

while they ran up the price, and was sly, and slim, and canny, and grasping, and called in all his cousins and other relations, to the tenth degree; to get a share in the pickings, and as Hans and Piet and their friends were grasping and insistent, and the capitalists in a hurry, the end of the deal was generally that Hans' and Piet's farms became gold mines, and Hans and Piet, with wealth beyond the dreams of avarice, became grand masters, or head centres, or something, of the Transvaal branch of the Afrikaner Bond, which, whatever it may profess to be, is really a society for the promotion of Dutch supremacy in South Africa.

It took Hans' and Piet's Government a little longer to grasp the situation; but, when they did, they were not one whit behind. Concession dues, taxes on machinery, mining licenses, taxes on explosives, required in mining; all plans, and all means were sought to tax the pockets of the new immigrants, the Outlanders; and the Government that in '77 had been bankrupt, with assets three dollars and two cents, by the early nineties was reckoning its surplus revenue in millions sterling! And—it sounds like the Middle Ages, but so it was—the Outlanders, the men who were paying all these taxes, were from first to last denied the slightest share in the government of the country. There was actually no feasible way in which a man who wished to do so could become naturalized. Worse still, the courts, never good, were fast becoming hopelessly corrupt; justice, as between a burgher and an outlander was getting to be the same sort of a farce that it had always been between a burgher and a native.

I think, if cause for war were wanted, it is there; for surely, when Britain ceases to consider it her duty to fight for her children's rights, her star will be on the wane indeed.

THE DUTCH CONSPIRACY.

But the truth is that there is still something more behind. These heavy taxes, this denial of representation was not solely an attempt of grasping Dutchmen to go on

enriching themselves at the foreigners' expense. No, the race hatred, bred in the thirties, in the days of the Great Trek, had never really died out. In Cape Colony, and in the Free State, it was practically dead; but the Transvaal had never really lost it; and the events of Majuba year had revived it in all its old intensity. Now, with these great resources, and Paul Kruger, a man of unflinching determination, to wield them, the attempt was to be made to spread the race cry all through South Africa; the Afrikaner Bond was to be the instrument of the cause, the Transvaal its arsenal. Do you doubt this; well, listen and you shall judge for yourselves:

After that maddest of mad ventures, the Jamieson raid; which, by putting it in the wrong, tied the hands of the British Government, and played into those of Mr. Kruger; when the prisoners were at Pretoria, awaiting trial, some Dutchmen went down to Slachter's Nek, and bought the beam on which the five Dutch rebels had been hung there eighty years before; and brought it to the Transvaal Capital, with the grim comment that it was ready for the English rebels now.

That is the real question for which we fight to-day, British or Dutch supremacy in South Africa. Sooner or later it had to come to this issue; let us thank God that, now that it comes, it finds those in authority alive to its importance; and that the whole Empire, to quote Lord Rosebery, has set its teeth, and declared, "Come what may, we are going to see this thing through!"

Is our cause just? What need to ask Canadians that, when it was a Canadian voice (a voice, alas! now silent) that proclaimed the British Empire the greatest power for good that the world has ever seen. Another voice, we call it the silver tongued (and, rouge or bleu, we are all proud of it), not so very long since, said at Ottawa. "The Roman Empire was founded on violence, and by violence fell; the British Empire rests on justice and freedom for all." Then is the greatest power for good to lose its influence, to fall to pieces of its own weakness; is justice and