

## DISTRICT NEWS.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENTS.]

### CLARENCE TOWN.

Like many of our small country towns, Clarence Town was ably represented in that great South African war by one of her noblest sons. Alexander W. Eagleton, aged 22 years, son of Mr. Henry Eagleton, of this town, volunteered and went out with the Queensland 5th Contingent, and very proud we all were to hear from time to time of the brave deeds that he performed in the several battles in which he was engaged. We were all looking forward with great pleasure to the time when he would join us again, and were keenly anticipating the glowing and interesting stories he would have to tell us of his many adventures. But, alas, at the eleventh hour of his service this clean, fresh young life was taken. In the engagement at Onverwacht, near Amerspoort, on the 4th January last, this noble boy fought his last battle. The sad news filtered through slowly. First an account of the engagement in the *Mercury*, then a letter from a comrade who saw him fall, and lastly an official notification from the Queensland Government. I could fill columns dilating on the many good and sterling qualities possessed by this dutiful and manly son, but I think I cannot do better than give my readers a copy of a letter received from poor Alick's captain, which tells how he was honoured and beloved by his commander and all his comrades.

"Charlestown,  
" Natal, S.A., 31/1/02.

" Mr. H. Eagleton,  
" Clarence Town, N.S.W.

" Dear Sir,—It is with the greatest regret that I have to communicate with you on a sad subject.

" No doubt by now you have been advised officially, I must apologise for not writing earlier, but have been in hospital since beginning of month; hence my delay.

" Your son, No. 165 Private A. W. Eagleton, was amongst a party of our men who met their deaths so nobly fighting for King and country, against overpowering numbers of the enemy. Although not present myself, I am informed, that our men made a most noble defence, but at last had to surrender, after several brave fellows had done their best.

" Your son has been in my squadron since I took charge of same, and has always proved himself a thorough man and a fearless soldier. He was beloved by all his comrades and officers for his sterling qualities as a man. He is a loss I regret very much.

" I have on several occasions entrusted him with small commands, and sent him on important messages, and he has always executed same satisfactorily. I sincerely trust the Almighty will be with you in your sad bereavement, and bear with you through your affliction. His death has cast quite a gloom throughout his troop. We know it is what we may all expect, and at any moment, yet it is hard that so promising a young life should be cut off in its prime.— Hoping that our great Master will help you in your sad affliction.

" I remain, yours sorrowing.

" CHAS. G. GEHRMAN,  
" Capt. Q.I.B."

P.S.—I have just been informed that the spot (where he and his brave comrades who fell with him are buried) will be marked, and the Ladies Guild of South Africa purpose erecting a fitting memento to their memory.

C. G. G.

their memory.

C. G. G.

A public meeting will be held in the School of Arts to night to make arrangements to erect a suitable memorial here in memory of our brave soldier who sleeps so far away in that great South African burial ground, where thousands of Britian's best and bravest men are laid to rest.

March 10.