



RAID AND REFORM

**RICHARD CLAY AND SONS, LIMITED,
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TO .
MY MANY SOUTH AFRICAN FRIENDS
I DEDICATE
THIS LITTLE BOOK

RAID AND REFORM

BY A PRETORIA PRISONER

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AUTHOR OF "IN THE VELDT" BY HARLEY

"Let no one who begins an innovation in a State expect that he shall stop it at his pleasure, or regulate it according to his intention."

MACHIAVELLI.

WITH TWO ESSAYS ON THE ANTIQUITY OF MAN
IN SOUTH AFRICA

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INTRODUCTION

IN the history of the Transvaal several raids have occurred. They have for the most part been made by the Boers into the territories of their neighbours, none of whom have entirely escaped these unwelcome visits. To the south they invaded the Free State, to the west Bechuanaland, to the east Zululand, and to the north an expedition intended for the territories of the Chartered Company was only checked on the banks of the Limpopo, where the Boer leader was arrested. These "incursions" on the four points of the compass, of which no Select Committee could hesitate to record "an absolute and unqualified condemnation," although characterised by a certain broad impartiality, were, fortunately perhaps for the general welfare of South Africa, only successful, and that in a small measure in one instance, the invasion of Zululand.

In 1895 it was given to the Boers themselves to sustain and repel an "incursion."

With the causes of unrest in this young country

which have produced these disturbances, and the history of the more important of them, the following pages deal.

Of the events culminating in the crisis of 1895-96, the crisis itself, and some of the consequences attendant thereon, I have written freely and unreservedly. All trials, imprisonments and inquiries being now at an end, there is no further necessity for silence; and what a participator may feel disposed to say with reference to the motives and actions of himself and others during the occurrence of this now historic incident, may thus find due expression, without prejudice to any one.

Of the Boers themselves I should like to say a friendly word. During a residence, at one time and another, of sixteen years in South Africa, beginning with my boyhood, I have known many of them, and count among their number not a few friends. I have fought side by side with them through a campaign on the Kaffir frontier of the Cape Colony, in which many European lives, including that of my brother, were lost. I have hunted with them, travelled for weeks by waggon with them, and lived amongst them, and I know them to be possessed for the most part by kindly if rugged natures. They have much in common, both in its virtues and defects, with the old Puritan side of the English character, and they

possess much of that grit which is inherent in the British race. There is, I believe, no European race to-day more nearly allied to the British in strong natural characteristics than the Dutch of South Africa. But the isolation of two hundred years has weaned a section of them from civilisation ; and ignorance, and the prejudices arising from ignorance, have been the chief cause of all our troubles with them. Though, in fairness be it said, for these troubles the vacillation of the Colonial Office in bygone years has also been a good deal to blame.

Throughout the Reform movement in Johannesburg, from 1892 onwards, which was in effect for equality of rights among the white men of the country, the feeling was not one of hostility to the Boers ; it was one on behalf of fairplay. And in reform lay the true interests of Boer as well as Uitlander.

I have briefly commented on the Proceedings of the British South Africa Select Committee, and in doing so I have been guided both by my personal knowledge of "the Origin and Circumstances of the Incursion" and also by my own observation as a spectator during the greater portion of the inquiry in the Committee Room at Westminster.

The first of the following essays, in the form of a historical review, contains at its conclusion a state-

ment of the position as it appeared to the writer in Johannesburg in December 1895, which was published in *The Star* at the time just before the crisis. "The Origin and Circumstances of the Incursion" and the period of imprisonment are then dealt with.

Of the last two essays on the Antiquity of man in South Africa, there is little need be said in the shape of preface. They are the result of some research and reading in less troubled times than those recently experienced in the Transvaal; and on the advice of some literary friends I have inserted them for the perusal of such readers as may feel an interest in the dawn of aboriginal native life in the country. They formed the basis of a paper which I read before the British and American Archæological Society in Rome last February, a *précis* of which appeared in the Journal of the Society's proceedings

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