

civil war, and to present a general rising of the natives.

* * He would not hear of retiring. Had I not endured in silence, had I not borne patiently all the vile accusations, but out of selfishness or fear, told the plain truth of the case, the Transvaal would never have had the consideration it has now received from the British Government. However unjust the annexation was, my self-justification would have exposed the Boers to such an extent, and the state of the country in such a way, that it would have been deprived both of the sympathy of the world, and the consideration of English politicians."

After the annexation, he was appointed field cornet (a position corresponding to our sheriff, but including also the duties of tax collector and other functions), of his district, at a salary of £200, which in those days was a good income. By false representations, however, he drew £300, or what came to the same thing, withheld tax moneys to that amount over his salary. The administration called upon him to make good the amount, but he did not do so then, or since. He only met the Government's request by demanding an increase of salary! The correspondence in the case is on record. How much the consciousness of this fraud had to do with the intrigues he engaged in against the British Government, it is hard to say. At all events, while holding an office under the British Government, he was engaged in agitations against it, and became the leader in the armed rebellion that followed. After the British defeats in the skirmishes at Laing's Nek, Majuba Hill and Ingogo, and while British reinforcements, to the number of 10,000 men, were gathered, the Gladstone Government stayed the sword-arm that was ready to strike back, and an armistice was arranged, followed by the convention of 1881, by which the Republic was restored, subject to the suzerainty of the Queen. By this instrument, the right of internal self-government was given to "the inhabitants" of the Transvaal, without prejudice as to