

nine days' drill in the military recruiting camp at the Cape Town suburb of Rosebank, we started for the front amid the usual scene of enthusiasm which marked the departure of all troops. My service with D Squadron was to bring me some very actual acquaintance with practical warfare; I took part in twenty-eight engagements, and was present at the siege and ultimate capture of Cronje's laager at Paardeberg, receiving there a disabling wound in the knee. But as the present writing is mainly concerned with my impressions of the Boer, I will not describe battles, nor go over ground already amply covered by others in the newspapers and in recent books on the war.

The native or Transvaal Boer as I saw him—and I saw him as any one else must see him who goes to South Africa—is, morally and physically, one of the most undesirable, unprepossessing personalities I have anywhere met with. His uncleanness, which can scarcely be exaggerated, is as characteristic of his person and his household arrangements alike. A Boer who is neat or clean, a Boer establishment in which the ordinary decencies of any average American household are not totally disregarded, are discoveries which I was unable to make. Honesty is not one of his virtues, and he is suspicious and distrustful of any one who tries to approach him in a friendly spirit. The Boer certainly has a confirmed habit of Bible-reading, but apparently this is merely perfunctory, for it has no visible effect upon his attitude toward the stranger within his gates. I failed to see anything to justify me in concluding that the Boer's study of the Bible induces him to reduce its teachings to practice. It does not teach him humil-

ity, above all things, for self-sufficiency, arrogance, and conceit are distinguishing Boer traits. And all that I have said of him applies with equal force to his better half, who invariably has more than the better half of his unlovely qualities. I met many good people—the equal of the best people to be met with anywhere—in South Africa, but they were not of the native or Transvaal Boers.

Let any one who thinks the present war one of mere aggression on England's part contrast the American method of admitting immigrants to citizenship with that in vogue under the government of the late Transvaal Republic, which denied citizenship to foreign-born residents under twenty-one years of probation, and, when it became evident that the demand for the reduction of this probation to a period of five years could no longer be resisted, declared war against England sooner than create a body of voters whose creation must inevitably have led to the destruction of Krugerism and its enriching of chronic office-holders at the expense of ignorant native Boers and unrepresented Uitlander taxpayers.

England has behind her a grave record of unjustifiable conquests and aggression, but as an American, who lived in the Transvaal during times both of peace and war, I assert that in this campaign she has figured as the champion of right against wrong.

FACTS NOT GENERALLY KNOWN.

Brought to Light at a Victoria, B. C., School Examination.

- 1.—A hemisphere is a thing which gives us the different kinds of heat.
- 2.—The axis is that spear that the earth turns round on.
- 3.—A channel is a railway tunnel.
- 4.—Steppes means little holes in the sides of a mountain.
- 5.—Geography is round like an orange, slightly flattened at the poles and bulging out in the centre.
- 6.—Three biggest deserts in the world are Sarah Nevada and desert of Eden and Desert of Schara.
- 7.—A clause is little commas and like that.
- 8.—Inflection is when you don't want to.
- 9.—Possessive plural of ox is cow.
- 10.—Possessive plural of sheep is ain't got none.
- 11.—Possessive plural of which is witches's.
- 12.—The active voice is when you speak out loud and clear.
- 12.—A sentence with the subject modified by a noun in apposition is King the milkman sells milk-with a broken measure.
- 14.—Magna Charta was a man who signed the provisions of Oxford,—but when King Magna Charta went home, he fell down in his rage and chewed sticks and straws and shortly after died of a fever.
- 15.—Capital of Germany is Pearlinc.
- 16.—In analysis we put the interjection outside the diaphragm.
- 17.—A tendon is a bicycle built for two.

A. D. C.

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