

—their hand forever against the Kafirs on the one side and against the British on the other. They have so far failed to see the advantages of the golden rule, or to read the signs of the times, that they have perpetuated the same ideas of lordship as those under which their ancestors groaned in the 17th century. In 1877, when the country was in a state of bankruptcy, Sir Theophilus Shepstone annexed the Transvaal to the British Empire, without active opposition. Whatever may be thought of this step, it was taken with the best intentions, and with the desire to save the Boers from the destruction which would have been their fate at the hands of the Zulu King Cetwayo. The step once taken, it is now generally realized that a terrible mistake was made in giving the country back to what has proved a monstrous system of misrule. The British Government, however, gave the Boers just ground of complaint when it left the Transvaal for three years without any representative institutions, and permitted during that time a military oligarchy, composed of men who gave no consideration to the susceptibilities of the Dutch inhabitants, a large part of whom would have been fairly contented under a system which gave them a voice in the affairs of the country. It was unfortunate that just when the British Government began to be awake to the seriousness of Boer discontent, and were actually considering the constitution framed by Sir Bartle Frere, the flames of rebellion broke out, with the result that the British were defeated in three engagements, through the guerilla tactics of the Boer sharpshooters, and then the Gladstone Government restored the republic under that "suzerainty," which has been ever since a source of misapprehension to the Boers.

Before alluding, in the next section, to the present condition of affairs in South Africa, it is worth while to remember this teaching of the past, that wherever the British and Dutch have co-operated either in colonization, in politics or commerce, they have both prospered. The British possession of the diamond fields