

money and the necessary lethal weapons upon arrival within the borders of the Transvaal. As the British Government has been informed of the formation of this awe-inspiring legion, it is possible that the Krugerites will never reach their proposed destination. It is eminently satisfactory to note that *Le Debats*, the leading Parisian journal, has deprecated the attacks made by a certain section of the French Press upon Queen Victoria and the British empire. It is quite time that some such stricture on the dastardly and objectionable attacks was passed, and this semi-official denouncement should do a great deal to smooth the feelings of those who have felt that France was degrading herself by allowing the use of the insulting language referred to.

THE SOUDAN.

THE victory of the Egyptian Army, under Sir Francis Wingate, over the Dervishes, led by the Khalifa, at Gelid, on the Blue Nile, should result in the complete tranquilizing of the Soudan. The battle was decisive in character, for the Khalifa Abdallah was killed, in company with hundreds of his fanatical followers, and many thousands of prisoners were taken. That wary old agitator and capable soldier, Osman Digna, escaped once more, but his forces are so depleted and broken up that he cannot long be a cause of trouble. He will find it very hard to rally the tribes again, and still more difficult to invest them with the belief that he can defeat the British-led Egyptians. Even the Soudanese, who know no fear, have come to the conclusion that it is of no use to fight against the British soldier. The latter always wins in the long run, and Dervishes are, after all, only human. This last crushing defeat should convince them that under no leader can they prevail. So confident is the Government about the future that they have declared the Soudan to be open to trade.

THE TRANSVAAL.

DURING the past month Britain's war with the Boers has almost monopolised attention. The arrival of General Sir Redvers Buller, his assistant generals, and his staff, and the steady stream of British reinforcements travelling to South Africa has allayed the feeling of insecurity that was apparent shortly after the outbreak of hostilities. General Buller has now a sufficient force at his command to effectually carry out his plan of campaign, and though some time may elapse before President Kruger sees the wisdom of submitting to the inevitable, the end of the war can be predicted with certainty. There must be more hardily-won battles, with more terrible loss of life, before the fighting farmers of the Transvaal are finally subjected. That they must be overwhelmingly defeated in the end has always been perfectly clear. The safety of Kimberley may be regarded with a great degree of assurance, for General Lord Methuen, who is marching to the relief of the beleaguered garrison, is already in heliographic communication with the besieged inhabitants, after defeating the enemy at Belmont. The Boers, however, hold the Modder Bridge, and should they determine to destroy this only means of crossing the Modder River, there may be some difficulty in relieving Kimberley with despatch. At this season the river is bound to be in flood, and the Boers could undoubtedly make the task of the attacking army a hazardous and dangerous one if they should decide to do away with the bridge. In Natal, the British troops are now very strong. Lieutenant-General Clery is moving towards Ladysmith with a force of ten thousand men. He marches *via* Colenso, and should he encounter General Joubert's army, he will have the assistance of Major-General Hildyard's army corps. The New South Wales Lancers have been the first of the Colonial troops to cross swords with the enemy, and in the engagement at Grass Pan, near Belmont, a detachment did excellent work in charging the retreating Boers. A portion of the New Zealand contingent has started for De Aar.