

hunter in the country who had great influence with the Matabele and spoke their language fluently, and who was to act as interpreter, and Captain Stent, a correspondent to the *Cape Times*, to whose record we are really indebted for all we know took place during the mission. Rhodes himself absolutely declines to talk about his own achievements either in public or in private life. There were only three white men with Rhodes, and the little party was completed by the inclusion of two friendly natives to act as guides.

"Rhodes was steadfast in his refusal to allow any rifles or other weapons of warfare to be taken with the mission, and, though he raised no objection to his three white comrades having loaded revolvers, personally he carried nothing more deadly than a small riding-whip—conduct reminiscent of the friend of his early life in Bechuanaland, Colonel Charles Gordon. He likewise resolutely declined to avail himself of the offer of an armed escort which Sir Frederick Carrington urged upon him, judging it best to make no outward show of force whatever, but to appeal to the chivalrous instincts of the Matabele by approaching them in an entirely peaceful manner. As events turned out, he was fully justified in following this line of policy ; but it must be admitted that it was hazardous in the extreme, and one false step on the part of himself or his companions might have easily proved fatal to them all.

"Having pitched his camp near to the Matoppo, Rhodes sent forward one of his native guides to ascer-