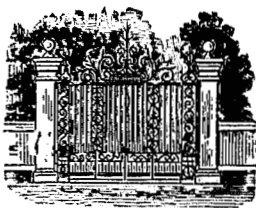


Outside the Gates.



THE Relief Fund in aid of the sufferers from the dynamite explosion at Vredendorp, near Johannesburg, amounts to over £100,000. Elaborate arrangements have been made to relieve distress. Tents have been put up to shelter the sufferers

pending the reconstruction of the township. The total number of bodies recovered now amounts to 67.

Mr. Chamberlain has sent through Sir Hercules Robinson the following telegram to President Krüger: "Her Majesty the Queen has commanded me to express to your Honour her deep regret at learning of the sad accident in the South African Republic, and to assure you of her sympathy with the sufferers and those who have lost relatives. I desire also to express my own feelings of sympathy with your Honour and your people."

One of the odd things—there always is an odd thing, no matter how terrible circumstances may be—in connection with the Johannesburg explosion, is that there is not enough glass in all South Africa to repair the broken windows. Another is that the accident should have taken place at such an extremely convenient time. It gives the Johannesburgers something to think about just at the moment when they were beginning to lift up their heads again, and threaten to help themselves to the rights which the Boer Government refuses to concede.

Most of the troops engaged in the Ashanti Campaign have returned. They suffered considerably from fever on the homeward march, and were much depressed that they had to undergo such hardships without having had the stimulus of active fighting. A special correspondent relates the following incident:—"I passed one hammock among many on the line of march to-day; a haggard, bearded face within looked out with burning eyes, and the sick man asked, 'Do you think, sir, they will give us a medal for this?' At my 'No doubt they will,' he sank back in some relief to dream it over. The men have suffered and endured even more than if they had had fighting, for the consequent excitement would have carried them through much."

The change from the West African coast to the present bitterly cold weather is seriously affecting the soldiers who had been invalided with fever, and is very trying to those who are quite strong and "fit."

One of the officials of the Port of Plymouth had a short interview with Dr. Jameson after he had retired to his berth on the "Victoria" on Sunday night. He described the doctor as appearing considerably de-

pressed. He was anxious to know whether any questions had been recently asked in Parliament respecting the events in the Transvaal, and appeared very much relieved to find that such was not the case.

On the voyage home Dr. Jameson was reserved and quiet, and employed most of his time in playing chess and reading. Both he and his companions freely joined in deck billiards, cricket, and other games. A considerable time was spent by them in preparing their defence, and it is understood that the documents they drew up have been submitted to Mr. Hawksley, the solicitor of the Chartered Company.

The excitement of Tuesday was the bringing-up at Bow Street, of Dr. Jameson and his troopers, who were charged with having, in December last, within Her Majesty's dominions in South Africa, and without the licence of Her Majesty, unlawfully prepared and fitted out a military expedition against a friendly State—the South African Republic. The defendants were remanded for a fortnight, their own recognisances of £2,000 being accepted.

Public subscriptions are asked to provide a memorial to the late Prince Henry of Battenburg.

An epidemic of small-pox has broken out among the Armenians and the Relief Fund has become exhausted, so that Miss Clara Barton will find plenty of occupation when she arrives at Constantinople.

A NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.

A meeting was held at St. Martin's Town Hall, Charing Cross, on the evening of Monday, 24th, for the purpose of explaining the objects of the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland, which is now in course of formation. In the absence, through indisposition, of Lady Henry Somerset, the President, the chair was taken by Mr. Walter McLaren, while among those present on the platform were Lady Barnes, Professor and Mrs. Roberts-Austen, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick (the hon. secretary), Mrs. Alec Tweedie, Mrs. Russell Cooke, General Webber and Mrs. Hicks. There was a large attendance of ladies. The objects of the National Council are thus set forth in the proposed constitution:—(1) To unite all organised societies of women for mutual counsel and co-operation and in the attainment of justice and freedom for women, and for all that makes for the good of humanity; (2) to encourage the formation of societies of women engaged in trades, professions, and in social and political work, in connection with which no organised union at present exists; (3) to affiliate with other National Councils of women for the purpose of facilitating international conference and co-operation.

The following letter from Lady Henry Somerset, the President of the Council, was read.

DEAR MADAM,—It is with the deepest regret that I am obliged to give up my engagement to take the chair at the meeting to-night; but I am unfortunately forbidden, at this present moment, by my doctor to take any public work for a short time; and he has done so in such peremptory language that I cannot disregard it.

The aims and objects of the National Women's Council will, however, I am sure, be put before the meeting more lucidly and more ably than I could state

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