



however, for Ladysmith, Kimberley and Mafeking stopped them long enough to allow reinforcements to arrive from Britain and turned the scale against them. At the present time it looks as though the end of the war could not be very far off. Demoralized in the field and flying from carefully prepared positions as soon as the British attack them, they must soon reach a point where it will be impossible for even President Kruger to hold them together much longer. It is said that the war will be decided by the next great battle which will take place on the banks of the Vaal river and if the Boers are well beaten there they will probably capitulate. Be this as it may, they are fighting a losing fight and they know it; and this knowledge seems to inspire them in every fight to get away as soon as there is the slightest danger of their retreat being cut off. The Boers, while not cowards, have no stomach for fighting when they are themselves in danger. As long as they can cling to cover and safely pot the British from behind breastworks, they are first-class, but they are little or no good in the open and they have not the pluck to attack unless everything is very much in their favor.

OUR ESTEEMED CONTEMPORARY *The Manufacturing Jeweler*, of Providence, came up smiling again on the 10th of last month for another round in defence of the Boers. While we quite agree with the Editor that his views and our own are so irreconcilable as to make it profitless to continue the controversy, we just wish to point out in reply to a statement made later on in his article that he has evidently not read up the merits of the question at all. He states that the whole trouble was over the suffrage question. This is an entire mistake. The suffrage matter was in no way the cause of the war, but simply a result of Boer tyranny and oppression upon the Outlanders of every country, including Americans. These acts of tyranny at length got so oppressive, that finally, after an appeal from over 30,000 British subjects to Her Majesty's Government, they were forced to remonstrate with President Kruger, and ask that these residents of the Transvaal who had been invited to settle there by the Boer Government should at least be treated with common decency. At the now historic meeting which took place at Bloemfontein last year between President Kruger and Sir Alfred Milner, the British High Commissioner, with President Steyn as intermediary, the franchise question was presented by Sir Alfred in this fashion: Said he, "the British Government is constantly in receipt of complaints from its citizens residing in the Transvaal regarding outrages perpetrated upon them by Boer officials. They claim they can get no redress from the Boer Volksraad, although they have applied to it for that purpose time and again. The British Government has proof that many of their complaints are well founded and should be remedied. They have no desire to interfere with the internal government of the Transvaal in any way whatever if it can be avoided, but it is patent that some means of redress must be afforded to these complainants. In order to avoid British interference in any shape or form in the internal affairs of the Transvaal, the British Government proposes that the Government of the Transvaal should enact a fair and workable franchise law which should give the Outlanders the right to become citizens of the Republic and be fairly represented in its parliament, and not by a contemptible minority, and by this means these men will be able to look after and remedy their own grievances within the Transvaal itself without finding it necessary to appeal to any outside power." In other words Great Britain was prepared to say to its subjects in the Transvaal "If President Kruger will grant you a fairly liberal franchise law, we will advise you (although much against the grain) to renounce your allegiance to Great Britain, become citizens of the Transvaal Republic and swear allegiance to its Government, and then as citizens exercise your influence and redress your own wrongs the same as is done in any other country." It was pointed out to President Kruger that such a course on his part would absolutely prevent Great Britain from meddling with the internal affairs of the Transvaal in any way, and that if in the future British subjects residing in the Transvaal made appeals to their own Government, such as had been made, they could say to them, become Transvaal citizens as you may and right your own wrongs.

This was eminently fair, and had President Kruger been wise and broad enough to have adopted Sir Alfred Milner's suggestion there would have been no war. If he had done so he would simply have placed all of the Outlanders in the Transvaal in a similar though less favorable position to what foreigners have always enjoyed in the United States. The editor of *The Manufacturing Jeweler* says that some of the largest tax payers in the United States are British citizens and although they are taxed and legislated for in every way they have no vote, and yet we see no British battleships coming up Narragansett Bay in consequence. True, but every British tax payer in the States can become an American citizen if he conforms to the laws regulating it and then he will have just as good a vote as any native born American, and just here is where Americans, such as the editor of *The Mfg. Jeweler*, fall into error through apparent ignorance of the real facts of the controversy. All that the British Government practically ever asked of President Kruger, as will be seen from the foregoing, was to treat their Outlanders in a similar manner that Americans treat the foreigners who have landed on their shores and who are willing to take the oath of allegiance and become American citizens. In acting as he did, practically refusing citizenship to Outlanders except upon almost impossible terms, President Kruger violated every principle of liberty embodied in the United States constitution, and we are satisfied that when once the American people come to realize this, they will (as they ought) feel heartily ashamed of having been so easily led astray by loud-mouthed demagogues who used untrue and misleading assertions instead of actual facts to bolster up an unjust case.

LITERARY NOTICES.

FEO: A ROMANCE.—Some stories are hard to follow because of the story-teller's demand for personal attention. You are compelled to pause so often to take breath, after the author's various clever tricks in the telling, that the scheme of plot is confused, and sometimes altogether lost. In "Feo," Max Pemberton has told a capital story, and told it so artistically that the end is reached before you take time to consider the writer a most skillful one, whose chief aim has evidently been not to win praise for himself, but entertainment for his readers. The story has chiefly to do with a gifted Viennese opera singer, Feo de Berthier, poor but of noble lineage, who, in the opening chapter, is living in a London flat with only her father for protection, a selfish and none too scrupulous man. Father and daughter had been forced to leave Vienna by the Archduke Frederick, whose son Prince Jerome, a youth passionately fond of music, had become ardently attached to Feo, which sentiment was met with a fair equivalent in the heart of the singer. But the Archduke had other plans for the future of the young prince, and many and great were the obstacles placed in the way of a consummation of the lovers' happy calculations; in fact every means that could be devised by agents of the Archduke was brought to bear towards their defeat. Even Georges de Berthier, through his greed for gold, became a powerful instrument in the humiliation of his daughter. But against a background of much villany, Feo's soul of honor shone to the last, and when at a crisis, after an inward battle with self, she resolved to renounce her love for Jerome, believing it to be best for him, she became heroic. Jerome proved her equal in heroism, a manly, flesh and blood prince throughout, yet with a high moral code. A young Englishman, Leslie Drummond, plays an important part in the story, and his staunch friendship Feo could not well have done without. Many of the principal scenes are laid in Paris, the descriptive bits of that wonderful city making graphic word-pictures. Published by The Copp, Clarke Company, Limited, Toronto.

SOPHIA.—Following up the success which he attained in "The Castle Inn," Mr. Stanley J. Weyman, has laid the scene of his new romance, "Sophia," in the England of George II. This is a novel of character as well as of plot. Sophia, a rich prize in the matrimonial market, is beset by intriguing suitors and harassed by scheming relatives, but, in spite of all, discovers the man of her choice where she least expected to find him, and grows under our very eyes