

the War was raging, I ventured to make this prediction, speaking of the Dutch population:

"I pledge my reputation and my name as a British Subject, "that if they have lost their independence they have not lost "their freedom.

"There is but one future for South Africa, and that is a "grand confederation on the pattern of the Canadian confederation. It is a federation in which Cape Colony and Natal, and "the Orange Free State, and the Transvaal, and Rhodesia, shall "be united together under the British flag, and under the "sovereignty of England. And when they have the British "flag over South Africa, they shall have that which has been "found everywhere, during the last sixty years, under the "British flag: liberty for all; equality for all; justice and civil "rights for English and Dutch alike."

When I thus spoke, I uttered the feelings of my heart; I believed, I felt, I knew that the British Constitution would justify my words, that truth and justice would prevail and that right would be done. But, I did not expect that the problem would be solved so soon as it has been solved. Only seven years have elapsed since the close of the war, and yet, already, at this present moment that I am speaking to you, Dutch and Briton, burying and hurrying deep, the bitter memories of the past, have joined hands together, to bring forth under the Southern Cross, a new nation, a new star, to be added to the constellation of nations which compose the British Empire.

Ladies and Gentlemen, and this is my last word, this is the last, the most consummate triumph of the British Constitution.