

It must be a desperate case, indeed, which needs to be bolstered up with such special pleading as the above, and positive falsification of the documents in dispute.

It is not necessary that one should be a lawyer to appreciate some very obvious features of the Convention of 1884.

The Preamble reads thus :

"Whereas the Government of the Transvaal State,  
 "through its delegates \* \* \* have represented that  
 "the Convention signed at Pretoria on the 3rd day of  
 "August, 1881 \* \* \* contains certain provisions which  
 "are inconvenient, and imposes burdens and obligations  
 "from which the said State is desirous to be relieved \* \*  
 "and whereas Her Majesty the Queen \* \* *has been*  
*"pleased to take the said representations into consideration :*  
*"Now therefore Her Majesty has been pleased to direct," etc.*

This certainly is not the language which we should look for in an agreement between two independent powers ; but it is quite consistent with the claim of superiority on the one side and its admission on the other. And further, the Resolution of the Volksraad ratifying the Convention concludes with these words :

"Resolves, *with acknowledgment of the generosity of*  
*"Her Britannic Majesty,* to ratify, as it hereby does, the  
 "said Convention of London."

These are hardly the terms in which a treaty between equals would be referred to; and they cannot be explained by any disposition on the part of the Boers to show unnecessary civility toward Great Britain.

The matters complained of by British subjects in the Transvaal did not stop with themselves. In another aspect these grievances were of enormous importance. I refer to the influence which Transvaal affairs had upon the safety and well-being of British possessions in South Africa and elsewhere.

It was alleged that the constantly increasing bitterness between the British and Dutch races in the Transvaal was strongly reflected in the adjoining colonies, and had become a very serious menace to their future, as well as a great interference with their present prosperity. It was further alleged that the ill-treatment by the Boers of natives of India tended to undermine the respect of their countrymen for their British rulers. If these allegations were true England had every right to demand a remedy. *The only question is whether they were true.*

Well, as to that, the best judges should be the people on the spot, and they spoke with no uncertain voice.

Petitions from 38,500 British subjects in Cape Colony, about 7,500 in Natal, by 2,000 in Rhodesia, affirmed that the treatment of the English speaking population of the Transvaal caused an intense race feeling which was dividing and embittering all South Africa, and that only by the removal of these grievances could peace be put upon a firm foundation.