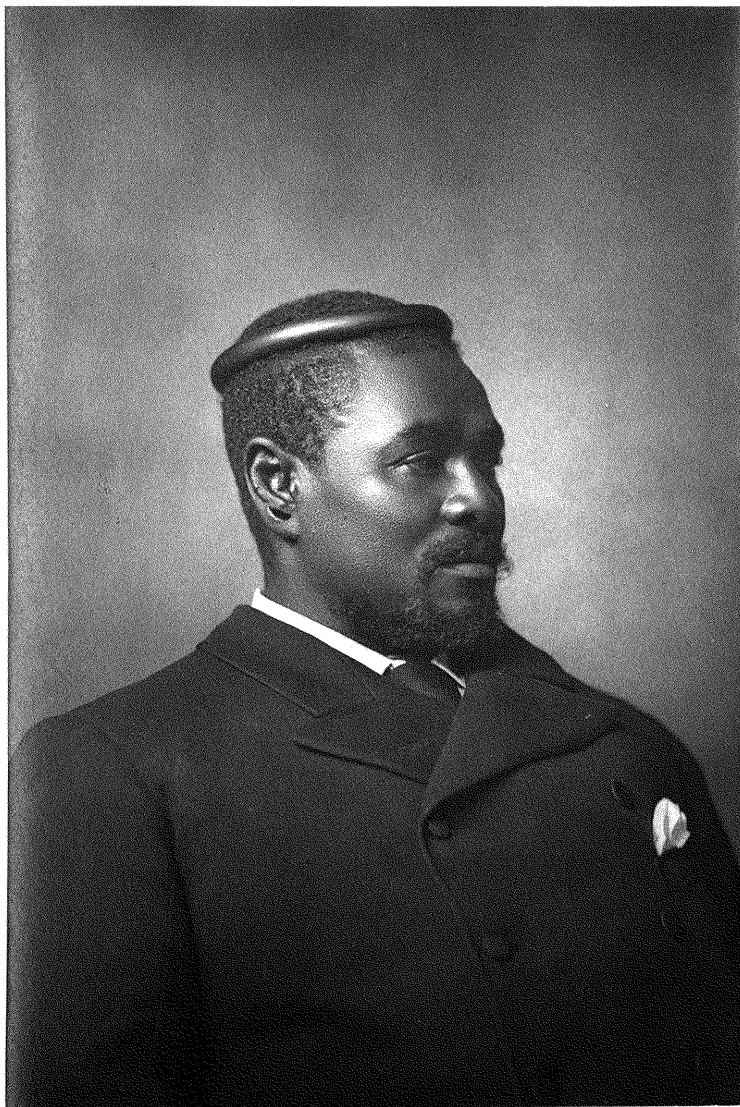


**THE**  
**RUIN OF ZULULAND.**

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**VOL. II.**

## Cetshwayo ka Mpande.



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“Cetshwayo desired us to urge upon the Governor of Natal to interfere to save the destruction of perhaps both countries, Zululand and the Transvaal. He requests us to state that he cannot and will not submit to be turned out of his own homes. It may be that he will be vanquished ; *but as he is not the aggressor death will not be so hard to meet.*”—Official Zulu message in 1875, the 13th since 1861, about the Disputed Territory and Boer aggressions (*Parl. Papers*, C. 1748, p. 14).

“No ! we do not understand it. For there has never been known one like him among us Zulus before, so good, so kind, so merciful. He never killed except for grave offences ; the whole country swarms with people who owe their lives to him, and who fled to him as the merciful Prince who did not kill.”—Statement of Zulu Chiefs at Bishopstowe, May 1880.

THE  
RUIN OF ZULULAND:

AN ACCOUNT OF  
BRITISH DOINGS IN ZULULAND SINCE  
THE INVASION OF 1879.

BY  
FRANCES ELLEN COLENZO.

*IN TWO VOLUMES.*

BEING A SEQUEL TO  
THE HISTORY OF THE ZULU WAR,

BY  
FRANCES ELLEN COLENZO  
AND  
LIEUT.-COLONEL EDWARD DURNFORD.

VOLUME II.

LONDON:  
WILLIAM RIDGWAY, 169, PICCADILLY.  
1885.



## PREFACE.

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THE *Saturday Review* for August 9th, 1884, criticising the first volume of my work, remarks, "Miss Colenso complains that Zibebu was assisted by white adventurers, but she cordially approves of the alliance between the King's party and the Boers;" while the *St. James' Gazette* accuses me of "Anglophobism."

I have no wish to disregard the unwritten law by which authors, as a rule, accept without reply, the criticisms of the reviewers, profiting by just and discerning rebuke, and careless of that which is manifestly mere abuse, written "to order." But when two of the leading journals of the day so entirely misinterpret the whole purpose and meaning of one's work, one may be permitted to protest.

The first volume of this book contains very little mention of the Boers at all, for the simple reason that it deals with a period during which they had nothing to do with Zululand, beyond that insidious creeping in from the north, of individual borderers on pretence of grazing and squatting, which has preceded the late—as well as all previous—Boer encroachments on native lands. But in an appendix

(written and added by a brother, who has also revised the whole work and seen it through the press) occurs a mention of "the service which a small party of Boers has rendered the cause of peace in Zululand," and upon this single phrase the *Saturday Review* rests its assertion that the writer "cordially approves of the alliance between the King's party and the Boers"!

It is true that, for the moment, the Boers did render such service to the Zulus as that mentioned by my brother, in giving the national party "the moral support which they so much needed," and in assisting them "to get rid of the firebrand which has desolated central Zululand—the European-led force . . . . which has operated with Zibebu's territory as a base." But I myself should have avoided any expression which might be taken to imply even toleration of the unhappy alliance in question. I have never for a moment believed that any good could result from it; from the first I have regarded the irruption of the Boers into Zululand as the greatest of all the misfortunes which have befallen that unhappy country, and should rejoice to hear that England would insist upon their withdrawal, she giving up at the same time that share of the unlawful spoil which her representatives have forced into her unwilling hands under the title of "Reserve." The recognition by England of Dinuzulu as his father's properly appointed successor, and King over the whole of Zululand, would combine the disintegrated portions of the Zulu nation, while there can be little

doubt that the party which has admitted the Boers would not only willingly submit to their expulsion on such conditions, but would be very thankful to be relieved of the monster of their own production which has grown so much beyond their control. Even were England obliged to use force to induce the Boers to retire, she would have the satisfaction of knowing that for once in South Africa she had used it on the right side, and her soldiers would have the encouragement of feeling that, at last, they were required to fight in a good cause.

The Boer adventurers\* can in justice demand payment for their services (which also, in strict justice, should be recompensed by us, and not by the unhappy Zulus), but the payment should be in cattle or money, not in land, and most certainly not in the shape of that territory of which the Transvaal has so long endeavoured to rob the Zulus—the remaining portion of that awarded to the latter by the British Commissioners in 1878, but the greater part of which Sir Garnet Wolseley arbitrarily made over to the Transvaal in 1879.

In refutation of the accusation of “Anglophobism,” I need only appeal to my preface to the first volume of this work, and to the general spirit of all that I have written.

If patriotism is to love and honour one’s own nation and fatherland above all others, to rejoice in

\* The Transvaal Government has so entirely repudiated the actions of the Boers in Zululand that it could give no excuse whatever for objecting to their expulsion.



her virtues and blush for her misdeeds, and to be willing to work and suffer for her sake, then I claim to deserve the name of Englishwoman. But if it means the determination to maintain, regardless of the truth, that all she does is right, to hide and deny her faults, instead of helping to cleanse her from them, and to glory in her success when she is in the wrong, then, indeed, I am no patriot at all.

FRANCES ELLEN COLENZO.

PALMHURST, DURBAN, NATAL,  
*Nov. 4th, 1884.*

## INTRODUCTION.

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UPON the 3rd of September, 1884, an event took place which obliges me to ask my readers' pardon for the form in which this work is brought to a close. Its concluding pages give little beyond a bare summary of the events which followed the installation proceedings of January 1883, and led up to Cetshwayo's death on the 8th of February, 1884. My subject, indeed, could not have been forced into two volumes with any advantage to itself, but I had been seriously warned of the difficulty of obtaining public attention for three volumes of this description, and had, therefore, meant to confine myself to two. On the day previous to the date first mentioned above, I posted to England a roll of manuscript which completed about two-thirds of the intended volume, and I then had all my materials collected and partly arranged for the remaining chapters.

The 3rd of September broke upon Bishopstowe, our home for many years, a heavy sultry day, with an intensely hot wind blowing from the north-west, so violently that none who could avoid doing so attempted to leave the house. Bishopstowe stood

upon a long sweep of hill, surrounded by other lower rises on three sides, but overtopped to the north at right angles by a higher range into which one end of its own ascends. Upwards to the north, downwards to the east and west, swept wide plantations of trees, grown by ourselves, those to the west bounded by a sluggish stream, white with lilies every autumn, across which a long low bridge with heavy weeping willows led to the steep and winding drive, bordered on either side by choice and foreign shrubs, which brought the traveller at length to my father's ever open doors. Year after year the one real danger of a country life in this our colony of Natal, the late winter grass-fires, had passed us by, warded off by the care bestowed upon the "burning-round" which is the common practice of the country, and in this winter of 1884, especial pains had been taken in this respect. The place was safe, indeed, from any ordinary chances of burning grass, but the fire that destroyed it was something remarkable in the experience of Natal. At about 3 P.M. on the day in question, September 3rd, a little herd-boy came breathless to Miss Colenso \* in the house to report a great fire about a mile and a half to the north-west, leaping over the shoulder of the range of hills already described as above that on which Bishopstowe stood. In ten minutes' time, the flames, carried before the violent gale, flew down the long slope, leaping across the wide burnt belt which surrounded us on every side, tearing through the undergrowth of the long

\* The writer's sister.

plantations, and throwing themselves with fury upon the house. "A regiment of soldiers could have done nothing!" said afterwards an intelligent English farmer present at the scene. The buildings, composed to a great extent of wood and thatch, were tossed up in flame like a child's cardboard house thrown upon a glowing fire, and the dense driving masses of smoke prevented any chance of saving ought from destruction except the lives of the inmates and a few cherished articles snatched from the study: our lives were spared, but little else. Less than one hour sufficed for all, and, when that had passed, the gale of wind, which had been the cause of the mischief, dropped suddenly, and a calm and lovely evening fell upon the blasted scene.

The materials for the latter portion of a detailed history of the Ruin of Zululand having been destroyed on this occasion, it is necessary to collect them again, and as this will be a labour of time, I venture to lay the finished portion of the work before the public in the shape of this volume, trusting that what must now form a supplement may gain rather than lose by the misfortune to ourselves, since time and space will thus be granted to me for the elucidation of the matter. My third volume, then, if I can accomplish one, will treat at length of the points mentioned in the concluding pages of this up to Cetshwayo's death; of the further ill-treatment of the Zulu national party by the Natal Government officials after that event, which treatment finally drove them to despair; of their desperate acceptance of help from

the Boers—the people of whose interference their late king had always entertained a wise distrust; of the advance of the Boer borderers on pretence of assisting the unhappy Zulus; of their practical seizure of the whole of the country, and of the apparently approaching realisation of the suggestion daringly made in Natal six years ago, “Why should not we and the Transvaal Boers take Zululand, and divide it between ourselves?”

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