

## OUR FOREIGN LETTER.

## IN MEMORY OF OUR HEROES.

I am sending you a few photographs of Ladysmith and its surroundings, which have been waiting for this letter to accompany them ever since my arrival here.

The first thing I noticed as the train drew into the town was a monument on a very near hill, which immediately reminded me of the amount of history now attached to this memorable little town, lying snugly in the valley of the Klip River, surrounded by chains of hills and mountains. When one sees this it is very easy to comprehend the enormous number they had of killed and wounded during the late war. I made an early visit to the Memorial Church of All Saints, visiting this alone that I might the more realise its beauty. This church, as you perhaps know, is a memorial to the heroes of the late war, and the Ven. Archdeacon Barker now Dean Barker, was chiefly instrumental in raising the money from people in Africa and at home, the relatives of many of the departed giving some of the beautiful furniture and fittings.

The first thought I had on entering was not of sadness, but praise. It is the most beautiful church I have seen in South Africa. We are accustomed in Europe to see churches filled with inscriptions sacred to the memory of the departed, and also with the atmosphere of the sacred company of spirits, when we enter these holy places, even though the inscriptions have been there for hundreds of years. But this is not so frequently met with in South Africa, and here in this small town we have this lovely memorial to the sons of the great British Empire, filled not in centuries;

but in the last few years, with over 3,000 names of those whose lives were sacrificed for their country, and whose names remind us of the sacred trust bequeathed to us and the future generations.

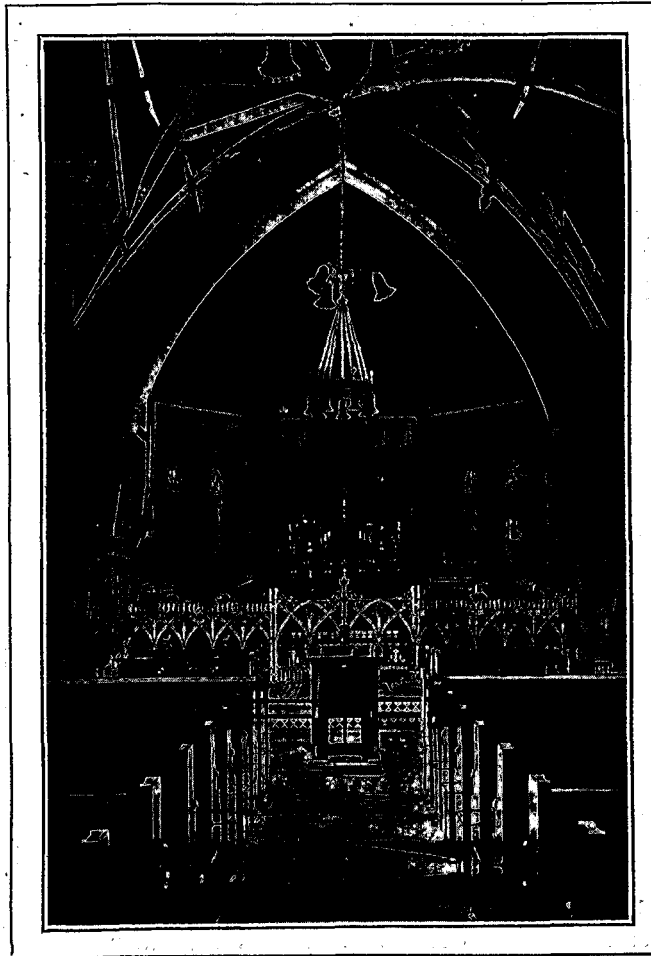
The glorious colouring of the stained glass windows gives a sense of peace and of hallowed ground. I am conscious at once that this is indeed "God's Acre." These names speak of a heavenly host, and one feels the souls of the departed very present.

It was a beautiful idea to thus perpetuate the memory of all these valiant men, where people

will for generations offer up their prayers, petitions and praise. How much more hopeful than in illustrating to future generations in graphic sculpture the death agony of War; even when executed with art, the beautiful is best. I afterwards visited the different cemeteries, and here I must confess to a more vivid realisation of the destruction of human life from war, rather than the thought of the Life Everlasting.

When I came away I felt that there was no place in Natal more suited to have the "Centre" of the King Edward VII Nurses, which Order of nurses has been established in memory of our late King, called by so many in South Africa "Edward the Peacemaker."

KING EDWARD  
VII NURSES.



ALL SAINTS CHURCH LADYSMITH.

The Home for the Natal Branch of the Order has now started well, and the nurses are at work, which is greatly appreciated, as there is no Nurses' Institute nearer than Maritzburg or Durban.

It is probable that at the end of the year for which I was "seconded" from the Government service, I may return to Basutoland. Much has been started in connection with the Order of King Edward Nurses. First, the "Dorothy Centre" at Kroonstad for the Orange Free State, and also

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