THE DESERET EVENING NEWS.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

FIFTIETH YEAR. FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1899, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH. NUMBER 283

BELEAGUERED BRITISH FORCES

The Scene of Chief Interest Has Shifted from the Western Border of Natal to the Neighborhood of Kimberly.

Boers are Accused of Unfairly Using a White Flag — Botha was Famous as a Great Marksman—Splendid Charge of the Lancashires was Irresistible—Enthusiasm Aroused Over English Success in Natal—Boers are Attempting to Prevent Gen. Plummer from Relieving Mafeking—Absence of News from Pretoria Creating Considerable Alarm—Kaffir Chiefs Captured and Held as Hostages for the Good Behavior of Their Tribes.

LONDON, Oct. 27.—During the moment [illegible] in the fighting in Natal comes from the western border, where the Boers are in the house of chief Sekhome, the chief struggle there seems to have been for the possession of a high kop in the vicinity of Kraai River, which commands the approach to Vryburg. The Boers were entrenched on the kop, and the British had to dislodge them. The Boers are accused of having used a white flag to cover a movement to the rear, and the British, according to the official dispatches, opened the enemy's retreat with a shell.

THE USE OF WHITE FLAG.

It is the Boer view unfairly to use a white flag. Botha, who was then in Natal, was a member of the Pretoria Volksraad when the Jameson raid occurred. He is a marksman of exceptional skill, and he is said to have been the man who fired the shot which killed Jameson. He is generally considered the best marksman in the British. When he commanded the Boer forces, Botha was noted for his wounds, failing to stop him.

A special dispatch from Capetown to-day gives details of the defeat of seven Boers by the British at Rietfontein, north of Kimberley, Wednesday. The engagement was completely fought with heavy losses, the British having five men killed and twenty-six wounded, two officers wounded and the Boers having five men killed and twenty wounded. The British captured a Maxim gun, which they have since lost, though it is given, as referred to in the Capetown dispatch of yesterday, that it was still official reports from Kimberley Tuesday announced the Kimberley relief force with the Maxim safe in camp at the Modder, during which a skirmish of the sort of the Rietfontein engagement took place and the allied troops had good grounds.

PRAISE OF THE LANCASHIRES.

The Boers were unable to withstand the resistless charge of the Lancashires, which was made with the bayonet, and they broke in the face of the bayonets. The Boers are described as very heavy losers in the fight, and while their own losses were slight, the British losses were considerable, the Lancashires conducting the right of the British attack, and being the first to come to grips of their unfortunate foes. Some contradict the Boer losses. Advices from Kimberley say the British losses were Kimberley was the scene of a skirmish on October 25th, in which the British were victorious. Correspondent of the Standard, dating from Kimberley, October 25th, says:

"Our cavalry brought Field Cornet Bury, Natal, dated October 20th, says: "Nine hundred and eighty-eight Boer prisoners arrived here this morning. They include Cornelis Dewit, Hanover, Fordyce, Doney, Vanrooyen and Wessels.

Lieutenant Colonels in the neighborhood of Kimberley have been posted in the books of the Boers. A letter from Father Rawlen said we found the Boers in force, and we dispersed at Youngs.

All the whites have left except the women who sought refuge in the convent. The Boer commandant has promised to protect them.

The Boers on the northern border indicate that they are actively striving to prevent Cape Colonists from joining the Boer forces. Commandant Lucas Meyer, commanding the Boers in arms near Ficksburg, announced the establishment of the place in question, and he intends to stop the advance of the Colonists.

The newspapers are making the most of what they claim to be significant reverses to the successful Boer official telegrams.

A dispatch from Cronje, Transvaal, says:

The fight at Glencoe lasted nine hours. The Boers are that they had 50 killed and wounded. Field Cornet Lucas Meyer's force of 1,000 men with eighty-six guns, was served there yesterday.

Official dispatches from Tug Fort certainly confirm the report of the Dundee battle. It appears that the Boers, numbering 20,000, assaulted the British camp, numbering 5,000, and, notwithstanding the superiority of the Boer artillery, the British drove the Boers back with great slaughter. The Boers were killed and wounded. The British lost 200 killed and wounded. The Boers had seven guns, which they lost. The British lost two guns, but in spite of the share claiming the British victory, the Boers were forced to retire, leaving the British masters of the field.

CAPTURE OF CHIEFS.

The Boers have taken prisoners the chiefs of the Bechuanas, who are now held as hostages for the good behavior of their tribes.

On October 20th, commanding patrols proceeding along the north bank of the Vaal, approaching a place called Rietfontein, suddenly encountered a force of Boers on the Bloemfontein side of the Lange Pan, and a skirmish ensued. The Boers were defeated with the loss of one killed and twenty wounded.

Lieutenant Colonel Gunning, with the Kimberley Mounted Rifles, and Major Karri Davies, with the Kimberley Light Horse, with the Kimberley Light Horse, with the Kimberley Light Horse