

MY ESCAPE FROM THE BOERS.

IN order to understand the state of affairs in South Africa at the present time it is necessary to look, if but briefly, at the past history of that part of the world; therefore I should like, before entering upon the narrative of my somewhat eventful experiences, to make a brief reference to the origin of the two British colonies and the two Boer oligarchies or republics (so called) which are engaged in the present struggle, and to trace somewhat cursorily the course of events which led to this unhappy strife.

As early as 1648 the Dutch East India Company established a trading post at the Cape of Good Hope. This for one hundred and fifty years was used simply as a port of call or stopping place for ships, at the end of which time it was found that several thousand colonists had come in and settled at the Cape, so that quite a little colony had sprung up. It was also found that the Company was altogether incapable of governing this little colony. Its rule is described as being tyrannical and ineffective. The Dutch East India Company was also involved in financial difficulties in Europe, and sought relief by selling to Great Britain the Cape of Good Hope for the consideration of a certain sum of money. That is how Great Britain got a foothold in South Africa.