

tain the exact position of the Matabele chiefs and their attitude towards the question of peace. The guide found the indunas holding an indaba, and at once, with a boldness and an absence of fear which was as commendable as it was uncommon in one of his race, approached the circle of chiefs and told them of Rhodes's nearness to them and his earnest desire to put an end to the conflict. The indunas listened in silence, and some ominous murmurings took place among the younger chiefs; but the elder men present speedily silenced this, and turning to the guide told him to tell their old friend 'Johann' (Mr. Colenbrander) that they would like to see him. They said they would like to see Mr. Rhodes also, but did not dare to hope that he would visit them. If he would come to them, however, he would be very welcome, and neither he nor his companions would be molested or harmed in any way.

"When the guide returned to the camp with this message, Rhodes, overjoyed to find that his plans were going so smoothly, at once made preparations for moving forward to the spot which the indunas had selected for the meeting.

"This place was a natural amphitheatre among the hills, with beetling walls of frowning granite rising on every side of it to a height of fully two hundred feet, while the place was further commanded by a large kopje. When Rhodes and his small band approached the spot, they found both the kopje and the surrounding cliffs literally covered with natives, and this proved to