CURRENT OPINION.

THE RELIEF OF KIMBERLEY.

The *Daily Chronicle* writes: Lord Roberts has won the first tactical victory for the British arms since the war began. This means, we hope, that a period has been put to "unhappy entanglements," and that the main army is at last in a position to make the Boers feel both its numbers and its strategy. Once launched on his enterprise General French has lost not a moment. His forced march in the terrible heat of Tuesday was the inspiration of the born cavalry leader. The Boers must have understood in a general way what might happen, but they do not appear to have reckoned fully with the vigour and dash of their antagonist. By carrying off his main body north of Kimberley, Cronje seems to have extricated himself just in time from an extremely awkward situation. Lord Roberts must be disappointed that the Boer commander did not stand the test of a pitched battle, but the conditions were not sufficiently inviting from Cronje's point of view. If, for the moment, he has escaped altogether, he may have breathing time while Lord Roberts is engaged upon the necessary task of dealing with the needs of the large civil population at Kimberley. The relief of the town after so prolonged a seige is no child's play for the administrator who may have to provide for the transit of many of the inhabitants to the south.

The *Daily Telegraph* says: It is a splendid and happy first fruit of the strategy of our Field-Marshal. Genius will assert itself, and the marks of true military genius are evident alike in the conception and execution of the new plans which are already altering the face of the campaign. . . In a word the outlook is better and brighter all over the scene of warfare, and we shall soon begin to remember how really strong England is, and how little cause there ever was to be doubtful about the issue of the conflict. The time is not far distant when we shall look back upon the wonderful things which have been done by the country, the Government, the Generals, and the soldiers, and shall have the praise and envy of the whole world for the qualities displayed in the war. With ample strength—and ample strength must and will be given to him—Lord Roberts will carry this second part of the campaign to its natural and necessary military conclusion. Meantime, can we thank and applaud too much those splendid soldiers who, on the various fields of the war, have so faithfully done their duty, and turned disaster into glory? Can we be too proud of the leaders and officers who have never spared themselves, and at whose valour even their foes marvel? If, as we believe and hope, the relief of Kimberley and the flight of Cronje from Magersfontein are the beginning of the victorious and the happy end, then we shall see what blessings come forth from evil, and how a nation like ours emerges stronger, safer, nobler, and more united from a stern ordeal like the present.

The *Daily News* remarks: The relief of Kimberley is in itself an important result. How important we can best realise by considering what would have been said and thought if Kimberley had fallen. The capture of the Diamond City by the Boers, especially if Mr. Rhodes had been among the prisoners, would have been a cause of great rejoicing among the enemy and to their well-wishers. Nor would the gain have been merely sentimental. The enemy would have become master of a fresh source of wealth, and the moral effect of their victory throughout South Africa would have been very great. From these consequences Lord Roberts has saved us. For this relief, then, the warmest thanks of the Empire are due to Lord Roberts and to General French, who has so ably carried out the task assigned to him. The question remains, whether the relief of Kimberley will be followed by the defeat of the enemy in the field, by the dispersal of his army as an effective force, by the capture of his guns? This is quite a different matter, and we have few data for forming any good opinion on the probabilities of the case.

The *Standard* observes: So swift and striking a change has seldom been recorded in the annals of warfare. The rapidity of Lord Roberts's tactics is as remarkable as their success. The history of a whole campaign seems crowded into less than a week. . . The long agony of the beleaguered town is over. There is no more fear for the Diamond Mines, no more alarm for the life of Mr. Rhodes, no more diet of horse-flesh, no more terror of Boer shells. From Alexandersfontein to Olifantsfontein the besiegers melted away before the hoofs of French's chargers, and the ground lately covered by the investing lines is now guarded by our vedettes. The Boer laager, the depôt of stores, and their supply of ammunition are in our hands. It was evidently a *sauve qui peut*, and it is not yet over; for Lord Roberts telegraphs that General French, unresting and indefatigable, was scouring the country northward in pursuit of the flying enemy. No wonder Kimberley feels "cheerful and well." So do Lord Roberts's countrymen at home—more cheerful than they have been for some weeks past.

The *Daily Mail* has the following: At length, after about four months of defeats and reverses, the pall of gloom which has shrouded the war in South Africa has been lifted. To-day the nation has the first really satisfactory news which has reached it since the victory of Eland Laagte in the latter half of October. So long is it since we we have had to acclaim substantial success that now the note of triumph seems strangely unfamiliar. Yet there can this time be no doubt that the British Army has achieved something upon which we may legitimately congratulate both it and ourselves. . . . In this hour of success we hope that there will be no remission, but rather increase, of effort to provide a large and well-organised reserve at home upon which Lord Roberts may draw for men, should more be required. It is most satisfactory to see that at last the Reserve Fleet is to be assembled, and not before it was time. This is a measure for which we have earnestly pleaded; Lord Rosebery's speech may have been the determining cause. In that case he did not speak in vain, and the nation may well be grateful to him for his bold and strenuous effort to stimulate the Government to the doing of its duty.

The *Morning Herald* makes this comment: For ourselves the lesson of the brilliant movements of the past few days is that before all else mobility is essential to success. Of the lessons of the war as a whole people will not be inclined to think too deeply to-day, but it must be understood that after the holiday comes the return to study. The Government cannot depend upon complacent support in all weathers from its own party organs. The nation demands vigorous action, and vigorous action it will have.

The *Morning Leader* says: To Lord Roberts and General French belongs the credit of having demonstrated the results that can be achieved by scientific strategy backed by adequate numerical force. The victory is not less but greater because it attains its end without paying a terrible price. Perhaps it is too early to speak with confidence as to the precise significance of the success that has been attained. We shall indeed neglect the lesson of previous and bitter experience if we show any undue haste to magnify the importance of a victory at a given point. But if, as seems pretty certain, the Boer forces on the West have been dispersed and are in flight, a long step has been taken towards the attainment of the first object of the campaign—namely, the expulsion of the enemy from the territory of our colonies. Those of us who, from the first have regarded the war as avoidable and therefore unjust must earnestly hope that this goal will be speedily reached.

The *Daily Graphic* has the following: The relief of Kimberley is a fact which means the complete breakdown of the Boers on the Western frontier, and no other interpretation can be placed upon it. That all is now plain sailing before Lord Roberts we do not pretend. There is good reason to fear that his success is not as complete as could be wished, for General Cronje's army is still a force "in being," and until it is crushed, or at any rate the direction of its retreat ascertained, our anxieties are not altogether at an end. Wherever it is, however, it cannot cause us very serious trepidation. Small and weak in comparison with General Roberts's splendid army, hampered, too, by the big guns it is dragging away from Magersfontein, its resistance, when once it is found, cannot be formidable.

THE WAR.

RELIEF OF KIMBERLEY.

GENERAL FRENCH'S BRILLIANT MARCH.

Flight of the Enemy.

On Friday morning the War Office published the following important official dispatch from Lord Roberts announcing the relief of Kimberley:

"Jacobsdal, Feb. 16 (2 a.m.).—French, with horse artillery, cavalry, and mounted infantry, reached Kimberley this evening (Thursday)."

Nothing further was forthcoming until the evening, when the subjoined additional dispatches from Lord Roberts were issued in quick succession:

"Modder River, Feb. 16.—The Sixth Division left Waterval Drift early yesterday morning, and marched here,* going on same evening to Rondeval Drift, to hold the crossing of the Modder River and leave French free to act. Shortly, after arriving here* the Mounted Infantry visited Jacobsdal, and found it full of women and children, with four of our wounded men doing well. On the way back the Mounted Infantry were attacked—nine men wounded, Lieutenant-Colonel Henry, Major Hatchell, and 10 men missing. The two officers were subsequently found at Jacobsdal, slightly wounded. The Cavalry Division is moving in a northern direction, and has apparently already reduced the pressure on Kimberley, as Kekewich signals that the enemy has abandoned Alexandersfontein, and that he has occupied it. French has advanced as far as Abonsdam, with slight loss, and is pushing on, the posts in his rear being held by Mounted Infantry. Clements having been pressed by large numbers has retired on Arundel to cover Naauwpoort. I have heard from Baden-Powell at Mafeking, through Plumer, that on January 25 enemy shelled the convent, used as a convalescent hospital, with 94-pounder guns. Lady Sarah Wilson was slightly wounded. Enemy next day deliberately shelled women's laager with siege guns. No casualties." *This probably refers to some place other than Modder River Station, on the line of Lord Roberts's advance.

"Jacobsdal, February 16.—Following telegram received this morning from French: 'Have completely dispersed enemy from southern side of Kimberley from Alexandersfontein to Oliphantsfontein, and now (going) to occupy their ground. Have captured enemy's laager and store depôt of supplies, and supplies of ammunition. Following casualties reported: About 20 of all ranks wounded. Kimberley cheerful and well.'"

"Jacobsdal, February 16, 1900.—I have good reason for belief that the Magersfontein trenches have been abandoned, and that the Boers are endeavouring to escape. French is scouring the country to the north of Kimberley. One of Kenny's brigades of infantry is in pursuit of a very large Boer convoy moving towards Bloemfontein."

"Jacobsdal, February 16 (7.45 p.m.).—Much gratified on arrival here to find admirable hospital arrangements made by German ambulance, under Drs. Kaettner and Hildebrand, who, with their staff, have shown the greatest kindness to our wounded, as they have to Boer wounded. Some of our wounded have been here since December, and some were brought in yesterday. I have inspected the hospital and am much gratified with what I have seen. There are two officers and about 35 of our wounded here."

Story of the Advance.

A dispatch from Jacobsdal of February 15 gives the following information: "Events during the last three days have followed each other quickly. General Roberts's force has been put to a severe test, and has answered gallantly. Heavy marching has been the order of the day. The great heat has been succeeded by rain and cold winds. To-day we hold Jacobsdal. The Boers early in the morning occupied the town, but our artillery soon cleared them out. The enemy, in order to escape, were obliged to pass over a ridge where they afforded a splendid mark for our guns, which poured a shower of accurately-directed shrapnel upon them in rapid succession. General French again continued his march, advancing rapidly. The movement apparently nonplussed the enemy, and as soon as the drifts had been occupied the division, which had meanwhile been strengthened, pushed forward towards Kimberley. Here it was found that the beleaguering Boers had deserted their position at Alexandersfontein, thus allowing the garrison to occupy it and entrench themselves, so that at any moment our entrance into Kimberley is now possible. It is impossible to do adequate justice either to the conception of Lord Roberts's movement, or to the manner in which it has been executed. It is still too early to give full details, but the army has responded magnificently to the strain which was necessarily put upon it. When the public know all the details they will be proud of the army and of its commander."

A subsequent dispatch from the same place says: "Yesterday a small cavalry patrol entered Jacobsdal, which they found full of wounded, including several of ours from Rensburg. The Boers sent back a patrol and occupied the town in small force. A series of slight skirmishes ensued. To-day a battery of artillery shelled the environs and drove out the Boers. Jacobsdal is now in our possession. Early in the morning a convoy of 200 waggons was attacked on Riet River by a large force of Boers from Colesberg with ten guns, which shelled the convoy vigorously, doing some damage; but news has just been received that it is hoped to bring the whole convoy into camp immediately the Boers have been driven away from the drift. Strong reinforcements are now being dispatched from here, including artillery. General French's division has seized three drifts on the Modder. At the third drift the Boers were fairly strongly entrenched, but General French bombarded them and drove them out. To-day he moved rapidly towards Kimberley. The Boers have left Alexandersfontein, which is now occupied by the garrison. Lord Roberts is in excellent health and spirits. Rapid marching and the unavoidable hardships of the advance appear to agree with the whole army, which is in splendid spirits, and is greatly cheered and encouraged by the presence and leadership of the commander-in-chief."

C.I.V. in Action.

The Lord Mayor of London has received the following telegram from Lord Roberts, dated Jacobsdal, Friday 16th Feb., 1.15 p.m.: "The City of London Imperial Volunteers came under fire for first time yesterday under Colonel Cholmondeley at Jacobsdal and behaved most gallantly."

Queen and the News.

The official telegram announcing the relief of Kimberley was received by the Queen at Osborne. The welcome news spread very quickly through the Palace, and was received on all hands with the utmost enthusiasm and thankfulness.

Reception of the News in London.

There were few people at the War Office when the announcement was made. There were enthusiastic scenes as the copies of Lord Roberts's dispatch were read out to the continually increasing crowd of callers. Everyone connected with the War Office appeared to share in the general satisfaction. The news, though published at an early hour, created unwonted excitement in the West-end clubs. The utmost satisfaction was expressed. The welcome tidings were posted outside the Mansion House, and a large crowd which gathered loudly cheered. The Lord Mayor expressed great satisfaction, and said it was the beginning of the end. The news was received at the Stock Exchange about six minutes past 10 o'clock, and was at once posted up. When the nature of the news was mastered the few members who were present raised a rousing cheer, and flew out of the building to their respective offices.

A singular scene was witnessed at Liverpool Assizes. During the hearing of a case of alleged attempted murder. Mr. Justice Grantham turned to the jury and said they would be pleased to hear of the relief of Kimberley. The jury applauded the announcement vigorously, and when the full meaning of his lordship's words were understood throughout the court there was loud cheering from all, no attempt being made to suppress the demonstration.

RENSBURG ABANDONED.

British Retire to Arundel.

The War Office has issued the following dispatch from Lord Roberts:

"Modder River, February 16.—Clements having been hard pressed by large numbers has retired on Arundel to cover Naauwpoort."

DEATH OF COLONEL EAGER.

It is reported from Sterkstroom that Colonel Eager, of the Royal Irish Rifles, who was wounded at Stormberg (and whose release had been promised by President Steyn) died at Burghersdorp. The Boers brought the body to within a few miles of Molteno, whence it was conveyed by British troops to Sterkstroom. The remains were interred with full military honours, all branches of the service being represented, and the ceremony was most impressive.

FRENCH'S VICTORIOUS MARCH.

Cronje Cornered.

The following additional dispatch has been received from Lord Roberts: "Jacobsdal, Feb. 17, 5.50 a.m.—Kelly-Kenny's Brigade captured yesterday 78 waggons laden with stores, two waggons with Mauser rifles, eight boxes full of shells, 10 barrels explosives, and large quantity of stores—all belonging to Cronje's laager, which was still being shelled by our artillery when Lord Kitchener dispatched the messenger."

How About That Convoy?

A dispatch from Jacobsdal of February 16 says: "General French entered Kimberley yesterday. The Boers have captured a large convoy on Riet River. General Cronje, with 10,000 men, is in full retreat towards Bloemfontein, pursued by General Kelly-Kenny."

Occupation of Magersfontein.

It is reported from Jacobsdal under date of February 17: "General Kelly-Kenny has now captured over 100 waggons. He has been reinforced by the Highland Brigade. The Guards' Brigade is encamped on the enemy's former position at Magersfontein. General French has left Kimberley to co-operate in the pursuit."

It is reported that on February 17 the Guards' Brigade, under General Pole Carew, advanced to Magersfontein and found the trenches deserted. They occupied the kopjes and found the position most formidably fortified, there being rows of great trenches through which large bodies of men might march under cover, and tiers of wire fences hung with tins so that the slightest touch might warn them of the approach of the enemy. The kopje was left in the greatest disorder. The Boers had apparently left in a great hurry, as dinner was found prepared and untouched. Cases of tinned fruit and food, new khaki clothes, boots, some small ammunition, and a handful of rifles were found by the British on the kopje. The kopje shows the effect of British shells. Great holes were found, and the whole place has been peppered and covered with splintered rock. In places on our way the effluvia were very bad, being due to dead horses and to the buried dead.

Cronje at Bay.

Owing to the fatigue of his oxen (says a statement from Jacobsdal) Cronje was obliged to outspan and form a laager with his uncaptured waggons. When the report was dispatched at a quarter to 7 this evening (Feb. 16) our artillery was vigorously shelling Cronje's laager.

Highlanders Join in the Chase.

The Highland Brigade last night (says a dispatch of Feb. 17) made a forced march from here, and arriving to-day at General Kelly-Kenny's headquarters, joined in the pursuit. General French left Kimberley, moving rapidly in order to complete the interruption of the Boers who are in full retreat. He is harrassing them terribly. According to Dutch reports received here (Jacobsdal) General French twice charged home through the retreating Boers to the north-west of Kimberley."

"Well Done, C.I.V."

On the receipt at the London Mansion House of Lord Robert's cable announcing the engagement at Jacobsdal, in which the City of London Imperial Volunteers took such an important part, the Lord Mayor promptly telegraphed to Colonel Cholmondeley at Jacobsdal:—"Well done, City Imperials." A cable received by the Lord Mayor from Cape Town on Sunday stated that the City Imperial mounted men drove the Boers out of Jacobsdal, and further announces that a strong section of the City Regiment, with their commandant, Colonel Mackinnon, was to leave Cape Town for the front on Tuesday, accompanied by Mr. Newton, hon. sec. of the C.I.V. in South Africa, and Mr. Watson, a member of the Equipment Committee.

French and Kekewich Promoted.

The Queen has approved of the promotion of Colonel (and local Lieut.-General) French to be Major-General, and of Lieut.-Colonel Kekewich to be Colonel, for services in connection with the defence and relief of Kimberley.

FIGHTING AT DORDRECHT.

Bayonet Charge at Night.

From Sterkstroom Camp comes the following under date of Feb. 17: "Yesterday morning the Colonial Division of this Column, under the command of Brigadier-General Brabant, advanced upon Dordrecht. Our men met the enemy about three miles west of the town. They were entrenched upon a line of hills and opened fire as we advanced. The Colonials took up a position upon a line of hills running parallel to the enemy's ridge, and distant about 1,400 yards. Rifle fire was maintained from these relative positions the entire day, but without much result. It was impossible to shift the enemy with rifle fire. At sundown the firing ceased on both sides. Then General Brabant decided upon a night attack. There was to be no firing. When the night had well advanced the Colonials set out. They reached the Boer lines without mishap, and then rushed in with the bayonet. Such of the enemy who escaped the first onslaught fled without offering much resistance. They fled to the Boer main laager, a strong position on the rugged hills to the north-west of the town. We now hold the enemy's position. Our losses in the fight are eight men killed and seven wounded. During the fight of Friday General Brabant sent Colonel Dalgety to Bird's River Camp asking the co-operation of the Cape Mounted Rifles. The troopers when they came to us rode right through the town of Dordrecht without any interference from the enemy. It was not, however, deemed expedient then to occupy the town. The Boers have a good Krupp gun in position at their main laager. The only guns we now have in camp here are two 15-pounders."

Two Officer Killed.

From Bird's River Camp it is said that the British loss was 16, including eight killed, among the latter being Captain Crellan and Lieutenant Chandler.

Reconnaissance from Arundel.

Lieutenant-Colonel Page-Henderson with four field guns and a detachment of Inniskilling Dragoons and Australians, reconnoitred towards Kulfontein to the west of Rensburg to-day (says an Arundel dispatch of Feb. 17). He found the enemy occupying the hills to the south-west of Kulfontein in force and also holding Vaal Kop. Though the Boers opened a terrible fire from two Vickers-Maxims the British returned without loss.

Boers Advance on Molteno.

The Boers commenced an advance upon our positions at Molteno this morning (states a Sterkstroom telegram of Feb. 17). They had some guns with them, and opened fire upon our pickets. Some parties of the enemy, coming nearer, sent a number of rifle shots into the town.

Wiltshires Cut Off.

A *Times* telegram from Arundel states that two companies of the Wiltshire Regiment on outpost duty failed to join the force before retirement, and, their absence not being noticed on parade, were eventually cut off. A portion have arrived at Arundel, but some undoubtedly have been captured by the enemy.

BOERS RETREATING FROM NATAL.

General Buller Adopts Offensive Tactics.

It is currently rumoured here (says a statement from Durban of February 17) that General Buller's forces have reoccupied Vaal Krantz, the Boers having retreated in the direction of the Free State. Ambulance trains continue to arrive here from the front bringing down wounded officers and men. All have been comfortably berthed on board the various hospital ships, of which there are now four in port. The Boers appear to be nervous and uncertain, and they have stayed their advance.

From Frere Camp comes the following, dated February 17: "It is confirmed that the Boers are falling back. Several of their laagers have been abandoned. General Buller has restarted a heavy cannonade, but without eliciting a reply. Another crossing of the Tugela can, it is believed, now be made with very little cost. A forward move immediately is believed certain."

Under date of February 18 the following comes from Chieveley Camp: "A force of cavalry under Lord Dundonald set out for Hussar Hill. The enemy started to creep up the dongas, but Colonel Thorneycroft prevented them. The hill was occupied immediately by our force. The Boers were heavily entrenched on Hlangwane and Monte Christo Hills. A howitzer battery prevented reinforcements from reaching Hlangwane Hill."

ATTEMPT TO BLOW UP A RAILWAY.

From Paarl comes this statement: "Two charges of dynamite were found on the line between Paarl and Ladygrey last night by an engine driver. One exploded but did no damage."

THE MILITIA VOLUNTEERS.

Allegations of Coercion.

Mr. P. O'Brien put a question in the House of Commons as to whether Militia regiments which came to England were asked to volunteer for the front, and whether they might be asked whether they were free agents or not.

Colonel Saunderson asked whether the member for Kilkenny was reported to have advised Irish soldiers in Africa to shoot their English comrades and join the Boers—(loud cries of dissent)—and, if so—

The Speaker: Order, order.

Mr. Wyndham assured Mr. O'Brien that it would be quite contrary to military discipline to allow any hon. member to ask his constituents in the Militia the questions suggested.

An hon. member stated that he had himself received a letter from friends of Militiamen saying they had been coerced.

Mr. Wyndham: We have no information to that effect.

Mr. P. O'Brien: I beg to give notice that if the Kilkenny Militia come into this country——

The Speaker: Order, order. This is not the time for giving notice.

Mr. P. O'Brien asked Mr. Wyndham to state the circumstances under which the Colonel of the 3rd Royal Munster Fusiliers (Militia), now stationed at Dover, en route for South Africa, had been asked if they were willing to volunteer for the front.

Mr. Wyndham: I cannot distinguish between this question and the previous one (hear, hear). There is no information at the War Office. Strict orders have been given that no pressure is to be exercised, and the Secretary of State is not disposed to interfere with the commanding officers who, in his opinion, are doing their duty (Ministerial cheers).

Mr. P. O'Brien: Is it not a fact the hon. gentleman sent a letter to me from his department asking me to postpone the question in order that he might make inquiries, and that he personally stated to me—— (loud cries of "Order").

Mr. Wyndham: I am not aware of the fact that I promised inquiry into this matter. If I did, it has escaped my memory. It might have been done by someone on my behalf; but I had nothing of the kind in my mind (hear, hear). Had it been so, I should not have given the answers I have (Ministerial cheers).

Mr. P. O'Brien: Am I to understand that though I got a letter from your department—(the Speaker: "Order, order")—you know nothing about it? (cries of "Order").

The Speaker: I must ask the hon. member when I rise to tell him that he is out of order to resume his seat (cheers).

DUKE OF WESTMINSTER'S WILL.

The whole of the estate of Hugh Lupus, first Duke of Westminster, K.G., Lord Lieutenant of the County of Chester, who died on December 22 last, aged 74 years, at St. Giles' House, Cranbourne, has been entered at £594,229 1s. The Duke has bequeathed to the trustees of the National Gallery his "Calais Gate" picture by Hogarth. The late Duke of Westminster often said that the reports which were current with respect to the amount of his income were greatly exaggerated, and when he said, after the passing of the Finance Act, 1894, that the Grosvenor Estate would probably be assessed for duty at about £14,000,000 he did not of course mean that his own life interest in the estate was of anything like that value. He appears to have had, in fact, at his own disposition not much more than about £1,200,000. The personal estate of the late Duke of Northumberland was valued at £50,950, and that of the late Duke of Beaufort at £8,687.

WEDDING OF THE EARL OF CHESTERFIELD.

In spite of the abominable weather, the wedding of the Earl of Chesterfield and Miss Enid Wilson, daughter of Mr. Charles Henry Wilson, M.P., of Warter Priory, York, was brilliant and picturesque. St. Mark's Church, North Audley-street, where the ceremony took place, was beautifully decorated with palms and white flowers, and the choral part of the service was finely rendered. The officiating clergy were the Dean of Hereford, the Archdeacon of Hereford (uncle of the bridegroom), and the Vicar of St. Mark's (the Rev. B. Hadden). Lord Herbert Vane Tempest was best man. The bride, who was given away by her father, wore a soft gown of white crêpe de Chine, delicately embroidered in silver and draped with cost point d'Alençon, and with a Court train of white satin bordered with ermine and ornamented with branches of lilies, wrought in silver. The lace veil was arranged with a cluster of orange blossoms, and instead of the usual bouquet, Miss Wilson held in her hand a loose bunch of the same flowers, grown in her own home for the occasion. The only ornament was a string of pearls round the neck. The train was carried by Viscount Ednam (aged six) and Lord Wendover (not yet five), who wore red Directoire coats with white satin suits, the waistcoats richly embroidered, and the bride presented them with turquoise scarfpins. The bridesmaids were Miss Gladys Wilson (sister of the bride), Miss Muriel Wilson (her cousin), Lady Mary Willoughby, Lady Aldra Acheson, Lady Marjorie Carrington, Miss Balfour, Miss Paget, and Miss Daphne Bourke (aged four), who was train-bearer, in a white satin frock trimmed with sable, and a quaint little white satin Dutch bonnet. The bride gave her a turquoise brooch. The elder bridesmaids were in white satin gowns, under chiffon, and red cloth Directoire coats, with three-corner black hats, relieved by a long white ostrich plume at the side, fastened with a large paste buckle. The bridegroom's gifts to the bridesmaids were "grannie" sable muffs. Among those present were the Duchess of Montrose and Lady Hermione Graham, the Duchess of Buckingham, the Duchess of Somerset, the Earl of Rosebery, Earl Carrington, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Wilson, the Dowager Countess of Chesterfield, the Dowager Marchioness of Downshire, Mr. Asquith, M.P., and Mrs. Asquith, Sir William and Lady Harcourt, and Viscountess Hood. After a reception held by Mrs. Charles Wilson at 41, Grosvenor-square, Lord and Lady Chesterfield left for Woodlands, Buckinghamshire, the seat of Viscount Curzon, the bride wearing a pale blue silk gown, trimmed with lace, a white cloth coat, and a pastel-blue felt hat with ostrich plumes. Among the numerous and costly presents were a handsome embossed silver cigar and cigarette-box, lined with cedar, with a letter of congratulation, from the Prince of Wales, a silver tobacco-box from the Duke of Fife, a set of old China cups, in cases, from Princess Henry of Pless, a ruby and diamond brooch from Prince and Princess Alexis Dolgourouki, and many presentations from the tenants and employés of both families.

THE NEWARK ELECTION.

The figures relating to the polling in the Newark Division, where a vacancy occurred through the succession of the late member (Viscount Newark) to the peerage as Earl Manvers, was make known on Saturday morning. The candidates were Sir Charles Welby (C.) and Mr. H. Y. Stanger, Q.C. (R.), and the voting was announced to have resulted as follows:—

Welby (C.)	5,162
Stanger (R.)	2,871
Majority	2,291

At the Newark Town Hall, where the result was announced, there was a large crowd outside, but everything was orderly. Sir Charles Welby propose the usual vote of thanks to the Sheriff, and thanked Mr. Stanger for the courtesy and consideration he had received from him. Mr. Stanger, in seconding the vote, said Sir Charles Welby, although politically his opponent, he was glad to speak of as his friend.

At the last contested election in the division (1885) the Conservative majority was 1,754.

DECREASE OF CRIME.

The Liverpool Assizes constitute almost a record as regard the number of prisoners for trial, there being only 36 on the calendar, or little more than one-third of the average. Several of the prisoners, too, are from outside districts. This is interesting in view of the experimental reduction of a hundred men in the city police force during the past year. Mr. Justice Grantham said he had found a light calendar in other assize districts, and he attributed this partly to the war, which had withdrawn a large number of men who were only casually employed, leaving plenty of work for those at home.

HORRIBLE FRENCH CRIME.

Woman Burned to Death by her Husband.

A brutal murder occurred at the village of St. Paul (France) by which an old woman of 78 years was burned to death by her husband, a man named Bernard Casse, and aged 81 years. Casse, who is a man of excessive temper but otherwise sane, bound his wife hand to foot, saturated her clothes with paraffin, and set fire to her. Some neighbours rescued her and extinguished the flames, but she died soon after. Casse had to be tied down to the floor before the neighbours could attend to the wife.

RECTOR DIES FROM A HORSE KICK.

The Rev. William McManus, M.A., Rector of Broughton, near Kettering, died the other morning from internal injuries inflicted by a kicking horse. The deceased gentleman, who was very popular in the district, was formerly Rector of Somerby, near Oakham. He was a devoted supporter of the Church Missionary Society. He was 55 years of age and leaves a widow and three children.

DEATH OF A NOTED CATTLE BREEDER.

The death is announced of Mr. James Bruce, of Inverquhomery, one of the best-known Shorthorn breeders in Scotland. Deceased succeeded to the estate on the death of his uncle, who bequeathed over £40,000 among the poor in the Presbytery of Deer. Mr. Bruce took no part in public affairs; he devoted most of his time to the rearing of his herd of Shorthorns, which for years in succession scored signal victories at Smithfield and elsewhere.

DESTROYERS IN COLLISION.

The Devonport torpedo-destroyer flotilla returned from a cruise in the Channel on Saturday, and reported a number of serious collisions. In Falmouth outer harbour, during a heavy gale on Friday night, the Fairy dragged her anchor and fouled the Locust and the Osprey. To avoid the Fairy the Bat, Seal, Panther, and Thrasher steamed away, but in so doing the Fairy was run into by the Bat. Sub-Lieutenant Palmer, of the Seal, caught his ankle in the cable while the anchor was being weighed, and was uninjured. The Fairy had a Berthon boat and whaler smashed beyond repair. Her stern is badly crippled and leaky, her port bow is knocked in, and her propellers are broken. The bow of the Locust is damaged and her stern badly twisted, with several plates and frames crippled. The Bat's starboard guard is smashed off, and her fore compartment and wardroom are taking in water, the plates in her bow being started. The Osprey lost a few fittings. One of the Fairy's crew jumped on board the Bat during the collision, fearing his own vessel was sinking. The Bat, Locust, and Fairy will have to be docked for repairs.

LORD G. HAMILTON AND THE WAR.

Its Lessons.

Lord George Hamilton, M.P., speaking at the Chiswick Conservative Club the other night, said as a member of the Government he could not praise too highly the self-restraint, fortitude, and patriotism which were being displayed by the public. The Reserve system, which involved the calling of great masses of men from industrial occupations to the front, had enormously increased the interest which the great body of the people took in the war. The action of the Government in refraining from asking for a very large vote of credit during the progress of negotiations which preceded the war, was due to the fact that it would assuredly have split the opinion of the country from end to end, and they were intensely aware that without a united nation and a united empire they could not have brought the war, when it came, to a successful conclusion. If they wanted to conceive the difficulties which the campaign had presented, let them suppose that an expedition from Cape Town had to be sent to disembark at Antwerp and make its way to Warsaw, and that when it had been landed ti was afterwards found necessary to shift the base of operations to Lisbon. This would represent the respective distances of England, Cape Town, Pretoria, and Durban. One lesson of the war was that a Volunteer force able to use with intelligence long range rifles and cannon could, in a fortified position, hold their own against any troops. The meaning of that was that if the Volunteers were properly re-organised a successful invasion of England would be an impossibility. Again, it meant that if a proper use were made of the mountain frontier of India, the bigger the hostile army that got within those mountains the larger would be the graveyard that they would make there. In regard to Army Reform, he hoped that none of them who were interested in the matter would let their interest slide when the war was over. The courage and physical attributes of our officers and rank and file were undeniable, but without a thorough training in scientific warfare combined with them it was possible that those physical attributes and that courage might be tried too highly, and overstrained.

A New York telegram announces the death of Mr. Howe, the British Vice-Consul at Pensacola, Florida.

The annual returns of the cross-Channel passenger traffic via Calais and Boulogne have just been issued, and show that during the past year 261,671 travelled by Calais, and 167,537 by Boulogne.

Lord Northcote, the new Governor of Bombay, landed at Bombay the other morning under the usual salutes. The reception accorded to his Excellency was of the heartiest character.

Further awards, amounting to £4,150, were made against the London and South-Western Railway in respect of losses incurred by the Stella disaster.

FIELD AND GARDEN.

Improving Eggs.—Even with the absolutely fresh-laid egg, farmers and poultry-keepers have yet to take some steps to improve them. Every housekeeper admits that the size, for example, of our fresh eggs will stand improving. Poor-looking as the grocers' eggs are, many of our dairies, and even those which are supplied from home farms, can show nothing better, the only difference—and that is considerable—being in price. We have improved our poultry, but not our eggs. At shows are classes for all kinds of table poultry, but, strange to say, no classes are provided for the exhibition of eggs. It is essential that supplies be regular and that the eggs be absolutely fresh. Then they must be forwarded in sufficient bulk to meet the requirements of traders, to whom small lots are a positive nuisance, involving heavy carriage and much trouble, to which he very naturally and rightly objects. To meet this requirement, combination, either by private enterprise or by co-operation, will, we think, be necessary. At the present time poultry and eggs, which used to be counted rather out of season at certain times of the year, are regular articles of diet at all times. When the fact is established that supplies of absolutely fresh-laid eggs can be obtained during the winter months, there can be little doubt the consumption of them will be increased, and our dependence therefore on imported eggs decreased.

Farm Horses.—Farm horses are often grossly neglected in the matter of shoeing. The idea seems firmly fixed that the best smith is he whose shoes will remain on longest without rewearing out or coming off, and as the smith makes it his business to please his customer, and is shrewd enough to know that his rival at the other end of the village would try to do so if he did not, he puts on an enormous weight of iron, or "steels" the shoes to make them last, and goes in for high nailing to keep them on. This ruins the feet, causes lameness, and is generally the very reverse of economical. Even if they are not worn out, it is desirable for the well-being of the feet to have shoes removed at least once in six weeks. There are many conditions of labour on the farm where the horses whose feet are sound, and have been properly treated, might with advantage to themselves, and profit to the owner, work without any shoes at all during a considerable portion of the year.

Cattle.—Dishorning of mature cattle inflicts considerable pain, and apparently the only way of miniminising it to any appreciable extent is by the employment of an anæsthetic. It is quite impossible to accurately guage the amount of pain felt by an animal; many consider the sensibility to pain less acute in the brute than in man. The weight of evidence is clearly on the side of those who declare the pain considerable. There is an instrument in the shape of a powerful pair of shears, and this has been employed in America and in Scotland. They can, however, only be used for tipping and half-horning, and the former is no more effective than "knobbing," while the removal of half the horn is as painful as taking it off close to the skull, and what is left is, as a weapon of defence, as dangerous as the whole horn, or even more so. Shears cannot be easily and quickly used for animals with fully-developed horns with large bases. Perhaps the most humane method is the use of a small, narrow-bladed tenon saw, set in a frame, such as butchers and surgeons emply. The usual plan is to secure the animal, saw off the horns, and turn it adrift without further treatment, neither antiseptic nor styptic being used. The bleeding does not amount to much; in fact, some consider it beneficial. Any case in which it appeared to be really dangerous or excessive could be met by searing with a hot iron, or applying a lump of tow and some powdered alum, nutgalls, tannic acid, tincture of perchloride of iron, or other astringent or styptic.

Oats.—The cost of oat cultivation is high when is charged 15s. per acre for ploughing 30 acres of light land for oats. If the owner has horses, he would do a couple of acres or plough one acre twice for this sum. But if he has to hire, 10s. would be a fair price for one ploughing. For drilling and harrowing twice, 2s. per acre for the first and 3s. for the harrowing, or 5s. for the complete operation per acre, would be a good price. Thus £7 10s. for the 30 acres should be enough to leave a sufficient profit to the lender of the teams, who ought to make a good thing of it. On the light soil two horses would probably do the drilling and one good horse and harrowing, according to the size and weight of he machines. Farmers who do not own their horses and machines often have to pay far too much for hiring these useful aids to farm work. The lender often charges more than the cost of first-rate teams and implements, and sends a pair of old horses.

The Destruction of Rats.—Poison ought to be the last resource—first, because no one knows the end of it when it is laid about, and, secondly, because the rats are apt to get back to their holes, and, dying there, cause an intolerable stench, which sometimes necessitates pulling the place to pieces in order to get rid of it. There is nothing like a good cat to keep down rats, but cats must not be employed in conjunction with poison. Traps, if properly baited, without handling, are very useful. Ferreting might be tried in the haunts outside, and in the runs under the cowshed and stable. Where poison is used, the baits should be first laid without poison for a night or two, or advantage taken of the likings of these rodents for certain scents. An example is:—Oil of rhodium, 1 drachm; oil of aniseed, ½ drachm; tincture of asafœtida, ½oz. Powdered cantharides steeped in brandy is also an attraction.

Forcing Strawberries.—In selecting the plants for forcing, those with single firm crowns should be chosen, leaving all the weakest for later use. The pots containing the strawberry plants are plunged—about one inch apart—to their rims in the bed of leaves, and these latter made firm all around them. If the frame is not artificially heated, it is advisable to throw mats over it during cold nights; this simple precaution often keeps the temperature 5 deg. higher than it otherwise would be. But little air need be admitted to a cold frame, except on very bright days; the thermometer may be safely allowed to reach 70 deg. before opening the lights at all. Of course, if the frame contains hot water pipes this temperature will be reached earlier in the day, necessitating an admittance of air sooner. Frequenting syringing is most beneficial to the plants, as it renders the atmosphere congenial to growth, and also tends to prevent the appearance of red spider—a most troublesome pest. Close the frame early in the afternoon (syringing the plants at the same time), so as to husband all the sun-heat possible. If these conditions are maintained for two or three weeks signs of starting will soon be apparent amongst the plants, and given good weather they make rapid progress. Until growing freely but little water will be needed at the roots; the pots not being exposed either to the drying influences of the sun or air, the soil naturally does not become dry quickly.

Hepaticas.—For the common hepatica Anemone hepatica is the proper name, but the prefix is apt to be dropped, for the stiff, airy stalks suggest one's usual idea of an anemone as little as does the evergreen heart-shaped foliage. Anemone hepatica or Hepatica triloba is the sort most often seen, varying in colour; alba being pure glistening white, with brilliant red anthers; rubra, a warm pink; and cœrulea, a rich almost metallic blue, which, like rubra, may be had in a double as well as single form. Some of the varieties also have marbled and mottled foliage, while the colourings vary a good deal, ranging from blue to lilac, and from pale pink to deep rose. They should be planted in a sunny position in good garden soil and left alone, for though a few flowers peeping out from a rockery are daintily pretty, they are entirely eclipsed by the effect of a large clump in full bloom in the sun. When it is necessary to divide them it should be done in autumn after buds are pruned, and if they are disturbed after flowering they will most likely die of summer droughts. Rockeries suit thme as well as borders, reminding them of their native mountains.

An appeal has been lodged against the decision of Chancellor Tristram in the Brighton Ritual case.