

SOUTH AFRICA
A GLANCE AT CURRENT CONDITIONS
AND POLITICS

BY
J. H. BALFOUR BROWNE, K.C.
ETC.
AUTHOR OF "THE NEW FISCAL POLICY"

LONGMANS, GREEN, AND CO.
39 PATERNOSTER ROW, LONDON
NEW YORK AND BOMBAY
1905
All rights reserved

.V63. N

D5

2282

PREFACE

My professional work has carried me to many places in England, and even, upon occasion, to Scotland and Ireland, but never until recently invited me to visit any of our colonies. In 1904, however, a professional engagement made it necessary for me to go to South Africa, and the opportunity that visit would afford me of studying some of the Colonial questions—which are now really Imperial questions—on the spot, was one of the reasons which made me take upon me the burden of the business and tediousness of the voyage. While in the Colonies I had exceptional opportunities of seeing a good deal of the life of some of them, and of making myself acquainted with Colonial opinion.

There are at the present time many urgent political problems presented to South Africa for practical solution, and to any one who is interested in the great social and State questions at home, these have an interest which is beyond that which attaches to the comparative anatomy of national organisms. In the human frame "each part calls the furthest, brother," according to George

Herbert, and so it is with the trunk and limbs of this great Empire. There is between these a "private amity." We see that politicians at home are eager to make capital out of the political attitude of our Colonies, and perhaps that is the more easily accomplished if the politicians are ignorant of the real aspect of current Colonial events, and of the real trend of current Colonial opinion. The chance of making myself acquainted with these was eagerly accepted; and the jottings—for they are little more—that I made, mostly on the homeward-bound ship, are printed in the following pages. I kept my eyes and ears open. I was the recipient of opinions and views, and after seeing what was to be seen, and hearing what was to be said, I have attempted to give my own opinion of all that I learned—if that is not too pompous a word—in the following miscellaneous pages.

J. H. B. B.

LONDON,
February, 1905.