

nationality, and in the discussions by which the intent of its provisions was explained, Mr. Kruger distinctly declared that all would be put on an equality, as regarded the franchise and other rights. These discussions were taken down at the time, and form part of the records in the colonial office. At that time the Boers were in a large majority, and it is possible Kruger might have kept faith had the population remained thus, but Englishmen began to come to the country in greater numbers, and in 1886 the discovery of the now celebrated Witwatersrand gold fields brought people from all quarters of the globe, until the alien or outlander population, which of course included Englishmen, outnumbered the Boers. Kruger had from the first aimed to keep all power in the hands of the Dutch, and hence began the evasions and trickery by which the plain intentions of the negotiators of the original convention were to be thwarted. His ambition did not stop here. He purposed the formation of a great military state, which would centralize the Dutch influence in South Africa, and establish a Dutch republic extending from the Cape to the Zambesi, with Pretoria as the capital. For a long time this ambition, though steadily pursued, was concealed, and even now there are many well-informed public men in England and America who have either not grasped the situation or refused to believe the designs so steadily pursued by this cunning trickster. The people of the Orange Free State, under the misguiding influence of their present head, President Steyn—a third-rate attorney, possessed of none of the commonsense statesmanship of the late Sir John Brand, who so wisely guided the little State for twenty-five years previously—were easily led into these designs, and in the Cape Colony, the widespread ramifications of the Afrikaner Bond—a sort of granger organization, having for its motto: "Africa for the Afrikaners"—afforded good ground to work upon, as its membership was almost exclusively Dutch. The plan, as regarded Cape Colony, was to overturn British