

FROM THE CAPE
TO THE ZAMBESI
G. T. HUTCHINSON

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"THE OLD ORDER CHANGETH"; THE CAPE TO CAIRO RAILWAY AT VICTORIA FALLS

Frontispiece

FROM THE CAPE TO THE ZAMBESI

BY G. T. HUTCHINSON

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY
COLONEL F. RHODES, C.B., D.S.O.

WITH MANY ILLUSTRATIONS FROM
PHOTOGRAPHS BY COL. RHODES
AND THE AUTHOR

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PREFACE

IT is scarcely necessary to write even the shortest preface, for I think that the following pages explain themselves. Many people may say that there is no excuse for writing another book about South Africa, but it must be remembered that it is a country in the making, and, as such, is in a state of constant change: for this reason it always provides something new for the traveller to record.

My thanks are due to Colonel Frank Rhodes for some of the photographs, and for the exceptional opportunities of acquiring information which I enjoyed in his company last year.

I visited all the different places mentioned here with him, and was enabled to see more of the country, and to learn more about its problems, than would have been possible for one travelling under the ordinary conditions.

GEORGE T. HUTCHINSON

March 9th, 1905

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INTRODUCTION

BY COLONEL F. RHODES, C.B., D.S.O.

DESPITE the number of books already published about South Africa, I take considerable personal interest in this one, for most of the material for it was collected in my company during the summer months of last year. I have been asked to write an introduction, and do so because I feel that the subject is of great importance just now. Though I do not wish to identify myself with all the views expressed or quoted here, I agree with most of them, and consider it desirable that they should be clearly impressed upon the mind of the British public.

I have always taken the deepest interest in everything connected with the Victoria Falls, and much regret that the present site should have been chosen for the railway bridge. It cannot be denied that the step was taken in a hurry, and without that

careful consideration which should be given when dealing with one of the grandest things in the world. In any case I must protest most strongly against the selection of the site for the Zambesi bridge being attributed to my brother Cecil. It is true that he once said that the railway would pass close to the Falls, but he himself never saw them; had he done so everyone who knew him will admit that the bridge would not be where it now is. Now that the bridge is built it would be unwise to say more on this subject, but it is to be hoped that in the future every precaution will be taken not to destroy the character of the place. These remarks also apply to so-called "improvements" in the Matoppos.

I am glad that a chapter has been devoted to the subject of land settlement, for the future of South Africa must largely depend upon the success of this measure. It needs all the support that can be given to it, and it is to be hoped that the good work done by the Duke of Westminster and Lord Lovat will lead others to follow their example. In my opinion, farming in the different colonies of South Africa has been unduly neglected and has

great possibilities before it—of which a foretaste may be seen in the prosperity of the Orange River Colony. I have seen a good deal of the fruit farms which my brother started at the Paarl, and am sure that, though mistakes have been committed from want of experience, they will before long prove a good investment—and this applies to fruit-farming generally in Cape Colony.

With regard to Rhodesia, I am still, as I have always been, a great believer in its future. In spite of the prevailing depression, I found a better tone of confidence there last summer than I did a year ago. The country has great natural resources and plenty of good men: the first necessity for it is better management, and a better understanding between the directors of the Chartered Company and the Rhodesians. At present they are hopelessly out of touch with one another.

At Johannesburg there are many hopeful indications. Some influential people are beginning to realise that they have a duty towards the country which has done everything for them, and are already doing useful work in South Africa. Hitherto everyone has tried to make what he can, and then

come home to spend it. I hope that in better times those who have stuck to the country, and "borne the burden and heat of the day," will get their reward.

Meantime it is important that Englishmen should not lose interest in South Africa, or despair of its future. It is a country with an 'uphill task before it, but its people have resolutely undertaken that task, and deserve all the help and sympathy which they can get from home.

FRANK RHODES

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