

THE Suid-Afrikaan.

Cape Town, March 27, 1871

EVENTS OF THE DAY.

So the Governor is resolved to commence his reign over the colony by forcing the Free State into "hostilities with Great Britain." Whatever some of our contemporaries may hypocritically say to the contrary, this is the real fact of the matter. Subjects of the Free State—or men living in the State and subject to its laws—have been distinctly told by a British functionary to pay tribute to him and not to the authorities in whose territory they are living and working, and who, according to the laws of nations, are their proper Governors and to whom only they owe obedience. The course Sir H. Barkly is taking we cannot but think high-handed in the extreme. He has virtually appropriated Pniel already, and appears to mean to maintain this appropriation by force of arms. What otherwise can be meant by telling the diggers that if they are "maltreated" because they pay the licence to his agent instead of to the Government which is rightfully entitled to it, he will afford them the protection they will have a right to claim. What is the "protection" to be like? We suppose if an arrest be made by Mr. Truter (this will be the "maltreatment") Mr. Campbell will demand that the arrested person be given up. Of course this demand will be refused unless certain guarantees are given that no Free State subject will be in future "maltreated." The release of the captive will then be attempted by the Police, and so "hostilities with Great Britain" will have been forced on the State by the Governor in the most high-handed and inexcusable manner.

We do not see why the Governor should wish to force the Free State into a mode of settling the dispute which the State does not like and in which it has no confidence. Mr. Brand's refusal to submit the question to a commission has been called obstinacy; can anyone advance a reason why Sir Henry's refusal to swerve from his proposal—which is distasteful to the State—should not be called obstinacy as well. It is unfair and untruthful to say that Mr. Brand does not desire an amicable adjustment of the difficulty. He would not object to arbitration if he could have confidence in the likely arbitrators. Nor do we see how his scepticism can be deemed unreasonable. We ourselves don't believe that the Free State will receive quite fair play if the question be submitted to either a Cape or Natal commission for determination. We therefore think that the charge of obstinacy is by far more applicable to the Governor than to Mr. Brand; and we cannot exactly understand how His Excellency can with any show of honesty and consistency, pretend to "protest against being held in any way responsible for the consequences which may ensue." All the responsibility will, in our humble opinion, lie upon His Excellency's shoulders. By the very high-handed and unceremonious policy he is pursuing, he is compelling the State to protect not only what it deems its just rights in respect of territory, but its very honor and self respect, by forcible means.

The *Gambia* has brought us no later news than the *Briton*, but we have interesting details of proceedings in the Imperial Parliament. To these we do not propose to refer to day, but we shall avail ourselves of a future issue to do so.

The voyage of this vessel has been a very long one, but it is explained by an accident which happened to the machinery. The most extravagant rumours were going about the town and the adjacent villages yesterday and the day before concerning the *Gambia*. We were most solemnly assured yesterday at a place not a hundred miles from town that she had struck five times on the shore at Hondeklop Bay, and that when arriving in Table Bay it was found there were two feet of water in the hold. Of course this was all rubbish, and we told our informant that he had been "taken in," and reminded him that the first of April was close at hand. It seems however, upon inquiry, that some sort of accident did happen to the *Gambia*. It is said that she scratched her keel on a sand bank off Hondeklop Bay. But what the dickens can a vessel want in the vicinity of Hondeklop Bay when the usual route for steamers from England to Table Bay is north-west? The chronometers appear to be to blame for the captain avers they were in the "alarming condition of being more than twelve minutes out when he examined them after dropping anchor. We hear that the *Gambia* will have to go on to the slip on account of this accident.

COMMERCIAL BANK.—Mr van Brada, the second clerk of the Town Council, has been appointed to the vacant clerkship of the Cape Commercial Bank.

THE ST. "GOOD HOPE."—This vessel was released from quarantine on Thursday morning, and by Friday evening had discharged her inward and taken in her outward cargo for Algoa Bay, for which port she left on Saturday morning. She is expected in Table Bay on her return voyage to England about the first week in April, when a large number of passengers from the wrecked steamer *Queen of the Thames*, will proceed in her.

MELANCHOLY DEATH BY ACCIDENT.—A telegram, on Thursday, informs us of the sudden death, by accident, of Mrs. van Brada, the wife of Mr. Dirk van Brada, the wife of Mr. Dirk van Brada of Kwartel River, in Caledon. The deceased lady pulled down an old flint pistol from a shelf, catching it by the barrel. She had no idea of its being loaded, but by this movement the trigger went off and the charge was shot

into her breast, causing almost immediate death. Mrs. van Brada was much esteemed by all who knew her, and has left some six or seven children to lament their loss. Her husband is the son and heir of the late Hon. D.G. van Brada, and they were to enter on their new estate of Orangesigt within a few months.

CALEDON ELECTION.—The following is the return of the state poll at the Caledon election which took place on Friday: Breda, 12 o'clock, 52; 3:30 p.m., 63; 5 p.m., 71; total 186. Christie, 12 o'clock 17; 3:30 p.m., 25; 5 p.m., 27; total 69. The following returns from six fields: 299, and 9 Breda 231.

FOR THE DIAMOND FIELDS.—Several of the American diggers who arrived by the bark *Peony* left Cape Town last week on foot, on their way to the Diamond-fields. These parties intend to tramp the whole way.

The following telegrams have been received in town:—

KING WILLIAM'S TOWN.
An express arrived here yesterday, Thursday, evening, with instructions ordering all the available Mounted Police to proceed to the Diamond Fields.
Sir Henry Barkly arrived in Queen's Town on Wednesday, and will be in King William's Town on Saturday.
Great preparations being made for his reception.

FORT BEAUFORT.
Express arrived with orders that the Police were to be in readiness to make a move to the Diamond-fields, but not to touch on Free State territory. The whole force is to move.

GRAHAM'S TOWN.
Sir Henry Barkly is expected in town on Tuesday next. His Excellency is to visit the Kowie on Wednesday; he will return to town in the evening when he will be entertained at a public dinner.

CONTRAVENTION OF THE GUNPOWDER ORDINANCE.—A complete arsenal of arms and ammunition (says the *Coleberg Herald*) was discovered in a house in this town in the occupation of August See nina, a Mahowa. It appears that for some time Mr. Seemina has been driving a most lucrative trade in guns, gunpowder, and the like with such natives as have managed to scrape together enough money to purchase them, and are anxious to return to the place from whence they came. In an evil hour for himself he supplied some half dozen customers, who removed their treasured weapons by night, and made good their exit from the town. They were, however, stopped by a man named Clover, at Mr. Plewman's farm, Quaga Gat, and as they could give no satisfactory account of their possessions, he brought them to the Magistrate's office, where they were very unwillingly, were forced to disclose the name of the illicit dealer and the circumstances of the purchase. A search warrant was issued and a search instituted, which resulted in the discovery of 20 guns and a quantity of powder, lead, caps, bullet moulds and flint. It transpired at the preliminary examination of Seemina, on Thursday last, that as much as £6 10s. is given by those misguided natives for commonest flint lock guns; rubbish cast iron barrels and lead stocks seem in great demand and fetch extraordinary prices; the profit made on them is incredible, and it is darkly hinted that August is only the scapegoat, the real proprietor of the contraband articles being at present unknown. It must have been gratifying to the prisoner to hear that his reputation is so wide spread, as all the native witnesses bore testimony to the fact that they had heard of him in their own land and knew that they could get guns from him. Another native, named Oorkant Mochichi, has been apprehended on a like charge, but he seems to have carried on business on a much more modest scale, as the sale of one gun only is laid to his charge.

FREE STATE.
(From the *Friend*.)

HOSTILITIES WITH GREAT BRITAIN.

Will not this heading be rather calculated to startle our readers? And yet we do not know in what other terms we could put it, so adequately to convey to the public the real state of affairs here just now. We dare not cry Peace! Peace! where there is no Peace. It is true War has not exactly been proclaimed, but the final letter of His Excellency Sir Henry Barkly to His Honor the President, is almost tantamount to a declaration of war with this State; and what is still more to the purpose, our Government have already called out a commando of 1000 mounted men, to proceed at once to Pniel, there to make an armed demonstration in support of the authority of Landrost Truter, and to assist him in coercing the diggers (British subjects) into the payment of licences to this State, in direct opposition to the written commands and instructions of the officers representing the British Government—i.e., both the Special Magistrate and the High Commissioner. The diggers and shopkeepers at Pniel have been distinctly told not to pay the licences to the Government of this State, and moreover, have been promised PROTECTION in the event of their getting into trouble with the State authorities through such refusal to pay such licences. How the promised protection is to be given we are at a loss to say. Sir Henry does not seem like a man who would promise more than he could perform. A few of the Frontier Armed and Mounted Police, under Mr. Jackson, are shortly expected at Klipdrift; but these cannot contend with 1000 Free State burghers flushed as they are with Basuto victories. If, however, actual war with the British Government and all the power it can bring against us be intended, in that case we cannot designate such a revolve otherwise than as an act of madness; but we have every reason to believe that such is by no means the case. The President and Government of this State are, we are convinced, under the impression that both Sir Henry Barkly and Mr. Campbell are acting without due authority; that they dare not begin hostilities with this State; that the diggers will not show fight, but will, like their fellows at Bultfontein, when they hear of the commando, make the best of their way through the Vaal, or quietly submit to pay their licences to Mr. Truter, or to those appointed by him to receive the same. The commando will probably for the time being have the desired effect. The diggers did not come to the Vaal to fight, neither have they much in the way of arms or ammunition at their command. Seeing that the commando may effect its object without bloodshed

we cannot wholly condemn the authors of it, though we have serious doubts of the wisdom of the movement. A thoughtless, or half-drunken man, on either side, by firing a shot, could easily bring about a general war between this State and the diggers; and if this occurs, the British and Colonial Governments are bound to take the side of the latter. But we have not space or time to speculate farther on the subject to-day. Suffice it to say that the commando has started for the Vaal-river. The Bloemfontein district contingent (100) is passing through this town while we write; the Winburg men (200) are on the move; Boshof is to provide 150; Jacobsdal, 100; Foursmith, 150; Cronst, 200; and Philippolis, 100. The Commandant-General will be elected on the field from among the assembled commandants, by said commandants themselves, when the different divisions come together. A number of bullock-wagons accompany each body of men, so that eight or ten days will be occupied in reaching the banks of the Vaal. The Government have this time very considerably omitted to commander any burghers out of the towns; have, in fact, taken nothing but Dutch Afrikaners for the purpose of the present armed demonstration. Under the circumstances this must be looked upon as a boon, seeing that the British Government is mixed up in the quarrel. Still, if it came to war, the people could not long expect to be exempt. We must wholly coincide with President Brand, in his reply to Sir Henry Barkly, where he says that British subjects have no rights here with others; that they have never been molested; and that there never has been any intention exhibited to molest or maltreat them. In consequence we most earnestly hope that a way of escape will be found; and that both parties will yield a little for peace; and that the commando will speedily return home without firing a shot except at the numerous wildebeests and springbucks they will fall in with along the line of march.

The Diamond Fields.

The correspondent to the *Friend*, writing from Klipdrift on the 13th March says:—"The chief political talk here at present is regarding the great arbitration gathering at Bloemhof, to take place on the 4th of next month. What is to come of it none can tell, although many are the speculations by people on both sides of the river. The most judicious course for journalists—or at any rate, special correspondents—is to let Time tell its own tale.

The finds of the past week have been quite as large as those of any previous week for months past. The chief find was made by Spalding's party of King William's Town. They have throughout been successful, and a few days ago, at Cawood's Hope, bagged a most beautiful gem of 80 carats. To give you a fair idea of its beauty and value, I have only to mention that Mr Unger, the diamond merchant of this place, offered them £2000 for it. They declined to take it. The finding of this diamond is another instance of extraordinary luck. The party bought their claim on Friday week, made their cradle on the following Monday, and on the next Thursday secured their two thousand pounder. They refused to sell it in the Colony; they only sell in Europe, and fully expect £3000 instead of £2000.

The Standard Bank has received a very large number of stones to go home by the next mail. Amongst others, a very fine gem of 17½ carats. At Duitswaap, it is said, there have been a large number of finds within the last fortnight. That diamondiferous region has become the property of Mr. Hond, who gave £2000 for it.

There is no longer any difficulty about the spot where the 107½ carat diamond was found. It was found by a Coranna at a short distance from Hebron, and not upon Mr. Robinson's farm as was first stated. Of course this place is another new rush. There is a new rush also at about one mile on the other side of Gang-gong.

Incidents of the War.
(From the *European Times*.)

THE CONDITION OF PARIS BEFORE THE SURRENDER.

A correspondent writing on Feb 5, says:—"I have spoken to a gentleman who has just left Paris. He was allowed to pass, being an agent for procuring provisions. It was only in such a capacity persons were allowed to leave the city, and only as attached to supplies of food were allowed to go into Paris. The authorities wish to prevent a sudden rush home of Parisians. He gives, as might be expected, a terrible picture of the famished capital; the middle classes have suffered more than the rich and the poor, because they could not make up their minds to beg and scrounge for food. This gentleman brings with him a specimen of the bread which the Government divided in rations. It is very dark in colour, and composed of a variety of coarse farinaceous substance, as if it were of a refuse of beans and grain. We are told that Paris was tranquil, and all classes of society denouncing peace. 'Give us food and peace' was the universal demand. You met people in the streets pale and exhausted. You observed men and women sitting on the public seats of the boulevards watching for any passer by who might appear to be able to give money, or direct the starving to some quarter of the city where food could be obtained. Paris were told, did not surrender an hour too early, and Jules Favre implored the Emperor at Versailles to send in provisions before the terms of the armistice were fully agreed on, which he did. Most of the large trees in the grand avenue of the Champ Elysees are cut down; the want of fire-wood has obliged the cutting down of many of the ornamental trees of Paris in all directions; dissolution, dirt, and gloom are the characteristics of the highways of this once brilliant and gay capital. The garden of the Tuilleries is occupied by horseless vehicles which were used for bringing in the wounded. The once beautiful gardens of Imperial Paris are now a wreck. As far as I could learn, the shells which fell in Paris have not done much damage to the houses or public buildings. St. Cloud and St. Denis, however, are in ruins. The Prussians marched into the forts silently, and without any demonstrations of joy. The Paris garrison was breaking up and the men wandering about the streets, as if all discipline had ceased. The Parisians are described as perfectly indifferent about the National Assembly—the cry is 'Bread and peace.' This is a reproduction of the sad picture which besieged cities ever present where food fails—an exhaustion of nature. We must not learn

that disease and mental anxiety have swept away thousands; every family is in mourning, and Paris for a long time will remain politically dead, whatever may take place in the provinces."

MANIFESTO OF THE DUC D'AUMALE.

The following is the address of the Duc d'Aumale to the French electors, dated February 1:—"I think it my duty to give those who would still wish to elect me a member of the National Assembly some explanations requesting peace and war, and respecting the future constitution of the country. Having had no share in the acts which brought about the war, I am bound to stipulate for complete liberty of judgment on the first question. I am still more justified in so doing by the inaction which was imposed upon me when I claimed my right to fight for France. With regard to the second point, I am struck with the advantages offered by a constitutional monarchy. With filial pride I cannot help comparing the France of to-day with the France of my father. In my thoughts and sentiments I find nothing that should separate me from the Republic. If France desires a Republic, I am ready to bow before her sovereign will."

M. GAMBETTA AND THE POPULAR VOICE.

A correspondent, speaking of M. Gambetta and public opinion, says:—"The man must either deceive himself outrageously, or he must wish to deceive others. Why, in a railway carriage the other night, and in which there were about forty people present, I heard such conversations as this: among others:—'That Gambetta's cause of all this useless loss of life.' 'Yes says,' another, 'he thinks he will hook it when it becomes too hot for him; but he should not if I were anywhere near him.' 'Yes,' when one proposed a song to wile away the time, a voice suggested with a sneer the 'Marseillaise,' but that suggestion brought on a storm of groans and hisses. Nobody but the immediate creatures of Gambetta are for this present form of Government—i.e., M. Gambetta, Dictator. Nobody will stand that much longer. I am convinced; but I think there are not great multitudes for a Republic of any kind. There is not a single place which has not been filled by some unknown journalist, or some talking lawyer, whose only claim is that they have been waiting in anxious idleness and poverty for the day when they might 'divide the spoil between them.' This is the opinion of people in France. Ask any Frenchman: he will tell you what the country people think of the war and of M. Gambetta's Republic. They betray the French to the Prussians whenever they have a chance; and that is the case almost all over the seat of war."

GARIBALDI ON THE WAR.

Garibaldi, in a second general order, issued to his troops before evacuating Dijon, pays a warm tribute to the memory of the Polish General Boscak, who lost his life while conducting a reconnaissance on January 21. "This Leonidas of modern times," he says, "so beloved by all will in future be wanting to the democracy of the earth, to whose most ardent champions he belonged; he will be missed, above all, by his noble country. May the Republic adopt as their own family the children and widow of this hero!" He charges the Germans with having in their unsuccessful attack on Dijon beaten out the brains of some wounded prisoners, slaughtered physicians, and fired on surgeons and on soldiers belonging to the ambulances. A Franco-Turkish captain, he says, was bound hand and foot in the chateau of Ponsilly, and but alive, his body being afterwards discovered, almost entirely consumed except those portions where the fetters had been applied. "Black tools of tyranny," he continues, "your empire come, the empire of the funeral pile. Your favour's period, the Middle Ages, again appears, and your fallen hero of Sedan, with Satan's smile on his lips; you turn your viper's eyes to the new Emperor, sullied by blood and torture. The exasperation of the proud combatants of the Republic has risen to a pitch. I shall do my utmost to prevent them resorting to reprisals. I hope, however, that Europe and the whole world will recognise the upright and magnanimous conduct of the sons of the Republic, and will take note of the bestial demeanour and infamy of the soldiers of a despot."

A PAINFUL SIGHT.
The most painful scene during the battle before Paris on Jan 19, was the sight of a French soldier who fell by French balls. He was a private in the 119th Battalion, and refused to advance. His commander remonstrated. A private shot him. General Bellemare, who was near, ordered the man to be killed at once. A file was drawn up and fired on him; he fell, and was supposed to be dead. Some *brancardiers* soon afterwards passing by, and thinking that he had been wounded in the battle, placed him on a stretcher. It was then discovered that he was still alive. A soldier went up to him to finish him off, but his gun missed fire. He was then hand another, when he blew out the wretched man's brains.

The *Courrier*, a weekly paper published at Rennes, tells us on January 21 that we should not forget in these times of humiliation, of mourning, and of exaltation, it is just 77 years ago that one of the most virtuous and wise kings who have ever honoured the throne of France—a worthy son of St. Louis—perished on the scaffold, the victim of those men whose tyrannical they themselves bent down severely under the yoke of Napoleon the First. It goes on to ask why, after such a lesson, Frenchmen have, for the last half century, been carried away by every revolutionary wind that has blown by. The reason it gives is, that France had ignored its Christian mission. Seduced by false men of learning, by immoral and infidel literary men, like Rousseau and Voltaire, she has ever since been trying to build up a social edifice the basis of which was not respect for God and the Decalogue. The word of the Gospel had come to pass, the house which God had not built had crumbled into the sand, notwithstanding all the vain efforts of man,

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