

**THE  
KALEIDOSCOPIIC  
TRANSVAAL**

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The kaleidoscopic Transvaal by Carl Jeppe

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**CARL JEPPE**

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BY  
CARL JEPPE

"NOTHING RETENUATE  
NOR AUGHT SET DOWN IN MALICE."

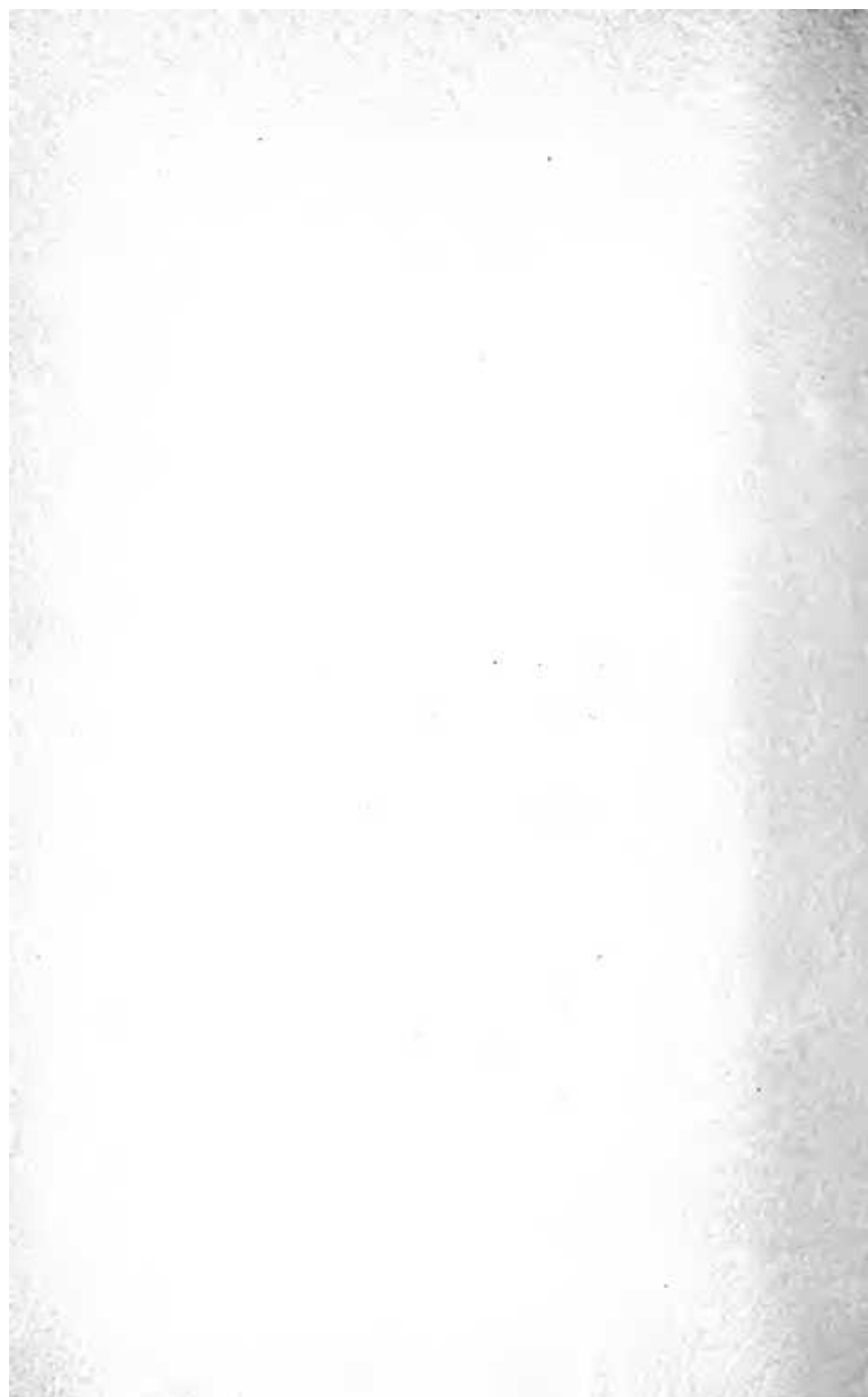
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TO MY WIFE,  
THE SHARER  
OF MANY OF THE EXPERIENCES  
RELATED IN THESE PAGES,  
THIS VOLUME IS  
AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED.





## PREFACE

THIS book is not an attempt to write history. It makes no pretension to minute photographic exactness, but should be looked upon rather as an impressionist sketch, giving the broad sweep of hill and valley, light and shade, as the observer sees them, without details of foliage or flower.

Still less is it an autobiography, though it consists largely of reminiscences, interspersed with camp-fire stories and old half-forgotten tales ; and though it will be necessary to give a brief sketch of my life in the Transvaal, as a justification for this attempt to write on a subject bristling with problems, the complexity of which would tax a far abler pen than mine.

When in 1870 my family came to the South African Republic, at that time already better known as the Transvaal, I was a boy just in my teens. In 1876, less than eighteen years old, I had left school, acted as a reporter, and entered a lawyer's office. I was then "commandeered" for the Sekukuni Campaign, and went through it

## PREFACE

from first to last. In 1877 I was appointed Clerk of the Peace in Waterberg, then a district inhabited only by natives and a few hundred families of Boers.<sup>1</sup> There, and subsequently in Standerton, where I held a similar post in 1879-1880, I often acted as Landdrost<sup>2</sup>—probably one of the youngest magistrates ever in office.

In 1880, when the first Boer war broke out, I had resigned my appointment and was articled to Mr. L. P. Ford, late Attorney-General of the Transvaal. In this war, or rather in the siege of Pretoria, I took part, as did all Pretorians, on the side of the British Government. A few years later I was admitted as advocate, and had become partner in the firm of Ford and Jeppe, a branch of which was established in Barberton; and when, in 1886, the Witwatersrand goldfield was discovered, I was one of its earliest pioneers.

Two of the largest suburbs of Johannesburg—Jeppetown and Fordsburg—were founded by Mr. Ford and myself, in conjunction with my father, the late Mr. Julius Jeppe, and my brother.

<sup>1</sup> Boer is the Dutch for farmer, and was originally only applied to that class, though in later days all Republican inhabitants of the Transvaal were proud to be known by it.

<sup>2</sup> Official with administrative and judicial functions, chief of a district.

## PREFACE

In the earliest days of Johannesburg I took charge of a branch of our firm there, and became in time a member of all the public bodies of that town, including the Chamber of Mines, of which, for a brief time, I was the chairman.

In 1887 I was elected a member of the first Volksraad for Johannesburg, and represented that constituency for over four years, until after the Jameson raid. I was one of the members of the "Peace Committee," appointed by the President to take charge of the town during those troubled days.

A year later I was appointed Consul-General of the Republic at Cape Town. At the commencement of the war in 1900 I was arrested by the British authorities when on my way to Pretoria, and released on parole.

It will be seen, therefore, that I have had opportunities of knowing the Transvaal such as have been vouchsafed to few. I have explored all its nooks and corners. I have lived with and amongst both the white races with which it is peopled to-day, and have come in close contact with all its leading men. I have shared the work, the sport, the comradeship, of Boer and Briton, and have life-long friends among both of them.

The history of the Transvaal during the period