

Militarism would be an abhorrent spectre if the common conscience held human life sacred. Against devotion to the right because it is right, evil tendencies in society are important. And so tremendous is the expansive power of this righteous force that even a little of it accomplishes mighty things. The righteousness of only ten righteous men would have saved Gomorrah from destruction.

NEWS

The situation in China, which at our last report was described as somewhat chaotic, remains virtually unchanged. Military operations have apparently subsided, and there has been an entire absence of any trustworthy news since the 21st or 22d, when Mr. Conger sent the message quoted in the next paragraph.

Preceding Mr. Conger's message various news reports were received confirmatory of our account of last week which described the relief of the legations, the flight of the imperial family, and the subsequent attack of the allies upon the forbidden city in Peking. Mr. Conger's message, although not dated at Peking, left there probably as late as the 22d, but was not received at Washington until the 27th. It is as follows:

No important movements since last dispatch. Military is trying to restore order. No representative of the Chinese government encountered yet. Several ministers of the tsung-li-yamen reported in the city, and are expected to appear soon. Generals decide not to enter into imperial palace, believing it practically vacant. Two thousand Germans arrived to-day.

The proposals for peace, made by Li Hung Chang in behalf of China, immediately after the relief of the Peking legations and reported in last week's issue on page 313, were replied to by the American state department in the following note, published on the 23d:

Memorandum in response to the Chinese minister's communication of cablegrams from Viceroy Earl Li Hung Chang, dated August 19 and 21, proposing the immediate cessation of hostilities and the appointment of an envoy to conduct negotiations, received at the department of state August 20 and 21, 1900. While the condition set forth in the memorandum delivered to the Chinese minister August

12 has not been fulfilled and the powers have been compelled to rescue their ministers by force of arms unaided by the Chinese government, still this government is ready to welcome any overtures for a truce, and invites the other powers to join when security is established in the Chinese capital and the Chinese government shows its ability and willingness to make on its part an effective suspension of hostilities there and elsewhere in China. When this is done, and we hope it will be done promptly, the United States will be prepared to appoint a representative to join with the representatives of other similarly interested powers and of the authoritative and responsible government of the Chinese empire to attain the ends declared in our circular to the powers of July 3, 1900.

The circular referred to in the foregoing communication as having been issued July 3, 1900, was reported in these columns at the time on page 199. Since the publication of the above reply no word has been received from Li Hung Chang.

Of the other powers, Japan has replied to Li Hung Chang in the same vein as the United States, but Germany has refused to recognize his authority to represent China in peace negotiations. Russia, on the other hand, strange as it must appear in the face of previous reports, seems to have taken a stand for immediate peace. She has sent a note to all the powers urging them to withdraw their troops from Peking and to accept Li Hung Chang as the representative of China in peace negotiations. This note was considered at a cabinet meeting at Washington on the 29th. The meeting was secret and its proceedings have not been authoritatively divulged, but the press reports aver that a favorable reply to Russia's note was formulated.

The subsidence of fighting in China has been followed by greater military activity in the Transvaal. By our last week's report (page 313) it will be seen that the Boers then had two armies—one, under DeWet, operating to the west of Pretoria, and the other, under Botha, established in the region of Barberton near the eastern frontier. From DeWet's force there is but little news beyond a dubious rumor that it has dispersed. He seems, however, to have attempted to cross the railroad north of Pretoria with a view to joining Botha, and to have been driven back by Baden-Powell after a day's fighting on the 23d near Pienaar's station. The heavy fight-

ing occurred in the east, where Botha commands the Boers. This is under the immediate direction of Lord Roberts himself, who has established headquarters at Wonderfontein, on the railroad between Pretoria and Lourenso Marques. On the 21st the British general, Buller, had fought his way as far north as Belfast, which is on the railroad a short distance east of Wonderfontein. Two of his companies, drawn into ambush on the 23d, suffered severely. The British advance had extended on the 24th as far as Belfast, in the neighborhood of which it engaged the Boers on the 24th, the 25th, the 26th and the 27th. Lord Roberts reported on the 27th that his movements were "slow on account of the extent and nature of the country." Dalmanutha, the next station east of Belfast, was taken by the British on the 27th, and on the 28th, after heavy fighting at Machadodorp, the next most easterly station, the Boer lines were broken and they fell farther back. Buller entered Machadodorp in the afternoon of the 28th.

It now appears that the Orange Free State has not been freed of Boer forces. A body under Gen. Olivier made an attack on the 26th from three sides upon Winburg, the terminal station of the branch line running east from the main line of railroad at Smal-deel, which is about midway between Bloemfontein and Kronstad. The attack was beaten back by the British, and Gen. Olivier and three of his sons fell into their hands. It was Gen. Olivier who conducted the retreat from Wepener (page 41) along the eastern border of the Orange Free State.

From the Philippines we have nothing to report this week but American casualties. Since July 1, 1898, inclusive of all current official reports given out in detail at Washington to August 30, 1900, these casualties are as follows:

Deaths to May 16, 1900 (see page 91	1,847
Killed reported since May 16, 1900.	48
Deaths from wounds, disease and accidents reported since May 16, 1900	366
Total deaths since July 1, 1898.....	2,261
Wounded	2,220
Captured	10
Total casualties since July 1, 1898..	4,491
Total casualties reported last week	4,458
Total deaths reported last week..	2,228