

WHAT THE WAR IS ABOUT.

The following summary of the causes of the South African war is given by the "Interior" of Chicago. It is one of the best we have seen in such short compass, and is all the more pleasing coming from across the line :

"Six principal points are involved in the arbitrament precipitated by the formal declaration of war by the Boer government. They are :

"1. Taxation without representation. The British government demanded for British subjects that this should be rectified. The Boers finally made the concession that five years of residence and the oath of allegiance to the Boer republic should entitle an outlander to vote. But this concession was placed under limitations which practically nullified it. It was not an honest offer. The Imperial government demanded a five year limit to political incompetency, and that the ballot should not be subjected to any nullifying conditions. This the Boers refused, unless the Imperial government should renounce suzerainty. The latter refused to discuss that question and the Boers then withdrew the offer.

"2. Trial by jury. British subjects are not allowed a trial by a jury of their peers, as under the laws of all English-speaking peoples. A British subject under the Boer oligarchy must be tried by a jury of Boers.

"3. Education. In the public schools the English language is not allowed. As the population of Johannesburg is twenty English to one Boer, this was a virtual exclusion of English children from the schools. The Imperial government demanded, on behalf of British subjects, that the two languages should stand on an equality—English speakers to have the same benefits as those exclusively given to the Dutch. This was refused.

"4. Municipal government. There are only about 1,000 Boers in Johannesburg to 23,000 outlanders. The Boer government clung to its exclusive right to govern the English city without the consent of the governed.

"5. Extortionate taxation. Before the English discovered and developed the Kimberley and Witwatersrand mines the total income of the Boer government was about six million dollars. It is now four times that amount, or a levy upon the outlanders of \$19,000,000 per annum, in the expenditure of which the tax-payers are allowed no voice.

"6. Slavery. Though this does not appear in the diplomatic discussion, it has affected the sentiments of British subjects toward the Boers. The natives are practically enslaved by them. They call it 'apprenticeship,' but the native youth are held to work and labor without compensation during the most effective period of their lives, namely,

till the age of twenty-eight. After that age they are held to service by terrorism, in many, if not most, instances. This is highly repugnant to the British constitution, whose glory has long been that no slave can tread on British soil. The earth emancipates him the instant he stands upon it.

"These are the issues upon which the Transvaal and the Orange Free State have thrown down the gauge of battle. The contention was not over the right of the Boers to self-government. That, the Imperial government has never questioned nor made any attempt to circumscribe. The demand of the English is that Englishmen within the limits of the British Empire shall have equal enjoyment of that right with all others."

DR. LIVINGSTONE AND THE BOERS.

It is well to note Livingstone's impressions at that time of the Boers who founded the Transvaal, as given in his book, "Missionary Travels in S. Africa." He says :

"Another adverse influence with which the mission had to contend, was the vicinity of the Boers of the Cashan Mountains otherwise named 'Magaliesberg.' These are not to be confounded with the Cape Colonists who sometimes pass by the name.

The word 'Boer' simply means 'farmer,' and is not synonymous with our word 'boor.' Indeed, to the Boers generally, the latter term would be quite inappropriate, for they are a sober, industrious, and most hospitable body of peasantry.

Those, however, who have fled from English law on various pretexts, and have been joined by English deserters and every other variety of bad character in their distant localities, are unfortunately of a very different stamp.

The great objection many of the Boers had, and still have, to English law is that it makes no distinction between black men and white. They felt aggrieved by their supposed losses in the emancipation of their Hottentot slaves, and determined to erect themselves into a republic, in which they might pursue without molestation the 'proper treatment of the black.' It is needless to add that the 'proper treatment' has always contained in it that essential element of slavery, namely, compulsory unpaid labor.

"One section of this body penetrated the interior as far as the Cashan mountains, and a glad welcome was given by the Bechuana tribes, who had just escaped the hard sway of Mosilikatze. They came with the prestige of white men and deliverers, but the Bechuanas soon found, as they expressed it, that Mosilikatze was cruel to his enemies, and kind to those he conquered,