

Now if "Pekin" will follow the course of our recent fighting in South Africa he will find that all our engagements fall under three categories—viz., "The early actions." In these the attack succeeded before this stage of the final effort of the reserve was reached—succeeded in fact at Belmont and Enslin without even recourse to supports, which through some inadvertence on the part of the general were not always provided, facts which fully justified at the time Albrecht's praise for our "incomparable infantry." "Actions of the second period," in which the existence of insuperable physical obstacles, i.e., rivers ten feet deep and upwards, precluded all question of further advance; and "Actions of the third period," in which, for reasons best known to the leaders on the spot, after a preliminary skirmishing reconnaissance in force, the attempt to bring about a final decision was apparently voluntarily renounced; and to this class belong all the indecisive actions around Paardeberg and on the Tugela until the final assault of Railway Hill on Majuba Day, where favourable ground having at length been found the troops were sent in for a decisive combined effort with most brilliant results, as "Pekin" will see if he will turn to Winston Churchill's vivid description of the last three days' fighting around Colenso in the *Morning Post* for the 9th and 11th inst.

**THE MISTAKES AT MAGERSFONTEIN.**  
 "Pekin" will excuse us, but he is entirely wrong in saying we "attacked in close order" at Magersfontein. That is precisely what we aimed to do, and hence the repulse of the High-land Brigade. The Brigade had been ordered to the point at which the surprise took place for the express purpose of delivering an assault with old steel; but so little had the men and regimental officers appreciated the purpose of their night march, with all its precautions, that they were actually preparing to extend for a free fight when the storm of lead swept over them. This was a fault of their peace-time training for which no individual can be held responsible. The situation was duly provided for by regulation, but owing to the nervous tension always induced in troops by a night march, the lessons of peace training were forgotten, with the consequent unfortunate result.

**CLOSE V. OPEN ORDER.**  
 "Pekin" next quotes from Lieutenant Colonel Honey an opinion adverse to the employment of close order at Enslin. "The Naval Brigade suffered most heavily, owing, I think, to their peeping in too close formation," but this opinion does not seem to us to the point, neither is the statement it contains correct. The Marines part of the Naval Brigade suffered most heavily, and they went in extended at four furlong intervals, which intervals they strictly observed. The sailors "balled" together, at lost proportionately less. The real point is, could the bill have been carried with less loss at Enslin? And that we take leave to doubt, for any other troops attacking a similar position according to any prescribed formation, would have sent five times as many men, and incurred probably five times the loss at least; but the whole question of close or open order really turns not on the nature of the weapon in use, but on the relative quality of the opposing forces at the moment the attack is ordered. What may amount to culpable homicide, say, at 10 a.m., may be safe and justifiable at 10.30 a.m. There is no absolute right or wrong either in strategy or tactics. It is a question of time and circumstances.

**SPORTING INTELLIGENCE.**

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM.]

**ALEXANDRA PARK RACES.—THIS DAY.**  
 Palace Plate—Flaw, 1; Maurice, 2; Bousworth, 3 Eight ran  
 April Plate—Guarantee, 1; Molester, 2; Bethnie, 3 Fifteen ran  
 County Plate—Uruguay, 1; Master Willie, 2; Suppliat, 3 Eleven ran  
 Middlesex Plate—Eulogy, 1; Pellisson, 2; Milito, 3 Eight ran  
 Cup—Downham, 1; Lackford, 2; Sheet Anchor, 3 Eleven ran  
 Flying Plate—Winner, 1; Alec, 2; Swift, 3 Eight ran  
 Priory Plate—Admiral Drake, 1; Moonlit, 2; Nikola, 3 Nine ran

*Announcement of Births, Marriage and Deaths not exceeding 5 lines (which must in all cases be duly authenticated), are charged 2s 6d each. For every additional line 6d*

**BIRTHS.**  
 Carson—April 8, at 137 Tritonville road, Dublin, the wife of R H Carson of a daughter.  
 Gordon-Cleather—April 9, 1900, at 47 Meapil road, Dublin, the wife of Edward Gordon-Cleather of a daughter.  
 Greene—April 11, at 52 Fitzwilliam square, Dublin, Mrs Frank E Greene of a daughter.

**MARRIAGE.**  
 Townley and Pearson—April 10, at St Anne's Church, Shandon, Cork, by the Ven Archdeacon of Ardfert, assisted by the Rev Arthur Wilson, Rector of the Parish, Rev R P Rowan, and Rev S L Maxwell, the Rev Frank Maxwell Townley, M A, eldest son of J M Townley, Esq, Sandymount, Dublin, to Ada Isabella, eldest daughter of James Pearson, Esq, Danny street, Tralee, Co Kerry.

**DEATHS.**  
 Casey—April 13, at his residence, Cliftonville, Limerick, John Casey, Audit Department W. L. & W. Railway, second and youngest son of the late John Casey, formerly of Little Island, Co: Cork, and grandson of the late Thomas Casey, Solicitor, South Mall, Cork. Funeral on Tuesday morning at 11 o'clock for St. Mary's Cathedral.  
 Burns—April 9, at his residence, 67 Mulgrave street, Kingstown, Dublin, William Burns.  
 Gray—April 13, 1900, at 28 Castlewood avenue, Rathmines, Dublin, Joseph Williams, of Mount Morgan, Queensland, elder son of the late George Gray, aged 37 years.  
 Murray—April 10, at Rockfield, Dundrum, William Edward Murray, son of the late Very Rev J W Murray, LL.D, aged 25.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT.**  
 The Secretary Protestant Orphan Society thankfully acknowledges from Abington Branch (per Rev H W Davidson), £6 17s 6d.

**ROYAL ENFIELD BICYCLES.—£15 15s 0d and £10 10s 0d. Nestor's George Street. March 15**

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