

THE MEN ON WHOM ENGLAND RELIES.

The Different Commanders, Conspicuous In the Newly Re-organized South African Army, Who Must Push the War Against the Boers.

JOHN BULL, although a born fighter, is also a born bluffer. For many a long year now England has repeatedly adopted one policy in her dealings with rival powers weaker than herself. That policy has been to make a big military or naval demonstration, talk finely and largely of insatiable honor or infringed rights and swell back and forth on land and sea until the little enemy in question is sufficiently frightened. Then, of course, the little enemy meekly gives up to Great Britain all that that power has demanded, the ships that power has demanded, and every one tells every one else how a great and terrible war well known that Joseph Chamberlain, the British colonial secretary, did not expect to come to blows with the Boers when he did. He did

supplied with even better artillery than could be found in the English ranks themselves. General Lord Roberts, with his 40 years' military experience, and next to Lord Wolseley the most eminent British general in the service, was thrust off to South Africa to take supreme command of the forces there. Lord Kitchener, the hero of Omdurman, was sent after him as chief of staff. Fresh men and artillery were dispatched, the colonies were called on once more and a general reorganization of the imperial forces in the lower end of the dark continent took place. Just

and learned many good, wholesome lessons fighting Afghans. He also gained plenty of good experience in the campaigns of 1851. In 1852 he was posted as a lieutenant with a mountain battery at Peshawar, and during the following eight years performed conspicuous service in the different minor struggles with the natives, being invalided home for a short time in 1858.

When Roberts returned to India, two years later, he found himself a captain and brevet major for distinguished service and was attached to the staff of the army headquarters as assistant quartermaster general in charge of the commander in chief's camp. Here he assiduously familiarized himself with the multitudinous details of camp pitching and the disposition of troops in the field. It was monotonous and inglorious work, but it came in useful at a later date. He did his work well and waited his chance. In 1857 he was promoted to a lieutenant colonelcy.

The Anglo-Irish blood of Lord Kitchener of Khartoum is blended with a Huguenot strain of French fervor, his mother having been a member of the French Chevalier family.

Kitchener is a second Moltke in the machine-like precision of his calculating mind. He is a brilliant example of the scientific soldier, the civilizing, railroad building, administering modern Caesar, and also the genius incarnate of military organization. He is known as the general "who leaves nothing undone." One of the secrets of his success is the fact that he always makes it a point to master the vernacular of the country or district in which he may chance to be campaigning.

An interesting tale in this connection is told of Kitchener during his advance up the Nile. Dervish spies had been bothering and embarrassing the British camp. One night one of these spies was captured and placed in irons. He pretended to be both deaf and dumb

Omdurman. Notwithstanding his exacting severity and sternness, he is well liked by his men, for a military career marked by singular successes has imparted to the ranks the belief that this officer can never be defeated. But those successes are due to thoroughness, hard work and discipline.

In a stern sense of duty that almost approaches hardness Lord Kitchener is not unlike General Buller, whom he has now in a way displaced as the strategic opponent of Joubert.

The new organization of the British army in South Africa under General Roberts and Kitchener includes some of the best officers in the imperial service. For some time past the forces there have been divided into practically six divisions.

The first division of this regular army corps, which, by the way, does not include the Natal field force, has been commanded by Lieutenant General Methuen, with Major General Sir H. E. Colville as leader of the First Brigade and Major General H. J. T. Hildyard as commander of its Second. Lieutenant General Sir C. F. Clery commands the Second division. The commander of the Third brigade in this division at the beginning of the war was Major General A. G. Wauchope, but this officer was killed in one of the early engagements of the campaign. The Fourth brigade in the division under Clery has been commanded by Major General Lytton.

Lieutenant General Gatacre is the commander of the Third division, with Major General Hart and Major General Barton as brigade commanders under him. The commander of the cavalry division, a division, by the way, which has met with unusual success in its operations in the field, is Lieutenant General French.

The Fifth division is under the command of Major General Sir Charles Warren, with Major General Woodgate and Major General Coke as his division commanders. Major General Thomas Kelly-Kenny is the officer who commands the Sixth division. The Seventh division, which has just been organized and put in the field, is made up of the newcomers lately arrived from England.

The Natal field force is under the

colonel in chief of the forces and chief personal aid-de-camp to his majesty the queen; the Prince of Wales, who is a colonel in chief of the Life guards, and the Right Hon. Garnet Joseph, Viscount Wolseley, the commander in chief of the whole imperial army. The Right Hon. Frederick Sligh, or, as he is more generally known, Lord Roberts, or "Little Bobs," is also one of the imperial field marshals. The remaining marshals are Sir John Lintell, Sir John Haines, Sir Donald Martin Stewart, the governor of the famous Chelsea hospital, and Prince William Augustus Edward of Saxe-Weimar, who is really a colonel in the Life guards, but not an active campaigner.

Of the 14 generals on the active list, several of them, of course, are at present in South Africa, though a few of them are to be found scattered about in different parts of the world, guarding the interests of the empire. Most of them, however, exist more in an advisory than in an executive capacity at the present time.

Just what constitutes the strength of a regiment in the English army is not generally understood in this country. A full infantry battalion, theoretically, numbers 1,000 men, while a full cavalry regiment numbers 600. But during the present South African campaign the average infantry battalion may be roughly reckoned at 850 men, and the average cavalry regiment at about 500 men. A battery of artillery has regularly six guns and about 75 men. Before the last heavy re-enforcements arrived in South Africa the "First" army corps and line of communication" had 9 regiments of cavalry, 34 battalions of infantry, 14 batteries of artillery and 5 companies of engineers, to say nothing of miscellaneous troops amounting to over 5,000 men and 26 guns.

A unique element in the organization of the forces at the front are the colonial contingents. These additions to the regular army have been attached to the different divisional commanders just as though they were regulars, and the good work which the Canadians and Australians under French have been doing attests to the satisfactory nature of this arrangement. In fact, the colo-

NICKNAMES OF SOME BRITISH REGIMENTS.

Almost every regiment in the British service has a sobriquet of some sort or another. Some of them are of very ancient origin.

The famous Life guards, for instance, are called "Cheese" sometimes even to this day. The reason is this:

In 1783 the regiment was remodeled and a number of new officers were given or bought commissions. Some of these younger men were sons of new families, and with them the old, exclusive officers refused to serve, as "they would not serve with cheese-mongers," they said. The name was dropped after a few years, but revived again at Waterloo, where an officer cried, "Come on, Cheese-mongers, charge!" The Life guards were also known as the "Pleasantly Butchers," from their exploits in clearing that street during the riots of 1810.

The Second dragoon guards are the only dragoon regiment mounted on bay horses. They were at one time supposed to be rather slack about their equipment. Hence the uncomplimentary title of "Rusty Buckles." Needless to say, no regiment today deserves it less.

Some regiments got their names from peculiarities of color in their uniforms. The Third dragoon guards, the Prince of Wales', are often called the "Old Canaries," and the Fifth dragoon known as the "Green Dragons."

A very queer nickname is that of the Seventh dragoon guards, called Schomberg's horse when first raised in 1653. In George II's reign there were agricultural riots in the south of England, and this regiment was sent to quell them. The weather was wretched, and the troops, forced to sleep on the soaking ground, tied strips of straw around their legs to keep them dry. For long after that they were always called "Straw Boots."

Curiously enough, a hussar regiment, the Queen's own, has the same queer nickname, gained in Germany, where the men, having worn out their boots, were forced to plant straw to protect their feet. Other names for this regiment are the "Old Saucy Seventh" and the "Lily White Seventh."

The Scots greys are often called "Bubbly Jocks," which, as the uninitiated Englishman may possibly not know, means "Turkey Cocks." "Daily Advertisers" is a synonym for the Fifth Royal Irish fusiliers. They are also sometimes called "Redbreasts."

That fine regiment, the Tenth hussars, are more often called "Baker's Little Bobs" than anything else, and a peculiarity of their pouch belt gives them the name of the "Chain Tobs." The Thirteenth hussars may well be proud of being called the "Ragged Brigade." It calls to mind their splendid record in the peninsula. No wonder they were ragged after no less than 32 actions.

Another fine nickname is that of the Seventeenth lancers, the "Death or Glory Boys." Their crest is the death's head, so they are sometimes called the "Skull and Crossbones." The gorgeous attire of some of their officers caused them to be named at one time "Blingham's Dandies."

The Grenadier guards have possessed in their time many curious privileges, not the least being that a couple of centuries ago the men were allowed to make what they could at outside work. Perhaps this was the reason why in Flanders they did more work in the trenches than all the rest put together. Anyhow their companions dubbed them the "Coal Heavers," and so they were called for a long time.

Pontius Pilate's Bodyguard" is the somewhat remarkable title possessed by the Lothian regiment (Royal Scots). It is the result of a little alteration as to the date of their first establishment.

The Royal Warwickshire used to be known as "Guise's Geese," from their one time colonel's name. From 1735 to 1763 they had grass green facings to their uniforms. The "Saucy Sixth" is another title for the Warwickshire lads.

COULDN'T FOOL HIM.

There is an old yarn told about the pope showing that he is a difficult man to take a rise out of. It goes back many years, to the time when he was only a youthful prelate, but even in those days he was noted for his piety and his exceedingly strict views on morality. One evening at a dinner party, where most of the guests were decidedly secular, he was seated next to a member of the diplomatic service who had by no means the reputation of being particularly straitlaced, and the latter determined to "score off" one pious young prelate at his side.

Taking a magnificent gold snuffbox from his pocket, he directed his neighbor's attention to the great beauty of the design, which was, in point of fact, exquisitely painted, but the subject was the figure of a charming lady whose décolleté costume had reached the irreducible minimum. The diplomat turned to enjoy the young prelate's embarrassment, but was himself a good deal taken aback when the embryo pope murmured politely:

"Beautiful! Beautiful! Your wife, of course?"

NO EXCUSE LEFT HIM.

The clerks in the telegraph department of the Italian postoffice have lately been rejoicing over the grotesque act of King Humbert, who has seen fit to abolish the rule which forbade them to marry—an anticipation of the heavenly state of things which gave but little satisfaction. Now they are at liberty to take unto themselves wives, and the privilege is naturally appreciated. But every silver lining has its cloud, and one of these same telegraph clerks was encountered the other day with an unusually long face. "What is the matter, Giovanni?" Are you not rejoicing that you will now be able to marry your Cara Giuila at once?"

"That is the worst of it, signore," he replied. "I have no longer any excuse for putting off the wedding."

RACE OF DWARFS.

The island of Luzon in the Philippines contains one of the recognized races of dwarf men, the Aetas, whose average height is only 4 feet 5 inches or 4 feet 9 inches. They dwell among the mountains in the interior of the island and are allied to the Andamanese, inhabiting islands in the Bay of Bengal. It is remarked by a recent writer that all of the dwarf races survive only in the most inaccessible parts of the continents or islands to which they belong.



BRITISH COMMANDERS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

not for one moment imagine that Oom Paul's people would throw down the gauntlet to such a great empire as that of which he was a cabinet minister. So the colonial office went on making its demands, and when these were not acceded to with the accustomed alacrity the old bluff was resorted to. Men and officers and arms were shipped off somewhat leisurely to South Africa. The Boer saw this, but he was not intimidated. In fact, he took the bull by the horns and decided to strike the first blow himself. The result was that England, unprepared for any such thing as real war and not expecting any such extraordinary action on the part of a small and comparatively weak republic, found her little armies in South Africa attacked and her officers outmaneuvered.

It was a rough awakening. The different persons who had been sent out to the Cape to take command of the British forces there, while good enough officers in their way and brave men all, were not the most expert tacticians upon whom England had been able to call. But it was not thought necessary to dispatch such men as Roberts or Kitchener to the front. It was to be a mere expedition. Buller was going to eat his Christmas dinner in Pretoria, and Bloemfontein was to be occupied by the New Year. Then came the reported reverse of the English brigades that were pushing up to relieve Kimberley, the bottling up of White in Ladysmith, the cutting off of Baden-Powell at Mafeking, the defeat of Methuen at Magersfontein, Gatacre's horrible disaster at Stormberg and the catastrophe to Buller at the Tugela river.

Then England awoke. It was found that she was making war not on a third class dependency, but on a well organized and most mobile army, which was

how that organization stands today is of most interesting study in view of the present trend of events at the seat of war.

The officer about whom interest most centers at the present time is, of course, Lord Roberts of Kandahar, or, as he is known to every Tommy Atkins in the British army, "Fighting Bobs," and sometimes "Little Bobs." This same "Little Bobs" is what is known as a soldier's general.

It is, perhaps, not thoroughly understood that the British army is divided into two factions. One faction is made up of those who supported Lord Wolseley, the commander in chief of the entire imperial army, in his reconstruction of the imperial forces on the "short service" lines, while the other faction is made up of the opponents of the aristocratic Wolseley, the adherents of Lord Roberts in his opposition to the "short service system." At the beginning of the Boer-British campaign it was Wolseley who had supreme control of the official appointments and the home superintendence of the war in general. The result of the Wolseley management and the appointment of a number of aristocratic home pets for foreign service in Africa are blots that have now to be wiped out. The selection of Roberts as the commander in chief at the critical moment was really a blow at Wolseley and his policy and a triumph for the Roberts party.

Lord Roberts was born in India, at Cawnpur, and is now in his sixtieth year. He was educated partly in England. In 1852, after service at home, he was sent out to India again as a subaltern of Bengal artillery. Here he soon joined his father, General Sir Abraham Roberts, who was also in his time a veteran Indian officer. Roberts the younger got plenty of hard work

with command of a battalion of Royal horse artillery.

After the Indian mutiny came several years of quiet administrative work for Roberts, who in the meantime had gradually been promoted to the rank of major general. He was in command in Afghanistan in 1880 when news was received in Kabul of the defeat of General Burrow by Ayub Khan. Roberts was given 9,000 men and rushed off to Kandahar. For three long weeks he and his force disappeared into the mysterious desert, and all England waited. It was a forced march of 313 miles from Kabul to Kandahar. Finally the news came that Kandahar had been relieved. Not only this, but Roberts had won a most brilliant victory. Ayub Khan was crushed and England breathed again. From that moment Roberts became the darling of his country in general and his army in particular. What made him an idol with his men was the fact that he, in the face of all traditions to the contrary, treated the men in the ranks not as animals, but as fellow beings. For example, on his famous dash to Kandahar he would never sit down in his mess tent without first seeing that his men were properly fed. It was a small thing, but it showed the temper of the man.

Since 1883 Lord Roberts has been in command in Ireland, for this great general, like Wellington himself, has Irish blood in his veins.

Lord Kitchener, practically the second in command of the reorganized forces in South Africa, is a character almost as interesting as the redoubtable "Bobs" himself. It is a curious thing that while on the one side General Joubert, the leader of the Boers, is a man of French extraction with Dutch blood in his veins, both Roberts and Kitchener are men of a similar racial strain,

and would confess or reveal nothing. Soon after another spy was caught, and he, too, refused to give out the slightest information, even under the direst threats. That same night a third spy was caught, dragged into camp and duly placed in irons in the tent with the other two. Soon the guards outside caught the murmur of voices, and the three dumb spies were heard talking away together. In an hour or so the tent door was thrown back, the last captured spy appeared and asked to be taken at once to headquarters. That spy was Kitchener himself. He had found out all he wished to know, though the two captives utterly refused to believe he was not a native when told of it later.

The brilliant Sudan campaigns of this remarkable fighter are of too recent a date to be expatiated on here. Fifteen years of hard work, it must be remembered, preceded his brilliant victory at

command of Lieutenant General Sir George S. White, with Colonel I. S. M. Hamilton as chief of staff.

These different commanders make a very formidable array of fighting men indeed, but it must not be thought for one moment that this has exhausted the resources of the war office in London. It is not generally known that Great Britain has 14 full fledged generals on her active service list, with no less than eight field marshals. Besides this, England has 30 lieutenant generals upon whom she is able to call in times of need, while on her records at the present time there is the astounding number of 119 major generals in the imperial service. This same power can claim two dozen brigadier generals on her army list, together with some 60 aide-de-camp, nearly all of them experienced or titled soldiers.

England's field marshals include such names as the Duke of Cambridge, who is colonel in chief of the forces and chief personal aid-de-camp to his majesty the queen; the Prince of Wales, who is a colonel in chief of the Life guards, and the Right Hon. Garnet Joseph, Viscount Wolseley, the commander in chief of the whole imperial army. The Right Hon. Frederick Sligh, or, as he is more generally known, Lord Roberts, or "Little Bobs," is also one of the imperial field marshals. The remaining marshals are Sir John Lintell, Sir John Haines, Sir Donald Martin Stewart, the governor of the famous Chelsea hospital, and Prince William Augustus Edward of Saxe-Weimar, who is really a colonel in the Life guards, but not an active campaigner.

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TRUMAN L. JAMIESON.

A London capitalist has offered to construct at Southend a huge sea wall at a cost of \$2,000,000, and asks in return permission to use the tidal force for working a generating plant to supply London with electricity. He guarantees that there shall never be less than three and one-half feet of water on the beach; in fact, it will be a huge marine lake.

ly member of the volksraad for Johannesburg. Rahmathabama (Ray-math-lay-bar-mer)—Near Mafeking; British camp. Koonek—Literally red neck; Boer term for English soldiers. Spruit—A small stream. Taal—Boer low Dutch language. Trek—Traveling by ox wagon. Veldt Cornet—See field cornet. Vereninging (Fur-ee-ny-ying)—First

MEANINGS OF BOER WORDS.

The following list will be found useful by readers of the Transvaal war news. The pronunciation of the more difficult words is given:

Drift—A ford.

Gabonees (Gah-bon-ees)—Very important native town 90 miles north of Mafeking.

Konati Poort (Ko-marty-poort)—Boer large northern district of Transvaal; highly mineralized.

Veldt—The South African prairie.

Part—A sheet of water.

Pont—A ferry.

Kopje—A hillock.

Dorp—A village.

Kloof—A ravine.

Commando—A body of Boers.

Berg—A mountain.

Voortrekker—The older generation of

der town, Transvaal and Portuguese territory.

Oriskand West (Greek-a-land)—District of Kimberley diamond mines.

Fontein—A spring.

Voortrepper—The boy leading the first span of an ox team.

Klip—A stone.

Zoutpansberg (Zoot-pans-berg)—Very

station on the Transvaal side of the Vaal river; the custom house.

Vierkleur—The four colored Boer flag, red, white, blue and green.

Veldt—A Boer policeman.

Veldt Cornet—A magistrate with certain military powers.

Aples River (Apries)—Runs through Pretoria into the Limpopo.

Dop—Boer brandy.