

PROFESSOR CLARK ON SOUTH AFRICA.\*

Some persons have asked what business we had in South Africa. Precisely the same business that we had in North America. We had to protect our own people. The French had done a great deal more for Canada than the Boers had done for Africa, yet we had no idea of giving up Canada to the French, and happily the French in Canada were more than contented to be under the British flag. If we looked back upon the history of South Africa, we should better understand the position. The Cape of Good Hope was discovered by the Portuguese (1486), who effected no permanent settlement. In 1652 it was occupied by the Dutch East India Company. In 1796 the Cape Colony and South Africa were captured by English forces; and in 1803 they were restored to the Dutch. Finally in 1814 they were ceded to the British Crown. The Dutch inhabitants denied the right of the Netherlands to make that cession, and many of them went into the wilderness, becoming the Vortrekker (first emigrants) to the north. Many of them settled in Natal, but left when it was annexed by Great Britain, certainly not because any civil rights were denied to them—they were allowed all the same privileges as the British inhabitants of the province—but chiefly because they were not allowed to do as they liked with the native races. In 1840 the Transvaal was founded by the Boers, in 1852 its independence was recognized by Great Britain, but in 1877 the Boers were defeated by the Kaffirs, and disorder and insolvency reigned in the Transvaal to such an extent that the debt of the Republic became £215,000, and the amount

in the exchequer was only 12s. 6d. Not unnaturally the Transvaal was then annexed to Great Britain; but soon afterwards the antipathy of the Boers to the English manifested itself in an insurrection (1880). After some not successful conflicts, Great Britain made a treaty with the Boers (1884), by which certain powers were reserved to the British Crown as suzerain. The discovery of gold and precious stones in the Transvaal led to a great immigration of English-speaking men and British capital; and the revenue of the country was speedily doubled. The Boers saw that there was a danger of their supremacy being overthrown, and began a deliberate attempt to deprive all Outlanders (as they were called) of their rights. It is easy to trace the process. Up to 1882, the franchise was conferred upon all who either held property or were qualified by one year's residence. In 1882 aliens were naturalized and enfranchised after five years' residence. It was necessary for them, however, to register with the Field Cornet; and, as this functionary kept his registers very badly, it was not quite easy for anyone to secure his rights. In 1890 a residence of fourteen years was required, and all petitions of the Outlanders for more generous treatment were received by the Raad with derision. In 1894 the Outlanders and their children were disfranchised forever, and the country entailed on the Vortrekkers and their children. There was now no disguising the fact that the Boers meant to have the Transvaal for themselves, shaking off every vestige of dependence on the British Crown, and resolutely refusing all civil

\*Rev. Prof. Clark. Notes of sermon preached Feb. 11th, 1900.