



It may be said, however, and perhaps it is only charitable to say it, that his disloyal utterances are perhaps more the result of a disordered liver and stomach than the outcome of a clear and otherwise well-balanced brain. We trust it is so anyway, for it is really pitiable to see an old man like Goldwin Smith spending the last years of his life in villifying his country. In an open letter to the *New York Sun*, Goldwin Smith advises the Boer delegation to the United States to accept the inevitable and put an end to the useless sacrifice of life that is now going on in the Transvaal. He assures them that the Liberal party in England will put a veto on anything like a policy of vengeance, and that the British people, after the fierceness of the war feeling has passed, may be trusted to make a tolerable and not ungenerous settlement with the Boers. The pith of Goldwin's letter, like the Irishman's is in the tail of it, where he says that after the settlement "South Africa will be left again to the play of its own political forces; and much may then be regained at the polls which has been lost in the war." If these words mean anything it is that the Boers will be able to achieve and retain by peaceful methods under British rule what they never could retain or conquer by the sword. If this be so, where was the necessity for the war at all, seeing that all that Britain ever asked was that her subjects should only acquire burghers' rights and privileges by forswearing their allegiance to their native country and becoming citizens of the Transvaal Republic. Surely if the Boers can gain what they want at the polls under British rule, they could easily have held those rights when they themselves administered the country. Goldwin Smith has not unwittingly, but perhaps unintentionally, paid the highest possible compliment to British rule and British fair play, when he wrote this open letter to the Boer delegates and the American people.

MR. BROCK WILKINS, Galt's youngest jeweler, has taken possession of his new premises, in the block built by his grandfather over fifty years ago, and which has without exception been occupied by some of the family as merchants ever since without a break. Mr. Wilkins' new premises is certainly one of the handsomest jewelry stores in Western Ontario, and reflects the highest credit upon the proprietor, who, we understand, personally designed and supervised the decorations himself. The following description of Mr. Wilkins' new store and its fittings is taken from the local paper: It is handsomely finished in "staff," something entirely new for store decorations. It is said the first time this material was used for building purposes was at the World's Fair in 1893. The exterior is set in an imitation of staff which has the appearance of mottled marble. The entrance passage is laid in Italian mosaic, executed by an Italian. A large beveled oval plate panels the entrance door. On entering, one is impressed with the magnificent appearance, so effectively and artistically is everything arranged. The store proper is forty-five feet long and nineteen feet wide, with an ample workroom and an optical room in addition. At the immediate right of the door Mr. Wilkins has his private workroom, which is finished in keeping with the rest of the store and fitted with bevel plate glass. On one side of the store two artistic alcoves lend a charming effect as they shelter a showcase and mirror. The arches forming these recesses are beautiful works of art modelled in staff. On the opposite side of the store thirty-one feet of nickel mounted walnut showcases cover costly wares in gold and silver, fine china and other material. Snugly nestled in a well placed niche in the rear wall, just over Mr. Wilkins' massive safe, is a three-light electric figure in bronze. The ceiling is formed of embossed metallic squares, while the floor is covered with linoleum of marquetry design. Handsome grilles ornament the show windows. Gas and electricity are used for illuminating. There is a dash of beauty about the whole place that enlists your admiration. The soft, mellow effect of the staff finish and decorations is very pleasing. It removes anything of harshness and lends that happy result so much desired. The architectural designs throughout are the very latest and from front to rear the store is not only modern and convenient, but is attractive and artistic. As an optician, Mr. Wilkins already has a wide reputation. To more faithfully and scientifically carry on this

branch of his business he has had an optical parlor arranged at the rear of his store, eight feet by twenty feet. The room is solid black as this is absolutely necessary for the proper testing of sight. Both gas and electric lights are used in making tests. Mr. Wilkins' success in business to-day, shows forcibly what can be accomplished by pluck, push and perseverance. He is a Galt boy, born and schooled here. He learned his trade with Kent Bros., in Toronto, then travelled some years, engaging with the largest and most progressive firms in the large cities of Canada and the United States. After thus fitting himself he returned to his own town and entered business, and it is a credit to him and to our town that after seven and a-half years in business, he occupies so large, magnificent and up-to-date a store as he does to-day.

THE PERAMBULATIONS of the Orange Free State Capital is one of the amusing features of an otherwise very serious war. Originally located at Bloemfontein it was, on the occupation of that city by Gen. Lord Roberts, hurriedly shifted to Kroonstad, which place was supposed to be defensible against the British invaders. Kroonstad, however, proved to be no obstacle to Lord Roberts' army and again the Capital was hurriedly shifted, the first report being that President Steyn had transferred it to Lindley—and a day or two later it was given out that he had located it at Heilbron. As the latter place is at present a considerable distance away from the British lines, it is probable that it will hold the seat of government as long as President Steyn thinks his skin is safe there, but as soon as his pursuers can catch up with him again, his capital will probably have to take another jump unless he concludes to capitulate or is captured in the meantime. It looks as though the territory that Mr. Steyn has jurisdiction over is shrinking up so fast that he will be a president only in name shortly, as his troops are being gradually corralled up in the extreme north-east corner of the Free State. Without doubt the Orange Free State will lose its independence as the result of this war and if it does so, Mr. Steyn will be the person that the people can blame for it. The Free State had no cause of quarrel whatever with the British and were in no danger of being annexed or absorbed by them. On the contrary, Great Britain had not only given them their independence, but helped them in every possible way. Their laws were liberal and just and Britons and Dutch dwell in amity together within their borders, enjoying equal rights and equal liberties. This state of things would without doubt have continued indefinitely, but that in an evil hour President Steyn and his advisers were persuaded by President Kruger to join the *Africander Bond*, the express object of which was to overthrow the British power in South Africa and make the Dutch the dominant race throughout the whole of that country as President Kruger had already made it in the Transvaal. Up to the very day before war was declared by the Transvaal against Great Britain, President Steyn professed the utmost friendship for that country and his course in connection with the whole affair proves him to be thoroughly dishonest and unreliable in the conduct of the affairs of the country. The only excuse that we have ever heard of being put forward on behalf of the Free State's action in going to war was that Britain intended to conquer and annex the Transvaal and without doubt would serve the Free State in the same way later on. It is said that a poor excuse is better than none, and this is about all that any person can urge in defence of the ostensible reason put forward by the Free State for joining in the war against Britain. The real trouble is that a conspiracy, instigated by President Kruger, had been going on for years. They had been quietly and systematically laying in immense stores of war munitions of all kinds, and they thought the time was ripe for them to throw off the mask. They had figured it all out very carefully, and had reached the conclusion that although Britain was a strong power on the sea, with the advantages they had at the start they could easily whip all the troops that could be spared to fight them in South Africa. They counted thoroughly on getting in the main part of their work before the British could land any more troops, and by overrunning Natal and Cape Colony, cause a general rising amongst their fellow countrymen in those colonies that Britain would be powerless to quell. They reckoned without their host