

The Catholic Bishop of Kimberly.

The Right Reverend Anthony Gaughran, Roman Catholic Bishop at Kimberly, South Africa, furnishes some interesting information and opinions with regard to the difficulties, now merged into war, between the British and the Boers.

In a letter to a member of the Boston Herald staff, dated previous to the outbreak of hostilities (September 19), he champions the cause of the Outlander population of the Transvaal Republic, and views the question from the standpoint of one who desires equal rights for all in that country. A residence of thirteen years in South Africa has enabled the bishop to acquire a thorough acquaintance with the conditions existing in that country. It will be observed that Bishop Gaughran was thoroughly convinced at the time the letter was written that war between the British and the Boers was inevitable.

The part of the letter which is of public interest is as follows:

"Now for my personal opinion about the matter. I can, with a safe conscience, say that I think England very seldom had a more just cause for war. The state of things in the Transvaal was a scandal to the nations. That a handful of men, some of whom were very illiterate, and all of whom were very prejudiced and selfish, should expect to be allowed to make laws forever for those who spend their money in buying up property in that country and developing its wealth, is preposterous.

"Chamberlain's indictment of the Transvaal government was perfectly fair. I have no hesitation in saying so, and I have had thirteen years to study this question.

"I am not an Englishman, as you know, nor are my sympathies in general with England; but in this case I believe England will do credit to our common humanity by forcing a small state calling itself a republic to give equal rights to all.

"Whatever one may call England's title to interfere in this matter, it is certain that in former years most of the Boers, their president at the head, asked England to come to their aid and take over the state. She did so, and then when the debts of the little republic were paid by England, and Paul Kruger received his salary, which was in arrears for a long time, he started a rebellion against the new authority. Gladstone gave them back their country under certain conditions. The fourth clause of the convention conveyed the idea that all who go into the country shall have equal rights. The Boers and their volksraad did not keep that promise; they did not give equal rights to all.

"When the rush to the Transvaal began there was a very simple law for the franchise. I am writing from memory, but I think it must have been a residence of two years and paying taxes. A few years afterwards it was increased to six years, then to fourteen years; and no one could say how many more years might be added on.

"Those who had invested their money in the country had no hope of ever having a voice in the government of the country, and yet the Uitlanders were twice as numerous, at least, as the original usurpers. For, in my mind, I do not give to the Boers of the Transvaal the title of nationality. They simply killed the Kaffirs fifty years ago, and then took their places. There is nothing in this that implies proscription for a nation.

"Now comes the question of Paul Kruger and his advisers. He had a clever man for some years who kept him from committing himself too far; but he has left him, and now the whole government seems to be like a boat without a rudder. Oom Paul is shrewd, but when one considers that the president of the small republic, which has only 60,000 inhabitants or thereabouts, receives a salary as large as the president of the United States, one can imagine that patriotism is not the first characteristic of his life.

"I cannot enter into the details of concessions which, I believe, were most iniquitous as regards the interests of the country, the dynamite question, etc., etc. These I do not care to consider.

"I have always held that a man in any country has the same right as another if he conducts himself as he ought, and that there should be no distinction beyond that which is necessary to test

his sincerity. Let the United States be the model in this matter.

"There must not be at the end of the 19th century a government calling itself a republic, while it is in reality a close oligarchy.

"Now, I have given you my views in general on the situation. Were I to go into the history of this country in more detail, I could make a much stronger case against the Boers. I only want to set you on what I consider the right line for judging the struggle, which seems to me is inevitable now.

"The Boer is brave. Of that I have no doubt, but he is ignorant and prejudiced to an alarming extent. On that account I do not condemn him, for his fathers had to strike out into the desert and live as those who are cut off from civilization. His prejudice shows itself principally as regards the Catholic church; and, secondly, as regards the civilized habits of European nations. The Catholic church is his bugbear. Catholics are heathens to him. They worship snakes and wooden images.

"I find I might go on forever in this strain, but I have not time to give you my ideas fully, and I must wind up by saying that to my mind a war is the best way to end the unrest and insecurity that torment and paralyze the country here at present. We shall all suffer from it, probably we may suffer a great deal, but in the end the country will gain, and gain immensely.

"As far as you are concerned, do not allow the idea to prevail that the Transvaal is a republic, except in name. Believe me, yours faithfully,

A. GAUGHRAN,
O. M. I. (Bishop Gaughran)."

The Transvaal.

Tappan Halsey, an American of Dutch antecedents, who has spent much time in the Transvaal, was recently asked to give his views on the situation there and assign reasons for the war now in progress. In response he prepared and read a paper before the Round Table Club, saying, among other things:

Six years before Christopher Columbus came to this land the Portuguese discovered Cape Colony, and their possessions by this right were undisputed for more than a hundred years. In 1591 the British discovered it and landed, and four years later the Dutch. The Dutch let their knowledge pass for fifty-seven years, when in 1652 they landed three ship loads of eighty-six immigrants. In 1686 some French Huguenots, fleeing from religious persecution, joined the Dutch in Cape Colony. In 1739 the first effort is recorded of any attempt to teach the gospel of Jesus of Nazareth to the natives, who, in fact and truth, held their land in fee simple and had been driven from it by the Boers. The missionary was at once exiled from the country by the Boers.

The British in 1795 conquered the Dutch fleet and took possession of Cape Colony, but in 1802 it was restored to the Dutch by peace treaty. Four years later the British took it by conquest again, and eight years later, 1814, purchased the whole of Cape Colony by paying the Dutch \$30,000,000, who renounced forever all claim.

For twenty years thereafter the Boers lived in Cape Colony under British rule. In 1831 the English government, having sought for the most equitable way to abolish the iniquitous Boer system of slavery, passed a law emancipating all slaves, but paying the owners \$6,000,000 therefor in notes on the Bank of England. Many of the Boers, used to lives of indolence, resented this freeing of slaves, and moved on across the Orange river. This move was called the 'great trek,' and consisted of about 10,000 Boers. The land they went into was owned and possessed by the Zulus.

They tried to inhabit it, but strange to say, the owners in fee simple wanted it too, so they fought the Zulus for thirteen years, until in 1848 they had to solicit England to come and save them. The English government intervened, established peace and order and a new government under the name of "Orange River Sovereignty." Some of the Boers revolted because of their old dislike of the English; they being conquered

"trekked" again further north beyond the Vaal, and called themselves the Transvaal Republic. Observe that neither in 1833, when the great trek began, nor in 1848, when the second trek took place, were they compelled to move by conquerors who wanted their land or homes or took their liberty.

On the contrary, when England had settled conditions for the Orange River Boers, that they might be peaceful and prosperous, she voluntarily withdrew and allowed them to form a new state, called the Orange Free State, that was and to this day is independent and unhampered by England, and has flourished marvelously. It was not so with the Boers across the Vaal, for they were from the first at war with the various tribes of natives whose land they had taken, and because of their inhuman treatment of even the friendly tribes there was no safety at any time. From the River Vaal, a tributary of the great Orange river on the south, to the Limpopo river on the north, the Boers had taken a country five hundred miles long by four hundred miles wide. It was bounded by the natural protection of the Drakensberg mountains on the east and Bachuanaland on the west. It was all inland, and the nearest seaport was forty five miles, at Delagoa Bay, which was owned by the Portuguese. The Boers from their first possession of the Vaal country fought the natives without and enslaved those within their borders. Dr. Livingstone says: "The Boers forced even those tribes most friendly to them to perform all kinds of field work for nothing and supply their own food and implements of work. They steal domestic servants from the more hostile tribes in the most cowardly and bloodthirsty manner." In their treatment of the various friendly natives says a resident of the Transvaal, "I have seen a Boer on his farm summon thirty native women to perform labor. They came with their children strapped on their shoulders, and their own food was carried in their hands, and they worked the number of weeks desired without pay at the will of the Christian master." Livingstone says: "The Boers' chief grievance against the English was that they had the same laws for white and black."

Constant warfare from 1848 to 1875 between the Boers of the Transvaal and native tribes finally wearied, discouraged and bankrupted the Transvaal, and the Boers, petitioned England once more to come to their assistance. England's control of the territory was the price agreed on, and the Transvaal was annexed to Cape Colony in 1877 by proclamation. Paul Kruger and Piet Joubert took office under the British government.

The dangers over, the financial affairs settled by the new government, the Boers repented of their bargain, and in 1880, after three years of annexation, revolted and defeated the English in three famous but disgraceful engagements, ending in the Majuba Hill affair. In 1881 the vacillating government of that weak grand old man, W. E. Gladstone, restored again the Transvaal to the Boers as "The South African Republic," but it was clearly stated as being so under the suzerainty of Great Britain. Restive under an agreement they had made but did not want, they finally in 1884, succeeded in getting another agreement, which does not mention the much talked of word "suzerainty," but certainly implies it, as it expressly says that the Boers shall not make any treaty with any power without the same has been approved by Her Majesty Queen Victoria. If there was no sovereignty, why this necessity?

The Boers had in the treasury of the Transvaal Republic of 1,000,000 in 1877 the amount of twelve shillings and six pence, and their president, Burgers,

said, addressing the raad (or parliament): "I had rather be a policeman under a strong government than be where I am. You Boers, having lost the country, sold your independence, ill treated the natives, shot them down, sold them into slavery, must pay the penalty."

With a knowledge of such a condition all except the most ignorant and stubborn Boers were glad to be annexed in 1877. In 1881 and 1886 the revenue of the country was not to exceed \$400,000. When in 1886 gold was discovered in Johannesburg miners flocked there from Germany, England, America and elsewhere, and this made a city of 100,000 people where there was none previously. The Outlanders were warmly welcomed by the Boers, because they needed the increased revenue. They got it, too, as it has increased from three hundred and seventy-five thousand to twenty-five millions, and this the Outlanders have to pay every dollar of, and have no representation for their taxation.

In 1889 the law had been so changed that an Outlander could not obtain the franchise under fourteen years' residence, and then only if the Boer government, by a two-thirds vote, was pleased to grant it. The arrangements of 1881 and 1884 had been whittled away until the foreigners had no rights whatever but to pay exorbitant taxes.

Later, when five years' residence was required, many Americans and English bought land in the Transvaal, built houses, brought their families, invested in mines and machinery and gradually severed the ties that bound them to the rest of the world. After 1889 he was asked to give up everything of citizenship in America on the chance that after fourteen years the Boers (two-thirds of them) would be pleased to let him vote where he was paying ninety per cent of the taxes, and where:

1. There were no courts in which a foreigner can have any wrongs redressed or protection for home and family.
2. His children have no education in state schools.
3. Monopolies are farmed out by the Boers on coal, candies, matches, soap, liquor, dynamite, etc.
4. Railroads are mismanaged intentionally, and machinery and perishable goods delayed until bribes are paid, etc.
5. The liquor monopoly sold to a Jew, who makes a poisonous whiskey of a cheap grade and sells it without restriction to the natives who work in the mines, and half the time paid for is lost.
6. Lands sold to the Uitlanders for mining is not held by the Boers as private property, so the Polish Jews, who handle most of the bad liquor, place saloons at the very mouth of the shafts of the mines. Result: The Kaffir employees are constantly drinking, hence falling in the shafts, fighting and suffering from accidents and injuring property. Every

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