

East India Company—Shillinge and Fitzherbert—to make formal claim of sovereignty in the name of England in 1620. After some rivalry between the English and the Dutch East India companies, the latter, realizing the salubrity of the climate and the fine soil, sent out an expedition under Jan Van Riebeeck—in whose honor the Hon. Cecil Rhodes has recently had a statue erected in Capetown—to make a permanent settlement, and thus began in 1652 the Dutch occupation of the Cape. Little by little the settlements extended back from the Castle on Table Bay, but the life of the settlers was the life of white slaves. They were not allowed to sell their produce to visiting ships, but could only sell to the company at prices fixed by the company. On the other hand, they were not permitted to purchase goods except from the company and at prices fixed, of course, by the company. They and the artisans of the town were, moreover, bled at every turn by the company's officials, and if they attempted to complain to headquarters in Holland their complaints were either suppressed altogether, or the complainants were imprisoned as treasonable persons or otherwise marked out for persecution. The farmers had no title to the lands they brought under cultivation, and were often ejected after working a lifetime upon their lands. They were plainly told that they held their property by grace of the company. Offences, which now would scarcely come under the criminal code, were visited with death in its most fiendish forms. Crucifixion was a common mode of capital punishment, and another was the tying of the victim with his back on a wheel, where his body was broken, and he was left "a prey to the birds of heaven." The rack and the gallows were the common means of punishing slaves. It is not to be wondered at that the Dutch settlers sought to escape this tyranny, and from time to time, in spite of threats and the company's claim of jurisdiction, many got beyond the reach of the company, risking the enmity of the natives in their migration. Thus began the "trekking" of the Boers, which dates back to 1670, and has been a peculiar characteristic of Dutch colonization down to the present day.

During the upheavals of the French revolution, England felt the necessity of possessing the Cape to save her East Indian trade, and after a feeble resistance the Castle capitulated to Sir James Craig in 1795. At the peace of Amiens in 1803 the Cape was restored to the Dutch, but was finally taken in 1806 by Sir David Baird. The first taste of individual liberty and reasonable government enjoyed by the Cape Dutch was given to them by Great Britain. With the advent of Britain at the Cape, the Dutch farmers got their first clear titles to land, they got district courts, where justice was for the first time administered with fairness and without the corruption which had made their masters so odious. The people got their first regular school system, and their first postal system from their new British rulers, who also did away with the system of punishing offenders by the cross, the wheel, and the rack, those brutal instruments of torture being destroyed at the very outset of the British regime.

Such, in a few words, was the contrast between British and Dutch rule at the Cape. It is not to be denied that between the Home Government and the colonial rulers many mistakes have been made in the

subsequent history of British rule in South Africa; but more often than otherwise these errors were made through mistaken leniency or mistaken philanthropy towards Boer and native alternately. Perhaps the most unpardonable grievance nursed by the Boers in the present century was the emancipation of the slaves in the Cape Colony in 1837. Many Boers to the present day believe with apparent honesty that a Kaffir has no soul, and class him with the wild beasts of the veldt. While other nations besides the United States have freed the slaves without compensation to the slave owners, Great Britain voted to the slave holders of the Cape £1,247,000. This was only half the amount of the appraisement, but it must be remembered that the slaves of the West Indies and other parts of the empire had to be freed at the same time at a total cost of £20,000,000—an enormous sum for those days—and the sublimest exhibition of the awakening of national conscience ever recorded in the history of nations. Though the Boers must have known from the agitation that had been going on in England for the preceding thirty years that the emancipation of slaves must come, there was a great outcry when the amount of compensation was announced, and, to make matters worse, from their standpoint, a horde of self-appointed agents, working on the circumstance that the money had to be paid in London, bought up the claims of the farmers for a mere song in many cases, and the enraged slave-owning farmers trekked into the interior to the number of several 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