

The names of other Catholic officers are heard here and there, even in the pauses of the fighting. Mr Francis Owen Lewis, of the Indian Staff Corps, has been attached to the North Lancashire Mounted Infantry, for service by the Orange River. The son of Mr Owen Lewis, who once upon a time sat for Carlow, he is also the brother of Mr Cyril A. Owen Lewis, the Secretary of the South African League in Cape Town. Both he and his brother are old Beaumont boys.

A HARSH RULE.

A Home newspaper says that the pay of all officers and men made prisoners of war is stopped from the date of their capture, and is not refunded till the finding of a court of inquiry on the conclusion of the campaign exonerates them from blame. Owing to this regulation it is probable that the wives and dependents of many of those officers and men now in the hands of the Boers may be reduced to considerable straits, though no doubt the recognised army agents will treat all such cases with generosity.

WAR CORRESPONDENTS' REMUNERATION.

During the present campaign in South Africa the war correspondents are receiving a higher rate of remuneration than was ever paid in any previous campaign. Not only are they being paid a big salary, but in some cases a handsome amount is given them for their literary work, as well as the right to issue it in book form afterwards. Thus, in one case, that of Mr. Winston Churchill, of the *Morning Post*, the sum of £800 is paid him for his letters alone, whilst all his out-of-pocket expenses in South Africa are paid, as well as a salary which is nearer £3,000 than £1,000.

ASSISTING THE BOERS.

Mr. C. W. Salisbury, who was in Ladysmith when the first shell was fired into the town, informs the *New Zealand Times* that there are a number of English, Scotch, and Irishmen, who held positions in the Republican Civil Service, fighting in the Boers' ranks. Their salaries were not high, but they had opportunities of supplementing them in a more or less irregular manner. These men have thrown in their lot with the Boers, because they recognised that with the overthrow of the Government they would lose lucrative positions. Such Germans and other foreigners as are serving are mostly naturalised.

THE TREATMENT OF CATHOLICS IN THE TRANSVAAL.

In our last issue we gave an extract from a letter written by a priest in South Africa contradicting the statement of Dr. Leyds that Catholics were not unjustly treated by the Transvaal Government. A communication in the *Daily Mail* from 'a Pretorian' shows what little reliance can be placed on Dr. Leyds' statements. The writer says:—'I notice a letter of Dr. W. J. Leyds, addressed to Mr. William Redmond, M.P., wherein he denies that the Government of the South African Republic makes a rule of refusing the appointment of Roman Catholics to hold office of any kind under that Government. Dr. Leyds knows perfectly well that when vacancies to any office under the Transvaal Government are open, and notice to applicants is given in the *Staats Courant* (*Government Gazette*) for that purpose, in every such notice it is distinctly stated that applicants must be of the Protestant religion. Dr. Leyds has himself signed hundreds of these official notices, and his denial is only one more of those shameless lies which have lately so frequently been turned out by that factory of false news at Brussels presided over by the same Dr. Leyds.'

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL EAGER.

Lieutenant-Colonel Eager, who commanded the 2nd Battalion Royal Irish Rifles in the recent battle of Stormberg, is married to a daughter of the Hon. W. McCulloch, M.L.C., Minister for Defence in the late Turner Government in Victoria.

MAJOR-GENERAL KELLY-KENNY.

Major-General Kelly-Kenny, who has charge of one of the divisions of the army in South Africa, was born in Kilrush, County Clare, where his father was manager of the National Bank, and his uncle parish priest for many years. A brother (Captain T. Kelly) was aide-de-camp to Sir Hercules Robinson in New South Wales, and died some years ago in Sydney.

WHOLESALE ADVICE.

'Brave Women on the Battlefield.' Such are the words in which the *North London Advertiser* refers to the conduct of the Sisters of Nazareth in South Africa. The editor remarks:—'England must be proud of such brave ladies, and those that slander their religion should go and do likewise instead of bearing false witness against their neighbour.'

AS STUBBORN AS A MULE.

Those mules (says the De Aar correspondent of a Cape paper) form the great source of trouble here just now, particularly those which have come from Italy. The majority of them are pack mules, with a rooted objection to harness of any description. Each time a couple of hundred of these animals have to be trucked an indescribable scene of confusion arises. The air is heavy with dust, and the shouting of the drivers and the expetives of their officers are amazing: certainly the departure of a hundred mules causes more noise than that of two or three regiments.

THE NUNS HAVE TO LEAVE NEWCASTLE.

The following extract from a letter of one of the Sisters of the Newcastle Convent (says the *South African Catholic Magazine*) will be read with interest:—On the 11th inst. the imperative order suddenly came saying that every one should leave Newcastle that night. The fear and consternation which this unexpected command created is more easily conceived than described. 'Hurriedly we put together a few absolute necessities, prepared in haste for the enforced departure from our beloved convent home. The great difficulty was having so many children who had to be called out of

bed, and six of whom were dangerously ill; but we had no alternative but to run the risk and take them with us, trusting to God for the preservation of their lives. Arrived at Dundee at 5 a.m. the following morning, after some hours' waiting in trucks at Glencoe, the largest room in our cottage convent was given to the sick children. The Sisters found shelter in an iron shed in the school-chapel, on the benches of which some slept, while others lay on the ground—other available space more comfortable being given to the children. On the 16th inst. the order to flee came again and once more we had to pack up in haste—this time taking with us still less than we did from Newcastle, fearing because of our number—60 in all—that we could not find sufficient accommodation in the train. About 10 p.m. we left Dundee in open trucks in which we remained four hours at Glencoe awaiting the train that would bear us away from danger. At length we departed, and after a journey made as comfortable as possible by the kindness of the officials, we reached Maritzburg on the 17th at 3.30 p.m. Here we found shelter in an empty cottage providentially unlet, notwithstanding the thousands that had fled hither. Thank God for the sanctuary under the roof of which we can dwell altogether. Of our hardships and privations we think little. As many thousands are similarly situated, many even much worse, and amid the widespread distress and sorrow that darkens the land there is no room for selfish thought. So, though we are homeless and have, at least for the time being, lost our all, we bear all cheerfully. And to the honour of Maritzburg be it said that from its inhabitants, lay and religious, we have received much kindness. And not alone from those of our own creed, but from all, without distinction, we have received kindness, courtesy, and delicate thoughtfulness. And to them we shall ever be truly grateful.

CATHOLIC SERVICES ON BOARD A TROOP SHIP.

Dr. T. McInerney, M.A., whose brother, Lieutenant McInerney, is with the Victorian contingent which arrived at Cape Town in the steamer *Medic*, on November 28, gave the Melbourne *Advocate* some extracts from a letter written by that officer. Catholic and Anglican services were held on Sundays, the former being conducted by Lieutenant McInerney. There were about 70 Catholics on board. 'Each contingent has a Catholic officer,' wrote Mr. McInerney; 'myself and Thorn from Victoria, Heritage from Tasmania, and Campbell from West Australia. Among the men Victoria contributes about 35 to the Catholic service out of a total strength of 264; Western Australia, 20 out of 132; Tasmania, 8 out of 84, and South Australia, 7 out of 133. The service consisted of the acts of Faith, Hope and Charity, the Epistle and Gospel of the day and the Litany of the Saints.'

CARDINAL MORAN AND THE WAR.

THE following is taken from the report of an interview accorded by Cardinal Moran to a representative of the *Sydney Daily Telegraph*:—

'What is your attitude concerning the despatch of troops from the colonies?'

'Some months ago, when the matter was first mooted, I stated that if the volunteers asked me for my advice I would tell them to remain where they are. Australia needs all her sons at home. My view of the matter was that the despatch of such a contingent would destroy the character of our volunteers. I look upon our volunteers as essentially for the defence of Australia, and I have encouraged in every way the organisation of volunteer forces. But while you may ask men engaged in different professions and occupations to embrace the career of volunteers, it becomes quite a different thing if such men are expected to go to every place where a British war may happen to be carried on. We need our volunteers here. The present war has shown that England has no land army to dispose of. If a Russian force landed in Australia to-morrow, we would have to depend upon our own volunteers. I look upon the English navy in its own sphere as holding probably the highest place it has ever attained, but the present war has sufficiently shown that so far as the land army is concerned, Australia, if ever attacked, must rely on her own sons. We have no standing army in Australia; we depend on our volunteers, and every well-wisher of the country would like to see the volunteers well disciplined and trained, and prepared in every way to defend their homes, and assert our liberties.'

'I suppose, your Eminence, I may say that your sympathies are with the British in the present war?'

His Eminence smiled as he replied: 'Well, my cousin Captain Kenna, of the Lancers, who won the Victoria Cross at Omdurman, is now at the front, and several other relatives of mine are also there.'

'But apart from your personal feelings with regard to the war itself?'

'I would not care to say a single word regarding the origin of the war, which is entirely hidden from me. From a religious point of view, I think it better not to express any wish as to the result of the war. The Boers have been, perhaps, of all powers in modern times most hostile to the Catholic Church, and if I wished success to the army attacking them it might be said I had some religious interests in the matter. Nothing would please me better than the conversion of the Boers, but in regard to the war against them I must give expression to no wish whatever. I hope that all the men who are going from here may come back safely, but I am afraid that is hoping too much. I expect to be able to send a chaplain with the second contingent.'

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