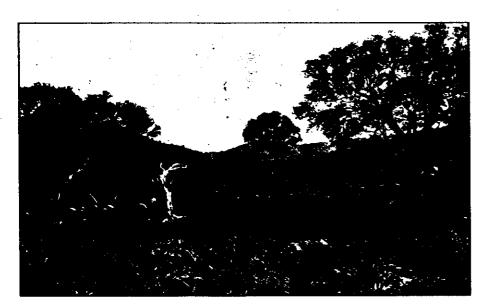


A SURVEYORS CAMP, WAIMAMAU VALLEY, HORIANGA, N.Z.



Teas. F. Hill, Amaleur, Auchland

NEW PLYMOUTH, N.Z.



NOONDAY

## **HOW THE (BOERS FIGHT.**

## THE STORY OF MAJUBA HILL RETOLD.

THATEVER may be the result of the storm clouds now lowering so darkly on the Trans-

vaal, whether they will blow over, or as seems more likely, herald a tempest that will deluge Europe and Africa in blood. Never again will a British force (authorised or unauthorised) suffer a defeat at the hands of the Boers. Twice have we been defeated, twice out-generaled, iwice beaten in every department of the game of war. The mistske must never again be made of underesti-mating the fighting powers of the Boers. For the peculiar style of warfare necessitated by geographical and climatic conditions of the country, the Boers manifestly excel. Cruel they may be, stupid and ignorantly pig-headed they undoubtedly are, but they can fight as we have learned to our cost. It was on the 5th of April in 1881 that the mail brought details to New Zealand of the terrible defeat asstained by General Colley. The account furnished of that engagement was most graphic, and as the story of the defeat cannot fail to be interesting now when Englishmen have again suffered a disastrons reverse at the same hands, it may well be here of that engagement, which, as will be seen, resemble the more recent defeat and disaster in several well-marked particulars. twice beaten in every department of the game of war.

The writer begins by describing how the hill came to be occupied by the British troops. He then continues : -- 'At sunrise the

BOERS WERE TO BE SEEN MOVING IN THEIR LINES. BORRS WERE TO BE SEEN MOVING IN THEIR LINES, but it was not until an hour later that a party of mounted vedettes were seen trotting out towards our hill, upon which they evidently intended to take their stand. As they approached our outjying pickets fired on them (fatal error ), and our position was for the first time dis-covered. They immediately turned their horses and galloped back to their larger, losing one man on the way (see illustration, page 54). The whole scene was now changed as if by magic. In the place of a few scattered figures, there appeared SWANK OF MEN BUSHING WITHER AND THEOREM

SWARMS OF MEN RUSHING HITHER AND THITHER. SWARMS OF MEN RUSHING HITHER AND THITHER. Some rushed to the horses, others to waggons, and the work of yoking oxen and preparing for instant retreat began. When the first panic had abated, it could be seen that some person in anthority had taken command. The greater portion of the Boer force began to advance to attack as, but the work of preparing for a retreat if necessity should arise still went on, and continued until the waggons were unspanned and ready to move away. Some indeed began to withdraw. At 7 o'clock the Boers opened fire, and bullets whistled thickly round our heads. The men were perfectly cool and confident. I do not think the possibility of the position being reversed occurred to anyone. From 7 to 11 o'clock the Boers continue d to keep up a steady fire. THEIR SHOOTING WAS WONDERFULLY ACCURATE

THEIR SHOOTING WAS WONDERFULLY ACCURATE. THEIR SHOOTING WAS WONDERFULLY ACCURATE. The stones behind which our men in front line were lying were hit every time. Opposed to such a deadly fire, there was no necessity to impress on the men to take an occasional sbot, so that, accurate as was the Boer marksmanship, up to 11 o'clock we had only had five casualties. Commander Rommily was dangerously wounded while standing close to General Colley. Twenty men under Lieutenaut Hamilton kept the point which was most threatened by the Boers.

SO FAR OUR POSITION SERMED PERFECTLY SAFE.

SO FAR OLE POSITION SERMED PERFECTLY SAFE. The Boers had indeed got between us and the camp, but we had three days' provisions, and could hold out till reinforcements came up. From 1t to 12 the fire from the enemy continued as fierce as ever, but between 12 and t it slackened, and it seemed as if the Boers were drawing off. This was, as we learned to our cost, not the case. They had, as was afterwards learned, merely retired to strongly reinforce the attacking party. Shortly before 10 clock terrible and destructive firing brokeout from the right lower slopes of the hill, the side on which firing had all along been the heaviest. A TREMENDOUS RUSH WAS SIMULTANEOUSLY MADE

A TREMENDOUS RUSH WAS SIMULTANEOUSLY MADE BY THE ENEMY.

BY THE ENERY. One advance line was at once almost wiped out, only a few men being driven back. Our whole force now lined up to repel the assailants at the point of the bayonet, From this time the band to hand battle was terrible in its ferocity and sanguinary results. The Boers, with shouts of triumph, swarmed up the sides of the hill and made continuous and gallant attempts to carry the posi-tion with a rush. Time after time they wore driven back with bayonet point, and time after time they rounded up and came on with renewed viralence and undimin-ished vigour. Their fring, which had nearly ceased during the *molec*, suddenly broke out with renewed violence and destructive effect, and OUK MEN FELL WITH SHOCKING RAFIDITY.

## OUR MEN FELL WITH SHOCKING RAPIDITY.

OUR MEN FELL WITH SHOCKING RAFIDITY. 'At last the end came. The Boers gathered on the edge the slope for one great rush at the bayonet point. They singled out a position where the number of defenders was smallest, and on they came. A wild burst and it was over. They had broken through the defenders, gained the basin, and our position was lost. The roar of firing, the whistling of builets, the shouts of the enemy made up a din which seemed infernal. All about men were failing.

THERE WAS NO RESISTANCE; IT WAS FLIGHT FOR LIFE.

LIFR. At this moment I was knocked down by the rush and trampled on, and when I came to my senses the Boers were firing over me at the retreating troops, who were moving down the river. Trying to rise, I was taken prisoner and led away. As to the complete-ness of their victory there can be no question. By sheer bravery and fighting they carried a position considered by their own General to be impregnable."