

with the A.P.A. organised in my city. And I do it to-night, defying those who would throttle an orphan child and bow the supple hinges of the knee to worse than 'sectarianism'—to a more bitter tyranny than 'sectarianism.' No cross or crescent is more dangerous to this republic than these men who meet in secret and try to intimidate Congress from the discharge of a sacred duty to the fatherless and motherless. I have discussed this question before. I feel all that a man can feel in my earnestness about this matter. I feel the impulses of a man who should do his duty even if a Damascus blade in the hand of some secret organisation is held over him.

Generous Bequests.—Mr. Patrick Callaghan, formerly a New York lawyer, whose death occurred in Poughkeepsie, left a will in which he bequeathed the greater part of his estate, valued at £200,000, to the following institutions: Society for the Protection of Destitute Catholic Children, Convent at Morrisania, Foundling Asylum of the Sisters of Charity of New York city, Home of the Good Shepherd, New York city, and St. Mary's Church, Poughkeepsie. The will does not state how much each institution is to have, but after dividing about £25,000 among relatives the remainder is left to the institutions named, presumably to be equally divided among them.

GENERAL.

Nuns who Served in the Crimea.—Preaching recently in connection with the Diamond Jubilee celebration of the Sisters of Mercy, Bermondsey, England, Canon Murnane stated that four of the Sisters served during the Crimean War, when, with Miss Florence Nightingale, they undertook the work of nursing the wounded soldiers. Their heroic conduct has been brought before the notice of the Queen, and the three who still survived had received communications of a most cordial character from her Majesty.

The Propagation of the Faith.—The Association for the Faith is supporting in foreign countries over 5,000 priests and 10,000 Sisters. The Catholic Church in America has received from it £1,120,000 for establishing churches and spreading the faith.

THE WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA.

THE GLENCOE TIE.

A London draper shows in his window a greenish tie, which is labelled: 'The Latest: the Glencoe.' The verdant hue of the article is evidently meant as a compliment to the prowess exhibited by the Dublin Fusiliers.

GENERAL BUTLER.

The *Western Independent* of Devonport has the following pointed comments on the manner in which General Butler's opinions with regard to South African affairs were treated by the War Office authorities—Dreyfus aroused the wholesome sense of justice of the whole world. He was at any rate permitted the privilege of opening his mouth though his enemies believed him not a word. General Butler remains with his lips sealed, yet every development of the campaign justifies the view that is attributed to his prescience. His mistake has apparently been that he held a strong view that, before negotiations were commenced with the Boers, our army should be in possession of Natal territory. This showed him to be a statesman as well as soldier, and events have proved that it is only the highest type of soldier who is qualified to be statesman. Is it really true that General Butler recommended that the fighting strength in South Africa before the commencement of hostilities should be at least 100,000, and that Lord Wolseley dismissed his calculation as a chimera? And was that the real cause of General Butler's exchange? The questions imperatively demand an answer.

IRISH AND SCOTCH AT THE FRONT.

Of non-commissioned officers and men killed at the Tugela River, General Buller, in his despatch, returned the number killed at 76, but the published list contained 137 names, more than half of whom belonged to Irish regiments, the Connaught Rangers suffering the most severely of all the regiments engaged. The unanimity with which all the commanders in South Africa order Irish troops to attempt practically impossible feats is most peculiar. From the battle of Dundee down to that of the Tugela Irish troops have been placed in the very heart of the hottest fighting, and though they have never flinched, they have, of course, suffered very severely. Somewhat similar treatment has been meted out to the Scotch regiments.

LORD ROBERTS'S EXPERIENCES.

Lord Roberts's experiences of active service have all been associated with India. He served throughout the Mutiny, including the siege and capture of Delhi, the relief of Lucknow, the operations at Cawnpore, and the defeat of the Gwalior contingent. It was during the Mutiny that he received the Victoria Cross. 'This was conferred upon him for his valour in re-cuiging a standard at Khodagunji. Lord Roberts's name is, however, prominently associated with the Afghan Wars of 1878 and 1880. His famous march to the relief of Kandahar is one of the most brilliant episodes in his career. Over 300 miles were accomplished in 20 days, and at the end of the march Lord Roberts defeated the enemy outside Kandahar. The great march received the warm admiration of Moltke, Skobloff, and all the chief military authorities on the Continent. Another fact connected with the sending out of Lord Roberts to Africa is the circumstance that in 1881, after the defeat of Majuba Hill, he was appointed Commander-in-Chief and High Commissioner in South Africa. Fifteen thousand troops set sail with him for the Cape, but before they could reach the scene of operations in Natal, peace was concluded by Mr. Gladstone and the Boers.

KIMBERLEY AND ITS MINES.

In connection with the relief of Kimberley on Thursday last by the British force under General French, who, by the way, is a Fermanagh man, the following report on the town and its mines by Mr. Stowe, the United States Consul at the Cape, will be of special interest:—

Kimberley Mr. Stowe found to be a city of 35,000 inhabitants, most of them attracted to the place by the greatest diamond mines in the world. The general manager of the mines, Gardiner F. Williams, is also the United States consular agent. 'I was pleased to find,' said the consul, 'that many of the most responsible positions in the mines are filled by Americans. The United States also furnished most of the 2000 horses and mules used in the mines and some of the 200,000lb of beef and 25,000lb of mutton consumed by the 15,000 natives and 25,000 whites employed in the mines.'

'I was not at all surprised to see American machinery here,' Mr. Stowe remarks. 'The immense driving gear of a pumping engine "made in England" has to be sent to Chicago to have the cogs cut. The company is operating an ice plant, made in Chicago, and three more have been ordered, each with a capacity of five tons a day, and 20,000 cubic feet of cold storage besides a complete dynamite plant, with an American to manage it. The 150 miles of railroad in and about the mines are laid with American rails, and every tie and sleeper is of California redwood, which in this country is the wood par excellence for this purpose. Three ships from California have recently arrived with cargoes of redwood and Oregon pine. The ice company sells its product for half a cent a pound, while in Cape Town the price is four cents. All the water used in and about the city flows through pipes made in the United States. I was pulled to Kimberley by an American engine, and there are several others in use in Cape Colony.'

'No company in the world,' declares Mr. Stowe, 'does more. It has built the village of Kenilworth, covering 500 acres and occupied by white employees at a nominal cost. Water and light are supplied free, and there is a clubhouse, a library, reading rooms, athletic grounds, a park and vegetable gardens, with vines and fruits of all kinds in profusion.' The natives are housed in compounds. 'On the four sides of a large square are erected one-storey buildings of corrugated iron, opening to the centre of the square. They are divided into rooms which hold twenty persons, who sleep in bunks three high. Within each compound is a store which supplies the natives with clothes, food, etc., at very reasonable prices. In the centre of the square is a large swimming pool, well patronised. Adjacent to the compound is a hospital, free to the sick and injured. Extended over the whole enclosure, which occupies several acres, is a wire netting to prevent the throwing over of diamonds enclosed in tin cans, etc., as was once the natives' practice. Outside the compound and ten feet from it is a barbed wire fence ten feet high, with fourteen strands of wire. An underground passage leads to the mine shaft, and the men are examined as they return from work. Within the compound I visited (there are three), were 3500 natives. The natives are under contract for six months and receive from one shilling to three shillings a day.'

The Kimberley mine has often been described, but Mr. Stowe's account has the merit of freshness. 'The mine,' he writes, 'is the crater of an extinct volcano. What is now a level prairie was once a volcano. Cropping out on the surface appeared a blue rock, which was found to contain diamonds. The mouth of the crater is 312 feet below the surface. They dug 300 feet lower, so that the mine is now 612 feet deep. The rock is elevated to the surface by powerful machinery and conveyed to the floors or level ground, at present occupying about 200 acres. Here it is left for a year to the action of the sun, wind and rains, until it decomposes and falls apart. It is then taken to the crushing and washing machines and afterward to the pulsators, which separate it into different sizes and again wash it. Finally, it passes over shaking tables, covered with grease, which catches and retains the diamonds. These are then washed in acids and taken to the valuator. Roughly speaking, out of 3,000,000 tons of blue rock three-fourths of a ton of diamonds are obtained. The valuator sorts the diamonds according to color and purity. I saw on this table the output of one week, worth £300,000. A syndicate of buyers takes the product of the mines.'

Another writer gives the following additional particulars:—The arid and treeless wilderness—once known as Colesburg Kopje—upon which Kimberley is located, was formerly in possession of the Gribuas, people of a mixed Dutch and Kaffir origin, and it was not until 1867 that the existence within its borders of the boundless wealth which has since made it famous was suspected. In that year, it is said, a Boer, Schalk Van Niekirk by name, secured from a youthful Kaffir a peculiar-looking stone with which he was playing. On becoming aware of its commercial value he disposed of it to an Irishman named O'Reilly for £500. Thus encouraged, Van Niekirk invested £400 in purchasing another and larger stone from a guileless Kaffir warrior, and immediately sold it at Cape Town for £10,000.

Then the murder was out. The diamond deposits became known. Adventurers flocked to Colesburg by thousands, and two years after Van Niekirk's 'deal' came the opening of the mines, and the rapid building of a city in their vicinity. The city was named Kimberley, in honour of the then Colonial Secretary. The methods pursued at first in digging diamonds were rude and primitive, and the diggers had to contend against many disadvantages—especially against a depreciation in prices due to excessive haste in making sales. All that is a thing of the past, however. The digging—no longer a matter of individual enterprise—is done by machinery and overproduction is controlled by a consolidation of interests.

At the outbreak of hostilities, the Kimberley mines were furnishing 90 per cent. of the world's output of diamonds. The authoritative writer of a standard work upon this subject estimates that, thus far, nine and a half tons, or 40,000,000 carats, have been extracted from the mines at Kimberley—the value of this product, in the rough, being £60,000,000, and in the finished state, twice that amount.