

TOMMY ATKINS AS A JOURNALIST.

DARK as the drama of war sometimes is, it has its occasional light sides. Tommy Atkins is not always peering away at Afride and Boers, and there are often days and days when he finds himself with little to do.

One of the plans he has devised to while away the hours and at the same time to write war history at first hand is the publication of the regimental newspaper. Indeed there are very few British regiments that have not

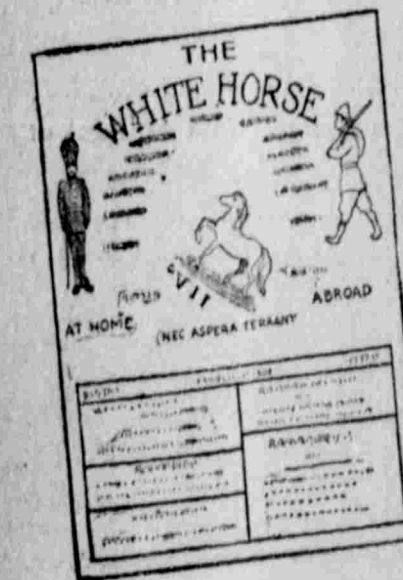
fellow. The different papers, of course, deal almost exclusively with the affairs and the deeds of valor of the regiment in connection with which they are published. They are not is-

tied. The St. George's Gazette, published by the Fifth Northumberland fusiliers, has the greatest circulation, though it is closely followed by The Nines, published by the Duke of Edin-

burgh's Wiltshire regiment. The latter paper is unillustrated, but has a greater abundance of reading matter than has The St. George's Gazette.



TOMMY ATKINS' WAR PAPERS.



their papers, just as they have their officers and commissariat department. The editor himself is always one of the regiment. The other members of his staff who assist in the getting out of the unique publication, such as the sub-editor, the war correspondent, the artists, the printers, and even the proverbial "printers' devils," are all to be found in the ranks.

For the most part these newspapers are printed on the regimental press, which usually accompanies the regiment on its travels, and as often as not the Tommys' journal comes out hot from the press at the front, almost within sight of the enemy, with sometimes a "war extra." Other papers, again, are always published at home in England, no matter where the regiment may be.

The worries that beset the editor of the regimental sheet published at the front can well be imagined. Sometimes his editions are punctuated with bullets, and often the entire editorial sanctum has to be taken up and moved 40 or 50 miles off before the last part of an edition can be struck off. There is not, as a rule, any difficulty in getting copy, as nearly every Tommy Atkins who has seen a bit of service is always ready to unload some anecdote, incident, adventure or jest for the delectation of his

sued daily, it must be understood, but more often comes out once a fortnight, once a month, or even quarterly. Some of them are printed on excellent paper and issued in expensive style, selling for as high as a shilling a copy. Others are mere little dodgers, badly printed, badly edited, but stoutly upheld by its soldier readers as the best paper ever published.

There has been of late a lot of controversy as to which was really the best regimental paper published in the service, and the matter is not yet set-

burgh's Wiltshire regiment. The latter paper is unillustrated, but has a greater abundance of reading matter than has The St. George's Gazette.

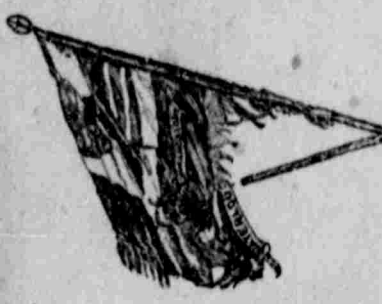
"Black Watch" is called The Red Hackle, while that of the Princess of Wales' Yorkshire regiment is called The Green Howards' Gazette and is one of the best of the different regimental papers. The journal of the gallant Gordon highlanders of Dargal Ridge fame is called The Tiger and the Sphinx and is so named because there is a tiger on the colors of the Second battalion of this regiment and a sphinx on those of the First. The Spring of Shillalah is the significant title of the journal of the Twenty-seventh Inniskilling fusiliers and has been published regularly for over eight years. But to enumerate the different publications in which Tommy Atkins expatiates on himself and his deeds would take a great deal of time and space. His experiences as a journalist give him a great deal of innocent amusement and form a unique corner in newspaperdom, but are never to be taken too seriously.

A WEIRD BIT OF ART WORK.

One of the weirdest and most extraordinary little vases in existence is one owned by a Boston art collector. This queer little vase is in the shape of a figure-half dragon and half fish, and some idea of its grotesqueness may be obtained from the accompanying illustration. This ugly but precious bit of vasesmaking was picked up by the collector who now owns it in China, and it is regarded by its owner as one of the best specimens of oriental work of its kind. There is certainly something decidedly oriental in the weirdness of the figure sitting up on its haunches with its gaping and vampiric mouth.

The western part of Persia is inhabited by a species of camel which is the pygmy of its kind. It is snow white and is on that account almost worshipped by the people.

THE PRIDE OF THE BRITISH ARMY.



As may be seen from their torn and tattered appearance, the flags shown in the accompanying illustration have had a past, and a very stirring past it has been. These two old flags are the colors of the famous Seventy-third regiment of Seaforth highlanders, popularly known as the Black Watch. These historic colors went through the bloody struggle at Waterloo, were carried by the regiment through the Kaffir wars of 1846-7 and of 1851-3, saw service throughout the Indian mutiny and have also been flaunted victoriously over the valley of the Nile in Egypt. They have been present at a number of the fiercest struggles of war during the century and are the cherished possessions of the regiment which has owned them for so long. It will be remembered how gallantly and how heroically this same regiment of highlanders fought not long since during the battle of Magersfontein in the South African war. During this engagement only six officers out of 16 escaped death or wounds on the battlefield.

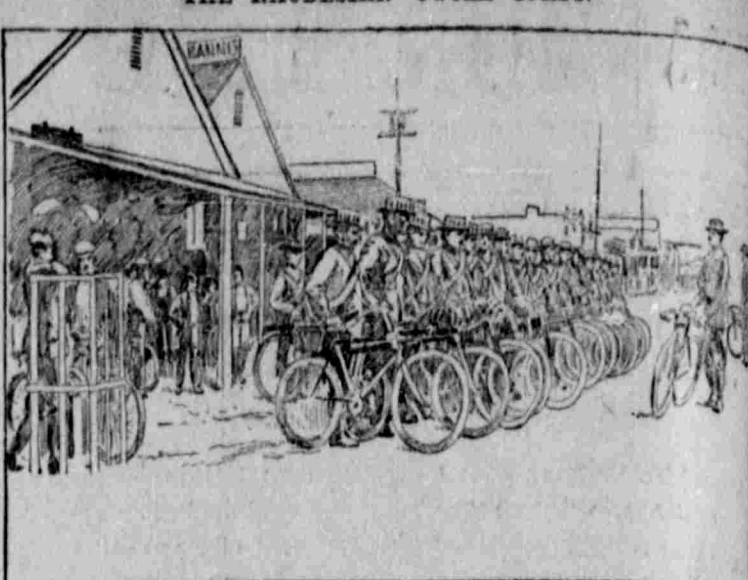
THE KAFFIR AND THE CYCLE.

One of the luxuries of civilization to which the frolicsome Kaffir girls in South Africa take with enthusiasm is the bicycle. The accompanying illustration represents a dusky belle of Komgah, Cape Colony, about to mount her wheel for a morning spin. Wheeling, of course, is not a common practice among the Cape Colony blacks, as



these impoverished and hardworking natives seldom possess the means for purchasing such an expensive luxury as a bicycle. They sometimes secure one from their white masters, however, and when they once learn to ride seem to enjoy the novel sensation even more than does the blase white.

THE RHODESIAN CYCLE CORPS.



One of the most unique corps at present serving in the war in South Africa is the cycle section of the southern Rhodesia volunteers from Bulawayo. These volunteers were formed early in the fight and were detailed to look after natives throughout the great colony who were suspected of a desire to take up arms. The Rhodesia volunteer is a sturdy fellow who sleeps in the open, being supplied with a waterproof sheet and a blanket, and is quite hard to roughing it. Owing to the general flatness of the country in which these volunteers are operating it has been found that the bicycle is a very useful machine for their purposes.

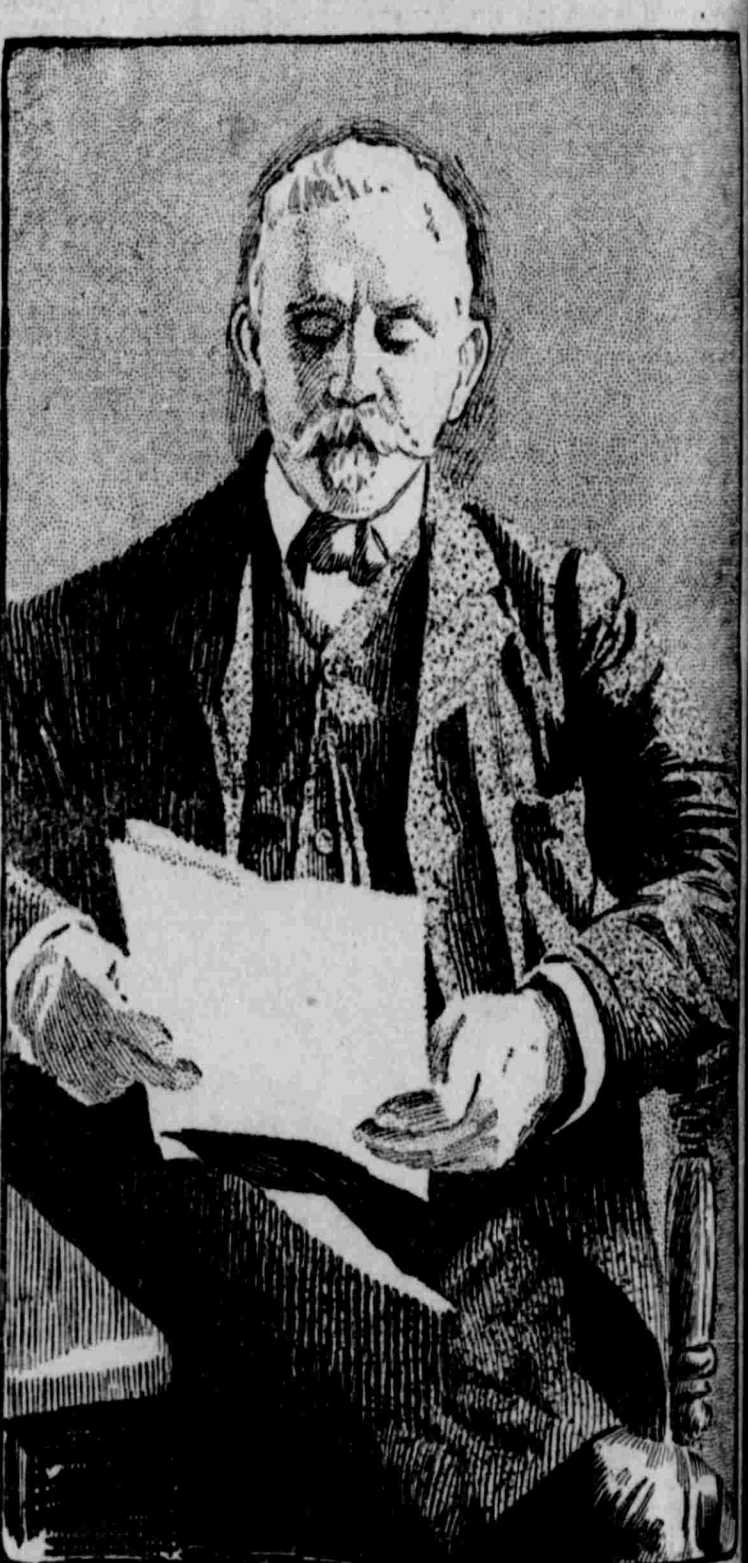
A CARICATURE OF KRUGER.

When the war in South Africa broke out, the English papers were replete with caricatures of Oom Paul and jokes on the general effrontery of the Boer. The conquest of the burgh-



seemed to be regarded as nothing more than an uproariously funny joke, and London press bristled with gibes at the president of the Transvaal and his advisers. The accompanying illustration, for instance, shows one of the English artist Forrest's cartoons of Kruger, representing him as "Oompty Dumpty," the august personage who sat on a wall. Recent events have somewhat dampened the facetiousness of the Britisher, however, and he has come to have a more respectful attitude toward Oom Paul and his people. The result is that the illustrated London weeklies now have fewer cartoons of the Boer president.

THE PREMIER OF NATAL.



One of the men behind the scenes in South Africa just at the present time is Colonel Hime, the talented premier of Natal. Owing to the fact that Natal has chanced to be the theater of such important events in the development of the struggle between the Britisher and the Boer, and even more because of what is known as "the black menace," the men who are responsible for the guidance and control of that colony during the last few months have had their hands full. The political and administrative affairs of Natal are looked after by a governor and a premier, who has the assistance of an executive and legislative council. The former body is composed of the chief justice of the colony, the senior officer commanding the troops, the colonial secretary, treasurer and attorney general, the secretary for native affairs, the colonial engineer, the general manager of government railways and two members nominated by the governor. The legislative council has 31 members, seven of whom are crown nominees. The accompanying portrait of Colonel Hime is from a recent photograph taken of that gentleman engaged with affairs of state at his office.

A BENEVOLENT PRINCESS.

One of the secrets of the great popularity of the Princess of Wales is the enthusiasm with which she throws herself into all movements to relieve suffering or distress. Her many good deeds toward the British soldier became a commonplace years and years ago, so it was not surprising when the war broke out in South Africa that the princess went energetically to work to equip a hospital ship for the nursing of the sick and wounded at the



Cape. This ship was fitted out under the personal supervision of the princess, a large staff of trained nurses was secured, and now the gallant ship the Princess of Wales is proving a haven of rest for many of war's unfortunates. The nurses on this floating hospital wear a badge specially made for the occasion, the design being one made by the royal founder of the hospital herself. The accompanying little illustration shows this design.

BOER FAMINE.

A goodly number of the poorer Boers will be in a sad plight when the present war is over. While they are fighting against the British troops their farms are becoming ruined through lack of attention. Most of the Boers have had to let their crops go to waste and to sell what few cattle they possessed in order to make provision for their wives and families while they were fighting.

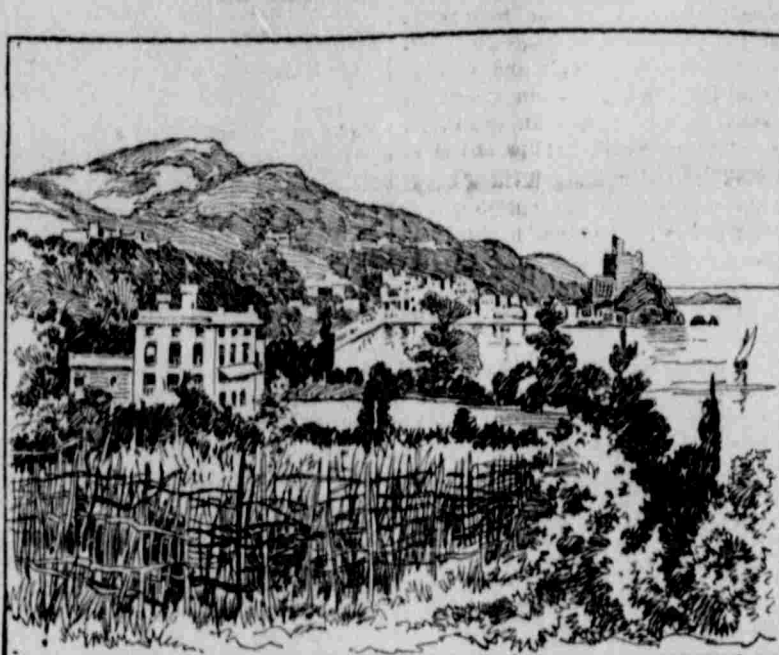
ENGLAND'S OLDEST OFFICER.

The oldest living officer in the army of Great Britain is Major Charles Robert Gwatkin, a picture of whom is herewith reproduced from his latest photograph. This aged officer was born in 1809 in India. He was gazetted to the Sixtieth regiment of the Bengal native infantry in 1825 and served through the first Afghan war under General Pol-



lock. He was wounded at Khyber Pass and received the British war medal for gallantry. Later he was appointed commissariat officer and interpreter to his regiment. In his younger days Major Gwatkin was a keen sportsman, one of the best gentleman jockeys of his time and an expert billiardist.

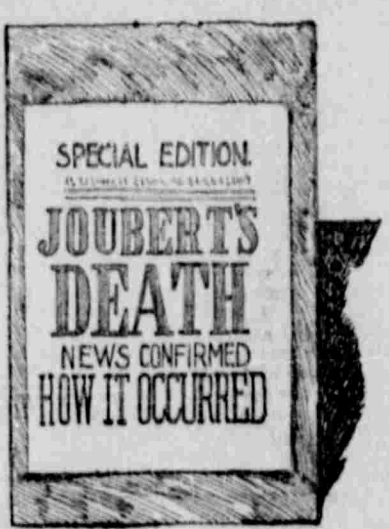
THE HISTORIC VILLA MARIGOLA.



The historic Villa Marigola on the bay of Lerici has once more come into prominence on account of having been chosen as the winter residence for the Empress Frederick of Germany. This is one of the most beautiful spots on the Italian coast which stretches from Bordighera on the west to Via Reggia on the southeast. A part of the suit of the Empress Frederick will be made up of the Villa Casa Magori, known to fame as the house to which the poet Shelley came to reside with Mary Shelley in the spring of 1822. The sea still washes to the terrace which fronts the beach at Casa Magori, the ground floor of which was and still is a sort of boathouse. It was on an upper floor that the great English poet and his friends lived. The accompanying illustration is from a new photograph and shows the picturesque residence where the Empress of Germany will spend the wintry days of the year seeking rest and change in sunny Italy.

JOUBERT'S REPORTED DEATH.

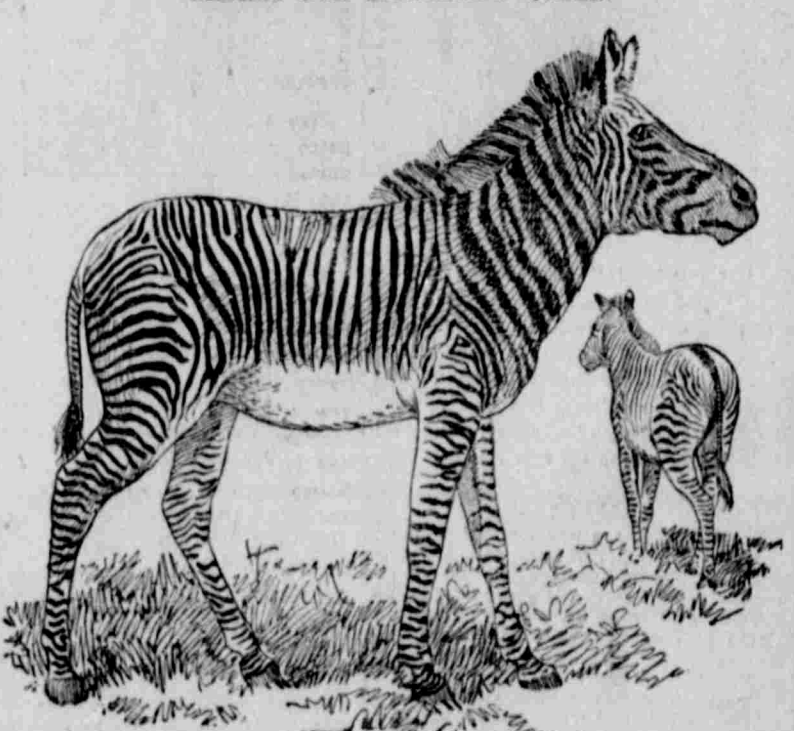
Here is a newspaper placard which was set out in front of a newspaper office some time ago at Port Elizabeth, showing that yellow journalism is not unknown in South Africa. This placard announced in glaring type the fact of Joubert's death, even going so far as to state that the news of how this ca-



lamity had occurred had been confirmed. That such was a mere sensational rumor has since been proved, for, as the English knew to their sorrow, the Transvaal general was very far from defunct at that time.

The Minnesota Valley Historical society has decided to build a granite shaft 15 feet high to the memory of Indians who befriended white settlers during the Sioux rebellion in 1862. It will be located on state land near the village of Morton, Renville county.

ZEBRAS FOR ENGLAND'S QUEEN.



Queen Victoria has just had a peculiar present given to her by Emperor Menelik of Abyssinia in the form of a team of vigorous young African zebras. This pair of royal zebras have recently been placed on exhibition in the Regent's park gardens and have attracted a great deal of attention on account of their extreme size and peculiar markings. These animals came from the interior of Abyssinia, and both seem to be in good health and spirits after their long sea trip. It is claimed by naturalists that the day of the zebra is fast passing away, and that before many years the zebra, or quagga, and its sister species will be an extinct animal. The greed of Central African settlers has had much to do with this, since thousands of the animals have been slaughtered for their skins, which could be sold for a few shillings. The result has been that the market price of the zebra has considerably risen of late.

THE BRITISH SOLDIER BOY AT PLAY.



War is not all horror and bloodshed, for there are times when the soldier boy finds himself idle in camp and does not need much encouragement to find amusement for himself. The accompanying illustration, for instance, from a half comic sketch by an officer in Africa, will give a good idea of soldier life at Camp Frere. Here the banks of the Blaauwkrans spruit have been converted into a sort of Coney island, and during the time the British soldiers have been stationed there the spot has been a scene of perpetual activity and merriment. From morning till night the spruit is filled with soldier bathers, who romp and dive and swim about the water like overgrown children, looking little indeed like men who have traveled a few thousand miles bent on the destruction of their fellows. The Kaffirs also add to the merriment of life by dancing and playing on musical instruments for the delectation of Tommy, who rewards them by a penny or two.

PEOPLE OF THE WORLD.

Speaker Henderson's gavel is quite a curiosity. The head is of rosewood from Montijo's flagship, and the handle of native agave grown in Polk county, Ia. It is decorated by an eagle's beak bearing a scroll inscribed "E Pluribus Unum." On the upper ferrules are doves and a garland, on the lower pic-

tures of the United States ships Iowa and Des Moines. The Iowa arms and Mr. Henderson's monogram are on the side of the head.

The Rt. Rev. Louis de Goebriand, bishop of the Roman Catholic diocese of Vermont, who died recently, left an estate amounting to exactly \$2.12. The

bishop was once a rich man, but it was his avowed wish to die a poor one. It is supposed that his money has been put in many of the fine buildings of the diocese.

Charles C. Crockett of Richmond, Ind., who died recently, had been a conductor on the Indianapolis branch of the Panhandle for more than 20 consecutive years, and the train which he

ran was named "Crockett's Accommodation." It still retains the name, although Mr. Crockett at the time of his death had been retired several years.

Champ Clark of Missouri pastes in his scrapbook every story which has a Biblical quotation as its chief point, and for years he has made a study of the effect which the Bible has had upon law and custom. He has prepared a

lecture in which all this information is interestingly presented.

Dorsey W. Shackelford, who has taken Bland's seat in congress, is a large man. He made his money in the large zinc and lead mines of Camden county, Mo., of the best of which he is practically the owner.

John Martin, who has been much and often honored with office in Kansas, now retired from the clerkship of the state supreme court, his term having expired. Judge Martin is the only Democrat who ever held the office of United States senator from Kansas.

James P. Reed, who died recently in Pittsburg, was at one time the champion checker player of the world. He began playing checkers when he was 14 years old, and in 1887 went to London to meet some of the English experts. He defeated Barker, the champion of the United States, in 1888, and the next year a match was arranged between him and James Wyllie of Scotland, champion of the world. For some reason the Scotchman failed to play, and Reed's friends thereupon claimed the world's championship for him.