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TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 1878.

*Lord Chamberlain's Office, St. James's Palace,
March 12, 1878.*

NOTICE is hereby given, that Her Majesty's Birthday will be kept on Saturday, the 25th of May next.

Foreign Office, March 25, 1878.

THE Earl of Derby, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, has received from Her Majesty's Consul at Galatz, the following translation of a Notice issued by the Captain of the Port, notifying the reopening of the Navigation of the Danube:—

(Translation.)

The Captain of the Port, Galatz, Roumania.

NOTICE.

IN conformity with an Order of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, No. 2476, received this day, the Captain of the Port informs persons interested in shipping that, in consequence of the cessation of hostilities and of the conclusion of peace, the navigation of the Danube is free, as under ordinary circumstances, at the same time he brings to the notice of shipowners, that as torpedoes have not been removed from certain localities, navigation will be at their own risk and peril.

The Minister has taken measures for the early removal of these torpedoes.

War Office, March 25, 1878.

DESPATCHES and their Enclosures, of which the following are copies, have been received by the Secretary of State for War from the General Officer Commanding the Troops in South Africa:—

King Williamstown,

February 13, 1878.

SIR,

1. THE forces under my command have again been successful in the Transkei.

2. The battle of Quintana, fought on the 7th February—a full report of which I have now the honour to enclose—has proved the most disastrous to the enemy of any yet fought in South Africa. Colonel Eustace, late Resident with Krel, states that the Gcalekas acknowledged to severer losses at Quintana than at any previous action.

3. The bodies of nearly 200 of the enemy found in front of and about the position, and more than an equal number afterwards discovered in the neighbouring kloofs and ravines, speak clearly of their losses; while the wounded, who were carried out of the action, attest the severity of their punishment.

4. I have the honour to refer you to Enclosure A, from Colonel Glyn, Commanding in the Transkei, reporting as to the steps he took in the formation of the column which he placed under the command of Captain Upcher, 1-24 Regiment. I am of opinion that great credit is due to Colonel Glyn for the selection of the position it held, and his formation of the force.

5. With the concurrence of the Right Honourable Sir Bartle Frere, I had directed an entrenchment to be formed near Quintana Mountain. Its position had been selected, and the entrenchment commenced under the able superintendence of Captain Nixon, R.E.

6. It was known that Krel and Sandilli were close by, in force; but it was difficult to judge which of the positions, Quintana or Ibeka, the enemy would attack, though the dispositions made by Colonel Glyn were so good as equally to ensure success at either. The Artillery, under Captain Robinson, R.A. [vide D], were placed midway at Tutura, and he was able to assist at the termination of the action.

7. In the Enclosure B, you will find a full account of the action by Captain Upcher, who commanded, and I beg especially to call your attention to the manœuvre as described in paragraph 5, viz.: "Both these Officers had orders to fire and then retire, to bring the enemy within range of the camp. These orders were carried out most satisfactorily." The value of this manœuvre cannot be over-estimated; as the best mode of warfare with the Kaffirs is to allow them to appear to gain, at first, some advantage in the attack, merely to lure them on to their destruction.

9. It will be seen how skilfully the 9-pounder gun was worked under Sub-Inspector Cochran, Frontier Armed and Mounted Police; and the 7-pounder, in charge of the Cape Town Volunteer Artillery, ably directed by Sergeant Breda. This latter force relieved, only a week before the action, a portion of the same corps which had distinguished itself, under Lieutenant Stigant, at Umzinzana.

10. The Naval Brigade, under Lieutenant Hamilton, Royal Navy, (Her Majesty's ship