

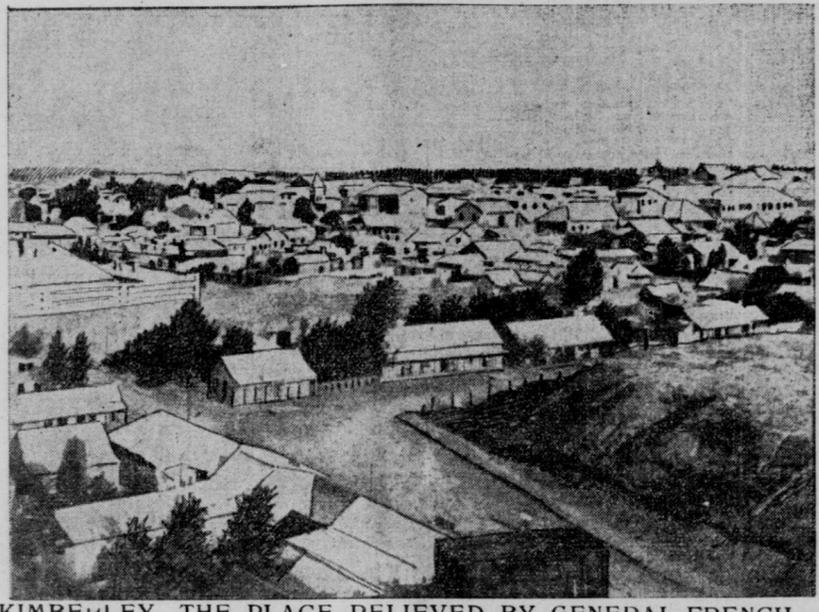


This Paper not to be taken from the Library.

GENERAL CRONJE SEEMINGLY IN FULL RETREAT FROM LORD ROBERTS

BIG BATTLE IS NOW IN PROGRESS

MODDER RIVER, Saturday, February 17, 2:30 P. M. Cronje with a large force retreating from Hooeder Laager Modder River, toward Bloemfontein. Kelly-Kenny now attacking. A big battle on. Roberts hurries reinforcements.



KIMBERLEY, THE PLACE RELIEVED BY GENERAL FRENCH. From a Recent Photograph.



FIELD MARSHAL LORD ROBERTS, the Man Who Planned the Campaign for the Relief of Kimberley.



MAJOR GENERAL FRENCH, the Man Who Executed the Plan for the Relief of Kimberley.

General French Reports Having Dispersed the Boers From the Southern Side of Kimberley.

LONDON, Feb. 16.—The War Office has made public a dispatch from Field Marshal Lord Roberts saying: "Jacobsdal, Feb. 16.—The following from General French was received this morning: "I have completely dispersed the enemy from the southern side of Kimberley, from Alexandersfontein to Oliphantsfontein, and am now going to occupy their ground. Have captured the enemy's laager and store supplies and supplies of ammunition. Casualties about twenty of all ranks wounded. Kimberley cheerful and well."

LONDON, Feb. 17, 4:45 a. m.—General Cronje, with a start of a day or two, is seemingly in full retreat from Lord Roberts, moving northward. General French, with the cavalry, simply stayed over night in Kimberley and then pushed on to get in touch with the retreating enemy. A long Boer wagon train is moving toward Bloemfontein, followed presumably by a large force of British infantry. In their hasty departure the Boers lost quantities of supplies and ammunition. Military opinion here is that Lord Roberts will not push far

ROBERTS FIGHTS THE BOERS.

LONDON, Feb. 17.—The Chronicle's second edition this morning has the following dispatch from Watervaal Drift, dated Friday morning, February 16: "Lord Roberts, with the Sixth and Seventh Divisions and the cavalry division, in marching to relieve Kimberley rendezvoused at Enslin and then marched toward the Free State. The Sixth Division crossed the Riet River at Watervaal Drift and marched along the

right bank. The Boers showed fight and we had several casualties. The division then marched on to Jacobsdal. The cavalry captured Browns Drift, on the left flank of the Boers' main position. "Both columns are now marching north parallel with each other. "The British captured many prisoners, but their casualties were slight." The Chronicle also has the following dispatch from Watervaal, dated via Modder River, February 16, morning: "General Kelly-Kenny, with the Sixth Division, has entered Jacobsdal. The Boers made a feeble attempt to hold the eastern ridges, but were outflanked by the mounted infantry and retired. There were few British casualties. "The division then evacuated Jacobsdal, marching north in the track of French's cavalry, which crossed the Modder River and engaged the enemy, who retired with heavy losses. "The Seventh Division crossed the Riet River east of Kofffontein and drove the enemy before them.

Great Britain Prepared to Show the Powers of the World a Big Naval Demonstration. LONDON, Feb. 16.—A telegram from Portsmouth says the Admiralty inquiries at the naval ports have resulted in the assurance that forty-seven additional battle-ships, cruisers and torpedo boat destroyers could forthwith hoist the pennant. The Admiralty to-day ordered the ships in the fleet reserve at Portsmouth to be fully crewed and ready for sea. This is regarded in some quarters as preliminary to putting the whole reserve in readiness for commissioning.

PRESSURE ON KIMBERLEY HAS BEEN REDUCED

LONDON, Feb. 16—9:30 p. m.—The following dispatch from General Roberts fills the gaps in the earlier dispatches: "MODDER RIVER, Feb. 16.—The Sixth Division left Waterfall Drift early yesterday morning and marched here, going on the same evening to Rensdorp Drift to hold the crossing of the Modder River and leave General 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 and nine men were wounded. Colonel Henry and Major Hadshell and ten men were missing. Both officers were subsequently found at Jacobsdal, slightly wounded. "The cavalry division is moving in a northerly 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 a slight loss and is pushing on the posts, his rear being held by mounted infantry. "Clements having been pressed by the Boers has retired to Arundel to cover Nauwpoort. "The War Office points out that the word "here" in the foregoing dispatch means some point on the Modder River, other than Modder River station. In an earlier dispatch General Roberts reported: "JACOBSDAL, Feb. 16.—I have good reason to believe the Magersfontein trenches have been abandoned and that the Boers are endeavoring to escape. General French is scouring the country north of Kimberley. One of General Kelly-Kenny's brigades of infantry is in pursuit of a large Boer convoy moving toward Bloemfontein. At 11:55 to-night the War Office issued the following from Roberts: "JACOBSDAL, Feb. 16—7:46 p. m.—Much gratified on arrival here to find admirable hospital arrangements made by the German ambulance corps under Drs. Kaettner and Hillebrandt who, with their staffs, have shown the greatest kindness to our wounded, as they have to the Boer wounded since December. Some were brought in yesterday."

FAIR ACKNOWLEDGED THAT MRS. CRAVEN WAS HIS WIFE

B. F. Lamborn Surprised the Senator in the Woman's Apartments and Was Let Into the Secret of the Marriage Contract.

SENSATION follows sensation in the Craven-Fair litigation. On the very heels of Justice of the Peace Simpton's somersault and flat denial of his original story that he had performed a marriage ceremony between the late Senator Fair and Mrs. Nettie Craven comes the announcement that the woman is prepared to produce a witness who will testify that the dead millionaire was introduced to him by Mrs. Craven as her husband, upon which occasion the Senator admitted the existence of the marriage contract. The new factor in the case is Ben F. Lamborn, City Clerk of Alameda, a man of prominence and standing in the community. The attorneys for the Fair estate do not attack his integrity, but claim that they will show that he is mistaken in his assertions. Charles Pence, one of Mrs. Craven's attorneys, asserted yesterday that Simpton was bribed to make the affidavit which caused such a surprise in the celebrated case. He claims to be able to prove that Charles Fair induced Attorney Sylva to influence the Justice to commit perjury, and says that he will prosecute criminally every one who has attempted to interfere with the honest, free and fair trial of the Fair case. He attempted to get Judge Hunt to issue an order for the attorneys for the estate to appear in court last evening and explain their connection with Simpton's latest affidavit, but the Judge refused to meddle in the matter.



B. F. LAMBORN, A NEW WITNESS IN THE FAIR CASE.

Mr. Lamborn is the City Clerk of Alameda and is a member of the executive committee of the League of California Municipalities. In the latter capacity he has visited nearly all of the important cities in the State. He is a man whose reputation has never been attacked and his standing in the community gives additional importance to the testimony which he will give in the celebrated case. Lamborn. We have been married by contract. To which the Senator added: "Yes; that is correct. For reasons best known to ourselves we concluded to keep the matter secret and so we adopted the contract plan. Lamborn offered his congratulations and departed. He kept the secret until after the death of Senator Fair and the contest over his estate was begun. He was then asked by Mrs. Craven if he recalled the incident, as his testimony would be valuable to her in establishing her claim as the widow of the dead millionaire. The matter had been impressed upon his mind very vividly and he readily agreed to go

Attorney Pence Charges That Justice of the Peace Simpton Is Guilty of Perjury and Appeals to the Court to Punish Him for the Crime.

ton was paid to commit perjury when he reported under oath the sworn statement he had made to them some months ago. They further assert that Attorney Sylva has been the traitor in their camp; that he has been "playing" both ends against the middle, to use the sporting phrase, and was the agent through whom the honor of the Sausalito judge was prostituted. Criminal prosecution of the principals in the affair is promised and there are threats of proceedings to disbar the attorneys who have in any way been connected with Simpton's alleged somersault. Charles Pence, speaking for the firm of Pence & Pence, of counsel for Mrs. Craven, gave the version of the affair which follows: "I will say without hesitation that Simpton was bribed to make the affidavit which has produced such a sensation in the Fair will case. As to whose money bribed him I am not prepared to say now, but when the proper time arrives we will prove our assertions and name the guilty parties. All that I can say at this time in connection with this version of the case is that Attorney Sylva is the traitor who acted as the agent for those who purchased Simpton. "I spent the better part of last night trying to save the virtue of this witness but failed. We have been the victims of misplaced confidence, so far as Sylva is concerned. Up to Thursday evening he was as loyal to us apparently as a man could be. We placed faith in him and have paid the penalty. "As soon as the name of the Justice who performed the ceremony was made public Charles Fair kept the wires hot between his office and Sausalito until he located Sylva and got him started to this city on a private launch. We heard that Sylva went direct to Fair's office, but to disabuse our mind of any suspicion that he was engaged in double dealing he told us that he had not gone to Fair's office, but had met Fair and Joe Harvey at John Farley's saloon. Sylva told us that Fair and Harvey urged him to use his influence with Simpton to get him to change his statement concerning the marriage ceremony. "The legal representatives of Mrs. Nettie Craven are not in the least disconcerted over the sensational affidavit of Justice of the Peace Simpton of Sausalito. They claim that the story of the Sausalito ceremony is true and that Simp-

shortly after Fair and Mrs. Craven entered into the marriage contract he met them both at the home of the latter, 321 Sutter street, on which occasion Mrs. Craven introduced Fair as her husband, and that the Senator acknowledged that the ex-school teacher was his better half. According to the story told by Lamborn it was purely accidental that he discovered the secret that the millionaire was trying to guard with such zeal. Mrs. Craven had been his school teacher in this city, and it had been his habit to visit her whenever he came across the bay. He called one morning at an unusually early hour and was told that Mrs. Craven was still in bed. He was ushered into a room separated from her sleeping apartment by folding doors. He had waited but a few moments when Mrs. Craven opened the doors and appeared in a dressing gown. She told him to make himself at home until she completed her toilet. Fair Was in Her Bedroom. After she had retired to her bedroom Lamborn claims that he heard talking in