by all true Bards, and that the time has come when the sanction and benediction of the hoary institution over which he presides should be given to the forces of the Queen, on the 30th ult. issued the following:—

The Truth Against the World.
 Oh! Jesus Repress Injustice.
 "He that Slayeth shall be Slain."
 The Sword of the Lord and Victoria.
 This is an invitation and request to be present in Gorsedd, on the Mount of Songs, Gair Ionydd, at 10 a. m., Jan. 6, 1900 (Old Christmas Day), to Unsheath the Sword of Eternal Bardism—as the Sword of the Lord and Victoria—against all falsehood, iniquity, and error, and to signal and proclaim the sovereignty of Truth and Righteousness throughout the Earth. "For on this Mountain shall the hand of the Lord give rest, and Moab shall be trodden down under Him, even as straw is trodden for the dunghill." God and all goodness.—(Signed) GWILYM COWLYD.

Owing, no doubt, to the tempestuous state of the weather in North Wales on Saturday, very few of the Gorsedd Bards answered the Chief Bard's appeal, but there was a legitimate quorum, among them, being Penfro (vicar of Glan Conway), whose duty it was to perform the dread ceremony of 'Unsheathing the Gorsedd Sword.' The rendezvous was in a lonely spot, involving a walk of four miles over the hills which form the northern terminus of the Snowdonian range of mountains above Trefriw. In pouring rain and a gale of wind, the faithful few patiently trudged, filled with the enthusiasm of their mission.

On arrival at the trysting place, the Bards marched solemnly to the Sacred Circle on the "Mount of Songs," close by, Cowlyd and Penfro taking up their places close to the Maen Llog, in the centre of the Circle, whereon the Gorsedd Sword, sheathed, was laid, in readiness for the unique ceremony about to be performed. After the usual invocation of the Divine blessing on the business about to be transacted, Cowlyd prayed that the Reign of the Prince of Peace (whose natal day it was), should be consummated in the defeat of all the forces of Unrighteousness. Then following the immemorial practice of the Gorsedd, Cowlyd bare-headed, with the great Gorsedd Banner flying behind him, asked the question always put at the commencement of the Gorsedd Ceremonial, "A Oes Heddwch?" (Is there Peace?) For unnumbered centuries, the answer has always been in the joint voices of the officiating Bards and the public present, "Heddwch" (There is Peace). But on this occasion the solitary voice (that of Penfro), responded, to the effect that there was no Peace.

Promptly Penfro drew the Gorsedd glaive out of its sheath, this being the first time in the course of centuries that the blade has been wholly bared. After a threatening flourish of the sword, Penfro stood still, weapon in hand, while Cowlyd proclaimed:—
 Be it known to all the Loyal Bards of Wales, and the Arm Bearers of Righteousness throughout the Earth, that the Mystic Sword of Truth, Peace and Justice, is Unsheathed in the Eternal Gorsedd of Gair Ionydd.

Simultaneously the Gorsedd Herald sent rolling round the mist-hidden hills and thence figuratively throughout the whole earth) three warlike blasts. Following Cowlyd's proclamation of the existence of a state of war, the Gorsedd Bards left the Sacred Circle (wherein Peace is supposed to reign eternally), and, pausing at each stone in turn, Penfro perambulated the outside of the Sacred Circle, and striking the earth three times with the Gorsedd Sword, on the outside of each stone, pronounced the formula, "A naked blade against all falsehood, iniquity and error throughout the whole earth. God and all Goodness." Then Cowlyd, bare-headed, invoked the blessing of the Almighty on British Arms in South Africa, in the war against all falsehood, iniquity and error, and announced that

the Gorsedd Sword would never again be sheathed till the triumph of the forces of Righteousness over the hordes of Evil.

In the roaring gale the company then dispersed over the hills.

IN THE DIAMOND FIELDS.

'Kimberley proper is built around a hole big enough to hold the entire white population of South Africa. This is the excavation above the Kimberley mine made when diamonds were mined from the surface. Nowadays shafts are sunk and levels formed, whence the blue ground is blasted out and hauled to the surface in elevators. The diamond is different from other precious stones in that it is found in soft clay, while the amethyst, ruby, and emerald are embedded in quartz. This makes the diamond easy to conceal in the mouth, nose, and by swallowing, and every year the De Beers Company gets from the workmen \$2,000,000 worth of stolen goods. The inclination to pilfer these precious stones is so intense that the crime is severely punished. In South Africa the first commandment is, "Thou shalt not steal diamonds." What rape is to Georgia, is I. D. B. (illicit diamond brigand), to South Africa. For murder a man may get ten years; for having a diamond found on his person that is not registered twenty years. At Cape Town is a great convict station called the "Breakwater," where sons of prominent American families and English aristocrats join in lock step with Lascars and Kaffirs. They have all violated the first commandment. In Kimberley 1,000 negro convicts sort the diamonds under the muzzles of Martini rifles. They are kept in a separate place. The other black boys live in a five-acre enclosure known as the "compound."

The De Beers Company controls the diamond market of the world. Of the five mines, Kimberley, De Beers, Du Toits Pan, Bullfontein, and Premier, the first two are situated in Kimberley, and are the only ones worked now. The diamonds produced in all the rest of the world would not supply the city of Philadelphia. The value of the South African product thus far has been \$600,000,000. The supply seems inexhaustible.

"Two other localities are rich in diamonds,—Joegersfontein and Koffyfontein—both in the Orange Free State. At the former the famous Joegersfontein Excelsior, weighing 900 carats, was found in May, 1893, and the output of that field last January was 15,189 carats, valued at \$150,000. The corresponding output at Koffyfontein was \$1,000 worth. The proportion of diamonds to earth extracted is greater at Joegersfontein than at Kimberley."—Ainslee's Magazine.

A sergeant in the 1st Balloon Section, writing to his relations about the fight at Modder River, observes: "I shall never forget the sight. I had some narrow squeaks; the bullets got as close as my coat. The troops were fairly exhausted with heat. I would willingly have given any money for a drink. A major came to me and begged a drink from our section; he said he had not had a bite nor a drink for two days. I have not had my clothes off for six days now, and have to lie down anywhere on the sand or rock with rifle and ammunition by my side. We captured four Boers with their commander. One of them asked me for a chance. I gave him one and he was just going to fire at me when I dropped him. We are living on biscuits and tinned meat, which seems a luxury. Sometimes we cannot get anything. I was up in the balloon reconnoitering this morning, and could see the Boers with the glasses bringing in stores and forage. I have been up in the balloon several times, and I could see Kimberley quite plain. The captain has just called me to his tent and given me a small bottle of Bass. I nearly fainted when he asked me if I would take it."

The members of the Portuguese legation officially deny the stories printed by the London "Daily Mail" that the Boers had crossed the Portuguese territory into Rhodesia, and that artillery had been sent from Lorenzo Marquez, whose governor had asked the Portuguese Government for reinforcements. The Portuguese authorities state that the country in that vicinity renders such a thing impossible.

According to a private letter from Sir William MacCormack, president of the Royal College of Surgeons, there is excessive ill-feeling between the army medical officers in South Africa and the female nurses at the

base hospitals, some of the former urging the sole employment of male orderlies. On the whole, however, especially at the front, the medical arrangements seem to be giving the greatest satisfaction.

An interesting story is told of the late Duke of Westminster when on his death-bed. When unable to speak, he signalled for a sheet of paper and pencil. He then wrote on it that he wished a cheque for a thousand pounds to be sent to the Officers' Families Fund. The wish was carried out, and the cheque has been received at Lansdowne House. The fund has now reached the handsome sum of twenty-five thousand pounds, and already three thousand pounds of the money has been expended on various cases.

A curious exception to the general patriotism which prevails among the nobility of all classes occurred the other day. When the Gloucestershire volunteers respectfully asked Lord Sherbourne for a rifle range on his estates they received the reply that if the people of England wanted rifle ranges they must pay for them.

Some 2000 girls employed in the thread mills of Messrs. Clark & Co., Paisley, have agreed to knit socks for the soldiers at the seat of war. The firm are to supply the wool for one pair each, but many of the girls will provide a second pair.

Colonel Cotten Jodrell, M. P., commanding officer of the Crowe railway engineers, has issued an order inviting the names of 50 men and 2 officers in South Africa. These men must be engine drivers, engine fitters, firemen, plate-layers and blacksmiths.

A requiem mass for the souls of soldiers who have fallen in South Africa was conducted at Brampton oratory. Cardinal Vaughan was present. The celebrant was Father Bowden, his assistants being Father Cory and Father Hall—all three officers of the army.

The admiralty has ordered that, as soon as the days lengthen sufficiently to allow of work being carried on without artificial light, overtime shall be further extended on all the ships in course of construction, refitting and completion in Devonport dockyard.

Doctors said Incurable

But the Notary, Mr. Lemire, was cured of Kidney Disease in two months by Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills.

It is only when thoroughly convinced of the superior merit of a remedy that public men will give their sanction. Mr. E. H. Lemire, Notary Public, 1622 Notre Dame Street, Montreal, tells of his remarkable recovery from a severe attack of kidney disease. When doctors had failed, Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills saved his life. He writes: "I give this statement, first because it is only just that the merit of Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills should be made known, and again in order that others may profit by my experience. For years I suffered with kidney disease which doctors pronounced incurable. Thanks to Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills, which I have used for two months, I am completely cured. They helped me from the first, and the cure is now perfect."

Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills act directly on the kidneys, and through their combined influence on the kidneys and liver, cure the most complicated diseases of these delicate organs. One pill a dose. 25 cents a box at all dealers, or Edmondson, Bates & Co., Toronto.

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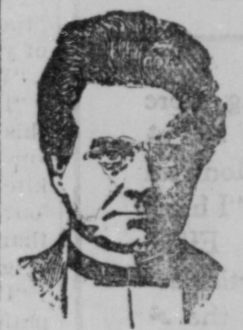
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The Inland Navigation Company (LIMITED)

The annual general meeting of The Inland Navigation Company, (Limited) will be held in the room (recesses) in Mr. John McEachern building corner of Queen and King Streets, Charlottetown, on Thursday the 22nd of February next at 3 o'clock, p. m.

L. C. OWEN,
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