

THE SCOTTISH PEOPLE AND THE WAR.

The glamour of the so-called 'glorious war' (says the Edinburgh correspondent of the *Otago Daily Times*) has now departed from the fierce struggle going on in South Africa, and while there is no faltering in the resolution to carry it on to the end, the Scottish people generally would be profoundly thankful if a righteous and lasting peace could be established. The losses of Scottish troops have been exceptionally great, owing to some of the hardest fighting having fallen to their lot. The death at Magersfontein of General Wauchope, who commanded the Highland Brigade, has called forth special lamentation. References were made to him in hundreds of pulpits, and in Midlothian in particular, where he was best known, and therefore most beloved, the mourning was fully compared by an Edinburgh preacher to that which followed the Scottish disaster on Flodden field.

ADVICE THAT WAS NOT TAKEN.

Says the *Leeds Mercury*: General Butler will be the subject of a character-sketch in the new number of the *Review of Reviews*, which will be specially interesting on account of the revelations it contains proving that the Government was repeatedly and emphatically warned as to the nature of the Boer armaments, their extent, and the gigantic nature of the war upon which Mr. Chamberlain and his colleagues have embarked without any adequate preparation. No one did more to warn her Majesty's ministers than the late Commander-in-Chief in South Africa, whose advice was flouted by those in authority, and with what disastrous results we now know only too well. Among the things mentioned in the forthcoming article in the *Review of Reviews* is the interesting fact that whilst Sir William Butler maintained that preparations should be made for the despatch of 100,000 men to South Africa, Mr. Chamberlain believed that 10,000 British troops would be sufficient to bring Mr. Kruger to his knees. The counsel of the brave Irish general, who knew the situation thoroughly, was set aside. The view of the Colonial Secretary and Sir Alfred Milner prevailed, and it is to be hoped these two eminent statesmen appreciate the consequence of their superior knowledge and wisdom.

PREPARING FOR DEATH.

A war correspondent of a London paper, the *Morning Leader*, visited the battlefield of Nicholson's Nek under the guidance of two Boers. The British dead were still lying unburied, and in one small area he counted 30 dead bodies. He says: 'By the side of each man was a heap of expended ammunition, showing that he had not given in without firing a shot. By the side of each man, too, were the remnants of an unfinished meal. By the side of one poor fellow of the Irish Fusiliers I picked up several pages of a 'Preparation for Confession.' Most of the relics of this battlefield were so sad that I could not touch them, but as the Boer would say it was 'not sacrilege' when we divided those pages between Mr. Macpherson, a Catholic Boer who had joined us, and myself.' The thought of this poor Irish Catholic soldier, wounded to death, and while lying untended during the long hours his life was ebbing away, devoting his last thoughts to a devout preparation for death, is one which will touch a responsive chord in every Catholic heart. We may be sure that those few pages carefully treasured during the weary night march and the many hours of battle brought consolation and relief to the gallant soldier's heart when earthly aid had failed him. 'May God rest his soul!' will be the prayer of all fellow-Catholics who read the account of the manner in which this brave soldier prepared to meet the death he had met in the service of his country.

A REMINISCENCE.

The Lord Chief Justice of Ireland, Sir Peter O'Brien, writing to a Dublin paper, says:—The great valour exhibited by the Royal Dublin Fusiliers when storming Talana Hill at the recent battle at Glencoe in Natal recalls one of the most striking passages in Napier's *History of the Peninsula War*. At Albuera, as well as at Glencoe, there was a hill which was the key of the position. The brigade of Fusiliers, which formed part of the British Army at Albuera, was led up this hill by General Cole in person. Describing the most critical stage of the battle, when victory and, indeed, the fate of the British forces in the Peninsula, hung in the balance, Sir William Napier says: 'Myers was killed; Cole and the three colonels, Ellis, Blackenen, and Hawkshawe, fell wounded, and the Fusilier battalions, struck by the iron tempest, reeled and staggered like sinking ships. Suddenly and sternly recovering, they closed on their terrible enemies, and then was seen with what strength and majesty the British soldier fights. In vain did Soulé by voice and gesture animate his Frenchmen; in vain did the hardiest veterans, extricating themselves from the crowded columns, sacrifice their lives to gain time for the mass to open out on such a fair field. In vain did the mass itself bear up, and, fiercely striving, fire indiscriminately on friends and foes, while horsemen hovering on the flank threatened to charge the advancing line. Nothing could stop that astonishing infantry. No enthusiasm weakened the stability of their order. Their flashing eyes were bent upon the dark columns in their front, their deafening shouts overpowered the dissonant cries that broke from all parts of the tumultuous crowd as foot by foot and with a horrid carnage it was driven by the incessant vigour of attack to the furthest edge of the hill. In vain did French reserves, joining with the struggling multitude, endeavour to sustain the fight; their efforts only increased irremediable confusion, and the mighty mass, giving way like a loosened cliff, went headlong down the ascent. The rain flowed after in streams discoloured with blood, and 1500 unwounded men, the remnant of 6000 unconquerable British soldiers, stood triumphant on the fatal hill.' Such was the spirit of the Fusiliers in the days of the Peninsula War. I think you will agree with me that that intrepid spirit still lives on. Every British subject, no matter where he may be, all the world over, must feel proud of those gallant soldiers who stood triumphant on Talana Hill.—Sir Peter O'Brien enclosed a cheque for £21 for the fund opened by the *Irish Times*.

WHAT WILL THE REGULARS THINK OF IT?

An Army Order issued on January 11 states that the Queen has been graciously pleased to approve of the Princess Victoria's Royal Irish Fusiliers being permitted to adopt and inscribe on its colours the motto, 'Faugh-a-Ballagh.' The Royal Irish Fusiliers are a militia regiment, and must not be confused with the Royal Irish Rifles, whose watchword is also 'Faugh-a-Ballagh.' When the Rifles were surrounded and in sore straits at Nicholson's Nek the pass-word went round, 'Faugh-a-Ballagh, fix bayonets, and die like men,' and the surrender was not their fault.

A REMARKABLE COINCIDENCE.

A solemn Requiem Mass was celebrated at the Brompton Oratory, London, on Tuesday morning, January 16, for the repose of the souls of the soldiers and sailors who had fallen in the Transvaal war. The Mass was a large congregation, all in mourning attire. Cardinal Vaughan, who was attended by Fathers Morris and Best, occupied the archiepiscopal throne, and assisted pontifically. A catafalque arranged under the dome of the church was covered by the velvet and gold pall used on such occasions, this being in turn covered by the Union Jack. Around the catafalque were six lighted tapers. An interesting feature of the service was to be found in the fact that the celebrant, Father Sebastian Bowden, the deacon, Father Corry, and the sub-deacon, Father Hoole, were each of them officers in the army before they took Holy Orders. The service was of a peculiarly solemn and impressive character, and at its conclusion a collection was made for the widows' and orphans' fund. In all the London Catholic churches on the preceding Sunday the *Miserere* and *De Profundis* were recited after each Mass for those who have fallen in battle.

THE LIVERPOOL IRISH VOLUNTEERS AND THE WAR.

The 5th Irish Volunteer Battalion of the King's Liverpool Regiment (says the *Liverpool Daily Post*) having been selected to furnish a company for service in South Africa, Lieut.-Colonel R. Carruthers, the commanding officer, ordered a special parade of the members to take place at the headquarters of the corps, Everton. The members of the regiment turned up in considerable numbers, and an open-air meeting, which was held in the parade ground, was most enthusiastic, the band of the regiment, under the direction of Mr. Farrell, playing a number of patriotic tunes. Among the officers present were Colonel R. Carruthers, Major Emmett, Captain and Acting-Major M. E. Byrne, Captains Taylor, Ruddin, Morrow, and Warwick-Williams; Lieutenants H. E. Morrow, A. E. Pollexfen, J. A. Cooney, J. Goffey, E. E. Simpson, and J. H. Grindley; Second-Lieutenant Woodville, Captain and Adjutant R. N. S. Lewin, Surgeon-Captain J. J. O'Hagan, Lieutenant and Quartermaster T. A. Blake, and the Right Rev. Mgr. Nugent (hon. chaplain).

Colonel Carruthers said that the 5th Irish Volunteer Battalion was one out of two regiments in the whole of the United Kingdom which had been asked to send a whole company to the front. Up till the present 180 names had been received from members who were willing to go out. Three of the officers had volunteered for active service, Captain T. Warwick-Williams, Lieutenant J. H. Grindley, and Lieutenant J. A. Goffey. Having announced the conditions of service and rates of pay, Colonel Carruthers added that they all felt the honour which had been bestowed upon them. He felt sure that the 5th Irish would not disgrace themselves. They would send a whole company to the front on that occasion.

Captain and Adjutant R. N. S. Lewin said that if it was necessary they could raise a second and even a third company for active service. The 5th Irish Brigade had been specially honoured in being called upon to provide a full company inasmuch as other Volunteer battalions, with one exception, were only allowed to send out about twenty men each. He was sure the men who went out from that corps would notably do their duty.

The Right Rev. Mgr. Nugent, who was loudly cheered, said that as the oldest officer connected with the corps, he felt more than usually pleased in being present that evening. He rejoiced to have stood firm to that corps through a long life. The work which they were now called upon to do was such as would reflect credit upon every man who had in any way been connected with the regiment. They were called upon to show their patriotism, and the interest that they took in their country. Whenever their people had been called upon they had answered. They had answered and acted with heroism and undaunted bravery, and, when occasion required, at the sacrifice of their lives. He trusted that the 5th Irish would not be satisfied with sending out one company. They had a large number of brave and earnest men, and he was convinced there would be no difficulty in forming a second company. He trusted that the men who went forward would remember that they had not only the honour of their country to maintain, but the honour of their race. The record of the Irishmen during this recent struggle had been as true and as honourable as it had been in the past. He would encourage them most earnestly to make up a second company, and show that the corps had amongst them a number of sterling men who were true to their walk in life, a credit to the corps itself, and to the country from which they sprang. Let the banner which was unfurled bear the words 'Temperance and Sobriety,' and they would show to their fellow citizens in Liverpool, whose honour they were going to defend, that they were true to its best interests. The company going out must have a good send-off, not only a military one, but he thought they must have some religious celebration as well. He would address them on another occasion, and say something much more encouraging to them. He wished God speed.

Colonel Carruthers announced that the corps would insure the lives of the married men who went out for £100.

At the close of the speeches the band played a popular Irish air, the members raising loud cheers.