

children turned out homeless or transported to unwholesome camps, might plead the excuse of maddening provocation. In like case, perhaps, the temper of our own people might give way. To the general observance by the Boers of the rules of civilized war, especially to their humane treatment of wounded prisoners, the testimony of British commanders is conclusive. Even when they, perfectly fair belligerents, fighting in what to them was the holiest of causes, had by a monstrous proclamation been declared rebels, out of the pale of the laws of war, there was no disregard of the laws of war upon their part. The execution of their brethren and allies did not provoke them to reprisals, as military men in England naturally feared that it would. They might have done with Johannesburg or Pretoria as the Russians did with Moscow. But they left both untouched and refrained from the destruction of the mines.

In the war of 1881 "the Boers were charged, on the authority of an alleged eye-witness, with shooting the wounded, and the London streets were full of newspaper placards with 'Boer Atrocities.' Later on, however, General Colley telegraphed that the Boers had 'treated the wounded with courage and humanity.' " (*Annual Register*, 1881, p. 380). On the same occasion General Colley