

peans. Especially do persons desire to know the history of Cape Colony while it was under the Dutch government, how it became the property of Great Britain, part of the British Empire, how it is that so many wars have occurred in that region between the Boers and the natives, the British and the natives, and the Boers and the British. There have not been wars so frequent or so disastrous, even in India, during the last seventy-five years, as in South Africa. There have not been race quarrels in Canada during this century like those in South Africa. Nowhere else have whole bodies of Europeans sought to escape beyond the boundaries of any British colony or dominion in which they were born and brought up, save only, perhaps, in the case of Ireland. People wish to know who have been the prominent figures of South African history. They know vaguely that it has been the scene of great exploration, exciting adventures with wild beasts, prolonged and most earnest missionary labor. They know that in recent years South Africa has suddenly revealed her possession of enormous treasures in precious metals and precious stones. All these facts have had their own influence upon the racial problems which have been so intense as to appeal to the terrible arbitrament of war for their settlement.

It is the purpose of this book to present to the reader a general account of this region, such an account as shall enable him to form a fairly full and clear idea of the land where this most fierce and ruthless war is raging. An effort has, therefore, been made, as rapidly as possible, within the space allowed, to throw some light upon everything that may help to interest the reader in that country, to explain to him its problems, account for and describe its wars. The book professes to be a conspectus of South African history, heroes and racial struggles. The best authorities available have been consulted. The works of missionaries, travelers, historians, politicians, and the Blue Books of the British Parliament have been consulted. The author and his assistant have both very deep personal interest in South Africa and a familiarity with its history derived from years of reading and discussion thereupon.

The general standpoint aimed at is that of a fair, frank and unprejudiced description of all matters bearing upon South Africa, and especially those that illuminate the meaning of this war of 1899-1900. No