

General Smuts were shy of accepting the honours offered to them by His Majesty's Government. To encourage them Dr. Jameson and Dr. Smartt told them that they also would accept honours. But at the last moment the understanding fell through, Botha fearing the bitter comments of the Republicans, and so Jameson was left with a title which he certainly did not covet.

A sharp illness in March made his doctors insist on a change, and Jameson and Smartt together left for England on April 26. We hear of Jameson at Carlsbad in July. To his friend Smartt he writes on August 18, 1911, some little time after his return to London, that he is better in general health except for his shoulders, etc. He has decided, however, 'that I am not coming back to politics. Of course,' he adds, 'I must give decent notice to Grahamstown before Parliament. Don't you think Bailey would do for Albany? He could be made to spend money there and help the Party funds. Ask Hennessy what he thinks . . . he will loyally accept you as leader, taking up our line of friendly support to Botha, but absolutely still on the English side.' Again he writes from the same address, 2 Down Street, on September 2, that he has had to 'chuck my imitation golf for a few days' owing to a gouty eczema which had made his right wrist bad again, and 'makes me stand on one leg—very boring. . . . I am surer than ever that I am doing the right thing in the interests of the party as well as my selfish self in replacing the incompetent self by the competent you.' Neither Smartt nor the Party consented easily to give Jameson up, as we gather from a letter of November 3, 1911: 'Your cable I take to mean that good or bad result you still want me to come back, and in fact

if I don't it would be running away when you think the party is in a tight place, because of Botha's probably relapsing into the arms of Steyn. Therefore I cabled another tentative reply.' And he goes on to give a reluctant assent to the party call. 'Of course I will do all I can, but it will be a very poor all, probably like last session, a kind of sleeping partner with another supply of new and strange diseases.' And again, 'It does seem a hopeless business getting out of these damned politics, and it is particularly annoying that again I must appear as a complete liar and humbug on this subject, when God knows I am and always have been honestly anxious to get out of it, but I suppose it can't be helped. If only at the last moment Botha should do the 100 to 1 chance and chuck Steyn I suppose you would still let me out. I have begun again the injections with Dawson and neuritis certainly does not get worse.'

He leaves London for Edinburgh in November and goes to Biarritz in December. There also his health is still far from good, but he musters strength for the voyage to South Africa, which he undertakes in January 1912.

In the meantime events there had been going as Jameson feared under a system both partisan and racial. Hertzog and Fischer had been getting rid not of teachers only, but of many other servants of the Government who had the misfortune to be English, upon one pretext or another. The Civil Service, which had always been mainly English, was being remanned with Dutchmen, many of whom had no qualifications for the offices into which they were pushed. The Civil Service as a result was seething with discontent, and the whole country was

restless and disturbed. On February 15 Jameson in Parliament makes a protest against these changes 'in conflict with the spirit of the South African Act.' Again he claimed the sympathy of the Prime Minister; again he suggested that he was assisting the moderate Dutch to keep their own fanatics in order. Hertzog he described as a John the Baptist with an ideal, but the vehemence of this ideal had made him forget the bargain to which the two races had come in the Convention. Let them not try to make South Africa bi-lingual in a single year. 'We know,' he said, 'that if you feed a child on jam in moderate quantities he will like it; but if you push a pot down his throat he will probably never eat jam again.'

This protest no doubt had its effect on the Government, but it was the last effort of Jameson. On March 12 he had written to Sam, 'I am well enough, but have occasional bouts of seediness and rather more stiffening up of the arms; so I have almost decided to come away after the Budget debate in about three weeks; so I should be home by end of April and I hope ready to play golf with you. Still they won't let me resign; but at all events I should have a clear nine months to think about coming back.' At Wynberg on March 19 he told his followers that he could no longer lead the party, and proposed his friend Sir Thomas Smartt as his successor. On April 10 a party meeting reluctantly accepted the resignation. On the morning of April 10 he bade a sad farewell to Smartt and the Prime Minister, and sailed later in the day by the *Armadale Castle*.

'The shadow of Jameson's resignation,' says the writer of 'Notes in the House,' in the *Cape Times*,

'lay heavy upon all.' General Botha spoke with simple feeling of the loss of 'our friend.' 'From the day,' he said, 'I first met him a strong friendship arose between us, and to-day that friendship is even stronger. And after praising Jameson, both his character and his work, he said in that simple way which went to the hearts of men, 'I conclude by wishing him God's blessing.'

CHAPTER XLI

LAST DAYS

CECIL JOHN RHODES AND LEANDER STARR JAMESON

Auspice Caecilio, duce te, dilecte, profectis
Africa, Leander, dat nova tecta viris.
Ille obdormivit; magno sed numine nata
Terra memor retinet nomen et ingenium.
Hunc, freta transvectum vitae, mors jungit amico
Heroum et sedi sidus adesse jubet.¹

JAMESON was now at last really free of Cape politics, which we have plainly seen from his letters he had always hated; only the 'duty business' had kept him there so long. His ambition was now the Charter Company in London and golf with Midge and Sam. But his 'strange and new diseases' made life an intermittent agony. In July he is at Carlsbad, writing on July 19 to Smartt 'after twenty hours damnable pain and several morphia injections. But in paving the way to my getting out you may honestly tell our friends that I shall be an invalid

¹ D. O. M. translates his verses into English thus:—

Rhodes for our chief, Leander for our guide,
Through Africa we came and here abide.
Rhodes sleeps but dies not; daughter of his will
His country keeps his name and spirit still.
Leander's stormy seas are passed, his end
The starry home of Heroes, with his friend.

D. O. M.

ΜΑΤΟΡΡΟΣ, 22nd May 1920.

for several months to come, if not worse.' On August 15, 1912, he is in Harrogate, sharing a house with the Marquis and Marchioness of Winchester, with another dear friend, Lady Muriel Paget, as one of the guests. In such good company he could be happy, but it is plain from his letter to Smartt of that date that he is in wretched health. 'Your politics,' he says, 'are in the lap of the gods, but you must get into combination with Botha against the Labour crowd. And to do this you will have to meet him a bit in managing his difficult people, and that means controlling yours. Fitz and Drummond in a chastened spirit ought to help you.¹ All this from the arm-chair in England you will say is piffle, and perhaps you are right. Make Hennessy resign my seat, and put up Bailey immediately latter comes out next month and Hennessy can resign my Cape clubs, etc.' On September 27, 1912, he writes from East Lothian, again to Smartt, that 'Botha is behaving pretty well, gradually summoning up courage to tell his people they must pay [for the Navy]. You ought, with patience, to bring about the combination. Just as in the naval question and the Rhodes Memorial question, he has to go slowly, but in the end he comes out, though he best knows how to bring his own people along. . . . Charter affairs so much in the melting-pot that I think I must give up the Indian trip this year and stick to London Wall.' And again he writes to Smartt on November 1, 1912, that he had been 'rather pleased with Botha's statement as to the necessity of providing for [naval] protection of ninety millions trade, and think it was unwise to let Long hammer him so

¹ Sir Percy FitzPatrick and Sir Drummond Chaplin.

strenuously.¹ If you were keeping up a real party fight with the purpose of succeeding him as a party it would be good business, but that is hopeless, as we hinted at the general elections. That being so, it seems well to foster any sign of good intentions, and after all we know that in subjects of this kind Botha must gradually get his people to come with him. They must be educated and we in decency must recognise that fact. A party attitude on the Navy must give the Hertzog element points against Botha, and tend further to throw the latter back into their hands. I have heard from Botha and seen Graaff. Of course you must keep the party together and keep up a strenuous fight on methods, but I am sure it would be good business if you would meet Botha often and talk and agree upon principles with him. . . . We must frankly acknowledge to ourselves that our best alternative is . . . to choose Botha rather than the Merriman, Sauer, Hertzog combination, and hope for the inclusion of our people with Botha's immediate party. The only way to lead to that is a frank, friendly, personal understanding between you, the leader, and Botha, and your main difficulty of course will be to keep in hand the extremists of your party, like Fitz and, in a lesser degree, the young men like Long. Great cheek the arm-chair lecturing you, but I know you won't mind my giving you my frank ideas.'

In the meantime Jameson, in spite of his ailments, had been going more and more deeply into Charter affairs. Since the death of Cecil Rhodes and Alfred

¹ Mr. B. K. Long, then a barrister and Member of Parliament on the Progressive side, now Editor of the *Cape Times*, in succession to Jameson's old and trusty friend, Sir Maitland Park, who died after a long illness, heroically borne, in 1921.

Beit the Company had drifted without leadership or policy. Jameson's first task was to organise a competent government. To this end he worked for the appointment of a Committee of All Time Directors.¹ 'Just a line,' he writes to Sir Lewis Michell on January 10, 1913, 'as you will hear all news from Maguire.'² We have had a strenuous time since you left but are getting fairly under way on a business basis. Fox, Malcolm, and Birchenough make a good Committee, but as one of them is to be always in Rhodesia I want a fourth. . . . The presidency, as you know, is in abeyance. My idea of course is Grey, and I have said so.'

When things had gone thus far, the Duke of Abercorn, the President of the Company, died, and it was plain to all that only Jameson could succeed him. On February 27 he was asked to take the chair at the general meeting, and in his speech the shareholders at once recognised that touch of genius and inspiration lacking since the death of the founder.³

The election of Jameson as President of the Chartered Company was inevitable. He himself would have preferred Earl Grey, but the opinion of the Company was decisive, he was duly elected, and thenceforth the Board had again a policy. Jameson saw very clearly, as Rhodes had foreseen, that Rhodesia must

¹ The whole-time Executive Committee consisted of three Directors, Mr. Dougal Orme Malcolm, a Colonial Office official with experience of South Africa, Mr. Birchenough, and Mr. Wilson Fox, who had been General Manager and was promoted to the Board.

² Mr. Rochfort Maguire, then Vice-President of the Company, had gone out to Rhodesia on a visit as representing the Company, taking with him the Directors' statement of policy of 1913.

³ 'Just come back from the meeting,' Jameson writes to his brother on the 27th, 'which went off very well. They voted all we want and did not heckle.'

some day enter the Union, and redress the balance. Therefore he wanted a stronger and a bigger Rhodesia with closer settlement, material progress, and a good understanding between Company and settlers. The chief thing was to get people on the land, and that was no easy matter, for as Rhodesia had a black population the only sort of settlers in the least likely to survive were men with capital who could organise the black labour in large farming operations. One of the Executive Committee whom Jameson liked and trusted most, Mr. Dougal Malcolm, went out to expound a scheme, which in brief was the creation of a Land Board to finance the sale of land to settlers upon long and easy terms, to be administered jointly by the Company and the representatives of the settlers.

Jameson with Wilson Fox and Hawksley followed Malcolm. On November 26 he writes from Buluwayo :—

‘ Pretty hot weather, but I do well with it. Plenty of deputations and little bothers, but I am steering pretty clear of functions and intend to get out of it if I can with one big meeting before I leave. That ought to have more effect at elections than being constantly on tap.’

Curious to think of Jameson going over that great country after so many years—nodding to an old acquaintance in the streets of Buluwayo, 300 feet wide because he had laid them out himself so that ‘ a bullock team could turn anywhere ’; where Thomson had cut out the fleet horse from the harness of his cart, there were the first trees of the mile-long nursemaid-shading avenue; where in the goat kraal he had wrestled with the King for days in debate, and cured the royal gout, where he had held his own

in the perilous game with savage indunas and hostile *concessionaires*, where he had been arrayed in the savage insignia of the feather cloak, the shield and the spear, there was now a pleasant garden with trim box hedges, and the white walls of Government House shining through the shrubbery. And in those great tawny plains where he and his servant, Garlick, had fought wild dogs, or made fires to keep off lions, the smoke rose from English homesteads, and Hereford cattle grazed in peace. The savage land had become a civilised colony, with its towns and railways, its mines, its commerce, and even its industries. And, sad to say, there were also its politics, for there were now 30,000 white settlers, many of them with a grievance against the Company, all of them keen to debate questions of policy and government—an active, alert, energetic people, with the confident, arrogant views natural to young communities.

They came to Jameson, the old pioneers, and Jameson greeted them in that drily humorous way of his own: 'Hullo, Bill!' he said to one, 'you have got damned ugly since I saw you last.' To another who came full of grievances, after listening in silence for ten minutes, 'And now, Tom, don't you think you are a —— fool?' And Bill and Tom went away swearing that not for years had they heard such wisdom and common sense in Rhodesia.

The great event of the trip was the meeting in Salisbury of December 22, 1913, at which Jameson came to grips with all the questions then at issue between Company and settlers. 'I am going to be perfectly frank,' he said; 'I am not going to adopt the tactics of the ostrich, who buries his head in the sand and imagines that another and prominent portion of his body is not seen.' And from these

opening words the settlers knew at once that it was really and truly their old Dr. Jim speaking to them as of old as man to men. By universal testimony it was a wonderful triumph. The Colony began by being hostile, but Jameson pulled it round by virtue of his humour and his courage. The unalienated land, he said, belonged to the shareholders. It had been suggested that he should hand it over to the people; 'but my answer to that is that I represent the Charter Company Board and the Board represents 40,000 shareholders. The property is not mine, and I have no inclination to go back to Holloway.' Then, logically and reasonably, as his manner was, he took his audience step by step through the great question of their political future. The Imperial Government had the opportunity of revising the Charter from the following year, 1914, twenty-five years from the time it had been granted. But the Charter would go on. Why? Because the alternative was absorption in the Union. 'The Dutchmen,' he continued, 'are great friends of mine, and I believe that the Englishmen and the Dutchmen will be mixed up in a heap together some day. But in the meantime let them settle their troubles down below before they come up here. We do not want their racial, their bi-linguistic, or any other troubles, to add to our own.' They were not yet ready for the Union. 'What is going to happen to this young vigorous Rhodesian child when it gets into the bed of that large and corpulent mother. . . . Your aspirations are going to be killed, and at the inquest next morning the verdict will be, overlaid by the Union.' He put the alternative before them of a greater Rhodesia, stretching from Mafeking to 300 miles north of the Zambesi. 'With that great State

before you,' he said, 'surely it is an inspiring thing, not only for you, but for your children and your children's children.' Better that than to allow their identity to sink in the vortex of the troubles of the Union, Asiatic, Native, and racial. ' . . . Let it right its own affairs and allow you to develop your affairs, and it is in the lap of the gods in future whether we shall go to the Union or whether we shall not.'

A vigorous speech; but the weariness and sickness cannot be kept out of his letters. 'Got through first big meeting here all right,' he wrote to Sam; 'the audience were extremely good-natured, and I hope the only really bored person was myself. Things generally are going pretty well. . . . I believe they will vote Charter all right at the election.'

The speech at Buluwayo on January 26, 1914, dealt more with the business, the mining, and the development of the country. One sentence from his discussion of the land question suggests the spirit of the speech: 'There is nothing more attractive to a human being than having been able to convince himself that somebody else's property is his own.' Jameson was at home among his Rhodesians.

Sir Starr had to defend the Company not only from the envy of settlers, but from the hostility of the Colonial Office. The Company had always acted on the belief that it owned the land of Rhodesia by right of concession, conquest and occupation. Some it had assigned to the natives, some it had granted to the pioneers, some it had sold; but there remained great tracts of unalienated land, not indeed the best, the ownership of which Mr. Harcourt now made a bone of contention between the Company and settlers.

His first move was a letter of January 1, 1914,

addressed to the High Commissioner, suggesting that the question be made the subject of a Privy Council case, and offering on behalf of the Government, 'every facility for its determination.' The Company, upon its side, as the question had been raised, was willing enough to have it settled, and only stipulated that the decision should be final. It even waived all legal objections to the settlers, who in law had no sort of status, being made a party to the suit. It is not part of our purpose to follow the manifold intricacies of this case, which in the end was decided much on the principle of Æsop's fable of the two cats, the monkey, and the cheese. The land which had been claimed by the settlers and by the Company was declared to be the property of the Crown.¹ Sufficient to say that it upset Jameson's plan for land settlement in Rhodesia, for the settlers refused to come to any arrangement which they thought might possibly prejudice their title to the land, and so the Company's carefully arranged scheme fell through.

Then came the great war, making these and all other issues small by comparison. On November 13, 1914, Jameson writes to Smartt from London:—

'Yes, you are having a peck of troubles, but Botha will come out. The rebels can't have much in the way of ammunition and general supplies. It should only make the South West campaign slower. Still we were all wrong about the question of disloyalty. . . . What a tiresome speechifier Schreiner will make as H.C. [High Commissioner]. General idea that war will finish up at end of spring. Of course we will win, but most of us will be ruined in the process. The Government are damnable, but it is a lucky thing they are

¹ It followed, however, as a logical, if unwelcome, consequence that the deficits of the Company became the liability of the Crown.

in power so as to ensure of loyal opposition. Dawson [his doctor] is sending me to Bath to-day for a fortnight.'

In the speech which Sir Starr Jameson, now President, addressed to the Nineteenth General Meeting of the Company on December 17, 1914, there is very little but war and the preparations for defence. In the north-east the Germans had raided the border, and Rhodesian troops were working with the forces of Nyasaland and Belgian Congo. In the south-west, where German territory projected a long tongue to the Zambesi, the Company's troops had occupied the Caprivi strip. Jameson was cheered to the echo when he said that 'practically the whole manhood of Rhodesia volunteered for service within or outside our territory.'

A bequest of £25,000 left to him, with thoughtful kindness, by Alfred Beit, put him beyond all need, with his simple tastes, to consider ways and means of life, and in these latter years Jameson moved from 2 Down Street to the larger house of 2 Great Cumberland Place, which he shared with his brothers, Sam and Midge. There they were generally to be found of a late afternoon, Jameson hunched up in a huge arm-chair before a roaring fire even when the weather was warm, with his eternal cigarette, arguing more or less impatiently with one or other of his brothers on the political questions of the day. There were eternal arguments, not so much with Sam, who was much of Lanner's way of thinking, as with Midge, who, either from devilment or from a natural habit of mind, always and upon every question took the other side. Not that they were quarrelling, as might appear to the uninitiated; they were merely whiling away the hours of tedium and of pain now habitual to the Doctor, although he never spoke of, nor even

betrayed, his sufferings, except for an odd grimace or one of his favourite expletives. Golf became more and more difficult owing to a gouty eczema in the arms, but he contrived to play nevertheless, and was never happier than when wagering a box of new golf balls with such old friends as Jim Taylor or with Sam. He found delight also in the visits of various South Africans—magnates of the Rand, whom he chaffed unmercifully; Lionel Phillips, with whom he was again on friendly terms; Sir Percy FitzPatrick, and the rest. But his chief delight was when Sir Thomas Smartt came home with eloquent accounts of South African politics. This loyal-hearted Irishman, whose natural gift of rhetoric was carried into private conversation, was his perpetual delight, and it is recorded that even when they were together in the House of Assembly, or on a political platform, when the other was in his sublimest rhetorical flights, Jameson would be quietly and maliciously and continuously interrupting *sotto voce* with ‘Oh! for God’s sake, stop it, Smartt! Dry up and sit down!’—interruptions which Smartt took with imperturbable good-humour.

On January 22, 1915, in a letter to this friend, Jameson refers to pessimistic reports of disaffection among the Dutch.

‘But,’ he goes on, ‘so long as there is an “if” I would not bother about the pessimistic view. Over here there will be practically no change for the next couple of months, weather and preparation of reinforcements preventing. Then things will begin to hum, and I still think it will be over in the summer. Damnable weather here, and with a good deal of rheumatism I am going to spend these two slack months in going to India, starting to-morrow and returning in end of March. Metcalfe and Jim Taylor are going with

me. The Government, especially our particular one (Harcourt ?) as damnable as ever, but our Charter is now on a level keel for the next ten years,¹ and except pin-pricks they cannot do us much harm. Hawk back at work—a little more obstinate and idiotic, but otherwise as before.’²

On May 21 of the same year he writes again to Smartt :—

‘ On the whole was rather bored in India, but am glad to have been there. It was hot at all events, and my chest had been bothering me. Now I am all right. The end of the war seems to get further and further away. Of course the usual muddling on a bigger scale. The eventual success, of course, is all right, and the rapidly coming compulsory service and its attendant advantages is almost worth the sacrifice from a national point of view. . . . The new Government at all events will have a sprinkling of honest men and will muddle along better. I dined with Asquith the other night in the middle of the crisis, and he was much more interested in his Bridge than in anything else. . . . But still, no doubt, he is the best man to run the new mixed show, that he is pre-eminently good at from long practice and no principles of his own to interfere. Botha’s show is the only well done thing in the war.’

Again on August 17 he writes to Smartt :—

‘ Your cable only another evidence of the hopelessness of the authorities. I am going down to see Bonar Law about it this afternoon. It is our next hope, but even he seems to have been mesmerised into a semi-mandarin since the Coalition. Funny thing to say, but as far as England is

¹ It had been renewed by the Imperial Government.

² This affectionate reference to Mr. Hawksley, the respected and beloved solicitor of the Chartered Company, must not be taken *au pied de la lettre*. He had returned to work after a serious illness. Broadly speaking, the measure of Jameson’s love for his friends may be gauged by the strength and invention of the affectionate abuse he launched upon their devoted heads.

concerned, this Russian debacle is the best thing that has happened. It is even putting the fear of God into the Government, and I hope they will be punched into compulsory service in the next few weeks. The Balkans is the interesting point at the present moment and the only possible solution of this huge Dardanelles blunder. Lionel Phillips is very busy getting together a Committee and funds for a Hospital for the S.A. Contingent. That will be done all right. We are having great trouble with the Colonial Office about our war expenditure in the north. Bonar a little sticky, and the permanent staff declared enemies. Altogether life is not a happy one at present. . . .'

Jameson made one more visit to South Africa. He left with his friend Mr. Dougal Malcolm on October 23, 1915, with two main ends in view, one the organisation of the north-eastern border against the Germans in German East Africa, and the other the administrative amalgamation of all the Rhodesias. Jealousies and local interests stood in the way, and his scheme of a Greater and United Rhodesia had to be postponed.¹ He returned to London on February 16, 1916. Possibly the journey had been rather much for his health, and in March he underwent another, and this time a very serious, operation. At the Annual Meeting of the Company on April 6, 1916, Mr. Lyttelton Gell, the Chairman, had

¹ A statement concerning the amalgamation of Southern and Northern Rhodesia was made by the visiting Directors in the Rhodesian press on December 31, 1915. They pointed out the advantages of a single unified administration for the whole of Rhodesia, including the territory north of the Zambesi, the chief advantage to the settlers being that their voice would be stronger if it was the voice of a single community than if Rhodesia were divided into two territories. Moreover, the people of Northern Rhodesia, who were not yet sufficiently numerous to have their own Legislative Council, could join in the Legislative Council of the Southern Province. There would be a common law, for the law of Southern Rhodesia is Roman Dutch, whereas the law of Northern Rhodesia is English. There would be prospective economies, a stronger Civil Service, and other advantages.

to regret the absence of their President owing to continued ill-health, and from then on his friends noted a continually ebbing strength of body, although the spirit burned as brightly as ever, and his courage even in the darkest days of the war never faltered.

On May 16, 1916, he writes to Smartt :—

‘ This operation has been a devil of a business, and though it was very successful and healed practically by first [intention], still the irritation and stiffness of side persists and won’t be right for another couple of months. At the same time it leaves me more or less “gaga ” as to energy for doing anything, and only one advantage, it makes it impossible for the present for me to go into the House, which some of our friends are still urging. The point about the operation which I did not realise is the extent of the incision . . . which, of course, means a horrid tightening up of my fibrous tissue, which must take time and trouble to get over. The political position still damnable, but Asquith may come to grief over the Irish affair. Bonar Law’s loyalty to Asquith has been a hopeless handicap. He has a backbone like Rosebery, I am afraid.’

These last letters serve to show the ardour of the dying man in the cause of his country. He was never too ill to listen to news from any of the battle fronts, and his chief delight was when some old soldier friend dropped in upon him with tidings of the war. He would even speak with envy of his old friend Sir John Willoughby,¹ who organised an armoured motor battery and took it to East Africa to fight under the command of his old enemy, General Smuts. Invalid as he was, Jameson forced himself to work. In September, 1916, the War Office formed a Committee which included representatives of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John, the

¹ Sir John Willoughby died on April 16, 1918.

Prisoners of War Help Committee, and the Indian Soldiers Fund, to take charge of the welfare of British prisoners, and Sir Starr Jameson was made Chairman. He had loyal colleagues, and if he had no longer the strength for such a burden, his insight and habit of quick decision were of service.

On December 31, 1916, he wrote to Smartt :—

‘Your interview and Botha’s subsequent speech most satisfactory. Hope you will be able to keep him continuously up to the mark, and especially before he comes home you must impress him to take the strong line on the peace terms with the Bosches, and not let him be influenced by the International Jews and his Radical friends over here.

‘The change was brought about by the Northcliffe Press and the *Morning Post*, especially the latter, putting pluck into Lloyd George. . . . So far it is working well, and I really think they have got the best brains and energy available in the country. Milner is, of course, the main factor in the War Council, and I think we may say the whole show is being run by him and L. G. Altogether there is a clearing of the atmosphere since Asquith has gone. Every one more hopeful and feel that business is being done.’

On June 21, 1917, he writes again from the old address :—

‘I suppose your session is about finishing with a grand finish off by Merriman as to his horror of his old friends the “back velders.” Smuts, of course, has made a great hit, and from my talks with him I really believe he will be a considerable strength to our War Cabinet, which has lately been slacking off like all cabinets. Even our great stand-by, Milner, can only shrug his shoulders on the R. Macdonald episode, Tino, etc. In the old days he would have seen them all damned first before he would have agreed to any weak measures. Russia, of course, won’t make peace, but she may be ruled out for fighting this year and we must

wait for next year for America to fill the gap. The one bright spot is Haig and our Army, of which nothing is too good to say. Tell Hennessy, Crewe, and Walton and Fitz I know I am a beast not to write, but really I can give no news that you do not see in the papers, and with these damned Committees one is sick of everything except going to bed. Old Michell is going wonderfully strong. . . . With love to Lady S. and the "puppies,"—Yours,

L. S. JAMESON.'

Then on September 25, 1917, he writes, again to Smartt, this time from 2 London Wall Buildings:—

'Michell left to-day . . . younger than I have seen him for a long time. He tells me Lady Michell writes that you were going to take a rest after the Session and it only lasted thirty-six hours. Do stop this rot, and vegetate at your beastly farm—the world won't come to an end if you do, but if you don't *you* will come to an end. Things very sticky over here, and even optimist as I am an ominous compromise looks more and more likely. Both naval and military don't seem to be able to get out of the playing for safety attitude. The order of the day seems to be no risks, and if that goes on the Hun will never be knocked out. It is all very depressing. I am going to Ireland for the week-end to hear from Dunraven what is going on at the Convention. I am afraid it is only a talking out [word indecipherable ?] to keep things quiet.'

And now the end was near. Jameson took to his bed on Friday, November 16. The neuritis from which he had so long suffered, the effects of malaria in Rhodesia, and dysentery in the trenches of Ladysmith, had gradually poisoned all the nerves of the body, and now took the form of attacks of almost unbearable pain. Once he said to his doctors, with the dreadful knowledge of an expert, 'Since

you have done everything to satisfy medical punctilio, cannot you give me something and let me go.' Sam had died the year before, but Midge,¹ a brother even more dear than Sam, was constantly at his bedside. One morning Midge thought the doctor's face and views more cheerful, and he whispered that there was hope of recovery. 'No,' said Lanner, with his old smile, 'thank God, there is no hope.' The pain left him as he grew weaker, and when he could no longer speak he could still recognise his friends and signified farewell by a little pressure of the hand. Thus he died on the afternoon of Monday, November 26, of the year 1917.

On the 29th of that month his body was laid in a vault at the Kensal Green Cemetery until peace should return to the earth. Then it was carried to Rhodesia and on May 22, 1920, laid in a grave cut in the granite on the top of the mountain which Rhodes had called The View of the World, close beside the grave of his friend.

'Thy firmness makes my circle just,
And makes me end where I begun.'

There on the summit these two lie together.

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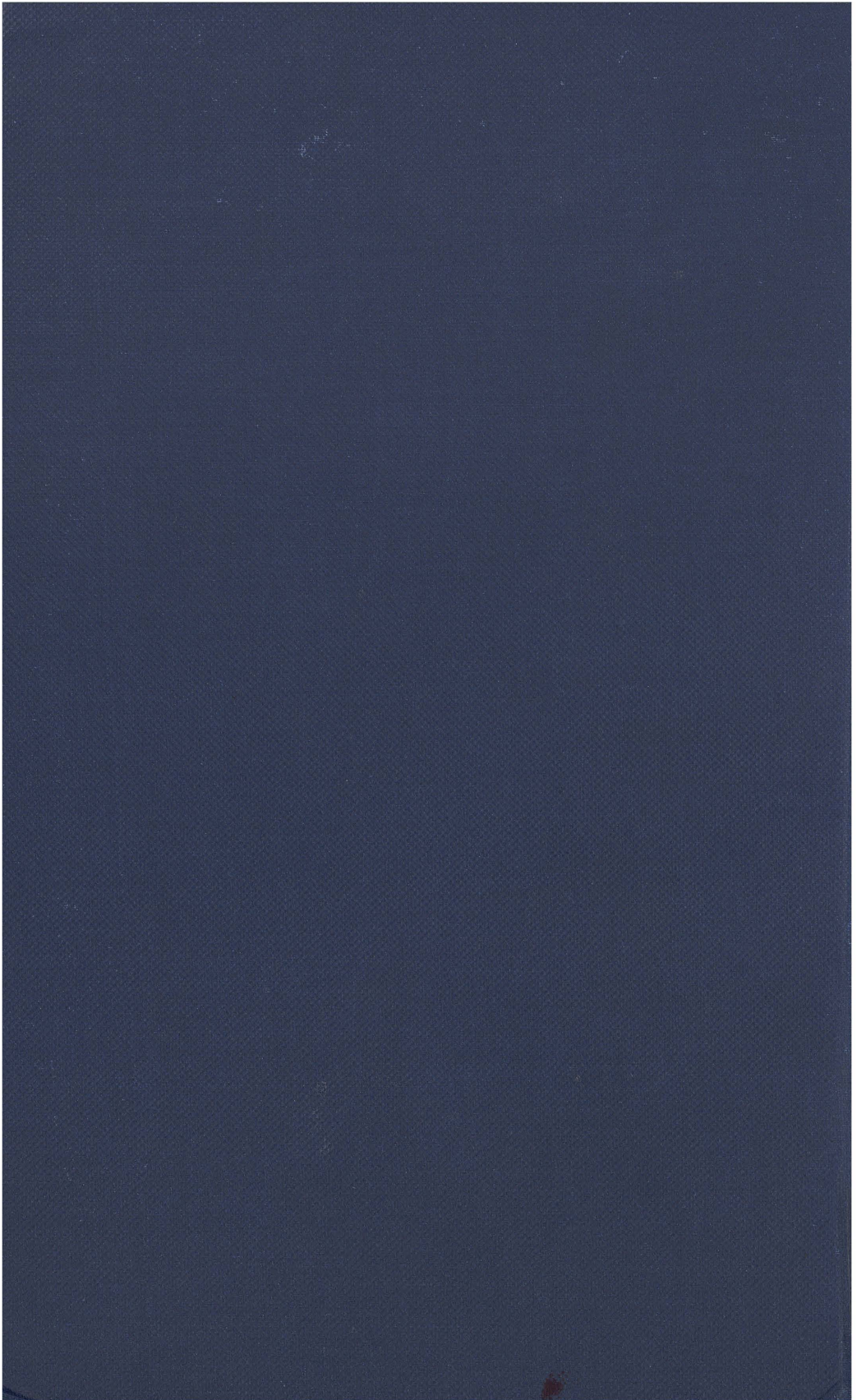
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