

War in The Transvaal

Particulars of the Struggle in South Africa.

ENGLISHMEN ARE CALM.

Recent Defeats have only Served to Make Them Determined to Win.

The Philadelphia Times' special from London says: London December 19.—A wise disposition is shown by the press and public here not to indulge in recriminations. It is generally recognized that the Government had entirely underrated the fighting qualities and number of the Boers, but now that their eyes are being opened, and that everything possible is being done to remedy the defects of the past, the average Englishman, while smarting over Buller's defeat, is inclined to show more forbearance than usual.

The preparations now being made are generally considered fully adequate to meet the situation in South Africa. These include the quick despatch of the Seventh Division, the first portion embarking the first week of the New Year.

Reinforcements of artillery will also be despatched, and a considerable cavalry force, added to which will be mounted contingents from Australia and other colonies.

The commander-in-chief, with Lord Kitchener as his chief of staff, is generally welcomed here, though in some quarters it is wished that Kitchener as a younger man, should be placed in supreme command. Wolsley's influence is thought to have prevented Lord Kitchener being appointed. The latter is young, has vast experience, and is noted for a good deal of shrewd common sense, and in addition to his scientific and military attainments, is complete master of the art of organization and administration, which qualities are particularly needed in the present campaign.

Owing to the breakdown of one of the South African cables, there is really no news from the seat of war. Much satisfaction is expressed at the fact that Warren's division—the Fifth—will be landed at Port Elizabeth about the middle of January. He will at once start from there to reinforce Gatacre. Being senior to Gatacre, he will assume chief command of the operations in Cape Colony, and with his knowledge of South Africa it is hoped he will be able to turn the tables. Gatacre will eventually retire on Queenstown.

Lord Methuen seems to have formed an entrenched camp on Modder River, and to have advanced his base. He is apparently preparing for another stroke, though he is entirely dependent on a single line of railroad to Orange River.

Sir Charles Warren.

Lieutenant-General Sir Charles Warren, Commander of the fifth army Division, was born at Bangor, North Wales, in 1840. He was educated at Cheltenham College, and also at both the Royal Military College at Sandhurst, and the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich. He entered the Royal Engineers in 1857, and was soon marked out as being a clever young man, for in 1866 he was assistant instructor in the surveying school of Military Engineering. From 1867-70 he conducted a reconnaissance of Palestine, for the Palestine exploration Fund. In 1876-77, he was one of the commissioners for laying down

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the boundary line of Griqualand West, and the Orange Free State. During the Kaffir war of 1878 he commanded the Diamond Fields Horse. He filled other posts of more or less importance up to 1885 when he was selected to command the special expedition to Bechuanaland to check the threatened extension by the Boers of their territory. He commanded the forces at Suakin, on the Red Sea, in 1886, and from 1886 to 1888, was Chief Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police of London. He was Commander-in-chief at the Straits Settlements from 1889-94, since which later date he has been on the staff commanding the troops in the Thames district, until called upon to assume command of the 5th Division for service in South Africa. Sir Charles Warren has an intimate knowledge of the Boers and their ways, and it may be equally affirmed that the Boers know him as well, and what is more, respect him.

Somebody Blundered.

General Buller's artillery was lost at Tugela river because there was no reconnoitering party to give warning of the impending trap.

General Methuen's gallant men fell by the hundred at Magersfontein because they were marched en masse without the information which scouts could give, and without bayonets fixed, up to the well-masked Boer trenches.

General Gatacre's equally gallant men were repulsed at Stormberg, many being killed and hundreds being captured, because the scouts were in the rear instead of in front.

General White lost over a thousand men captured at Nicholson's Nek because communication between this detached body and the main force was not provided.

The bravery of the British soldier is beyond question; but in each reverse somebody has blundered.

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The Annual General Meeting of this Association, will be held in the Masonic Temple Building, on Thursday evening, the 28th December, inst, 1899 at the hour of 8 o'clock.
The transfer books of the Association will be closed on the 18th inst.
By order of the directors.
CRSMALLWOOD
Secretary.