

tenacious of liberty and natural rights for himself and his fellow-Boers, and yet refuse the most elementary rights to British people in his country; and that he should see nothing but iniquity in Dr. Jameson's quixotic dash to rescue the Outlanders from misgovernment, and yet see no wrong in his own invasion of a friendly State with no better motive than a lust of power. Some forty years ago, at a time when the Transvaal and the Orange Free State (a neighboring Republic, composed of his own fellow-countrymen), were at peace, Paul Kruger formed a plot with M. W. Pretorius, another Boer leader, to overthrow the government of the Free State. While Kruger invaded the country, at the head of a commando, inciting the Free State Boers to rise, as he proceeded, Pretorius was set to instigate the Free State natives to revolt. The Free State forces were, however, brought together in much quicker time than he anticipated, and when Kruger saw himself confronted with double the number of cannon his own force had, he discreetly withdrew.

That Kruger's intrigues during the days of the first Republic were a cause of the country's troubles is shown by the statement of the last President, Thomas Burgers,\* who, referring to the events that led up to the annexation, said: "Fruitlessly did I press upon him (Kruger), the fact that by showing how our danger lay in want of unity, the British Government would have cause to step in, on the ground of humanity, to avert

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\* In the course of his last address to his Volksraad, President Burgers said: "I would rather be a policeman under a strong government than the President of such a state. \* \* You have ill-treated the natives, you have shot them down, you have sold them into slavery, and now you have to pay the penalty. \* \* The fourth point which we have to take into account affects our relations with our English neighbors. It is asked, what have they to do with our position? I tell you as much as we have to do with that of our Kafir neighbors. As little as we can allow barbarities among the Kafirs on our borders, as little can they allow that in a state on their borders anarchy and rebellion should prevail. \* \* To-day a bill for £1,100 was laid before me for signature, but I would sooner have cut off my right hand than sign that paper, for I have not the slightest ground to expect that when that bill becomes due there will be a penny to pay it with." President Burgers—who left the Transvaal broken hearted, not because of the annexation, but because of the intriguing which brought about the condition of things rendering that step inevitable—just before he died left a statement of the case for the benefit of posterity, in which he shows how Kruger plotted with the annexation faction in order to oust Burgers and get the presidency for himself. Kruger overdid his part, but though his ambition was balked for the time by the annexation which he did not count upon, he continued his intrigues against the British with the result which history tells.