

play for their own people, and no more. Was this their destruction? Yes, the destruction of their tyrannical oligarchy, but not the taking away of any of their rights or privileges, which they might justly claim on grounds of general civilization. Their last ultimatum, we may observe, was simply a proposal that the British troops should retire and leave them in a state of independence—a state which they had abused, and intended to abuse—and this after great sacrifices in men and treasure had been made! "Your Premier," they go on, "has declared that you want no territory, etc. If these speeches had been made in September, instead of October and November, we would never have formulated our ultimatum." The impudence of this is incredible. Let us note the facts. These people have been preparing for war with England for years, and accumulating war material. They have made no secret of their resolve to drive Englishmen, or at least English

rule, out of South Africa. They did not conceive that England would be willing—perhaps they thought she was scarcely able—to put an army in the field sufficient to cope with them. They knew, at least, that they could hold their own for a time; and they trusted that, before this time had expired, they might count on intervention from some of the great European powers. And perhaps their calculation was not so absurd as it might seem to be. It is not unlikely that some of our neighbours would have picked a quarrel with us but for the fear that they might have had some other foes on their back. It is well for us sometimes to examine the position and pretensions of our adversaries that we may rightly estimate our own position. Assuredly, we are not shaken by the recent demonstration of Boer advocates from our belief that our cause is a righteous one. — *Canadian Churchman*.

### BOOKS AND MAGAZINES.

MR. Richard Harding Davis has taken Mr. Whigham's place with a war article in the June number of *Scribner's Magazine*. Mr. Davis was with Buller's column and describes the battle of Pieter's Hill. The account is in the author's better style; his second article on the Relief of Ladysmith, which is promised for the July number, should be vividly interesting. In fiction there are two notable contributions to this issue, Mrs. Wharhon's "Copy"—a dialogue—and Mr. Barrie's instalment of "Tommy and Grizel." One cannot help remarking that it is a pity that authors should encourage the prevalent over-importance given to writing as a trade by so often selecting people who write as their heroes

and heroines. Mr. Charles Major, the author of the extremely popular "When Knighthood was in Flower," contributes an article entitled, "What is Historic Atmosphere?"

The June *Cosmopolitan* contains a number of interesting short stories. Mr. Stockton's series of short stories at present appearing in this magazine is represented by a story by the daughter of the house, "The Conscious Amanda."

Mr. Wm. T. Stead and Mr. Walker between them have arranged an article on the Queen, "What Kind of a Sovereign is Queen Victoria?" Mr. Walker thought that Mr. Stead would be just the person to explain at last what a failure the Queen's influence had been, but