

**QUEEN OR PRESIDENT?
AN INDICTMENT OF
PAUL KRUGER**

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Queen or President? An Indictment of Paul Kruger by S. M. Gluckstein

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PAUL KRUGER.

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An Indictment of Paul Kruger

BY

S. M. GLUCKSTEIN

by

LONDON
GRANT RICHARDS

1900



PREFACE

ALWAYS the scene of strife, internecine and racial, South Africa is now passing through the most critical metamorphosis in its eventful history. Nothing less than its retention by or loss to Great Britain is involved in the issue of the Second Anglo-Boer War. Indeed, the British Empire is threatened, and by a semi-independent Republic which could not have existed for good or evil but for the fatuous generosity of English Statesmen. Expressed succinctly, the Boers are biting the hand that fed them. The origin of this great struggle is, as might be expected, the crux with which Englishmen are grappling. The masses in this country never took other than a dilettante interest in South Africa; Imperial Policy in British Colonies had no concern for them; Greater Britain they have ever regarded as a kind of political playground. But the cataract

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before their eyes is removed. They begin to realise that the Colonies do, after all, signify Empire, and that Empire means something more than a fanciful fare of democratic legislation at home. In that discovery there is planted the bulb of a new patriotism—of a sterling devotion to the creed of Anglo-Saxon unity. It is a false patriotism that demands the subjugation of an enemy while still pleading the justice of his cause. The ethics of Party, however, are erratic and incongruous, and that is why the House of Commons is divided against itself when the pulse of the nation throbs sympathetically with the effort to protect Imperial Rights in South Africa. Great Britain is not at war with the Boers with the object of merely redressing local grievances in the Transvaal. Nor are Tommy Atkins, and his equally heroic comrade-in-arms, the Volunteer, glorifying their race with valiant deeds in the battlefield in defence of franchise claims asserted by the Uitlanders. It is the cause of

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Empire, of Liberty, and of Truth that is being championed, and discussion of the facts is too grave a matter to admit of levity or inconsequential parochialism. Let those who will canonise the Boers. Let those who will characterise the Uitlanders as depraved sybarites unfit to step into the shoes of the heterogeneous rulers of the Transvaal. But let it not be forgotten that we have taken up arms in defence of claims pegged out in South Africa for the benefit of posterity. There is only one question at the bottom of all the trouble—whether we are to retain our paramountcy in South Africa, or suffer expulsion from power at the hands of so-called Boer republicans under the tutelage of European adventurers. Mr Kruger has worked assiduously to bring about the downfall of the Imperial factor. He sowed the wind; he will reap the whirlwind. He applied himself to the undermining of British authority, and he has forfeited his own.

It is my opinion that the friends of Mr Kruger are the enemies of the Boer.