

SOUTH AFRICA.



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GATEWAY OF THE CASTLE OF GOOD HOPE

SOUTH AFRICA

(THE CAPE COLONY, NATAL, ORANGE
FREE STATE, SOUTH AFRICAN
REPUBLIC, RHODESIA, AND ALL
OTHER TERRITORIES SOUTH
OF THE ZAMBESI)

BY

GEORGE M'CALL THEAL, D.Lit., LL.D.

NINTH IMPRESSION

(SIXTH EDITION)

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PREFACE TO FIFTH EDITION.

THE chapters in this volume upon the Cape Colony before 1848, Natal before 1845, and the Orange Free State, South African Republic, Zululand, and Basutoland before 1872, contain an outline of my *History of South Africa*, which has been published in England in five octavo volumes. In that work my authorities are given, so they need not be repeated here. The remaining chapters have been written merely from general acquaintance with South African affairs acquired during many years' residence in the country, and have not the same claim to be regarded as absolutely correct, though I have endeavoured to make them reliable. In preparing the book I was guided by the principle that truth should be told, regardless of nationalities or parties, and I strove to the utmost, to avoid anything like favour or prejudice.

The above was the preface to the first edition of this book, which was published in September, 1893. As successive editions appeared the volume was enlarged, and now it has been my task to add the saddest chapter of the whole, the one in which is recorded the beginning of a war whose results

no man can foresee. That Great Britain with her enormous resources must conquer is obvious; but what then? Only when the last shot has been fired will real difficulties commence.

The Dutch-speaking people of South Africa have increased from 30,000 according to the census, or possibly 40,000, in 1806, to 400,000 in 1899. The military strength of the northern republic is now more than double what it was in 1881. This rate of increase may not be so large in the future, but it is reasonable to suppose that it will not be much less. I have shown how these people, or rather those of them who reside in the republics, came to be attached to independence as to life itself; what force then will be needed to keep them in subjection if they are made British subjects? It is altogether fallacious to suppose that English families will ever settle there permanently in sufficient numbers to keep the earlier inhabitants in check. They are miners and traders and professional men who come and go; the Dutch are fixtures on the soil.

If, on the other hand, independence is conceded, it will have to be full and complete to create anything like real friendship; and if that is to be the result, for what purpose is this outlay of blood and treasure? Complete independence for the South African Republic would mean a government like the present, and the Englishmen are few who would consent to perform burgher duties in return for burgher rights. To preserve order among the Bantu the Dutch would not maintain a standing paid military force, to which they have a deeply rooted

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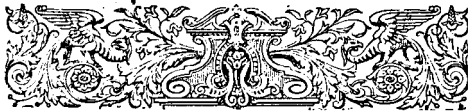
objection; hence the old dissension would appear again in tenfold intensity.

That a way may be found out of the difficulty and permanent harmony between the present combatants be restored is therefore at this anxious time the hope rather than the expectation of the author of this volume.

GEO. M. THEAL.

LONDON, 3 *November*, 1899.





PREFACE TO FOURTH EDITION.

IN the second and third editions of this work a supplementary chapter was inserted, in which were recorded the chief events that occurred from September, 1893, to the dates of issue. As another addition of the kind would tend to confuse the reader, I have rewritten the last five chapters, enlarged them to a considerable extent, and brought the history without a break down to the present month.

GEO. M. THEAL.

February, 1897.





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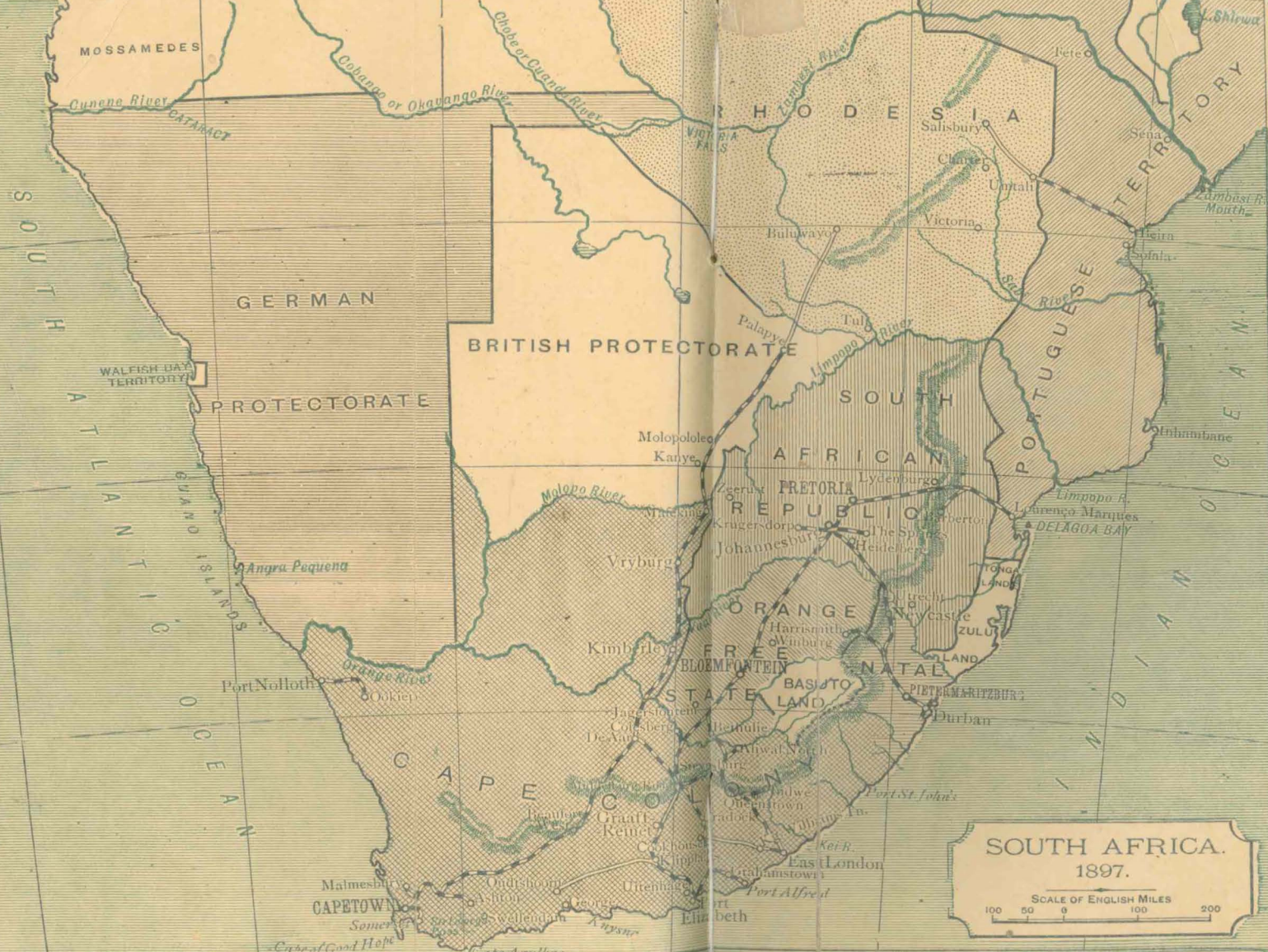
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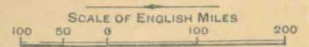
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EXPLANATION OF TERMS.

EXPLANATION of words in common use in South Africa, but that may not be understood elsewhere, at least in the same sense :—

Assagai, a javelin or dart used by the Hottentots and Bantu in war and the chase. The word is a corruption of the Portuguese "azagaya," which was derived from the Latin "hasta."

Boer, Dutch for a tiller of the ground. The word is applied in this country to cattle-breeders as well as to agriculturists, and is frequently used in the plural form to signify the whole rural population of European blood speaking the Dutch language.

Burgher, a European male, no matter where resident, who is in possession of the franchise and liable to all public duties. It corresponds to the *civis Romanus* of old.

Calabash, the hard rind of a gourd, used by the Bantu for various purposes, such as water-pots, jars, dishes, basins, snuff-boxes, &c.

Commando, a body of burghers called out for military purposes.

Heemraden, burghers appointed by the government to act as assessors in the district courts of justice. A Dutch word.

Induna, an officer of high rank under a Bantu chief. The word is Zulu.

Kraal, a cattle-fold. The word is a corruption of the Portuguese "curral." It is also used to signify a collection of

either Hottentot or Bantu huts, as these are usually built in a circle, within which the cattle are kept at night.

Lager, a Dutch word meaning an enclosure for protective purposes, such as a circular wall of stone, or a number of waggons lashed together.

Landdrost, a stipendiary magistrate, who administers justice and receives the revenue of a district. The word is Dutch.

Tsetse, a fly whose sting destroys domestic cattle, but has no effect upon wild animals. The word comes from one of the Bantu dialects. The *tsetse* disappears from a district when the game is exterminated or driven away.

Volksraad, a Dutch word meaning the people's council, an elected legislative body.





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