

thousand, founding what is now the Orange Free State, the Transvaal, and a portion of Natal. British settlers had anticipated them in Natal, and after some bloodshed and a few years' hesitancy on the part of the Home Government, British sovereignty was proclaimed over Natal in 1843. Although the British Government had warned the emigrant Boers that they were still British subjects, those who settled in the Free State and the Transvaal were allowed to rule themselves. The Free State was indeed taken under British rule for a number of years, but that rule was withdrawn under the protest of a large minority of the inhabitants, and the State was left an independent Republic in 1854. Under the wise and common-sense rule of the late Sir John Brand, who was president for twenty-five years, the Free State has had till now the best relations, almost uninterruptedly, with Great Britain and with her colonial neighbors. There was but one serious difficulty and that arose out of the discovery of the diamond fields on the borders of the State in 1867. The land had been owned and was still claimed by a Griqua chief, named Waterboer, and the British Government having bought up his rights, proclaimed the diamond fields British territory in 1871. The Free State, which had claimed a part of these fields, withdrew under protest, but whatever the merits of its claims they were generously compensated by a payment of £90,000, with which the little State was well satisfied, and with which it built its first railway—a road that stands to-day as the best asset possessed by the State. While the Dutch in the Free State and Natal, as well as in the Cape, have settled down to a fairly general friendliness towards the British, the history of the Transvaal Boers has been marred by a strong and persistent hatred of British Government and people. Peopled largely by the irreconcilables, who had left Natal and the Free State on the advent of the British, and utterly unable or unwilling to understand the British idea of government of the Kafir tribes, they have become the Ishmaels of South African civilization