

## Current Topics and Events.



THE LATE CECIL RHODES.

### AN EMPIRE BUILDER.

With the death of Cecil Rhodes, in his forty-ninth year, has passed away one of the great empire builders of the English-speaking race, a man who recalls the statesmen of the spacious days of Queen Elizabeth. He accumulated great wealth, but not for himself; he added vast territory to the British Empire. Of this man it is said he "thought in continents." To him more than any other man is due the conception of a great British federation in Africa and a British highway from Cairo to the Cape. It is stoutly affirmed that the fixed purpose of Kruger was to form a Dutch confederacy under the protection, if need were, of the German Empire. To

this Kaiser Wilhelm's precipitated telegram gives colour. This Rhodes was prepared to fight. The Jameson march was designed, it is affirmed, as a demonstration against German aggression, but Jameson cut the wires and got beyond Rhodes' control, hence the fiasco. He was a generous friend of the Methodist missions established by Bishop Hartzell, giving grants of land and buildings for their aid.

In his death, as in his life, he was a man of far-seeing vision. He wrought for the integration of the whole Anglo-Teuton race. The Emperor of Germany, after an interview with Rhodes, is said to have remarked, "Why haven't I a statesman like that?" A few carping critics have