The Gentleman Digger

A Study of Johannesburg Life

By Anna Comtesse de Brémont
THE
GENTLEMAN
DIGGER
A FEW PRESS OPINIONS
OF THE FIRST EDITION OF
THE GENTLEMAN DIGGER.

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COURT JOURNAL—"Smart and realistic to a degree, which induces us to advise the author to ride the Pegasus with a bearing-cum for the future, there can be no doubt as to the readability of The Gentleman Digger, by Anna, Comtesse de Brémont, in which are painted in vivid colours the wild life of Johannesburg and the African gold-fields at the time of the 'boom' in Rand mines. The book is virtually a graphic description of a sort of Bohemianism run wild, and both characters and incidents are often so strongly drawn as to be calculated to give the more sensitive class of readers something of a shock. 'Which his language is free' might be applied to many of the characters in this curious story, interesting in its way as a study of men and manners—or want of them."
THE
GENTLEMAN
DIGGER

BEING STUDIES
AND PICTURES OF
LIFE IN JOHANNESBURG

BY
ANNA, COMTESSE DE BRÉMONT
AUTHOR OF "SOUTH AFRICAN STORIES"
"A SON OF AFRICA"
"THE RAGGED EDGE"
"SONNETS AND LOVE POEMS"
"THE WORLD OF MUSIC, ETC.

A NEW AND REVISED EDITION

LONDON
GREENING & CO., LTD
20 CECIL COURT
CHARING CROSS ROAD
1899

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LE COMTE EMILE LEON DE BRÉMONT

A HERO OF THE CRIMEA

A FRIEND OF SUFFERING HUMANITY

THIS LITTLE BOOK IS LOVINGLY AND REVERENTLY

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FOURTH IMPRESSION

_WITH A NEW PREFACE_

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Johannesburg in 1899. Commissioner Street.
PREFACE TO THE NEW EDITION

Ten years have elapsed since I wrote these studies of Johannesburg in the Transvaal. The book has lived to reappear in this New Edition.

Why?
Because the book has grown in interest with its subject.

After ten years Ariadne's prayer has been answered.

England has awakened to the realisation of her duty towards Englishmen in the Transvaal.

Ten years have accomplished the fulfilment of Ariadne's prophecy of the future of Cecil Rhodes.

Ten years have beheld the storming by Cræsus of social and financial London—and witnessed the tragic end of his greatness.

Peace be to his ashes!
In ten years Johannesburg has emerged from the chrysalis of Darkness, Drought, Shanty-town, Fever, and Mud.

To-day! Johannesburg is the Queen City of the Veld.

Palaces of marble, brick, and stone adorn her streets.

Electricity illumines her nights. Its splendour radiates from Mine to Mine along the great Reefs.

Villas and Gardens, Parks and Pleasure-grounds, revel in the beauty of perpetual light.

Roads of asphalt and stone welcome the tread of many feet.

The Railway, the Tram, the Motor-car have vanquished the Coach, the Bullock-waggon, and Cape-cart.

The reign of the Cycle brings the pleasures of travel to poor as well as rich.

The best of the Fourth Estate has been brought to bear on the enlightenment of the multitude.

The Wild Cat Promoter has vanished to the limbo of Justice.

The Gold output has leapt from ten-thousand to half-a-million ounces a month.

Last year's (1898) value was £16,240,630.

The present output amounts to nearly half-a-million ounces per month.
Ten years ago the value of output was £1,490,568; this year it exceeds £20,000,000 sterling.

The total value of the output of gold from the Transvaal up to the end of last year was £70,228,603.

All this Progress in one decade of the nineteenth Century!

Yet, Behold!

Johannesburg, the most amazing Miracle of Progress the world has ever seen.

Behold her! Boer-ridden! With the heaviest taxation in the world. A prey to the evils of Illicit Liquor traffic.

Behold! the men who have worked this miracle of progress.

Behold them: gagged with the muzzle of Uitlander.

Behold them: without Liberty of Franchise, without Liberty of Speech, without Liberty of Home, and without Liberty of Religion.

Johannesburg! Beautiful without: rotten within.

Shall Britain wait another decade to work out thy redemption?

ANNA DE BRÉMONT,

née DUNPHIE.

LONDON, August 1899.
ORIGINAL PREFACE

In the process of civilisation there are many evils, some of which are necessary—others totally unnecessary. The greatest of these is the introduction of intoxicants among the savage nations whom the white man has conquered in his march of progress. It is an awful crime practised without compunction against the black humanity of Africa.

A crime crying out daily and hourly, in the wilderness and in the town, in the night and in the blessed sunshine, for vengeance on the unscrupulous men who, through the lust for gain, degrade and ruin the helpless native by the indiscriminate sale of alcoholic drink.

The incident, portrayed in this brief study, of the cruel murder of an Englishman by five drunken natives, and the details of the trial, are facts that can be verified by the principal Johannesburg evening paper.

Anna de Brémont,
Nè Dumphie.

Johannesburg, 1890.
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SCENARIO

The action covers six months passed in Johannesburg during the famine, crisis, and collapse of the share-market.

Only incidents peculiar to the life in the Rand have been described, through which is woven a love interest, the two actors being from their respective callings intimately connected with the life studies herein depicted.

London, 1899.
THE BEGINNING OF JOHANNESBURG.