

### THE SECRET OF ENGLAND'S GLORY AND GREATNESS.

At England's Court, where princes grand and ladies fair are seen,  
A dark-skinned chief from heathen land sought audience of the Queen.  
The costly present from his King he spread upon the ground,  
Then rose with happy, wondering smile, to gaze on all around.

There everything that met the eye bespoke the cultured mind.  
The Ministers that waited high were tutored and refined.  
How civilization's favored ones contrast with Nature's child!—  
The gaudy dress the chieftain wore was picturesque and wild.

His dusky form was rendered gay with paint and feathers bright;  
His warlike weapons, touched with gold, shone garnish in the light;  
His showy robe, a leopard's skin, was bead-bedecked o'er,  
And heavy were the rings of gold that arm and ankle wore.

In all his native grandeur dight, with bearing far from rude,  
A noble he in Nature's right 'mong England's nobles stood.  
He hears the throne, his head bowed low, his hand upon his breast,  
And thus, in short, emphatic speech, the Island Queen addressed:—

"My King has heard, in our far land, of England many a story;  
He bade me learn the secret of her greatness and her glory."  
With swelling heart Victoria hears, then sweetly bent her eyes  
Where, on a stand beside her hand, the Holy Bible lies.  
Her only eye one moment roams o'er many a landscape fair—  
The blessings of an open Bible meet her everywhere.  
The vision swells, like wave on wave that laves her native shore;  
"Ah! would," she said, with wishful sigh, "my people read it more."

"Oh! blessed, blessed Book of Books, my grand-sire's wish is mine,  
That every one may read and prize Thy precepts all divine."  
Not one of all her palace doors she bids them go unfold;  
She dazzles not the simple eye with wealth of gems or gold.

Unheeded all her treasures lie, in many a glittering heap;  
The long-stored gifts of England's kings remain in castle keep;  
She speaks not of her army's might in many a bloody field,  
Or how her sons victorious fight, who sword and bayonet wield.

She points not to the sea, where her navies sweep the main,  
Nor boasts what British prowess wins, her valor can maintain.  
She rated the Bible, bade him look on England's charter free—  
With awe-dimmed soul and wishful eye, the savage bent the knee.

With yearning glance Victoria scanned the earnest speaking face,  
Then placed the Bible in his hand with reverential grace.  
"His Book," she said, "whose throne is fixed eternal in the skies;  
Your monarch tell to read it well—'tis there the secret lies."

### South Africa and Her Colonies.

BY MILIT. GEN. MISSET, C. B.

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#### ORANGE FREE STATE.

Your Grace, I shall now proceed to give a short account of the two Dutch States adjoining the English Colonies in South Africa. They are both of them offshoots, as it were from the Cape Colony. The Orange Free State was, up to 1835, inhabited by small native tribes under petty chiefs, viz. Betjuane, Korannas, Basutos, Borolongs, &c. and also by some settlements of Hottentots and half-castes from the Colony under Cap-

tain Adam Kok, Waterboer, and others. The country up to that time was covered with vast herds of game of every description.

When the Dutch emigrant farmers passed over the Orange River (the boundary of the Cape Colony) in 1836, large tracts of this country fell an easy conquest to them; a few of them remained in occupation of the country, living in their waggons and tents tending their flocks and herds, but being almost as migratory as the game. The great body of these "pioneers of South Africa" passed on, however, inland, one portion of them diverging over the Drakensburg into what is now Natal country, where those battles previously described took place with the Zulus.

The other portion of these Dutch farmers also had their troubles with the natives of the interior, and had a good deal of fighting with the then powerful Matebele nation under Mazulekatze, before they conquered the country which is now the Trans Vaal Republic.

The Orange Free State, and Trans Vaal Republic were for a long time under one general government, if such it could be called, and the names of Boshoff, Potgieter, Pretorius, and others, will be found enrolled as their chief magistrates. In 1861 the last named was at the head of both states; in that year a separation of the governments took place, and they are now two distinct governments, with a President and Volksraad, or council, to each.

The Free State has passed through two or three phases, and two collisions with the British troops, before it was recognized as an independent state. In 1846 Sir Harry Smith as High Commissioner took possession of the country, and it was held by the British Crown, under the name of the "Sovereignty," until January 1852, when it was surrendered by Sir G. Clarke, who was sent out from this country as Her Majesty's Special Commissioner, with full powers to relinquish the territory.

Under his authority a convention was entered into by two commissioners (Messrs. Hogge and Owen) on the part of Her Majesty's Government, and a deputation of Dutch authorities on behalf of the emigrant farmers. Under the terms of this convention the country was relinquished to the Dutch, who now claim and hold both these states.

It was most unwise policy to relinquish this country. Many English subjects had settled thereon the faith of its being British territory, and petitioned, without avail, that it should not be surrendered.

The capital of the Free State, Bloemfontein, is situated in latitude 29° south, and is from 90 to 100 miles from the diamond fields. The level of the country is about 5,000 feet above the sea, with splendid pastoral plains, intersected here and there with low ranges of hills, and dotted over with little hillocks called "koppies," apparently upheaves of rock. It is a very healthy country for Europeans, and suited for all kinds of stock, particularly for wool sheep.

This state held a portion of its present territory by agreement from Adam Kok, Captain of the Griqua people (Hottentots and half-castes), but as many disputes arose therefrom Sir George Grey, Her Majesty's High Commissioner, offered that chief a portion of "Norman's land," then vacant, between the Cape Colony and Natal, to which he and his people removed in 1861-5, selling his lands over the Orange River to the Free State.

They also acquired about 2,000,000 acres formerly belonging to the Basutos; this

addition to the Free State was ceded by the Chief Mosheah as war indemnity, in 1865, and confirmed to the Dutch by the award of Her Majesty's High Commissioner in 1869.

The Free State now contains an area of about 70,000 square miles, with a population of nearly 50,000 Europeans, and about the same number of colored races, including servants and farm labourers.

The country abounds in mineral wealth. Diamonds, garnets, and other precious stones are found in considerable numbers, and the State has a great future before it. Wheat, and grain of all sorts can be raised there to any extent, only requiring capital and enterprise, and means of carriage to a port.

It is divided into fourteen districts, with twenty-five towns and villages, each returning so many members to the Volksraad or Council, presided over by His Honor President Brand, a gentleman of Dutch descent, and formerly a barrister of the Cape Colony.

#### TRANS VAAL REPUBLIC.

The Trans Vaal Republic is the second Dutch state in South Africa, but by far the most important one of the two; it extends at present between latitudes 22° to 27° south, and from longitudes 25° to 32° east, but to the north its real limits are almost unbounded. It adjoins the Orange Free State, part of Basuto-land, Natal, Zululand north of the Tugela, and there is only a small tract of country in possession of natives between the Trans Vaal territory and the Portuguese settlement at Delagoa Bay.

The area is said to be 120,000 square miles, with a population of 40,000 whites (Europeans) and 250,000 coloured. The revenue and expenditure is about £72,000 a year, but this sum gives very little idea of the present or future of the country; the people are of primitive habits, and object to taxation, but they are rich in lands and in flocks and herds.

The Trans Vaal, like the Free State, is situated on a higher plateau than the English Colonies, and embraces a healthy climate for Europeans, but as you proceed north-east, some of the districts are subject to fever and the "Tzitzo" fly.

The pasturage is well adapted for all kinds of stock, and the soil most productive. The country is divided into twelve districts, viz. Potchefstroom, Pretoria, Rustenberg, Lydenberg, Marabastad, Waterberg, Heidelberg, Wakkerstram, Utrecht, Christians, Nazareth, and Marico.

The country is governed by a President (His Honour Thos. F. Burgers), elected in 1872, with an executive Council, and a Legislative Council, consisting of a Speaker and thirty members.

The great future of the Trans Vaal exists in its mineral wealth. The first diamond discovered in South Africa was found north of the Vaal River in 1866, in a portion of the country claimed by the Griqua chief Waterboer, a territory the boundaries of which are in dispute between the English, the Free State, and the Trans Vaal Republic.

Diamonds have since been found in the districts of Pretoria, Marico, Rustenberg, and Waterberg. Gold is found in alluvial deposits, and in reefs of quartz, in Marabastad and Pretoria; while the gold-bearing strata extend for 200 miles north of the seat of government (Pretoria); auriferous quartz existing also through Lydenburg and Rustenberg districts down to the Griqua country.

The Trans Vaal is also rich in coal, iron, cobalt, copper, nickel, lead, tin, and silver, besides sulphur and saltpetre.