

MILITARY STRATEGY OF BOERS

A Distinguished Writer Says It is Probably Obtained from Their Bible Study—Good Book is Their Guide in Everything Else—Diplomacy Shown by Joshua and Other Biblical Characters in Fighting Their Enemies.

The deep piety of President Paul Kruger and the calm confidence shown in the omnipotence of the Almighty by his oft-repeated assertion that "God will help the Boers conquer their enemies," is now a matter of world-wide knowledge, says a well known writer in the Cincinnati Enquirer. It is this sublime faith in the wisdom and mercy of a higher power that has excited the whole Christian world's admiration for this rugged and spirited, yet fervently religious, old man of the South African veldt. Nor has this homely and orthodox belief in an infallible God been without its influence in shaping the destinies of the Transvaal. Newspaper readers are familiar with stories of the Boer soldier going into battle with the Bible in his hand and a psalm upon his lips. Can the truthful and unprejudiced say in the light of such facts that the burghers are a savage lot, incapable of the responsibilities of government and controlled only by motives of sordidness and greed?

It is perfectly reasonable to suppose that a people who accept the Bible as

were here in ambush against him behind the city.

"And Joshua and all Israel made as if they were beaten before them and fled by the way of the wilderness.

"And all the people that were in Ai were called together to pursue after them; and they pursued after Joshua and were drawn away from the city.

"And there was not a man left in Ai of Bethel that went not out after Israel; and they left the city open and pursued after Israel.

A DAY OF CARNAGE.

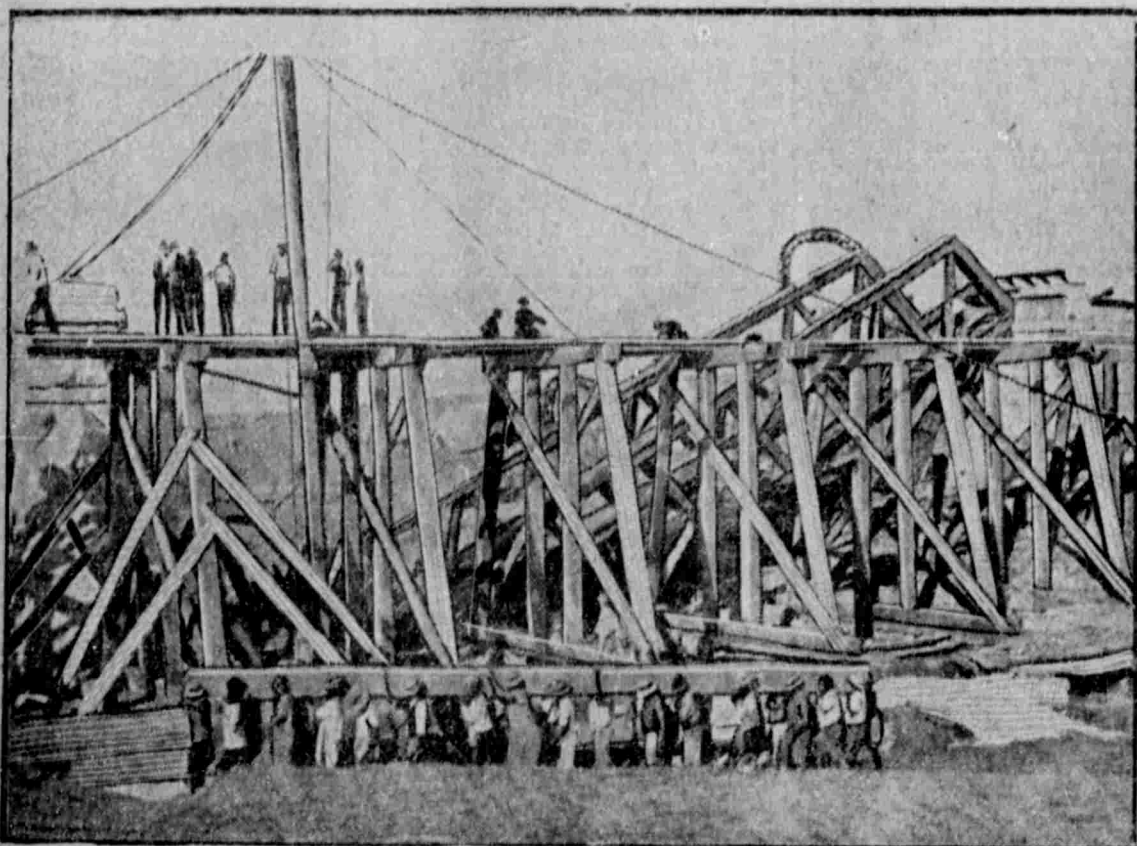
"And the Lord said unto Joshua: Stretch out the spear that is in thy hand toward Ai; for I will give it into thine hand. And Joshua stretched out the spear that he had in his hand toward the city.

"And the ambush arose quickly out of their place; and they ran as soon as he had stretched out his hand; and they entered into the city and hastened and set it on fire.

"And when the men of Ai looked behind them they saw and beheld the smoke of the city ascending up to heaven; and they had no power to flee that way or that way; and the people that fled to the wilderness turned back upon the pursuers.

"And when Joshua and all Israel saw

REBUILDING A BRIDGE WRECKED BY BOERS.



Impressing as many Kaffirs into the service as can be obtained, the British engineers are slowly replacing the bridges destroyed by Boer dynamite with temporary structures like the above. Observe in the photograph the gang of Kaffirs carrying one of the huge wooden beams. The bridges are built to stand the weight of heavy artillery.

their absolute guide in every-day affairs also turn to it for strategy with which to fight their battles. They have, perhaps, studied the military tactics that led the Children of Israel out of the land of Egypt; and that enabled Joshua to conquer the land of Canaan.

The diplomacy shown by the Boers in entrapping their enemies and utterly routing them is of such high order as to provoke comment from the leading generals of the whole world. Why is it that these peace-loving Dutch farmers are able to leave their firesides and amaze and confound their enemies with the highest examples of military finesse?

JOSHUA'S SEIZURE OF AI.

Their leaders are all preachers of the word. Prayer meetings are held nightly in the laagers. Every Boer can repeat chapter on chapter of the Bible verbatim, and their especial delight is in the Old Testament war stories.

There are numerous instances in the present war which would indicate that the Boers have turned to the Bible for their strategy. Their rapid movements into the enemy's country, the formation of laagers, or camps, from which they suddenly make dashes, the setting of an ambush into which they have drawn the enemy by pretending to retreat, all have their counterparts in the strategy of the Bible.

Of the notable occasions in the conquest of the Holy Land, in which strategy was used successfully, probably the most conspicuous is that employed by Joshua at the capture of the city of Ai. This was the second great city taken in that campaign. Jericho was the first, but its capture is looked upon as the act of a supreme being at whose command the walls fell flat. At Ai, however, Joshua was simply commanded to go up and take the city by a certain strategy.

The Bible account of the capture shows that the first attempt to take Ai was unsuccessful, because in the sack of Jericho two men had not obeyed the divine command to destroy everything in it. Therefore, the first force sent against it of 3,000 men was routed and put to the sword by the men of Ai. But when Joshua complained to the Lord he found out what the matter was, and the offenders having been punished and the plunder burned, a fresh attack was planned. How it was executed is told in the eighth chapter of Joshua in these words:

AMBUSHED HIS ARMY.

"So Joshua arose, and all the people of war to go up against Ai, and Joshua chose out 30,000 mighty men of valor and sent them away by night.

"And he commanded them, saying: Behold, ye shall lie in wait against the city, even behind the city; go not very far from the city, but be ye all ready.

"Joshua therefore sent them forth, and they went to lie in ambush and abide between Bethel and Ai on the west of Ai; but Joshua lodged that night amongst the people.

"And Joshua rose up early in the morning and numbered the people and went up; he and the elders of Israel before the people to Ai.

"And all the people, even the people of war that were with him, went up and drew nigh and came before the city, and pitched on the north side of Ai; now there was a valley between them and Ai.

"And he took about 1,000 men and set them to lie in ambush behind Bethel and Ai on the west side of the city.

"And when they had set the people, even all the host that was on the north of the city, and their lie in wait on the west of the city, Joshua went that night into the midst of the valley.

"And it came to pass when the king of Ai saw it that they hastened and rose up early, and the men of the city went out against Israel to battle, he and all his people, at a time appointed, before the plain; but he wist not that there

that the ambush had taken the city and the smoke of the city ascending, then they turned again and slew the men of Ai.

"And so it was that all that fell that day, both of men and of women, were 12,000, even all the men of Ai.

It was but a little while after this that Joshua was taken in by the men of Gibeon, who came to him with old shoes on their feet and moldy bread in their pouches. They made him believe that they had come from a distance, and, although he had been commanded by the Lord to kill all of the dwellers in that part of Canaan, he made a treaty with them, thinking that they were from a far land.

Another time when strategy was used by Joshua was at the time war was made upon him by Adonizedek, king of Jerusalem; Hoham, king of Hebron; Joram, king of Jarmuth; and Debir, king of Eglon. They gathered all their host and encamped before Gibeon and made war on it. Joshua determined to help his allies, and according to the Bible's tale of his strategy, "Joshua ascended from Gilgal, he and all the people of war, with him and all the mighty men of valor. Joshua came upon them suddenly, and went up from Gilgal all night. And the Lord discomfited them before Israel and slew them with great slaughter and chased them along the way that goeth up to Bethoron."

JOSHUA DEFEATS A GREAT HOST.

This victory gave Joshua great prestige and another combination of kings was formed against him, composed of Jobab, king of Hazer, and Jobab, king of Madan, and the king of Shemron, and the king of Achish and his kings that are on the north of the mountain and the Canaanites and the Amorites and the Hittites and the Perizzites and the Jebusites and many more. And they went out against Israel in such a multitude that they were compared with the sand that is upon the seashore. It appears that they met and pitched their camps together at the waters of Merom.

But Joshua did not wait for them to give battle, but, according to the Bible story, he "leaped upon them suddenly by the waters of Merom and fell upon them. And the Lord delivered them into the hand of Israel, who smote them and chased them into great Zidon and into the Valley of Mizpeh eastward."

Then, "Joshua gathered all the kings that he had gathered he turned suddenly back and took Hazer and smote the king thereof with the sword, for Hazer before time was the head of all those kingdoms."

So far as the Boers are concerned, while they have employed the same sort of strategy during the present war, they have not always been successful. At Glencoe they did work the Ai plan to a partially successful termination, but they couldn't perform the Hazer act on Ladysmith or Kimberley because the British were well of different stuff from the Canaanites.

There are other cases of strategy in the Bible, but they are told in general terms. I vividly used great strategy in hiding from Saul, whom he did not think he should fight. His battles with the Philistines and Amalekites also show him to have been a strategist. Saul was a great fighter, but no manager; he was a blunderhead. Jonathan was a general, and if given his own way would have made a great success of some of the battles that Saul did not. The Philistines understood David and Jonathan. When the leader of the Philistines wished to take David into battle, he said to Jonathan: "He will fight against Saul" was the way the advice was given, "but not against Jonathan."

A piece of strategy that is not often mentioned is when Saul and his brethren fortified Shechem against Abimelech. Word was sent to Abimelech, before he came to Shechem, that the army of the Philistines was at the door of the city.

sons went to the gates of the town. While it was yet dark in the morning Saul came to the gate, and leaving his fortification to pursue a small force, as he thought, was defeated, and Abimelech forced his way into the gates.

The greatest strategist of the Bible was, however, Joshua, and his conquest the greatest.

STORY OF A MALARIA GERM.

What the Germ Has to Contend With in the Human System.

Theodore Waters, in Alsace, has edited the life-story of a malaria germ. Here is the germ's description of a fight with the phagocytes: "Just then a lot of our new-born brothers began crowding upon us from behind, and when we turned to remonstrate, we saw, away to the rear, a great commotion. A fight and a retreat were going on. It was a slaughter of the most horrible kind. There at the head of a tide of blood were columns of phagocytes cutting into the guard of malarial germs, killing them, swallowing them whole, and growing larger as the process went on. It was an awful spectacle, I hung back, fascinated. A phagocyte would race down the current with a swift overhead stroke, reach out and grasp a microbe from behind. Then the arm of the phagocyte would shorten, and, as it seemed to me, retreat into the white monster's interior, dragging the germ with it. Sometimes a phagocyte would grow fatigued, and would bump against a poor germ as though shoudering him out of the road. Away would go the poor germ, swimming fast in order to avoid the encounter, but his enemy would then swim faster, striking him fair in the middle, and, with a slow motion going inside out like a glove, and actually taking the germ in with him. Ugh! I should have remained there in a shiver spell if my companion had not pulled me along with him.

last Congress Senator Warren of Wyoming was able to hold up the river and harbor bill until 2 o'clock on the morning of March 4 and could have defeated it had he not yielded to the personal solicitation of senators having appropriations in the bill.

Friends of Adjutant General Corbin wanted his office advanced to the rank of major general and tried to get an amendment to that effect upon the army bill that passed late in the session, but the single objection and determined stand of Senator Pettus of Alabama prevented the amendment from being adopted. The bill could have been defeated and an extra session forced by one man. Senators Gorman and Cockrell at the same time practically dictated to the majority what the bill should contain before they would allow it to pass.

Senator Butler of North Carolina, alone and unaided, prevented the confirmation of Hamilton G. Ewart as United States district judge by simply talking against time.

IT MAKES THEM TIRED.

There are a great many representatives to whom this deference to senators is very galling. It makes them weary when told that some proposition which they present to a department is satisfactory and proper, and if they "will only get one of our senators to endorse it we'll put it through." John Wilson, when a representative from Washington, chafed under this constant reference of all requests to the senators. Having been Indiana born and an early friend of President Harrison, he thought some little consideration should be shown him. "Mr. President," he said one day, "I would like to get just one little thing done, just one little appointment without trotting around after the senators from my State to get their approval." But Harrison, who was once a senator, replied: "The Senate is the only body that I cannot break down the rule that I have established." And Wilson dashed out muttering words which would have made Harrison's Presbyterian blood run cold if he had heard them. It happened that the same day a vote was to be taken in the House affecting silver. Wilson was against the silver side, and Senator Power of Montana, small and waspish, was urging Wilson in strong terms to change his opinion. "See here," thundered Wilson, who, though very small, had a voice like a lion, "I'm a senator from my own State, and I'll not allow another senator to get on top of me. You are one man I can lick, and I'll do it if you bother me again."

SOME ARE RECOGNIZED.

Of course it must be understood that some of the representatives—in fact, all those who by long service have attained the rank of leaders—are given equal precedence with senators in the departments and, in fact, everywhere save in social life, where the word "senator" means almost as much as "cabinet officer" or "diplomat." The senators entertain more than the representatives, and that makes all the difference in the world with the "society." The man who furnishes food and drink to the multitude is most popular. Many members of the House do not aspire to social popularity or to be the recipients of any favors from officers of the government. They simply want to look after the interests of their constituents and object to the necessity often imposed of securing senatorial influence before requests are granted.

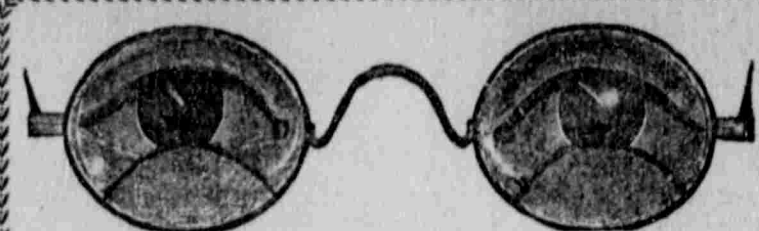
The only time I can get anything in the way of patronage," said a Republican representative, "is when the senators from my State are divided and fall to agree, and then, by uniting with one of them on some I want, he sometimes gets in."

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