

THE WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA.

THE war news of the week consists in reports of minor engagements that have taken place outside Ladysmith, Mafeking, and Kimberley.

The following are the principal items of news received since our last issue :—

The intensity of the bombardment of Ladysmith has increased, but General White is confident that he can hold out until the arrival of reinforcements. It was reported from Durban on Thursday that there were 10,000 British troops at Estcourt, about 44 miles from Ladysmith. This force is said to be short of artillery. An armoured train with half a company of Dublin Fusiliers and half a company of Durban Light Infantry went, reconnoitring in the direction of Colenso on Wednesday week, when they were attacked by an ambushed Boer force. The Britishers were subjected to a withering fire, and suffered severely. One hundred of the latter were missing.

Heavy rifle firing, followed by an explosion, was heard in the direction of Ladysmith on Thursday. The explosion was caused by the destruction of a bridge near Colenso. Two thousand Boers, with six seven-pounders and two French guns, are at Ennersdale, south of Ladysmith. They will be reinforced by a large force from the vicinity of Ladysmith. The combined forces will operate against the column, under Major-general Hildyard, which is being despatched to the relief of Ladysmith.

It is reported that on Thursday, the 9th inst., the Boers to the north of Ladysmith, covered by heavy shelling on the part of their artillery, occupied the kopjes and ridges adjacent to the British position on all sides. Their attack was hottest between the junction of the Free State and Newcastle railway lines. The splendid fire of the Rifle Brigade, Johannesburg Volunteers, and Kings Rifles twice repulsed the tenacious attacks of the Boers. The British reserved their fire until the Boers reached the edge of the trenches when the Rifles poured volleys into their ranks. This action astonished the Boers, who bolted, the shells from the artillery completing the rout. The Boers lost about 800 men. A sortie by General White on the 14th provoked a general engagement.

News received at Capetown from Kimberley on the 15th inst. stated that the bombardment of the town at a range of 8000yds still continued, but was proving futile. Mafeking was reported to be completely invested and subjected to heavy artillery fire, but little damage had been done. About the beginning of the month the Boers opened a heavy artillery fire on Kopje Corner close to Mafeking, and were allowed to approach quite close when the South African police opened fire with Maxims which did considerable execution on the enemy, who were simultaneously caught by a shrapnel fire from the town. The Boer casualties were set down at fully 100. Later on Colonel Baden-Powell made a night attack which prevented the enemy from continuing the construction of trenches.

A column is on its way from Capetown to relieve Kimberley. A second column will operate in the direction of Bloemfontein.

General White, who is in command at Ladysmith, on Monday, 18th inst., reported 'All well.' His runner, leaving on Wednesday, the 15th inst., reported that the garrison was buoyant. The enemy on Tuesday, the 14th inst., were repulsed and punished while attempting a closer investment of Ladysmith.

The Boers have occupied the township of Weenen, 55 miles north-north-west of Maritzburg.

Twenty-six transports, with 27,000 men, have arrived at Capetown. When all the troops now being mobilised will arrive at the seat of war, General Buller will be able to operate with upwards of 100,000 men. The second battalion of the Royal Irish Fusiliers has arrived at Capetown, and will join the force at Estcourt under Major-General Hildyard.

It was reported during the week that General Joubert had been killed, but the report has turned out to be unfounded.

It was reported that General Buller had gone to Natal, but later accounts show that he is at De Aar Junction on his way to Kimberley.

The total British prisoners of all ranks at Pretoria is 1338.

The Catholic Bishop at Cape Town wired to Father Ogle at Mafeking that if the sisters of the convent desired to leave the town they could do so. All of them have, however, elected to stay and nurse the wounded.

NEW ZEALAND : GENERAL.

WE have received a parcel of used postage stamps for Father Kreymborg's mission from Mr. J. O'Connell, Duntroon.

CAPTAIN RUSSELL has been ill in Wellington since the end of the session. He is now somewhat better, but is still very weak.

A FLAX boom is reported to be setting in in the Auckland district and new mills are being established in various localities.

MR. R. TUBMAN, formerly secretary of the Dunedin branch of the Otago Educational Institute, has been appointed general secretary for Otago.

MR. SALVATORE CIMINO, JUN., of Wellington, has been appointed conductor of the Arrowtown Brass Band. Mr. Cimino's brother is conductor of the Cromwell band.

DURING the course of a recent social in Cromwell Mr. P. J. Dunne was presented with a handsome gold locket, set with a diamond and rubies, by the Roxburgh-Heriot railway league, of which body he was secretary for a time. The Mayor, in making the presentation, said : During the short time Mr. Dunne had been amongst them in Cromwell he had proved himself a real good fellow and a good citizen.

THE hermit of Island Bay, Wellington, who left last year to join his relatives, has returned to the Colony. He made application last week for admission to the Benevolent Home, but it was refused as he was possessed of some money.

A SUBSCRIPTION has been started among the teachers of the Otago district for the purpose of recouping Miss Annett for the loss sustained by her through the malicious burning of the Rongahere school, and as a mark of her fellow-teachers' practical sympathy.

THE Rev. Father W. O'Connor, recently ordained in Ireland for the Auckland diocese by the Right Rev. Dr. Lenihan, arrived in Melbourne by the Orient steamer Ormuz on November 8. Father O'Connor had as fellow travellers from Home several young priests for various dioceses in Australia.

AT the last meeting of the Ashburton Catholic Literary Society, the programme for the evening consisted of a debate on the merits of a monarchical or republican form of government. Mr. Moison took the former and Mr. Moriarty the latter side of the question. Both of these gentlemen delivered lengthy speeches in favour of their respective sides, and it was very evident from the tone of them that they took no little time to prepare. They were respectively supported by well-prepared speeches from several of the members. On the result of the voting being declared it was found that it was a draw, but Mr. Moriarty's side gained the verdict on the casting vote of the Chairman (Mr. L. Hanrahan.)

INTERCOLONIAL.

Viscount Gormanston (Governor of Tasmania) and Lady Gormanston have returned to the colony.

The Very Rev. Father C. A. Hyland, O.F.M., has arrived from Home for the purpose of joining the Franciscans in Sydney.

News was received in Sydney the other day that Mr. C. V. Dalley, youngest son of the late Mr. W. B. Dalley, had been killed in the hunting field in England.

The Rev. Father J. J. Cusack, who was recently transferred to Gordons, was presented with a purse of 112 sovereigns at the Assembly Hall, Drysdale, from his former parishioners.

His Lordship the Right Rev. Dr. Gibney, Bishop of Perth, has gone to Singapore for the benefit of his health, which had been indifferent for some time. Latest accounts from his Lordship are to the effect that the sea trip had been most beneficial.

Nearly £300 has been collected at Lismore (says a Grafton paper) for a testimonial to his Lordship Dr. Doyle. The testimonial is to celebrate Bishop Doyle's Silver Jubilee in the priesthood and the Golden Jubilee of his age.

The Rev. Father Ferris, who comes from the diocese of Kerry, arrived in Melbourne a few days ago on his way to Ballarat, where he will labour. He had as a fellow-traveller the Rev. P. Mulligan for the same diocese. Father Ferris was educated at Maynooth and Father Mulligan at All Hallows.

The Rev. Father Mullan, O.F.M., of Waverley, is about to proceed Home at an early date. Father Mullan has, during his 12 years' service on the Franciscan mission at Woolahra and Waverley, won the love and esteem of the people amongst whom he has laboured as the most zealous of priests and the most exemplary and most unassuming of Christian gentlemen.

By the Orient steamer Ormuz, which got to Port Melbourne on November 8, the following priests for the archdiocese of Melbourne arrived :—Revs. J. Barry, D. Lawton, M. Lane, T. O'Sullivan and M. Hehir. The first four rev. gentlemen were educated at Maynooth College, and the last named at All Hallows College. Fathers O'Sullivan and Lawton are from the diocese of Ross, Father Lane from Kerry, and Father Barry from Cloyne diocese. Father Hehir is from the diocese of Killaloe.

The death is reported of Mr. David Fitzpatrick, vice-chairman of the Ballarat Stock Exchange. The deceased gentleman, who was 70 years of age, arrived in Victoria in 1851, and subsequently he worked on the various goldfields of the colony. In 1866 he commenced business in Ballarat as a stock and share broker, and at the time of his death was connected officially with the charitable institutions of the district. He was a native of Lismore, in the County of Waterford, Ireland, and was educated at the Queen's College in Cork.

After a short illness there passed away on November 4, at St. Columba's Convent and College, Essendon, one of the oldest and most accomplished members of the Order of the Sisters of Charity, Mother Mary Ursula. Mother Ursula was better known in Sydney than in Melbourne, having spent the major part of her fruitful religious life in the former city, where she founded, 15 years ago, St. Vincent's College, Victoria street. The deceased nun was born in Tipperary, Ireland, and at the time of her death was in the fiftieth year of her age, and the eighteenth of her religious profession, which was made at St. Vincent's Convent, Sydney.

MYERS AND CO., Dentists, Octagon, corner of George street. They guarantee highest class work at moderate fees. Their artificial teeth give general satisfaction, and the fact of them supplying a temporary denture while the gums are healing does away with the inconvenience of being months without teeth. They manufacture a single artificial tooth for Ten Shillings, and sets equally moderate. The administration of nitrous-oxide gas is also a great boon to those needing the extraction of a tooth. Read advertisement.—.