

The Boer victories over the small forces under Sir George Colley seem to have filled them with a lasting sense of their military prowess. They appear to have felt ever since that they could beat British soldiers at any time they chose. President Kruger, unless he is much belied, has often expressed his contempt for our "army," upon which word he has been accustomed to lay a scornful emphasis. And this feeling was intensified by the easy capture of Dr. Jameson's raiders. This was as much a "fluke" as the older victories. But the Boers did not look at it in that light; as they saw it, it confirmed their view of their own invincibility. Moreover, they are extremely pious folk. Their one book is the Bible, and they read it attentively. Like our own Puritan forefathers, they are fonder of the Old Testament than of the New Testament. They devoutly believe in Providence. They see the finger of God in public events; and, like all superstitionists, they see it most clearly when the events tend to their interest and flatter their vanity. No doubt the great majority of them—simple, Bible-reading farmers, dwelling in isolation—really accept the religious ideals of President Kruger's speeches, and imagine themselves to be favored and protected by the God who made the ancient Jews his chosen people, and confirmed them in their occupation of the land of Canaan.

President Kruger is probably quite pious himself. But a long official life must have qualified his piety to a certain extent. He has been President of the Transvaal ever since 1882. No one has been able to oust him. He is a striking personality, but he has had to practise the arts of the politician. We see no reason in the nature of things why the common laws of political action, and the common motives of political ambition, should not obtain in the Transvaal as they obtain (for instance) in England. We believe it is a profound mistake to regard President Kruger as a plain, unsophisticated, pious Dutchman, whose sole object is to govern a community of poor farmers and to keep them from being swamped by outsiders. Small as is the Transvaal population, his post is worth £7,000 a year—that is, £2,000 more than the salary of the Prime Minister of the greatest empire in the world. The Secret Service Money of the Transvaal may be all honestly spent, but it is nearly double the Secret Service Money of the British Empire, and must necessarily offer great temptations to those who administer it. Bear in mind, too, that the Salary List of the Transvaal government, according to the 1889 Budget, is no less than £1,216,394. Mr. J. P. Fitzpatrick, in his extremely able and interesting book, "*The Transvaal From Within*," calculates that this sum amounts to £40 per annum for the total male Boer population. Fancy a government whose officials receive salaries equal in the gross to a contribution of £40 by every male in the country! Evidently the Boer officials are standing up for something besides their country's independence. The fact is, the Boer officials receive this money, but it is not paid by the Boer farmers. It is paid, for the most part, by the Outlanders. Their industry supplies the means for paying these salaries, for buying guns, rifles and ammunition, for building fortifications, for carrying on negotiations with European powers, and for subventioning European organs of "public opinion." President