



WITH
THE BOERS IN THE TRANSVAAL.

WITH
THE BOERS IN THE TRANSVAAL
AND
ORANGE FREE STATE
IN
1880—1.

BY
CHARLES L. NORRIS-NEWMAN,
SPECIAL WAR CORRESPONDENT AND AUTHOR OF "IN ZULULAND WITH THE BRITISH."

LONDON:
WM H. ALLEN & CO., 13, WATERLOO PLACE, S.W.,
PUBLISHERS TO THE INDIA OFFICE.
1882.

[*All rights reserved.*]

PRINTED BY WOODFALL AND KINDER,
MILFORD LANE, STRAND, W.C.

Inscribed

TO THE MEMORY

OF THE LATE

MAJOR-GENERAL SIR GEORGE POMEROY COLLEY,

K.C.S.I., C.B., C.M.G.,

WHOSE EMINENT SERVICES, BOTH CIVIL AND MILITARY, WERE BEGUN
AND ENDED IN SOUTH AFRICA ; AND BY WHOSE EARLY DEATH,—WHILE LEADING THE
BRITISH FORCES AGAINST THE TRANSVAAL BOERS,—HIS
QUEEN LOST A FAITHFUL SERVANT ;
HIS COUNTRY, AN ABLE SOLDIER AND DIPLOMÁT ; NATAL, THE BEST GOVERNOR
SHE EVER HAD ; AND THE AUTHOR, A VALUED FRIEND.

CONTENTS.



	PAGE
CHAPTER I.	
CAPE HISTORY	1
CHAPTER II.	
CAPE HISTORY—(<i>continued</i>)	11
CHAPTER III.	
NATAL FOUNDED	19
CHAPTER IV.	
GREAT EXODUS NORTHWARDS.	32
CHAPTER V.	
ORANGE FREE STATE SETTLEMENT	43
CHAPTER VI.	
TRANSVAAL FOUNDED	56
CHAPTER VII.	
TRANSVAAL PROGRESS	66

CHAPTER VIII.	
TRANSVAAL ANNEXATION	PAGE 74
CHAPTER IX.	
TRANSVAAL AND SECOCOENI	83
CHAPTER X.	
LANTON'S TRANSVAAL	94
CHAPTER XI.	
THE OUTBREAK	107
CHAPTER XII.	
THE FIRST ACTION	117
CHAPTER XIII.	
CAPTAIN ELLIOTT'S MURDER—NATAL'S NEUTRALITY	125
CHAPTER XIV.	
THE BRITISH ADVANCE	136
CHAPTER XV.	
LANG'S NEK	146
CHAPTER XVI.	
INGOGO FIGHT	157
CHAPTER XVII.	
MY JOURNEY	168

Contents.

ix

CHAPTER XVIII.

	PAGE
EXPERIENCES IN THE BOER CAMP	182

CHAPTER XIX.

THE AMAJUBA	198
-----------------------	-----

CHAPTER XX.

THE ARMISTICE	217
-------------------------	-----

CHAPTER XXI.

THE BESIEGED TOWNS	231
------------------------------	-----

CHAPTER XXII.

THE BESIEGED TOWNS—(<i>continued</i>)	244
---	-----

CHAPTER XXIII.

THE ROYAL COMMISSION	253
--------------------------------	-----

CHAPTER XXIV.

TRANSFER OF GOVERNMENT	267
----------------------------------	-----

CHAPTER XXV.

THE LAST THREADS; OR, THE TRANSVAAL OF YESTERDAY	279
--	-----

CHAPTER XXVI.

GENERAL REVIEW	293
--------------------------	-----

	PAGE
SOUTH AFRICAN CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE	309
GLOSSARY OF LOCAL TERMS USED IN SOUTH AFRICA	314
A. ANNEXATION OF THE TRANSVAAL	317
B. COPY OF PROTEST AND RESOLUTION OF THE TRANSVAAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL	322
C. PROCLAMATION	323
D. LETTER TO COLONIAL SECRETARY FROM TRANSVAAL DELE- GATES	326
E. PROCLAMATION BY THE BOER TRIUMVIRATE	332
F. DESPATCH ON THE ACTION AT BRONKHORST SPRUIT	336
G. THE FIRST BATTLE OF LANG'S NEK	338
H. THE FIGHT AT THE INGOGO	344
I. THE AMAJUBA FIGHT	350
K. LETTERS, ETC., RELATING TO PEACE NEGOTIATIONS	351
L. THE POTCHEFSTROM SURRENDER	360
M. THE ROYAL COMMISSION	363
N. THE CONVENTION	370
O. THE TRANSVAAL VOLKSRaad	377
P. THE NEW TRANSVAAL VOLKSRaad	379
Q. BOER LOSSES	381

ADDENDA.

NOTICES OF THE BOER LEADERS	385
---------------------------------------	-----

INTRODUCTION.

It would be altogether impossible to commence a detailed account of the recent disturbances in the Transvaal without going back to the earliest days of the foundation of its settlement, in order to get at the original causes and effects which have, in the course of about forty years, led again to a collision between the two leading white races in South Africa, and a series of disastrous native wars—not yet finished, I fear—and, therefore, in order to enable my readers to have a clear and thorough conception of the state of affairs in the Transvaal just previous to the outbreak of 1880, it will be necessary for me to begin with the days of the Cape settlement by the English; and to show, gradually and consecutively, how the recent sad state of affairs has been brought about. The result is due partially, I admit, to the peculiarities and untractableness of the Boers themselves; but, principally, to the undoubted mismanagement and wilful blindness of the Imperial authorities both at home and out here, as evidenced by the various and contradictory policies pursued by successive Governors.

For many years South Africa was a *terra incognita* to all in Great Britain except to the officials whose department had the government thereof. To others the idea simply was that the Cape was the half-way port between England and India, a naval and military station of more or less importance, which gave employment to a certain number of colonial officials and contributed little, if anything, to the general wealth or welfare of the great British Empire. These ideas received little or no modification until diamonds and subsequently gold, copper, and other minerals were found in such quantities as to cause

a rush of people of all classes from Great Britain and various other parts of the globe. Then, indeed, the Home Government and people woke up to the importance of the British South African Colonies, and set to work to reorganize the systems of government then in vogue—by strengthening the hands of the colonial authorities, laying down a definite policy and striving to weld the different Colonies and Free States into something like unity. A tide of emigration set in, railways and other works were projected, and a grand future was prophesied for South Africa—how justly time will prove. As showing how South Africa was despised and undervalued as a field for emigration up to that time, the following extract from a semi-official work on Australian Emigration (published in London about twenty years ago) will go far to justify my opinions and corroborate my remarks. After referring to the advantages of Australia this work continues :—

“With all our boasts of an ‘Empire on which the sun never sets’—a travestie, by the bye, of an old Spanish saying, which subsequent events have made a rhodomontade as empty as may one day be our own—England has *two colonies only*, besides those in the Pacific, to which a man can emigrate. The first, Canada, is one of the most unsuitable possible in point of climate or locality; the first forbidding labour of an agricultural kind during the greater portion of the year, and the second demanding a longer time before actual location than is consumed by a voyage to Australia or New Zealand, where domiciliation and employment await the emigrant at once on his arrival. The second emigration colony, *if it can be so called*, is South Africa; the chief gains of the colonists, for the most part Dutchmen, arising from the disputes they can foment between the natives and the authorities, in the hope of profiting by the expenditure of the Commissariat, of which England has had but too lamentable proof in the expenditure of many millions, for no earthly purpose than that of enabling the Cape Colonists to take advantage of the English determination to preserve the integrity of the empire at any cost. Beyond these two colonies, we have, notwithstanding the vastness of our colonial empire, no other location

but the Australian and New Zealand Colonies worthy of a moment's consideration to the intending emigrant. Canada, on the first decadence of the English power—and that may not be far distant—will naturally fall into the United States of America, if the union last so long; and South Africa is scarcely worth consideration, as a colonial dependency, upon any terms, either in point of produce or political advantages. As for the new settlements in South Africa, they can be characterized as little less than deliberate frauds committed on English ignorance, though with Government sanction; not one of their pretensions being realized, or ever likely to become so.'

This is strong and plain language, but is undoubtedly a faithful reproduction of the opinion of the bulk of the people of Great Britain at that time upon South African settlements; and with little alteration would fairly represent the written opinions of the more recent celebrated semi-historians who have visited South Africa for literary purposes since she sprang so suddenly up into prominent notice. Ideas almost similar have been extensively circulated, even up to the present time, by nearly the whole of the London Press; while even those most interested, and most hopeful of the future of South Africa, either as a Confederated State or Crown Colony, can but honestly admit the truth of the greater portion of these remarks, and long for the powers of self-government granted to Australia and Canada.

Bearing these views in mind at the commencement, it will not be difficult to trace and comprehend the consecutive events which have led up to the present still unsatisfactory state of affairs, by, on the one hand, rekindling the slumbering feelings of race hatred already bitter enough between the two dominant white races in South Africa; while, on the other, creating bitter feelings between the colonists themselves and the Imperial Government. Both races combined have been and still are barely sufficient to manage the conduct of their own interior affairs, and control the large native population, consisting both of those belonging to the soil and the refugees from other surrounding tribes, the former of whom migrate

further north as civilization advances, while the latter seem only too glad to come under the more settled system of government of the white race, and quickly learn all the evils, but only slowly appreciate and conform to the benefits, consequent thereon.

In the whole history of the world there have been known only two systems of colonizing a new country, the inhabitants of which were totally uncivilized, viz.:—quick and ruthless extermination, and a constant war of the one against the other, as always practised by the Dutch South Africans and in America; or the slower and more difficult method of amalgamation and protection. Which of the two systems—for both have been tried—has succeeded best out here, every one understanding the occurrences of the last half-century will be able to judge. So far as the Boers and those natives more immediately in and around the Transvaal are concerned, I hope, in the course of this work, to clearly show the course of events up to now, and the probable outcome in the not far-distant future.

Having thus explained my object, and the means by which I hope to attain it, I need no apology for occupying the first few chapters of this work with a chronological history, complete though epitomized, of the Cape Colony. To follow out and gain a fair view of both sides of a question, even in momentous European affairs, is undoubtedly a matter of very great difficulty, for the reason that Britons are not generally acquainted with the subject, have little or no knowledge of the country in which such affairs occur, and are not actually present on or near the scene of action at the time. How much more so, when the scene of action lies in South Africa, a country, until within the last half-century, little thought of or appreciated by the population of Great Britain, either as an available field for emigration, or a valuable addition to the colonial empire. And, notwithstanding the unpleasant fact of John Bull having had to pay dearly in men, money, and reputation for the management (or mismanagement?) of South African affairs during the greater portion of that time; and in spite of the published—though in some things misleading—

works of such eminent men as Froude, Trollope, Bissett, Noble, and others, and the teachings of the recent wars, I venture to doubt whether even now the average British taxpayer, unless in some way personally connected with the South African Colonies or States, knows more of the exact position of affairs, and what has led to them out here, than can be gathered from the hasty telegrams, and one-sided views espoused through party and prejudice, and expressed by both the Home and part of the Colonial Press.

The late rising in the Transvaal, following so quickly on the Zulu War, and costing the country such a large amount of blood, treasure, and even obloquy, having attracted more attention throughout the whole civilized world than almost any other South African event of this century, it has been suggested to me that a concise, but unprejudiced review of the origin, progress, present position, and probable ending of the Transvaal question, might serve to elucidate much that has hitherto been misunderstood, and throw the light of truth upon much previously concealed. I have therefore entered upon the work *con amore*, in the belief that, from my intimate knowledge of the country, its history, people, and customs, gained during a six years' residence in South Africa, as a constant contributor to the Home and Colonial Press, and a special war correspondent throughout the recent campaigns, my statements of facts will merit the attention of the reading public; my not hastily formed opinions, the candid though fair criticism of those who may differ from them; and the whole work, the approbation of those more directly interested in the subject therein treated. And if the publication of this volume conduces to the development of a more liberal feeling towards our future colonists, the Boers—the early pioneers of civilization, colonization, and European dominion in South Africa—and to a clearer insight into the many difficult questions now troubling, and likely for many years to trouble, that important portion of Her Majesty's realms, my labours in connection therewith will not have been in vain. I cannot conclude this somewhat discursive but necessary introduction without acknowledging my indebtedness to many works previously

written on kindred topics ; but especially to Noble's " South Africa, Past and Present," than which a clearer, more succinct, reliable, or ably written work on the whole question has never yet been published ; and I am therefore doubly glad at being able to make use of such an authority for much of the early history of the Boers, as well as in again bringing before the public its value as a work of reference on all South African affairs.

NATAL, *October, 1881.*