

ENGLAND AND SOUTH AFRICA

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649573738

England and South Africa by Edw. J. Gibbs

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

EDW. J. GIBBS

**ENGLAND AND
SOUTH AFRICA**

ENGLAND
AND
SOUTH AFRICA

PRINTED BY
RITCHIEWOODS AND CO., NEW-STREET SQUARE
LONDON

ENGLAND
AND
SOUTH AFRICA

BY
EDW. J. GIBBS, M.A.

7



LONDON
LONGMANS, GREEN, AND CO.
AND NEW YORK: 15 EAST 16th STREET
1889

All rights reserved

DEDICATED
BY PERMISSION
TO
ALEX. JAS. MACDONALD, ESQ.

LONDON: *August 16, 1889.*

DEAR MR. MACDONALD,

I have to thank you for your permission to dedicate this book to you. Your knowledge of South Africa, and your long residence in and travels through the Cape Colony and Natal, have enabled you to provide me with many hints and criticisms. I do not pretend to have written from materials collected by my own travel and observation. All that I have attempted is to give a general history of the main features of our policy and conduct, especially since the abolition of slavery and the 'trekking' of the Boers. But I believe that this résumé will be found useful. Events pass so rapidly that even those of ten years ago are forgotten by the ordinary reader, or only recollected in a hazy sort of way. For this reason, and because of the importance of the subject, you thought that a new compendium, which should take a general review, would be desirable. There can be no doubt but that the general interest in South Africa is due to the gold discoveries, as was the case in Australia and California. But I do not regard the gold-mining industry as the greatest or the most useful.

I remain, dear Mr. Macdonald,

Yours faithfully,

EDWARD J. GIBBS.

ALEX. JAS. MACDONALD, ESQ.

PREFACE

In the following pages I have endeavoured to give an impartial account of the progress of Great Britain in South Africa. Unhappily it is impossible to be impartial without being severe. Men of English descent have indeed raised the Cape Colony and Natal from very small beginnings to prosperity and yearly increasing success. This has been done in the face of many and severe trials. On the one hand, we had to contend with the Boers, a population of European origin and language, who were then many times more numerous than our own colonists, sullen in temper, sore with defeat, and above all fanatically attached to the heaven-appointed institution of slavery. On the other hand was a vast native population, for the most part brave, vigorous and determined, eager to preserve their lands from spoliation and themselves from enforced labour, but withal treacherous and bloodthirsty. It speaks well for the vigour of the English race that we should, so far, not only have held our own but have advanced with rapid strides in material and moral prosperity. But the praise that is due to the British settler must be withheld from the British Government. We boast of our Colonial Empire. It is the out-come and the growth of individual effort and private association. For many years the British Government seems to have been doing all it could to hamper, to harass, and to alienate our colonies, and to have used one stereotyped reply to all complaints: 'You may go whenever you please.' The Romans of old boasted that it was their mission

parcere subjectis et debellare superbos. Our mission, under the guidance of the parochial economists called Ministers for the Colonies, has been to submit meekly to defeat, to throw all responsibility on the colonists themselves, to refuse protectorates, and abandon conquests. It was not the British Government that conquered India, or annexed the vast territories in the North-West of America. And in the same way it will appear that our treatment of the Cape Colony and South Africa has been so mean, so niggardly, and so unwise as to have created a strong party which seems to be watching for some more congenial alliance. In a hundred years Gaul was conquered by the Romans, and completely Latinised. In a hundred years at the Cape we have not advanced one step beyond two opposing languages, nationalities and policies. What is worse, many of our own people openly side with the Dutch, and pursue an anti-English policy. The Cape Government of to-day is dominated by the Boer faction. But though we rule almost in spite of ourselves, though we carry the principle of *laissez faire* to the most absurd extremes, though our connection with the colonies is personal and commercial rather than national, yet perhaps even a British Government may recognise the fact of pecuniary loss as well as the loss of power and influence. In the following pages I have described too briefly and with too little indignation the surrender made to the Boers of the Transvaal. But I have not shown sufficiently the baneful effects of this cowardly policy. In 1881, after the battle of Majuba Hill, Mr. Gladstone shielded his surrender under the plea of an aversion to blood-shed. It is more probable that his chief thought was for his budget, and his fixed resolve to sacrifice any part of the Empire rather than ask money for its defence. In 1884 there was even less excuse, and the treaty with the rebel Boers appears to have been merely the result of a wish to get rid of as much of our Colonial Empire as could possibly be alienated at once. Even Lord Derby, who was by no means a successful Minister for the Colonies, declared