

the invitation of Colonial Secretary Chamberlain to visit England and discuss with him what remedies can be applied to the grievances of the Uitlanders in the Transvaal, is the newest factor in the South African problem. The reply is not accorded a very kindly reception by the English public.

In its editorial commenting upon President Krueger's reply to Colonial Secretary Chamberlain, the Times says:

"If President Krueger and his supporters willfully close their eyes to obvious facts and obstinately refuse to redress the grievances of the Uitlanders, circumstances may occur that will force us to rely upon the primary right of all communities to save themselves from imminent peril."

The Times tomorrow will publish a despatch from Pretoria which says: "President Krueger's reply to Mr. Chamberlain is friendly and conciliatory, but it fails to advance the negotiation. It repeats that the President cannot ask the Volksraad to consent to his visit to England until a basis for the discussion is settled."

MOUNT HAMILTON, Cal., April 20.—Swift's new comet was observed at Lick observatory on April 16, 17 and 18 by Professors Hensley and Aitken. From these observations Prof. Aitken has computed an orbit which shows the following elements:

Time of perihelion April 18, 179 Greenwich mean time; longitude of perihelion 180 degrees 12 minutes; longitude of Node 177 degrees 58 minutes; inclination 56 degrees; perihelion distance 0.5645 (about 50 million miles).

The brightness today was 20 per cent greater than at discovery, but it will decrease after this. The comet having passed perihelion, is now receding from the sun. It is almost visible to the naked eye in the north-west after sunset and has a short tail.

CHICAGO, April 21.—Joseph Winrath has been convicted of the murder of Carey E. Birob, cash receiver of the West Chicago Street Railroad company, June 23, 1895, and condemned to death. Julius Mannow, who was put upon trial along with Winrath, confessed that he and Winrath did the killing.

CAIRO, April 21.—[Copyrighted 1896 by Associated Press.]—Despatches received today from the front say there has been fierce fighting at Omuurmad, near Khartoum, the headquarters of the Khalifa. It is said that 500 of the Khalifa's body guard have been killed. A general feeling of unrest prevails among the Khalifa's forces. The work of sending troops to the front, building a strategic railroad and fortifying Akashep is being carried on with admirable promptness and machine-like smoothness.

CAPETOWN, April 21.—[Copyrighted 1896 by Associated Press.]—Captain Napier with about 200 men left Bulawayo early this morning on a reconnoitering expedition. The Matabeles, it was believed, had moved southward, intending to intercept a relief corps advancing from Mafeking, but the scouting party was surprised to find Matabeles in great force about five miles northeast of Bulawayo. Napier's command was fired upon, returned the fire and then retreated in good order, it being useless for such a small band

to engage several thousand Matabeles apparently well supplied with firearms.

The return of Napier's party cast a gloom over Bulawayo, as it was believed the extensive works of defense around Bulawayo had convinced the Matabeles that the place was impregnable and in consequence they had shifted the camp southward. It now appears that while several thousand Matabeles struck camp, there are enough remaining to cause the utmost uneasiness.

OMAHA, April 21.—The committee on text books of the board of education has determined to introduce a book of Bible selections into the public schools.

A majority of the school board is in favor of the movement. The committee will submit its report at the next regular meeting and its adoption is regarded with certainty.

NEW YORK, April 21.—The Herald says: Through special correspondence news of important executions in San Domingo has reached the United States. The minister of war, General Ramon Castillo, and Jose Estay, governor of the province of Macoris were executed at Macoris on March 28, by order of Ulysses Hereaux, president of San Domingo. The governor of San Domingo, General Picardo, boarded the steamer Presidente with 150 soldiers, went to Macoris and at 5 o'clock in the morning of the day mentioned, had the officials shot.

About 7,000 Cubans have fled to San Domingo during the last six months.

CONSTANTINOPLE, April 21.—Authentic information received here shows that the Turkish prison at Marash is crowded with Armenians, who are subject to horrible tortures. A renewal of the massacre is feared. The Redifs and Bashibazouks quartered at Zeitoun are devastating the lands of the Armenians. The police has recommended arresting the Armenians.

NEWS NOTES.

T. D. Huff, one of the most prominent merchants of Santa Ana, Cal., dropped dead Tuesday morning from heart disease.

The first lien under the law giving a blacksmith a lien on a horse in payment for shoeing has been filed with the county clerk at Salem, Or.

Olive oil from the 125-year-old tree at the San Diego mission, Cal., has just been put on the market and will hereafter be manufactured extensively.

George Bryant was working over a heavy piece of machinery in a mine at Georgetown, Cal., when his right hand became caught and before he could release himself the arm was fairly torn from his body.

Dr. A. W. King of Santa Cruz, Cal., has produced a perfectly formed lemon weighing twenty-six and one-half ounces, measuring 18½x16½ inches in circumference, which is believed to be the largest reported. It is of the Lisbon variety.

J. C. Miller tried to commit suicide at San Francisco, Sunday, by jumping into the bay. He was brought out unconscious, by a policeman. He had been unable to procure work. When he came to he admitted that his cold bath had cured him of all desire to die.

Edward E. Sweeney, a guest at the European hotel, Pomona, Cal., disappeared last week, leaving all his personal property except several hundred dollars which he had in his pocket. It is feared he has been murdered for the money. He was a newspaper correspondent.

Boring for coal is still in progress near Solomonville, Arizona. The stratum of bowlders has at last been successfully passed by the diamond drill. A depth of 400 feet has been attained in a sediment formation. Thus far no coal indications have been struck. Sinking will be continued to 1,500 feet down unless coal is struck sooner.

Eighteen Japanese passed through Hollister, Cal., on foot recently, traveling from Fresno to Watsonville, where the party expects to find work in the best fields. Each Japanese carried his blankets and a portion of the camp equipment. The foreman or agent of the little brown men stated that many more were on the way. The Japanese are tired of working in raisin vineyards.

There is a probability, according to the Tucson, Arizona, Star, that the Florence canal will change hands in the near future and that parties will take hold of the enterprise and add two more reservoirs, which will serve more than 50,000 acres of land. This will make Casa Grande a place of importance. It will add much to the prosperity of Tucson, as this will be the base of supplies.

The recent rains and the melting of snow on the mountains have flooded the streams and rivers in the vicinity of Eureka, Cal. The construction bridge of the Vance railroad was carried out to sea on April 13th. County bridges over Farmer and Salmon creeks, while still in place, have been injured greatly. Many large slices of rich bottom lands bordering on the rivers, especially the Eel, were washed away.

General Bonifacio Topete, ex-governor of Lower California, who recently died in the City of Mexico, was one of the "Old Guard" of the republic. He was one of the robust, rugged spirits that helped free Mexico from imperialism. His gallantry in attacking the French at Orizaba in 1862 caused his promotion. For gallantry throughout the war he was decorated with the Cross of Constancy, and has held positions of honor and responsibility in the republic since the war. During the threatened trouble with Guatemala General Topete was in command of the Mexican troops on the frontier.

When the steamer Gaelic, from Yokohama, Hong Kong and Honolulu, came into the port of San Francisco on Sunday she was immediately placed in quarantine. There were two particular and one general reason for resorting to drastic measures to render the ship and passengers harmless of infection. A Chinese passenger, who left the vessel at Yokohama, died the day she sailed, and he was pronounced a sufferer from the black plague. A Japanese developed a well defined attack of variola on the voyage to Honolulu, and Hong Kong, whence the Gaelic came, is admittedly an infected port. The vessel and passengers were thoroughly fumigated and disinfected.