THE TRANSVAAL FROM WITHIN.

Some Press Opinions.

The Times (leading article): 'It will be found a mine of information concerning the recent history of the Transvaal, and will probably prove very surprising to people who have not paid close attention to the subject.'

The Times: 'Mr. FitzPatrick's book supplies a want which has been widely felt. For the first time, the information which every one has been asking for, and which nobody has been able to obtain, with regard to the common facts of contemporary Transvaal history, is collected in a volume convenient for reference and easy to read. Mr. FitzPatrick puts his facts before the public with a moderation and simplicity of statement which add greatly to the force of an agreeable style. He is not without appreciation of the finer side of the Boer character. . . . Nothing that has been written upon the Transvaal brings the conditions of life there so clearly before English readers. Mr. FitzPatrick lays his arguments boldly and simply before his readers, but it is in the facts of the book—facts never before brought together in so convenient a form—that the most powerful of all arguments will be found. Few readers will lay down the volume without feeling that they know more than they have ever known before of the real issues on trial in South Africa.'

The Spectator: 'It can be claimed for Mr. FitzPatrick that he states facts and not prejudices, that he is not blinded by hatred, and that he sees the necessity of meeting arguments by arguments, and not by mere rhetoric. He does not merely censure the Boers, but shows how and why the Outlanders have found it impossible to live under their rule, and why they prefer to risk the ruin of their lives and fortunes to submitting to continued misgovernment. All who desire to understand the case of the Outlanders should read Mr. FitzPatrick's book—a book which, we may add, is written throughout with no little literary skill, and is uniformly as sane and manly in style as it is interesting and valuable in matter.'

The Standard: 'Mr. FitzPatrick is particularly well qualified to describe to us the inner working of the South African Republic. He writes as a South African by birth, a resident in the Transvaal from 1884, and Secretary of the Johannesburg Reform Committee. He could scarcely have devoted the three years' banishment to which he was sentenced after the discharge of the Reform leaders from Pretoria gaol to a better purpose than the preparation of this book. It is a clear statement of the case of the Uitlanders. At the same time Mr. FitzPatrick keeps his feelings well in hand. He has striven, not without success, to be just to his Boer opponents. The book deserves serious attention, particularly from those who may still doubt whether the Boer oligarchy merits the extinction by which it is threatened.'

The Daily News: 'Any reader who desires to realize the Uitlanders' point of view should carefully read this book. He will learn from it how galling the conditions are to free-born Britons, and how sick at heart they had become from hopes perpetually deferred and promises never fulfilled.'

The Daily Mail: 'A work which should be studied by all those rightly wishing to understand the vital questions now at issue. Mr. FitzPatrick has the gift of a sympathetic touch: he is a graphic chronicler. The book is cramful of telling incidents and facts.'
Some Press Opinions (continued).

The St. James's Gazette: 'A very valuable contribution to the proper understanding of the problems now awaiting solution in South Africa. Mr. FitzPatrick sketches briefly but boldly, and with sympathetic pen, the history of the Boers from the time of the great Trek. A completeness is thus given to the picture for which readers of this book—and they ought to be numerous—will be grateful.'

The Globe: 'The volume contains much which is of the highest possible value historically and of the greatest present interest. A full account of the Reform movement is given, and of the Raid, some of the information being absolutely new. The book is written in a pleasant literary style. It is couched in somewhat rhetorical language, and is written sometimes eloquently and always picturesquely. It is, in short, at the same time one of the easiest to read and one of the most informing of all the books which have been written on the complicated Transvaal problem.'

The Newcastle Daily Chronicle: 'We heartily wish that Mr. FitzPatrick's book were in the hands of every Englishman at the existing conjuncture. It is pre-eminently the volume to be read and re-read by all who wish to grasp the facts of the South African difficulty. Mr. FitzPatrick deals with facts, and were the facts which he narrates with great literary skill as well known to the English people as they are to him, no politician would dare to mount a public platform and ask what has happened that we should go to war with the Transvaal.'

The Bootman: 'Force and effect are given to the picture he draws of the singular anomalies, hardships, and dangers of the situation by his manifest desire to avoid overstatement and to speak fairly of all, including Mr. Kruger. To the remarkable character and career of the President he does full justice.'

The Manchester Courier: 'Mr. FitzPatrick has made no effort to snatch a mere literary success. He has written a plain unvarnished account of Transvaal affairs from his own unhappy experience. But it appeals to the reader more eloquently than could the most brilliant vituperation; it carries with it the impress of truth; and justifies the drastic measures to which the British Cabinet may resort.'

The Yorkshire Post: 'The Boer oligarchy is so industriously represented in the English press, and is so liberal in statements of its own position, that it can hardly resent the publication by an Outlander of the case for the other side. Mr. FitzPatrick ought to know something about that case. He is by birth a South African; he has lived in the Transvaal since 1884; he was Secretary of the Reform Committee which fell upon evil times. The book is full of sidelights on Boer honesty, Boer piety, Boer justice, and Boer humanity. It will confirm the conviction of most right-minded Englishmen that these Augean stables must now be cleansed of their filth.'

The Birmingham Daily Gazette: 'A stirring volume. It has great value as history; it has even a greater value on account of its multitude of details, such as only a resident in the Transvaal could produce. Mr. FitzPatrick shows exactly how the present crisis has been brought about. He does not mince matters. He has facts, deadly facts; he has evidence, convincing evidence. It is in reading his volume that one thoroughly realises why there has never been rest and contentment in the Transvaal, and why the impassioned protests of the Uitlanders have constantly been heard.'

London:

WILLIAM HEINEMANN, 21, BEDFORD STREET, W.C.
THE TRANSVAAL FROM WITHIN
THE TRANSVAAL FROM WITHIN

A Private Record of Public Affairs

BY

J. P. FITZPATRICK
AUTHOR OF 'THE OUTSPAN'

Fourth Impression

LONDON
WILLIAM HEINEMANN
1899
PREFACE

It was originally designed to compile a statement of the occurrences of 1895-6 in the Transvaal and of the conditions which led up to them, in the hope of removing the very grave misunderstandings which existed. Everybody else had been heard and judged, the Uitlander had only been judged. It therefore seemed proper that somebody should attempt to present the case for the Uitlander. The writer, as a South African by birth, as a resident in the Transvaal since 1884, and lastly as Secretary of the Reform Committee, felt impelled to do this, but suffered under the disability of President Kruger's three years' ban; and although it might possibly have been urged that a plain statement of facts and explanations of past actions could not be fairly regarded as a deliberate interference in politics, the facts themselves when set out appeared to constitute an indictment so strong as to make it worth while considering whether the Government of the Transvaal would not regard it as sufficient excuse to put in force the sentence of banishment. The postponement of publication which was then decided upon for a period of three years appeared to be tantamount to the abandonment of the original purpose, and the work was continued with the intention of making it a private record to be printed at the expiry of the term of silence, and to be privately circulated among those who were personally concerned or interested; a record which might perhaps be of service some day in filling in a page of South African history.

The private circulation of that work during June of the
present year led to suggestions from many quarters that it
should be supplemented by a chapter or two dealing with
later events and published; and the present volume is the
outcome of these suggestions.

It is realized that much of what might properly appear in
a private record will be considered rather superfluous in a
book designed for wider circulation. For instance, a good
deal of space is given to details of the trial and the prison
life of the Reformers, which are of no interest whatever to
the public, although they form a record which the men them­selves may like to preserve. These might have been omitted
but that the writer desired to make no alterations in the
original text except in the nature of literary revision.

The writer may be charged by the "peace" party with
deliberately selecting a critical and anxious time as oppor­tune to contribute a new factor to those already militating
against a peaceful settlement. Two replies could be made to
this: one an excuse and one an answer. It would be an
excuse that the writer did not deliberately select the time of
publication, but that the Transvaal Government in its
wisdom chose to impose silence for three years, and, that
the project with which their action had interfered was
resumed at the earliest possible moment. The coincidence
of another crisis with the date of emancipation may be an
unlucky coincidence, or it may be a result. But there is
neither necessity nor intention to offer excuses. The
responsibility is accepted and the answer is that a case so
sound needs only to be understood, that a recital of the
facts must help to dispel the mists of race prejudice and mis­understanding which are obscuring the judgment of many;
and that a firm but strictly just and dignified handling of the
question by the Imperial Government is the only possible
way to avert a catastrophe in South Africa. It is essential
therefore that first of all the conditions as they are should be
understood; and this record is offered as a contribution to
that end. Let the measure of its truth be the measure of its
usefulness!

The reader is not invited to believe that the case is
presented in such form as it might have been presented by
an impartial historian. It is the Transvaal from within, by
one who feels all the injustice and indignity of the position. With the knowledge, however, that a good case is spoiled by overstatement and with the desire to avoid injustice to others an earnest attempt has been made to state the facts fairly. In how far that attempt has been successful the reader must decide for himself.

J. P. F.

July, 1899.
NOTE

It has been impossible to avoid in this volume more or less 'pointed reference to certain nationalities in certain connections; for instance such expressions as "the Boers," "the Cape Dutch," "the Hollanders," "the Germans," are used. The writer desires to say once and for all that unless the contrary is obviously and deliberately indicated, the distinctions between nationalities are intended in the political sense only and not in the racial sense, and if by mischance there should be found something in these pages which seems offensive, he begs the more indulgent interpretation on the ground of a very earnest desire to remove and not to accentuate race distinctions.

General references are also made to classes—"the civil service," "the officials," &c. There are officials in the Transvaal service who would earn the confidence and esteem of the public in any administration in the world. It is hardly necessary to say that there is no intention to disparage them.
ERRATA.

Page 35, line 37, for 'bayonets,' read 'bayonet.'

36, for 'Christian,' read 'Christiaan.'

73, for 'concessionaries,' read 'concessionaires.'

78, for 'Netherland,' read 'Netherlands.'

93, for 'maket,' read 'market.'

207, for 'Sheppard,' read 'Shippard.'

391, for 'Schute,' read 'Schutte.'
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