

markable, because several of the leaders were men of tried and proved courage. But if they had been unwise, they assuredly had to suffer for it. The Boers assumed the most intolerable airs. The Englishman was only fit for insults of every kind, and they took care that he got insults in plenty. The British Government was watching, but for some time could do nothing. Kruger had now got to a stage of despising England. "Chamberlain!" he and his supporters would joke together. "Yes, Chamberlain barks very loud, but you never feel his bite. He is always worrying at your heels, but he never puts his teeth in them."

At last things came to a crisis through what at the time seemed a very little thing. An English subject, Edgar, was shot by a Boer policeman under circumstances which excited great indignation amongst British subjects in the Transvaal. They appealed to the Queen directly, and called a meeting which was broken up in rough fashion by a Boer mob. Sir Alfred Milner, the British High Commissioner for South Africa, interposed, and the end was a conference between him and