

TRUTH ABOUT THE TRANSVAAL.

Sir James Fiebert, who was Commissioner of Crown Lands and Public Works in the first Rhodes Administration at the Cape, and held the same position in the late Ministry, which was formed immediately after the Jameson raid, has been in Europe since early in the present year. Heuter's Agency having previously asked him for his views on the South African situation, for publication, he steadily declined to entertain the situation by publishing at any length the opinions which he held. The recent developments in Pretoria, combined with his early departure for the Continent, have, however, now removed the reserve, and to-day he expressed himself to the following effect:

"You see," said Sir James, "I am not connected in any way with the Cape Government. I have lost my seat, and am no longer even a member of the Legislature, but of course I can't help taking the keenest possible interest in the South African situation. 'Alum,' as you know, in regard to public utterances, was my word when I came home this year. It would have remained so but for the frantic efforts made to rush England into a wholly unjustifiable war, but for the highly coloured pictures of the Afrikaner people, drawn without any real foundation, and the apparent absence of that spirit of fair play to the strong and the weak, but particularly to the weak, which we in the colonies, despite everything said to the contrary about England, like to fondle and cherish as the characteristic of our race."

"So you broke through 'Mum'?"

"I was compelled to. The arrant rubbish spoken, and the still more arrant rubbish written, forced me to break silence; but there again one was on the horns of a dilemma. I drop the personal element altogether as to what may have been for me the popular or unpopular course, because of my own political future, if there is to be any, rests, of course, entirely with myself. I am speaking to you from the purely public point of view. I recognized from the first—every sensible man, I think, did—that President Kruger made a great mistake in not accepting Mr. Chamberlain's invitation three and a half years ago to visit England after the magnanimity he displayed towards the raiders. That said, I will not say the 'fons of origo mali,' but certainly the main cause of all our present troubles. I doubt if the concessions President Kruger is now making equal those which he was prepared to make and in fact had declared in the Executive Council his intention of recommending to the Volksraad on the fatal morning when the news reached him that Jameson and his men had crossed the border with the object of stealing his country, and were marching on Johannesburg. People here are home tell you 'Oh, yes, the raid was an egregious blunder; but forget it! Of course, forgive it on all means; strive to live it down; but you can't succeed in doing that in three years, or even in three and a half; and although you may forgive those who try to rob you, it would be folly to forget the act. The Afrikaner people are, after all, but human—only perhaps a little more so in that respect. Still, we all recognized that there were grievances, and some of us, recognizing this, had to put a bridle on our tongues during the progress of these recent negotiations, lest any intemperance of ours might harden the hearts or steel the backs of those with whom rested the peaceable removal of those grievances. But now, with the information in our possession that can be removed."

"What is your opinion, then, of these new proposals from Pretoria?"

"Well, I was very much like Mr. Chamberlain—a bit confused over the telegraphic summaries from various conflicting sources which reached us, so in order that there might be no question as to the real meaning of these proposals, I called at length to Mr. Hofmeyr yesterday. I have to-day received in reply to my message his assurance that the new concessions embody all the points of Sir Alfred Milner's Bloemfontein proposals except the five years (seven being substituted). That being so then, I have no hesitation in saying that they are, in my opinion, adequate and satisfactory, sufficient to satisfy our Imperialistic 'amorphous people.' After the position we found ourselves in, for my own part I refuse to believe that a Salisbury Government will fall down to work out a peaceable solution of the problem. It seems easy enough."

"But do you think such a peace would be permanent?"

"Yes, certainly, if we in South Africa are left to ourselves, and natural forces are only allowed a fair chance. There is no disguising the fact that a certain number of persons in South Africa, and I am sorry to say, a great many, so far as my observation goes, on this side of the water, who would rest content with nothing short of war, no matter what concessions were made. Let everything be peaceably yielded, and they will still shout for blood to wipe out what they call 'the humiliation of Mafuba.' There is no arguing with such people. It was a subject for argument as to whether, dismissing altogether abstract considerations, England should not have cleared the Boers out of Laing's Neck before retreating the country, but whatever this so-called humiliation amounts to it was not a patch on the disgrace attaching to the raid. I have often wondered whether those bellicose gentlemen who keep on blaming for war have ever seriously considered what such a war means, what part they themselves are going to take in it, and what proportion of the cost they are prepared to contribute. Will those who are so lustily

calling the tune pay the piper up to the last note of the tragedy? I myself, with all my interests at stake in South Africa, have thought a good deal over it, particularly during those last few months, and I have publicly declared, what to-day with Mr. Hofmeyr's assurance, I feel more strongly than ever, that it would be nothing short of criminal if a shot were fired by white man against white man in South Africa. We have enough to engage our attention there without a calamity of that nature. There is for the practical man the development of the great mineral potentialities of our country, while for the most aspiring statesman we have a political problem worthy of him. It is not Dutch versus English; it is what the relative positions of the white and colored races are to be on that continent when Dutch and English are blended, as they are bound to be, by the natural influences I have referred to in a common Afrikaner or South African, call him by what name you will. The greater he will still be in existence, and all our useful powers are needed, believe me, for its solution."

"Then you think peace would be assured?"

"I certainly hope so, honourable and satisfactory to all parties; otherwise I would not be leaving almost immediately for the Continent, but be content to stay on and contribute, as I have been endeavouring to do, my small quota towards so desirable an object."

"You know Mr. Hofmeyr, of course, intimately?"

"I do. He was whilst he was in our Cape Parliament my political leader, and his presence, since he left us, has been sadly missed. Although he and I did not see eye to eye with each other on the redistribution of Seats Bill, which was the bone of contention in the last Parliament, still there was no severance of our friendship. I respect him as highly as ever I did, and I consider that he has at this supreme crisis rendered invaluable service to South Africa and the Empire."

"The Empire?"

"Yes! It does not contain a more loyal and patriotic citizen. He has proved it on more occasions than one, but in the inevitable amalgamation of the white races of our country he is naturally determined that that from which he springs shall be neither trampled under foot nor put to one side, and for that reason he never forgets that, whilst a Briton, he is also a Dutch Afrikaner. No, not our Government will never go far wrong in following on South African affairs the advice of Mr. Hofmeyr, and I sincerely hope they are going to do so now."

FOR THE QUIET HOUR.

The more meritorious the gifts received from God, the greater the account we must render to Him.—St. Gregory the Great.

It is true that God promises forgiveness if we repent, but what assurance have we of obtaining it to-morrow?—Ven. L. de Blois.

Good habits are the soul's muscles—the more you use them the stronger they grow, and the easier work becomes.—Austin O'Malley.

Great souls are not those who have fewer passions and more virtues than the common, but those who have greater designs.—La Rochefoucauld.

Charity does not return like a wave, which returns no more; it flows back to those who dispense it. Give for God's sake, and you shall receive a hundred-fold in return.—Edward McSwiney, D.D.

It is God Who gives thee thy mirror of imagination, and if thou keep it clean it will give thee back no shadow but the truth. Never a cry of love went forth from human heart but it found some heavenly chord to fold it in.

It is an epoch in a soul's life when the realization comes that mere feeling may be dissipation if not translated into action, into life. It is all very well to have a great love for humanity in one's heart; but if one cannot translate it into love and tenderness and patience for those in one's daily life, it is but a dissipation of force and power.

Nobody is more entitled to the gratitude of his country than the man who is true to himself—who is a useful, right-living, law-abiding subject. This is the foundation of good citizenship. Happy the man, and happy the community in which he lives, if, through all the storms and struggles of his day, he carries unstained to the end 'the white flower of a blameless life.'

physical and moral. At their best, they constitute a herculean task as it is secret and invisible. The salvation of the human race having been purchased by the life and death of the God-Man, the practical application of this unrepeatable boon is made by the Redeemer Himself, and in a manner so simple that "he that runs may read." As the Master, a few days after, transferred the full charge of His whole flock into the hands of one Apostle, authorizing him to feed His lambs and sheep, so in this instance He delegates His executive power of forgiving sins to His Apostles, in language so plain, so intolerant of any attempt to mystify or change its meaning, that there is no refuge left those that will not accept the language in its literal sense, save not to touch the question.

CANNOT BE BEAT.—Mr. D. Stolobach, Zurich, writes:—"I have used Dr. Thomas' Eucalypti Oil in my family for a number of years, and I can safely say that it is the best for the cure of croup, fresh colds and sprains. My little boy has had attacks of croup several times, and one dose of Dr. Thomas' Eucalypti Oil was sufficient for a perfect cure. I take great pleasure in recommending it as a family medicine, and I would not be without a bottle in my house."

THE JOKE CROP.

Accumulations.—Old Friend: "And have you succeeded in laying up anything?" Unsuccessful Merchant: "Nothing but a lot of fine granges." "Clementine, what did you do with that certain goods you bought last week?" "Well, it was entirely too good for curtains, so I made a shirt waist of it."

"Ralph, when you write to my Harry in Manila, don't say a word about strawberry shortcake." "Why not?" "You might inspire him to mutiny, and come home."

Her Aristocracy.—"Every woman is an aristocrat at heart," said the youngest boarder. "Yes," said the cheerful landlord, "she has to think of herself as classed with the plain people." "Tired Child: 'Mamma, how much did you put in the collection box?' Mother: 'A shilling, my dear. Why?' Tired Child (yawning): 'Well, this preacher gives me a awful lot for the money.'"

Amusing.—One of the sextons of a cemetery in Merthyr parish reported to the local burial board at their meeting last week that "work is busy," and "the grass is growing well, but if we don't have some rain it will grow smother."

Prospective Ledger: "The main thing is that I get a room in a quiet house." Landlady: "Oh, this is a quiet house, sir! In the next room a singer lodges, and if it were not quiet he couldn't practice all day long, as he does now."

For a Frontpiece.—"Give me a nice motto to go on this little apron," said the sentimental young woman who was serving for the Ladies' Mite Society. "How would 'A Pinpoint of Your Thoughts' do?" asked her scornful elder brother.

His Status Before the Court.—"Are you the defendant in this case?" asked the judge, sharply. "No, suh," answered the mild-eyed prisoner. "I have a lawyer hired for to do the defendin'. I've de man dat done stole de articles."

"Aunt Emeline has a theory for reforming the world." "What is it?" "Mothers ought to exchange children." "What good would that do?" "Mothers always have such strict ideas about how other women's children should be raised."

"Is it true," asked Lord Byron of Ben Franklin, "that you discovered electricity?" "Yes," answered Franklin, "and I am sorry for it. If I hadn't that song 'I Guess I'll Have to Telegraph My Baby' would never have been written."

The other day, as two friends were talking together in the street, a donkey began to bray and wheeze and cough in a distressing manner. "What a cold that donkey has!" said one of the men. "And, by the way, that puts me in mind—how is your cough?" "Face to Face.—"I've got the money to back my offer," said the ponderous citizen, "and I'd give a fortune to anybody who could show me how to reduce my weight." "And I'd do the same for anybody who would stop my hair from falling out. By the way, how did you make your money?"

Two Great Improvements.—Amos: "I seen by the paper that they're talkin' of connectin' America with the Philippines by one of them there cables." Hiram: "This has been a great century for improvements. I'm thinkin' myself of puttin' a new barbed-wire fence clean across that lower eighty-acre lot."

How fortunate," mused Sir Isaac Newton, "that the apple fell on my head and I discovered gravity." "Yes," answered Anne Boleyn, who happened to overhear him. "It was fortunate that it was an apple, for if it had been a railroad train, though the situation would have been one of much more gravity, yet your discovery would have remained undiscovered!"



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