



A DISCREDITED IDOL.



YEAR ago on the 9th of October, Paul Kruger, President of what was then known as the Transvaal Republic, issued his ultimatum to Great Britain; a message so outrageous in its demands as to be virtually a declaration of war. As our readers will doubtless remember, President Kruger demanded that Great Britain should not only cease sending reinforcements to the British colonies in South Africa, but that she must practically send all those that were there out of the country. A more outrageous or unfair demand was never made by one civilized nation upon another, and its impertinence was all the more pronounced when it is remembered that not only had President Kruger been preparing for war against his suzerain, Great Britain, for years, but had mobilized all the military forces of the Transvaal, and had massed them in threatening positions on the borders of Natal and Cape Colony, both of which colonies were at that period practically defenceless against invasion. In addition to this he had called upon his ally, the Orange Free State, to come to his aid with all the troops that they could muster, and this in spite of the fact that that country had always been on the most friendly terms with Great Britain, and had no cause whatever of quarrel with her. As if this were not even sufficient, the wily old Boer President had sent emissaries all over the northern districts of Natal and Cape Colony who not only persuaded the Boer residents of those colonies to revolt against the British Government as soon as war was declared, but supplied them *ad lib* with modern arms and ammunition.

This in short was the situation just a year ago, but since that time much has happened, and proved conclusively that Paul Kruger was not the heroic patriot he was represented, but a scheming, unreliable old charlatan, who has not only wrecked his country, but has taken advantage of the catastrophe for his own personal aggrandizement. The old heroic figure is gone, and in its place we now have a broken down and discredited old schemer whose thoughts are not for the relief of the men he has misled to their own undoing, but how much of the spoils of the war he can manage to escape to Europe with.

The war which was to have staggered humanity, has proved to be but little better than a fizzle, ever since the British got enough men and guns on the ground to justify them in commencing offensive operations. For nearly six months it has simply been a triumphant march for the ever-victorious British troops, whose acquaintance with the enemy has mostly been in the nature of rear guard actions with a foe which apparently had lost all stomach for real fighting, and abandoned elaborately fortified positions one after another, without any serious attempts to hold them. Even Pretoria, the Boer capital, on the fortifications of which millions of dollars had been spent, and which they claimed to be impregnable, was evacuated without their firing a single shot in its defence. This has been the story of the past six months, and while the conduct of the war reflects nothing but credit upon British generals and the troops under their command, it has been more a struggle against tremendous odds in the matter of climatic and geographical obstacles, than any real fighting strength that the Boers have put forward during this period.

It has been quite apparent for sometime that the real fight-

ing is practically over, and what remains is really police work which can be better and more quickly effected by the irregular mounted force which is being raised by Gen. Baden-Powell, than by the regular troops now in the field. When this force once gets fairly to work, they will speedily put an end to sniping and guerilla warfare which has been going on for some time past.

Turning aside from the war in the Transvaal, which may now be fairly said to have ended in the complete subjugation of the Boers, and the wiping out of every vestige of political independence which they formerly possessed, the question which now confronts Great Britain is how best to reap the full benefit of the victory. The election which has been held in the Mother Country during the past month was practically fought out on the issue of the South African war, and the overwhelming support which the country has given to Lord Salisbury's government is proof positive that the British people will submit to no half-way measures, and that they want the South African question settled for all time. They have made a tremendous sacrifice of life and money in subjugating and annexing the two South African Republics to the British Empire, and they are bound that they shall stay annexed if such a thing is humanly possible. The verdict of the British electorate at the polls, is a mandate to the British Government that they want no more Majuba Hill magnanimity, but the inauguration of a firm though conciliatory policy which shall not only keep South Africa under the British flag for all time, but shall weld Boers and Britons into one homogeneous people, possessing the fullest measure of freedom and thoroughly loyal to the Empire. In Sir Alfred Milner and Gen. Baden-Powell, Great Britain has a couple of leaders that it would be hard to equal anywhere for courage, probity and ability, and it is reasonable to suppose that five years of their wise administration will not only remove any danger of another revolution in that portion of the Empire, but that the Boers will realize that they possess more real freedom and prosperity than they ever did under their so-called republics.

WE BOTH THANK YOU.

Editor TRADER—SIR :

The object of this communication is two-fold. First, to thank THE TRADER for the many useful hints which it has given me since the first publication, all of which I have read, but never before embraced an opportunity of tendering my thanks.

Second, in reference to enquiry of "Mainspring" as to American watches, he should have no difficulty as he probably gets the different sizes and grades already prepared. In Swiss watches, if he will take off the covers of one-half dozen barrels with original springs, he will find the spring takes thirteen turns in the barrel, leaving enough space for the arbor to take from four and one-half to five turns to wind up, for English levers the same number of turns of spring in barrel, with room for arbor to take three quarters of a turn more than number of times the chain encircles the barrel.

I am yours truly,

READER OF TRADER.

CAMMELLFORD, 5th Oct., 1900.