

OBSERVATIONS

BY SARAH B. HARRIS

History, Geography, and Sympathy

Jan Krige, a Boer who prefers lecturing to fighting, is making a tour of this country endeavoring to get resolutions passed in favor of the Boers and against England. The Boer speakers give the impression that England began the war. The contrary is true. The Boers gathered ammunition and practised sharp-shooting for years and finally fired upon English troops before the home government was aware that a crisis was reached.

Judge Cornish introduced Jan Krige, who is trying to convince Americans of the cruelty and injustice of Englishmen. He said:

"All mankind believes the people of a country should own and govern it. Americans naturally believe in this doctrine. They have prospered under it for they have had the liberty of growing up in their own way. Americans naturally sympathize with a people fighting for independence. The people of South Africa wouldn't be in the trouble they are today were it not for the fact that rich mines were discovered there and English capitalists desire a chance to invest there. We are met tonight to express our sympathy for this people. Nine out of ten people in the United States today sympathize with the Boers. Their struggle must go down in history as an example of what a brave people will do fighting for the rights we have said in the Declaration of Independence, are the rights of every free people."

How loosely some judges talk in dis-Mississippi country! Their profession requires, first of all, in justice to litigants, clear thinking. One who thinks clearly, definitely and sequentially comes in time to cast about him for words to express his meaning exactly and luminously. However, there would not be so much business for the judges and lawyers if briefs, wills and opinions were written by masters of English, inspired by the creed of clearness and ready to sacrifice verbosity, sound, oratorical effect and the prospect of drawing a tear or two, to truth, simplicity and minor articles of the creed.

In the short quotation of 141 words taken from Judge Cornish's introductory remarks, it is apparent that in his long occupation of the bench he has not grown fastidious in his selection of words. Anything that is handy and occurs to him seems to have been good-naturedly accepted.

"All mankind believes the people of a country should own and govern it. Americans naturally believe in this doctrine. They have prospered under it for they have had the liberty of growing up in their own way." On this continent there are three countries besides the Central American governments. Only a close student of contemporary events can tell at a given time just how many governments the Isthmus contains. The Canadians have prospered, though whether or not "they have grown up in their own way" only a man who boldly declares that "all mankind believes" a certain dogma can say. The British are a part of all mankind. The men of England believe they are doing right in India, Australia, in Canada, in Ireland and in the various islands which the Englishman helps to govern. The larger majority of the men of the United States who voted for President William McKinley are a part of mankind and they expressed their satisfaction with his administration of Philippine affairs. Germany has large colonial possessions; therefore Germans must be excluded from the judge's sweeping generalization.

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were discovered there and English capitalists desire a chance to invest there." The richest mine-owner of all, Cecil Rhodes, has opposed the war from the first. If other speculators in mining property wished to invest their money in South African mines and develop the wealth of a country, which as long as it is hidden in the earth is of no use to any one, is it a reproach to them? We welcome capitalists to this country who come to put their money and spades into American soil. These men asked only common liberties of development, liberties which "all mankind" agree that every man should enjoy.

Mr. Bryan said at this meeting:

"There is no greater reflection on this country than the fact that when the queen of England died, we could send condolence; when the mother of Emperor William died, we sent regrets, but when the wife of President Kruger died, we dared not say a word. He thought the United States could by its moral support strengthen the taxpayers of England to help them rise against the gamblers in gold mines and

nate and untruthful relict, because this country does not approve of the old man. By his obstinacy, tyranny and hypocrisy he involved the Transvaal in this war, a war which England was strenuously trying to avoid. If we had sent roses they would have been accepted by Our Onkel as a tribute to his sagacity and only a few of us in America think that he has any, or to his patriotism, which is obstinacy, or to his statesmanship, which is hypocrisy. Then England, who was our friend when the other great powers were eager to help Spain, might have misunderstood. "All mankind" was sorry for the old man whose old wife died, but a very large portion of mankind were not sorry enough to be willing to give England and the Boers a wrong impression by cabling condolences. The former president of the Transvaal has gone to Holland with a very large amount of money which he made in the same way that Richard Croker, whom Mr. Bryan disapproves of, made his money. Mr. Kruger sold privileges while he was president to his friends. All his sons were in companies whose privileges were guaranteed by their father and excluded other men who wished to go into the same business. Oom Paul is a very rich man but he took all his money to Holland with him. These appeals made by Boer emissaries would be more effectual if the list of contributions was headed by a million or two from Oom Paul.

There is little historical analogy be-

MRS. HARRISON ANGRY AT CONGRESS



MRS HARRISON

Mrs. Benjamin Harrison is said to be greatly chagrined at the treatment she has received at the hands of Congress. While there have been granted to Mrs. McKinley a pension and the mailing privilege, her own application for a pension has not been acted upon. The ex-president's relict is anxiously asking "why?"

diamond fields. The beautiful feature about the strife was that it would rebound to the advantage of future generations just as we now experience the benefits of the suffering of our ancestors. The war has cost England blood, money and most of all, the prestige of the English soldier. If this nation should let the world know what it thinks of the war through its government, it would do much to end the struggle. If our friend goes back to Holland and meets President Kruger tell him to come to America if he desires to know whether we sympathize with him here."

When Mrs. Kruger died this country did not send condolences to her obsti-

tween the American colonial revolution and the war in the Transvaal. What likeness there is, is on the side of the Englishmen who were paying four-fifths of the taxes and were allowed no representation. The Transvaal was not an English colony and England never claimed that it was. England did not attempt to make the Boers pay taxes, nor support her soldiery. English statesmen were negotiating with President Kruger for a less tyrannical treatment of English residents in the Transvaal when President Kruger declared the conclusion of the negotiations and ordered his troops to fire on Englishmen. The greatest war expert

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