THE TRANSVAAL OF TO-DAY
“Countries wear very different appearances to travellers of different circumstances. A man who is whirled through Europe in a post-chaise, and the pilgrim who walks the grand tour on foot, will form very different conclusions.” — GOLDSMITH.
THE TRANSVAAL OF TO-DAY

WAR, WITCHCRAFT, SPORT, AND SPOILS
IN SOUTH AFRICA

NEW EDITION

WILLIAM BLACKWOOD AND SONS
EDINBURGH AND LONDON
MDCCCLXXXI
TO

THE ROYAL ENGINEERS

AS A TOKEN OF

HIS APPRECIATION OF THEIR SOUTH AFRICAN SERVICES,

THIS BOOK

IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED

BY

THE AUTHOR.
PREFACE TO FIRST EDITION.

The "South African Question" will probably, by the time this work reaches the public, be a burning one, and it is my design to make its study easier both for rulers and people. The condition of South Africa is interesting to others than the parliamentarians and politicians of England. It is one that appeals to the merchant, the intending emigrant, and the soldier, as much as, or more than, it does to the professional politician. It appeals strongly to the English taxpayer; and before July 1879, will appeal forcibly and deeply to his pockets. A recent writer has asked, and very fairly asked, Why must our artisans be taxed in aid of populations who have no millions of paupers to support? He enters in his 'Greater Britain' at length into this question, which is essentially a ratepayer's one. I am prepared to give the answer—in fact, the story that I tell answers it.

I have written solely in the interest of truth. I have sought to epitomise—for the benefit of politicians, sportsmen, travellers, and intending emigrants—the experience of years. When the present troubles are over, I shall endeavour to put further information—
sound practical information—before intending settlers
and enterprising men desirous to invest capital in the
Transvaal.

The knowledge I have acquired of colonial men and
manners depends on ten years' intimate connection with
the press and people of South Africa. In this work I
represent no especial party. I am not writing either
to praise or to blame, but simply to state facts cal-
culated to bring the cause and the costs of the war now
being waged on the north-eastern border of the Trans-
vaal fully, fairly, and intelligently before the British
public.

If what I have written causes inquiry, awakes a
livelier interest in subject populations, and, however
indirectly, saves one human life, I shall rest satisfied
that I have performed a duty.

October 1878.

NOTE TO SECOND EDITION.

The first edition of 'The Transvaal of To-day' having
been exhausted, the greatly increased public interest in the
subject and continued demand for the work, have led to the
issue of a new and cheaper edition. The Author has not
in any way altered the original text, and the reader will
thus be enabled to verify the correctness of his forecast of
the probable course of events in South Africa.

March 1881.
# CONTENTS

## CHAPTER I.
**HISTORY OF THE BOERS.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Serfs or subjects — Pilgrim Fathers — Fighting for life — Glimpse of freedom — Chaka — Policy of Earl Grey — Founding republics — A convention — The Transvaal Treaty</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## CHAPTER II.
**THE BOER OF TO-DAY.**

The "trek" — Unprofitable occupation — Material successes — A race of peasants — Domestic habits — Mission work — The "mountain of sorrow" — Heroic women — Hospitality — Paying for his plunder — Our girls | 13   |

## CHAPTER III.
**FIRST SECOOENI WAR.**

Secocoeni's people — Gold — The outbreak — Misunderstood piety — Mistaken impressions — A Bushman's stratagem | 32   |

## CHAPTER IV.
**LYDENBERG VOLUNTEER CORPS.**

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER V.
THE LYDENBERG VolUNTEER CORPS AT THE GOLD FIELDS.
Surface diggings—The shop-boy aristocracy—An outrage—Peace-making—A gay and festive scene—“Sic transit.” 95

CHAPTER VI.
THE LYDENBERG VOLUNTEER CORPS AGAIN—1877.
Keeping the wolf from the door—Prospecting parties—An ambush defeated—Change of rule—Guilty or not guilty—Right or wrong—Good-bye, 103

CHAPTER VII.
TRANSVAAL RESOURCES.

CHAPTER VIII.
WILD AND HOSTILE KAFIRS.
Boundary-lines—The Zulus of Zululand—Ecclesiastical opinion—Polygamy—The Amaswazi—A white chief, 132

CHAPTER IX.
SECCOENI.
The present quarrel—Death of Jonathan—A critical position—White witchcraft—Amenities of Kafir war—An error of judgment—Soldier’s war-dance—A contrast, 140

CHAPTER X.
OUR TAME KAFIRS.
Value of language—Slaves or servants—A bond of gratitude—Teaching him manners—Mr Froude on servitude, 149
CONTENTS.

CHAPTER XI.
OUR SUPERSTITIONS.
The Little Tugela ghost—An exorcism in Irish—A spiritual victory—The spirit of the storm—A midnight apparition—The demon-dog—The snake at Spion Kop—Tutelary spirits, . . . 154

CHAPTER XII.
OUR SPORTS AND TRAVELS.
When not to hunt—Horse-sickness—“Salted” horses—How to start properly—Whipping a lion—Bushcraft—A hunter killed—Diminution in game—Game or wild beasts—South African sportsmen—Snakes and swords—Wolves and dogs—How to choose horses—Vic Delagoa Bay—The mocking-bird—Stampeding, . . . . . . . 166

CHAPTER XIII.
BLUNDERING.
Misleading articles—A self-contradictory historian—The battle of Boomplaats—Our bitter beer—Slavery—Zulus and Basutos—A startling fact, . . . . . . . . 198

CHAPTER XIV.
PLUNDERING.
Froude and Southey—Diamond Fields revolt—Muzzle to muzzle—A prophecy—The “house on fire,” . . . . . . 216

CHAPTER XV.
STIRRING EVENTS—SIR THEOPHILUS AND HOW HE DID IT.
National paralysis—Foredoomed—Too late—The reaction—Our first mistake—A sinister proposition—Arming the blacks—Illegal armaments, . . . . . . . . 223

CHAPTER XVI.
DISTINGUISHED VISITORS.
Two pleasant gentlemen—A Landdrost’s cottage—A South African dinner-party—General Sir A. T. Cunynghame, K.C.B.—A border banquet—Captain Carrington, . . . . . . 231
CONTENTS.

CHAPTER XVII.
SECOND OR PRESENT WAR.
A wily savage—An intelligent native—Mapoch and the sheriff—
Murder of Bell—The new police—The outbreak—Evacuation
of Fort Weeber—The fever of 1878—Massacre at Masselle-
room—Fort Mamalube, . . . . 241

CHAPTER XVIII.
FIGHTS AND FAILURES.
Fatal affray at Magnet Heights—Mutiny of Zulu police—Advance
of her Majesty's troops, . . . . . . 255

CHAPTER XIX.
TO-DAY IN THE TRANSVAAL.
The people—The railway party—The annexation, . . . . 262

CHAPTER XX.
The Key to the Future.
Delagoa Bay—How to pay for the railway, . . . . . . 267

CHAPTER XXI.
CONCLUSION.
Justified or not?—A court of appeal—Slaves to theories—Froude
on the Free States—Proconsuls—Conclusion, . . . . 275

APPENDIX, . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 289