

# THE VOICE OF SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN

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FOR

## A LASTING PEACE.

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*Public Meeting held in Metropolitan Hall, Cape Town,  
9th July, 1900.*

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# DE STEM VAN AFRIKAANDER VROUWEN

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VOOR

## EEN DUURZAMEN VREDE.

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*Vergadering gehouden in Metropolitan Zaal,  
Kaapstad, den 9den July, 1900.*

# South African Women and the War.

## A PROTEST AGAINST ANNEXATION.

On Monday, July 9, a meeting of the women of Cape Town took place in the Metropolitan Hall, Burg Street, to protest against the annexation of the Republics. The large hall was crowded to its utmost extent, fully 1,500 ladies and gentlemen presenting themselves; even the sideways and passages were thronged. Long before 2.30, at which hour the meeting was timed to commence, the body of the hall was well filled, the gallery being crowded. Amongst the ladies present were Mrs Cronwright-Schreiner, Mrs Sauer, Mrs Purcell, Lady De Wet, Mrs A. I. Steytler, Mrs Roos, Mrs Reitz, Mrs Gie, Mrs W. P. Schreiner, Mrs Merriman, Mrs Baumgarten, Mrs Wagner, Mrs D. P. Faure, Mrs Joubert, Miss Green, Mrs A. van der Byl, Mrs C. Chiappini, Miss Wahl, Mrs Becker, Mrs Beck, Mrs J. T. Molteno, Miss Molteno, Mrs Melck, Mrs Malan, Mrs C. Faure, and many other well-known Cape Town ladies. From Ceres, Worcester, Wellington, Paarl, Tulbagh, and other country towns delegates had been sent down to attend the meeting, and amongst those were Mrs A. B. de Villiers, Miss N. Velden, Miss B. de Villiers, Miss A. de Vos, Mrs Wicht, Mrs J. Immelman, Mrs J. de Villiers, Mrs M. de Villiers, Mrs D. P. de Villiers, Mrs J. de Villiers, Mrs Von Weillign, Mrs Nieuwstadt, Miss Englies, Mrs J. Joubert, Miss Van Blerck, Miss Thom, Miss A. Marais (all from the Paarl); Mrs Reineke (Ceres), Mrs J. N. P. de Villiers, Miss Beck, and others (Worcester), Mrs Marais, Mrs Muller, Miss Neethling, Mrs De Villiers, Miss Du Toit, Miss Janssen, Mrs Rous-souw, Mrs Van der Byl, Mrs Viljoen, Mrs Meiring, Mrs Berry and others (from Stellenbosch). On the gallery were, besides many ladies several gentlemen who had received special tickets for admittance, amongst them being Hon. M. C. Neethling, Messrs F. S. Malan, G. A. de Klerck, Werner, Hahn, J. H. Morkel, H. Hahn, and a few others.

In the absence of Mrs Koopmans, who had been prevented from attending the meeting owing to illness, Mrs Sauer occupied the chair, and called upon Mrs A. I. Steytler to open the meeting with prayer. Mrs A. I. Steytler thereupon read Mrs Koopmans' speech, which was as follows:—

### THE QUEEN AND THE WAR.

As many English friends are here, I shall address you in English:—

Friends, sisters, welcome in this hall. We are here prompted by the same feeling to try to help to stop this wicked war, and to preserve for the two free Republics their independence. Before any resolutions are put, may I be allowed to bring to your notice

In July 1899 when war rumours were in the air and Olive Schreiner sent the' pathetic appeal for justice and peace into the world, I took the liberty to send a copy to a friend with the request that she might have it presented to Her Majesty the Queen. Several of my friends urged me to do this. I waited with anxiety to hear what Her Majesty thought of this pamphlet, and judge my amazement when this letter reached me, dated from Osborne:—

Osborne,  
July 28, 1899.

Madam,

Sir Fleetwood Edwards has passed on to me your letter to him of the 25th inst., and the accompanying pamphlet by Miss Olive Schreiner.

I much regret that as Private Secretary I am unable to comply with your request and lay the pamphlet before the Queen. But it is a rule of long standing that publications of a politically controversial nature must be submitted to Her Majesty through one of her responsible Ministers.

Under these circumstances I must beg to be allowed to return the pamphlet

Believe me,  
Madam,  
Yours very faithfully,  
Arthur Bigge.

I have no permission to name my friend, but it does not effect the question. Here, if any proof were wanted we have it, that Her Majesty's responsible Ministers did not care to take any trouble to keep off the war, and feared their Queen's sense of justice. Here, my friends, let me put two questions. First, who can tell what might have been the result, if the woman, widow, mother, Queen, had had that pamphlet put into her hands? Will this question not to-day resound in many a broken-hearted widow's heart, in many a parent's, brother's and sister's? The second is, how dare any set of men slip themselves between the Sovereign and part of her loyal subjects? How dare they, as it were, make a monopoly of our Gracious Queen for themselves, to approve and to decide what, or what not, Her Majesty may see? With what right are they nearer the Queen than we women, we Africanders, who have loved and cherished her for 63 years? and to whom at once our hearts and hopes went out when trouble threatened. That Her Majesty shirks no trouble for subjects is proved by the arduous visit Her Majesty undertook to Ireland. Why should she have treated us differently? After this failure our womens' petition was started, to which 16,750 signatures with the addresses were obtained. It cost much trouble and urging to get it sent off, and an answer was received from the Governor's secretary saying that Mr. Chamberlain had laid it before the Queen. This is months ago, and

#### WE HAVE NOT A WORD FROM OUR QUEEN.

The thought occurred to me that as the Secretary for the Colonies has in another despatch so expressed himself, that where he meant one thing he expressed just the reverse.

Can this be true here, and instead of having laid the petition before the Queen, can he just not have done so? And now we are here to make another attempt. One strong reason why all who have the welfare of both the Transvaal and Free State Republics and England at heart should do all they can to put a stop to this war and retain the independence of those Republics, is, if they are annexed this war will be fought over again, the blood in those men's veins stands security for that, they

know freedom and will never submit to anything else. Is this prospect not awful? Who can contemplate it? Statesmen speak now of what never shall or must happen again—my friends, statesmen's "never" is a very uncertain, and often short time.

#### THOSE WHO SHOULD BE IN GAOL.

One can not help asking: are we in a British Colony? What has become of a motto that held a man innocent till he had been proved guilty? Is it the intention of those in power to make it impossible for us to love the powers placed over us? If traitors are to be imprisoned, the men who have provoked and forced on this wicked war should be in gaol now, not the Boers our brothers, against whom accusations are wripped up at 30s. to £10. For who is a greater traitor to his country and his sovereign than he who robs them of their honour, the love of their subjects and the respect of the civilised world? That is what these bad statesmen and false prophets have done for England. English blood has been shed for the possession of the gold fields. The cause is not worth the sacrifice. Oh, that gold should be so dear, and blood and honour so cheap.

And those prophets, already they begin to feel the pricks of guilty conscience. Why otherwise do they cheat the British nation by saying that the feeling between Africanders and English will be better after the war? They know that making England big at the expense of greatness robs her of her best possession, the love of her Africander subjects. Gold, territory is no equivalent for that. Are those men stupid or wicked when they say that? Are they the only people who know not that when you injure a man deeply you cap it by hating him? Did the English love the Boers better after Majuba? And are the Africanders supposed to be better or worse than Englishmen?

#### AFRICANDERS CONSOLIDATED.

Loyalty lies deep in the hearts of the Africander. It is because he fears God, that he loves the Queen. The charge of conspiracy we Africanders throw back with contempt to those who made it. Our answer is: One generally judges others guilty of what one is capable oneself. See Johan-

nesburg. Our brothers who fell in the war with their Bible in one hand and their Mauser in the other, making the veld resound with the singing of Psalms, who can otherwise than honour them?

God and history will do them justice. For our sisters we pray ceaselessly. They have not died for their country, but those orphans and widows they suffer for it, and God alone knows what that means. Both these men and women are the offspring of the proud Dutch who freed themselves from mighty Spain with the blessing of Providence—and the Huguenots who showed the world that faith gives strength to work miracles. And does England think that the fusion of two such elements will submit to become a British Crown Colony? One thing we thank His Excellency the Governor and Mr. Chamberlain for. They have consolidated the Africanders in this land. Before we knew that we were brothers and sisters, to-day we feel it. For those gentlemen we thank the decision of those who were waverers; they have introduced them to themselves. That element will never die, for its roots grow from our living heart.

The extent of sympathy is increasing. The first to sympathise with the Transvaal was the girl-Queen of Holland, Wilhelmina of Orange. We thank Her Majesty for her sympathy for our sisters and brothers. That act of love will count where crowns shall have lost their value. We thank the thousands of Dutch women for their sympathy and material assistance. They do not forget the brothers and sisters six thousand miles away. We thank the three thousand English women, English in the high and best sense of the word, who are on the side of justice and who love and are jealous of the honour of England, no flag-wavers, but to whom the Union Jack spells honour, not commercial value.

Our sisters in South Africa need no thanks. We can not otherwise.

The reading of the speech was received with loud applause, which was renewed when Mrs Steytler sat down.

Mrs F. Purcell, rising amidst cheers, proposed the following resolution:—

“This meeting records its solemn protest against the annexation of the Republics and against the spirit of revenge

shown in carrying out that policy, which will outrage the principles of morality and strike a deadly blow to the best interests of South Africa and England.”

In proposing the resolution, Mrs Purcell said: It is no small thing that has thus roused the women of South Africa and called them from their wonted retirement to band themselves together in this assemblage and strive to make their voices reach to those women of England who are working in the cause of justice and right, and whose noble efforts called forth the following beautiful poem from Mr William Watson:—

“I greet you and am with you, friends  
of peace,  
Of equity, of freedom. 'Tis an hour  
Inhospitable to Reason's tempering  
word;  
Yet, being brave, being women, you will  
speak  
The thought that must be spoken with-  
out fear.  
The voice of chivalry grows faint; the  
note  
Of patriotism is well-nigh overborne.  
For what is patriotism but a noble care  
For our own country's honour in men's  
eyes,  
And zeal for the just glory of her arms?  
If it be aught but this, we'll none of it!  
Keep, then, that zeal, that noble care  
alive;  
Keep, then, from altogether perishing  
The pure light of the ancient patriot  
flame;  
Ev'n as another remnant kept it clear,  
When in an England errant from herself,  
A dull king and his purblind counsellors  
Goaded the New World to fling off the  
Old.  
And in this day when England half  
forgets  
That empires die, not starved, but sur-  
feited,  
Warn her that though she whelm a  
kindred race,  
A valiant people, stubborn-built as we,  
Yet shall they gnaw henceforward at  
our heel  
Secretly unsubdued though beaten  
down,  
Too near ourselves to be in spirit o'er-  
come,  
But by fierce memories fed and over-  
more  
Upborne in heart by a saluting world.”  
(Applause). We feel that

### IT DOES NOT BECOME US TO KEEP SILENCE

when those others who are not bound by ties of blood and friendship to the Republics are speaking out with no uncertain sound. We feel that the time has come for us to strive to follow in the footsteps of our noble kinswomen of the Republics, who, all through the wonderful history of their countries in past and present times, have ever responded to duty's call. (Applause.) We know how they have stood beside their loved ones through danger and death; how they have cheered the faint-hearted and bravely endured the most terrible trials for the sake of their independence, and that remembrance compels us to come forward to-day in the strength of our convictions to protest against the wrong that is contemplated against them. It must be remembered that the independence of the Republics was established by treaty by Great Britain herself, and it was with the full consent of the British nation that the inhabitants of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State were allowed to develop their love of independence. It is hard for us to believe that England will now ruthlessly outrage the sentiments of these people for the sake of obtaining that which she has so eagerly disclaimed by the lips of Lord Salisbury himself, who said, shortly after the commencement of the war: "We seek no gold-fields; we seek no territory." What must we think if annexation takes place? It will be impossible for us to place any confidence in Great Britain in future if her statesmen can thus go back on their words. (Hear, hear.) We cannot help but ask if England will

### SO ILL REPAY THE PEERLESS MAGNANIMITY

which was shown to her subjects by President Kruger after the Jameson Raid and, by annexing the Republics, make common cause with those who so treacherously conspired against them on that occasion and thus also carry out the policy of revenge as expressed by Lord Salisbury in his speech at the annual meeting of the Primrose League on May 9 in the Albert Hall. If the wicked policy there advocated be persisted in it will cause us not only to exclaim with Mr. John Morley, when in a recent speech he referred to the death

of Mr. Gladstone that a great lamp had gone out in England but will make us further ask ourselves if the lamp of England's greatness, her high-mindedness and magnanimity had not gone out with him! (Applause.) We are profoundly convinced that if this crowning act of injustice be perpetrated upon the noble handful of patriots who have fought so long and so bravely against the overwhelming forces of Great Britain that England will not only alienate from her the vast majority of the white inhabitants of South Africa, but will stand for ever condemned in the eyes of the civilised world. (Loud applause.)

Mrs. Cronwright-Schreiner, who was warmly received, seconded the resolution. In doing so she said she should like to read some letters she had received, selected from among hundreds of others, from Canada, Australia, New Zealand expressing condemnation of this war, and denouncing any proposal for the annexation of the Republics. She had selected two because the writers were men of mark in their own colonies, and were Colonial Englishmen, one filling the highest public office in his country to which citizens could attain. An extract from the first letter was as follows:—

### A STRIKING OPINION.

"Little did I think I should ever be addressing you upon such a painful subject as the contemplated effacement of the Transvaal and Orange Free State; but as I share to the fullest extent the opinions of yourself and your husband with regard to the present iniquitous war in South Africa, I thought a few lines from one at such a distance might not be considered an unwarrantable intrusion upon your privacy. Conscientiously believing that the Boers are right, and the British wrong, I am prepared to make any personal sacrifices in the advocacy of a good cause, and I sincerely trust that the British will not be allowed by the civilised world to, crush the Republics out of existence. Having lived so long in these latitudes, you can readily conceive how disgusted I feel at the Australian Colonies' assistance at the perpetration of a hideous crime against justice and humanity. But let not the outside world be deceived. There are thousands of people in these Colonies

who consider the war a most unjust and unrighteous one. Jingoism in the Colonies has not been spontaneous. It was sprung upon the public as a surprise by a few ambitious and opportunist politicians looking forward for Imperial favours and distinctions; and, aided by flattering cablegrams from Chamberlain, the war spirit has been fanned and inflamed until many Colonists have gone clean off their heads." (The speaker drew special attention to this last sentence, saying she had received numerous letters from Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, saying exactly the same thing in almost the same words.) "I am firmly convinced that a time will come when these Colonies will bitterly reproach themselves for the part they have played in this accursed war; but it is sad to think that in the meantime the brave Boer Republics may be crushed out of existence by forces vastly superior to theirs. God forbid that such a deplorable fate is in store for them!"

Then, said the speaker, there was a letter from an English Colonist on the other side of the world:—

"I hope you will pardon the liberty I am taking in addressing you, but I have just read in the leading morning paper of this city an account of an interview which their special war correspondent had with you recently in South Africa for that paper, wherein you expressed regret that Australians should be found fighting with England against the Boers, and I have been unable to resist the impulse to write and tell you that, although many Australians are with the enemies of the heroic Boers, there are yet thousands of Australians who are strongly opposed to this brutal and iniquitous war now being fought in South Africa, and they are in absolute sympathy with the Boers. The day is not far distant when the historians of the future will write of this war as a blot upon the fair fame of Great Britain, and will express pity that our young nation of Australia should by her part in this miserable business so early in her history clothe herself with shame."

#### THE TRUE SENTIMENT.

Mrs Oronwright Schreiner said these letters appeared to her most important, as they brought home to them the fact that, in ad-

dition to the sympathy of the whole continent of Europe, the intellect, and, before all, the conscience of the English-speaking race all over the world, was largely with them in the struggle to obtain justice for the Transvaal and the Free State. (Applause.) To those who, like herself, had English blood in their veins, this was a matter of great importance. They had been proud of their English descent, and she knew she was speaking there, not only for herself, but for many South African women of English descent in the body of the hall and on the platform. They had been proud of their English descent—not because England was a great country, because the England they most loved and admired, the England of Shakespeare and Milton, of Pym and of Sir Harry Vane, was a very small England; it was not because Englishmen were more numerous, for there were more Chinamen than Englishmen in the world—(laughter)—it was not because England was rich, because throughout the whole course of human history the accumulation of vast quantities of wealth in the hands of the upper classes of any nation had always preceded the downfall and decay of that people; it was not because England was powerful, for the Roman and the Spanish Empires at the time of their greatest power were immeasurably more powerful to-day than England was to-day compared with other nations. The reason why they had been proud of their English descent had been that they had believed, whether rightly or wrongly, that there was one quality which tended to be more common among English men and women than among other races, and which they, as it were of right, inherited. She did not know how better to describe this quality than in the words of an English writer who believed that she possessed it:—

"It will strike as soon for a trampled  
foe

As it will for a soul-bound friend.

What heart is that, say if you can?

'Tis the heart of the true-born English  
man."

If they were to lose their faith in the possession of this quality by the English race, if they were to substitute for it greed, ambition, and lust for Empire, then their descent from it became no more for them a matter of glory, but

of shame. They would rather ally themselves with the smallest of the trampled-down peoples, than march with the race of the trampers. Therefore they welcomed the knowledge that at this moment, the moment of the greatest moral degradation which England had ever known, there were thousands of English-speaking men and women all over the world who were yet true to the loftiest traditions of English morality.

**"THERE WILL NEVER BE  
PEACE—"**

But there was one thing which men and women all over the world who sympathised with them must see, as clearly as they saw it. It was this: If that body of men who had laboured to produce this war were successful in carrying out their plans, if by the cost of the lives of the thousands of valiant English soldiers, they succeeded in crushing the two little Republics in South Africa and annexing them, there would never be peace in South Africa. Those who had worked in hospital, and who had some knowledge of surgery, knew that a very terrible thing sometimes happened. When a great surgical operation was performed, and a body was cut open, it not infrequently happened that, owing to the carelessness or the stupidity of the operator some small foreign object had been left within the cavity of the body. The body was sewn up; the external wound might heal; the operators might think that the whole thing was an unqualified success. But deep within the body was that foreign irritating substance, producing disease and putrefaction. It might take months, or it might take years of unutterable suffering and organic disturbance, but until through a gangrenous wound that foreign substance was extruded, there could be no return to balanced health. The attempt to annex the Free State and the Transvaal was an attempt to introduce into the body social of South Africa such

**AN IRRITATING AND EXTRANEOUS  
SUBSTANCE.**

If Mr. Joseph Chamberlain and the handful of speculators and politicians, who for their own reasons have aided him in bringing about the war, were successful, and if they succeeded in commemorating the Queen's reign by this crime and in annexing the Republics, and attempted to

govern them by military force, or, far worse still to put into power the men, or the tools of men, who had brought about the war, then there would never be peace in South Africa—never until that condition had passed away. Therefore she asked them, the South African women of Dutch and English extraction, gathered there, to join with her in appealing to the conscience of the English-speaking race all over the world to aid them in attempting to save South Africa from those long years of misery, discord, and bloodshed which will result if the proposed policy be carried out. But it is not South Africa alone which would have to suffer. It had often been said that the greatest blunder which the governing body of England had ever been guilty of was that committed by George III., when he interfered with the internal concerns of the American Colonies. If the proposed annexation is carried out it would be so no longer, but it will be said that the greatest blunder was committed at the latter end of the 19th century. The time is not far distant when the people of England, men and women, will recognise that the only friends they had in South Africa have been men and women who denounced this war from its inception; who stated that it would be iniquitous and unjust, who protested against the landing of foreign troops upon the soil of this Colony, who told England that 100,000 men would never walk across the Free State and the Transvaal; and the little African meer-cat—(laughter)—torn, wounded and bleeding might yet creep back alive to its home in the red African earth.

**ENGLAND MUST REVOKE.**

The day was coming when England would realise that the most deadly foes she had ever had were the men who, to satisfy personal greed and ambition, had produced this war. Unless England should immediately refute and reverse her entire course of action, every farmhouse which the British soldiers were burning down to-day was a torch lighting the British Empire in South Africa, to its doom, every trench which the brave English soldiers dug was a part of the tomb of England; every bullet which took the life of a South African found its billet in the heart of the British Empire; every political prisoner of South Africa

who in his cell that night would dream of freedom will one day realise it in his own person or that of his descendants. What Mr. Chamberlain and the men who were with him appeared to be impelling the English nation to commit in South Africa to-day was murder; what they were really compelling them to commit was suicide. South Africa to-day lay torn, wounded and bleeding at the feet of England. It was the hour of England's might; but the day would come when England would know that for her also the path of justice would have been the path of peace. (Loud and continued applause.)

Mrs. De Villiers also supported the resolution, and said that British policy since the time of the Raid towards the South African Republic had been an unreasonable one, and one which was not to be commended. It was a policy which had been thought out by Mr. Rhodes, who had never yet expressed himself as regretting the raid but as regretting its non-success, and the British Government had never yet punished Mr. Rhodes properly—(hear, hear)—and put it out of his power to make a similar raid in future. But even considered by itself,

#### THE BRITISH POLICY WAS UNJUSTIFIABLE,

for that policy had caused this miserable war which was devastating South Africa. When Lord Salisbury found that his repeated declarations to the effect that Great Britain desired only a just and equitable settlement in favour of the uitlanders stood in the way of the successful realisation of the policy mapped out by the Imperial Government, he had no hesitation in going back on his words. (Hear, hear.) The Imperial Government was prepared and ready for the war although they pretended that they were only working for peace, and were solely desiring to remedy the grievances, real or alleged, of which the uitlanders complained. When President Kruger declared himself ready to meet Great Britain on the franchise question the Imperial Government withdrew their former proposals and declared that they were going to propose new measures instead. Considerable delay ensued in putting forward these new points, and in the meantime English troops were poured into the country and sent to the borders of the Republics. Then war with its

lamentable results broke out and, now the two States have been soliciting peace, but Lord Salisbury has definitely declared that there could be no peace before the Republics were annexed. England has virtually conquered both Republics, and 'here is no reason why she should not grant the Republics their independence, seeing that nothing else will satisfy them. By establishing a military government instead of the free government to which the Republics have been used, an intense feeling of bitterness would be aroused throughout South Africa. That feeling

#### WILL FIND AN ECHO IN THIS COLONY

in race-hatred and dissension. (Hear, hear.) For we too have had to bear our share of ill-feeling and prejudice. After years of loyal obedience to Her Majesty, our beloved Queen, and to her laws, we have been told by strangers that there existed in this Colony a mischievous conspiracy to subvert British supremacy. While Lord Rosmead, then Sir Hercules Robinson—(applause)—declared that the Jameson Raid was a disgraceful injustice, and while he tried to soften the results of that unfriendly act as much as possible, British statesmen were trying to justify that injustice. While Sir Hercules Robinson, when leaving these shores, spoke of Afrianders with the greatest approval, his immediate successor accused them of originating a propaganda of foreign discontent and dissatisfaction. The injustice of the policy which had been followed by Her Majesty's Ministers was tangible. The women of South Africa will

#### REALISE THE CRUELTY AND INJUSTICE

of that policy more than any others, for they will have more opportunities of becoming acquainted with it. The atrocities and miseries of the present war will never be effaced, and no adequate reparation will ever be made for the dear lives which have been lost on both sides. (Hear, hear.) The ultimate decision will have to be left in the hands of the great Arbitrator of nations, who will judge the actions of men as they have to be judged. (Hear, hear.) The future is obscure and shadowed to us, and we none of us know what may result, but no one can say that the nation which has hitherto been invincible will not be



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Mrs. De Villiers also supported the resolution, and said that British policy since the time of the Raid towards the South African Republic had been an unreasonable one, and one which was not to be commended. It was a policy which had been thought out by Mr. Rhodes, who had never yet expressed himself as regretting the raid but as regretting its non-success, and the British Government had never yet punished Mr. Rhodes properly—(hear, hear)—and put it out of his power to make a similar raid in future. But even considered by itself,

#### THE BRITISH POLICY WAS UNJUSTIFIABLE,

for that policy had caused this miserable war which was devastating South Africa. When Lord Salisbury found that his repeated declarations to the effect that Great Britain desired only a just and equitable settlement in favour of the uitlanders stood in the way of the successful realisation of the policy mapped out by the Imperial Government, he had no hesitation in going back on his words. (Hear, hear.) The Imperial Government was prepared and ready for the war although they pretended that they were only working for peace, and were solely desiring to remedy the grievances, real or alleged, of which the uitlanders complained. When President Kruger declared himself ready to meet Great Britain on the franchise question the Imperial Government withdrew their former proposals and declared that they were going to propose new measures instead. Considerable delay ensued in putting forward these new points, and in the meantime English troops were poured into the country and sent to the borders of the Republics. Then war with its

lamentable results broke out and, now the two States have been soliciting peace, but Lord Salisbury has definitely declared that there could be no peace before the Republics were annexed. England has virtually conquered both Republics, and 'here is no reason why she should not grant the Republics their independence, seeing that nothing else will satisfy them. By establishing a military government instead of the free government to which the Republics have been used, an intense feeling of bitterness would be aroused throughout South Africa. That feeling

#### WILL FIND AN ECHO IN THIS COLONY

in race-hatred and dissension. (Hear, hear.) For we too have had to bear our share of ill-feeling and prejudice. After years of loyal obedience to Her Majesty, our beloved Queen, and to her laws, we have been told by strangers that there existed in this Colony a mischievous conspiracy to subvert British supremacy. While Lord Rosmead, then Sir Hercules Robinson—(applause)—declared that the Jameson Raid was a disgraceful injustice, and while he tried to soften the results of that unfriendly act as much as possible, British statesmen were trying to justify that injustice. While Sir Hercules Robinson, when leaving these shores, spoke of Afrianders with the greatest approval, his immediate successor accused them of originating a propaganda of foreign discontent and dissatisfaction. The injustice of the policy which had been followed by Her Majesty's Ministers was tangible. The women of South Africa will

#### REALISE THE CRUELTY AND INJUSTICE

of that policy more than any others, for they will have more opportunities of becoming acquainted with it. The atrocities and miseries of the present war will never be effaced, and no adequate reparation will ever be made for the dear lives which have been lost on both sides. (Hear, hear.) The ultimate decision will have to be left in the hands of the great Arbiter of nations, who will judge the actions of men as they have to be judged. (Hear, hear.) The future is obscure and shadowed to us, and we none of us know what may result, but no one can say that the nation which has hitherto been invincible will not be

calmed and the revengeful feeling which now prevails be moderated, solved by the blood already shed. No one can say that it will not be possible to put a stop to further bloodshed and destruction, and England can make an end to our misery by giving back to the Republics their unqualified freedom—by leaving them in possession of their dearly bought independence which they have shown themselves

#### WORTHY OF RETAINING.

(Hear, hear.) If the English public desires to end this racial feeling between the two nations let them bring into play those principles of fair play and liberty which have hitherto been so dear to England. Then we will feel that although an unnecessary and unjust war had been forced upon the Republics, and although innumerable sorrows have been caused Great Britain has nevertheless attempted to end the miseries of her subjects, and expiate as far as possible the injustice that has been done, and by so doing to bring about amity again, and we will meet such an attempt in the same manner and with the same spirit in which it had been made. (Applause.)

The motion was then put to the meeting and unanimously carried.

#### THE SECOND RESOLUTION

was to have been proposed by Mrs De Beer, of Woodstock but as she was unable to be present, Mrs A. I. Steytler, of Green Point, moved it. The resolution was worded as follows:—

“This meeting of South African mothers and daughters strongly condemns the unjustifiable intervention of the present British Government in the internal affairs of the Transvaal, which has resulted in the cruel and unrighteous war now being waged in South Africa: and deeply resents the insult offered to Africander women in totally ignoring their petition for peace sent to Her Majesty the Queen.”

In moving the resolution, Mrs Steytler said: At the Paarl meeting a dear Christian lady quoted the words of the wise Solomon that there was a time to speak, and we feel that

#### NOW IS OUR TIME TO SPEAK

plainly and earnestly — we, mothers and daughters of South Africa, against this unnecessary, unrighteous, and cruel war. Men have spoken and are speaking, not only in South Africa, but

as echoes tell us from across the sea, noble men are pleading that justice should be done, and condemning the policy of robbery and crime. Not only in England but all over Europe we hear protests against this awful war. I have read several German newspapers, and there is one tone throughout, utter

#### CONTEMPT FOR ENGLAND'S POLICY

regarding the Transvaal. True, she has one ally who approves — “Turkey.” (Laughter.) Is it out of gratitude because there was no intervention when the Armenians were butchered in cold blood that Turkey now encourages the intervention in the internal affairs of the Transvaal? (Hear, hear.) We deeply feel the sad occasion of ‘his women’s meeting; the wail of the widow, the lamentation of the orphan, the bitter cry of the distressed and the homeless reach us daily. Those who are kindred to the people in the Republics naturally feel this war most—but there are others feeling with us—who have shown and are still showing also by their presence here at this meeting their full sympathy; they are the good Samaritans who (when even priests pass by callous or even cry out that this policy should be carried to the bitter end) feel deep pity for those who lie weltering in their blood, robbed and ruined, and pour the oil of balm and consolation into their bleeding wounds. I cannot here refrain from making special mention of

#### HOLLAND'S NOBLE YOUNG QUEEN,

who has given such tangible proofs of love and sympathy. May the Lord requite all who have sympathised and are sympathising in this dark time; their names will be remembered from generation to generation in South Africa. When Mr. Gladstone's name was mentioned at the Paarl meeting there was loud applause. Yes, had that dear old Christian statesman been at the helm now, things would have been very different. Amongst the words spoken by him on his last Sunday on earth were the following: “Be kind to the oppressed, the down-trodden, and the unhappy.” What would he say could he gaze on the scenes enacted in South Africa! One thing is certain, he was too loyal a servant to have allowed a cloud

to rest on the name of his Queen—he would have handed her the petition signed by between 16,000 and 17,000 of her loyal women subjects in South Africa and explained the situation to her truthfully and accurately, and not allowed that wonderful tale of a South African conspiracy to be palmed off on her. In my address last week I mentioned the united gathering in the D.R. Church at the Jubilee, but I could speak of a later date—the occasion of Her Majesty's 80th birthday, when there was a similar gathering equally loyal. Sir A. Milner was present on that occasion, and must himself have been

#### IMPRESSED BY OUR LOYALTY.

Dr. Jameson has himself upset the whole fabrication by pointing out that at the time of the Raid the Transvaal was in a defenceless state—(hear, hear)—and that only after the diabolical attempt to invade the Transvaal it began to arm—the same as any reasonable human being would bolt and barricade his house after a gang of burglars had attempted to force an entrance. No, that theory has been disproved, and they will have to invent something else to screen their crime. We now hear and read about preparations for the Peace Day celebrations.

#### THE END HAS NOT YET COME

and no human being can as yet foretell what the future will bring forth, but unless a righteous peace is made I should advise to have every town and village draped in black and all the supporters of this war to clothe themselves

#### IN SACKCLOTH AND ASHES

as a sign of deep mourning for their Empire which will stand disgraced in the eyes of the just of all nations, and for their old Queen who will be bereft of the love, honour and respect hitherto felt for her by all her loyal subjects, but I close as I did at the Paarl—may God in his mercy forbid! (Loud applause.)

Mrs. Roos, who on rising was loudly applauded, said she was glad of an opportunity of giving expression to her sentiments on this cruel war. She referred to the attitude of the newspapers, who had been paid to urge on the war, and said what did such a sentence as this mean: "If old Kruger will not do what we want, he must be made to do it at the point of the sword?" She made bold to say that if England could have

seen what a sacrifice of blood and gold this war might demand from her, and if on the other hand the Republics could have known what ruin and misery would have been their share, there would have been no war.

#### CONFISCATION OF PROPERTY.

Referring to the confiscation of property Mrs. Roos said she was afraid she might say too much on this point. They should try and do all they could to prevent this confiscation. They were the weaker sex, it was true, but was this confiscation what might have been expected out of a war with Christian England, the nation which took the lead in works of charity? It seemed to her that war had the result of quenching, not only the last spark of Christianity, but of killing charity in the human breast. Confiscation as it was being carried on meant nothing less than robbing poor women and children of what lawfully belonged to them. Dutch Afrianders as a rule married in community of property, which gave the wife an equal share. Was it not wrong to take it from her? A husband may have assisted the Republics in direct opposition to his wife's desire, and was she then to suffer? Could not something be done to secure the interests of the women and children? With regard to confiscation of the cattle, a large proportion of the farmers' children had cattle of their own; children had cattle given to them often on the day of their birth, and she had known of one case where on the marriage of a daughter the father had to part with forty cattle. Could they call that justice that children who had nothing to do with what their fathers did should lose the cattle in their possession? And what became of the families—who was to house them, and who was to feed them? These were things they must think of—facts too grave to allow them to stand still with their hands folded, shaking their heads over proclamations as they appeared in the newspapers. "Women of South Africa," said Mrs. Roos, "we must be up and doing, and if we feel ourselves powerless we must call in the aid of men who can give us practical advice."

#### THE REBELS AND MARTIAL LAW.

Mrs. Roos continued to speak of the rebels, and of the reasons which had forced them to join the Federal coun-

mandoes. She pointed out that they did not cross the border to join the Republics, but had joined on their own ground—a consummation, she said, which would never have happened had they been properly advised and protected. With regard to Martial Law, she asked, "What did Martial Law mean? What did it include?" No law could be of such a nature that it could not be defined, but she was afraid they could only judge this law by the fruit it bore. She had come to the conclusion that the law was never intended for a civilised Christian country. It gave one section unbounded power, while it deprived the other of every means of self-defence, and if it meant such tyranny it was to be dreaded more than war itself. Mrs. Roos, after referring to the sufferings of the women and children under the law, went on to refer to the moral effect of the war upon the heathen in this country, and said she shuddered to think now of what the result of a collision between the whites and the Natives would be. But she believed they had justice on their side, and if they persevered they would succeed. Continuing, Mrs. Roos drew a touching picture of an imaginary meeting between Lord Roberts and his Queen, when he should acknowledge his sovereign's thanks for what he had done. When he held out his hand would not the wails and cries of the homeless and starving ring in his ears with a never-to-be-forgotten sound, marring the happiest and proudest hour of his life? And when any of his officers sitting down in their comfortable English home among his children, who would listen to the tales he told of his heroism and his hairbreadth escapes, would he then dare tell them that the very hands they so fondly caressed had taken part in robbing poor women and children of their homes, and how many a poor woman had bared her breast and asked to be shot rather than be left to die of starvation? Proceeding, she said, however, that they were living in an English Colony, and she did not wish to be misunderstood. "Understand me rightly," said Mrs. Roos, "I do not for one single moment mean to say that the Dutch Africander must overrule, but what we want and what we must secure for our people, the descendant's

of the pioneers in South Africa, is they shall share and share alike in the social and political rights of this Colony. To secure this let us continue to take the lead as we have hitherto done in the all-important work of educating the young. To show what our Church and our People have done for the advancement of education during the last 40 years, I need only draw your attention to institutions like the Normal College, the Good Hope Seminary in this town, the High School for Girls at Wynberg, the Bloemhof Gymnasium and Victoria College at Stellenbosch, the Gymnasium boys' and girls' schools at Paarl, the training school for teachers, the Huguenot Seminary, the Institute and boys' schools at Wellington, the deaf and dumb school at Worcester, and the boys' and girls' schools at that place, the Belle Vue seminary at Somerset East, the Midland at Graaff-Reinet with its large boys' school, the boys' school at Uitenhage, the Rieboek College for girls, the schools at French Hoek, and the many smaller schools throughout the length and breadth of this Colony. Yet we must not think that these grand educational institutions are all that we require to give our sons and daughters the training they need to hold their own in this country. Let us also in our home education take to heart the advice given by Mr. Innes to the teachers of the back-veld country. It is good, sound, moral advice. But why a man with such a clear head, such a far-seeing eye, and such sound reason, should have confined himself to so small an area as the back-veld country is difficult to understand. To be honest, truthful, and modest, are Christian virtues needed as much through the length and breadth of the British Empire, beginning with the world's metropolis. For where the editor of the "Review of Reviews" speaks of men, leading politicians, who have lied and whose policy it now is to continue to lie, he could not have spoken of men born and bred in the South African back-veld. The men who assisted Mr. Rhodes in sorting the best samples of his apples, such as the Rosy Dividend, the Cheap Labour Flavoured, and the Golden Pippin—the men who helped him carefully to load these, as well as his careless, clumsy driver who upset his apple-cart, were not men of the back-veld. (Laughter.) The first

to point out the danger to the British Empire through this monster, the "Dutch conspiracy" in this Colony, was not a man who had received his education from the lips of a back-veld school-master, nor were the men engaged in drawing up the plans for the success of the last Vryburg election boys of the back-veld. I could continue to lengthen the list of facts, but this sufficiently proves how widely Mr. Innes's sound advice is needed (Hear, hear.) They had hitherto lived side by side, rejoicing in each other's joys and joining in each other's sorrows, and "God grant," said she, "that this state of things may continue. But, alas, we fear it is not to be. We are only human." They hoped their English friends who were with them, however, would continue to be with them and to give them their support. They would never surrender their Africander liberties. Cattle might be driven off their farms and their farms confiscated, but their sons and their daughters no power could take from them, and, with God's blessing, they should dare and do, although their task would not be an easy one. What they wanted to secure for the Africanders was that they should share and share alike in the political rights of this Colony; and in order to secure this they would have to continue in the work which had commenced. Mrs. Roos next referred to the work of their schools, and said when they looked at the result of their examinations they would see that their case was not hopeless, and she emphasised the opinion that the education of their children should begin at home. Concluding, Mrs. Roos said how much she appreciated the sympathy of the English at home and in the Colonies who were on their side at this critical period, and whom they would always look upon as real friends, for "a friend in need was a friend indeed." (Loud applause.)

Miss Molteno, in supporting, said they were there that day face to face as British subjects. Their nation had gone mad. The once most lovely Free State now lay under the heel of a conquering army. She recounted how a year ago she had travelled through the State and pictured its happiness and domestic bliss, and compared it with the awful state of things at present. They cried to England to hear them in their sorrow,

to loosen their bands of captivity, and to give back to these tiny free peoples—a people than whom England acknowledged she had never met a finer or a braver in battle—what had been so dear to them. (Applause.)

Mrs. Sauer proposed the next resolution as follows:—

"This meeting deeply regrets that persons charged with treason have been kept in prison for an indefinite period without trial, as it is contrary to the first principles of Justice and causes not only great hardships to those dependant on such persons but in many cases want and misery, and further expresses its earnest belief that granting an amnesty to those accused will be in the best interest of South Africa and Great Britain."

Mrs. Sauer said these things were not only the woes of their mothers and other relatives in the far districts, where this cruel martial law was in force—they were their woes. They could not help thinking of the treatment which suspected rebels were subjected to—how they were kept in gaol for months without trial, in some cases without even knowing what they were placed there for, and then when they came out often to find that all they possessed had gone, and they could not even find out where their wives and children were. She referred to the way in which the wives of rebels were sometimes treated by the Magistrates when they came to make inquiries, having often to listen to language which was absolutely unfit for women to listen to. The speaker went on to refer to the men who were doing these things, or who were responsible for them. Mr. Crewe, she believed, was a policeman in the Cape Mounted Police at one time—was one of them. (Laughter.) Such was the opinion of residents in the Alwal district of him that in many cases he was not allowed inside their houses. He put up for the last election and was defeated, and some of the men who opposed him at the last election were the first men who were arrested by him. One man had been kept in gaol several months although he had told the people in his district not to rise. Geo. Farrar, who was imprisoned as a rebel in the Transvaal, sat next the Magistrate, and when poor men were brought before him, said

what were wanted were rich men. She asked on what evidence, too, were these men arrested. Usually on the evidence of a Native, circulars being sent out to the Natives offering rewards varying from £1 to £10 for information.

#### THE CAUSES OF IRRITATION.

Proceeding, Mrs Sauer said the whole past of the Colony had helped to bring about that feeling between English and Dutch which made a revolution possible. They had to go back—back to the early trek days. She referred to how Natal was taken from the Dutch after they had lost many valuable lives in subjecting the Natives; to the history of the Free State and the diamond mines, the latter, she said, be acquired by England at a price only equal to what De Beers now spent in eight years in Secret Service money. She called to mind the Raid also, and said it was sometimes argued they must not go back. The speaker argued, however, they must look back, for it was these things which to townspeople were almost forgotten, and were almost mere matters of history, that were remembered by the back-veld farmer. It was by such acts as she had recited that stone by stone and step by step England had laid the foundation of distrust. Referring to the Government of the country, she said they had now only shadow of true responsible Government, for the substance of it had been taken from them. The majority in their Parliament declared against the war, but England did not regard it, and altogether there was manifest such a feeling that they felt the war was not engineered against the Transvaal or the Free State but against the Dutch sentiment of the people. (Loud applause.) Concluding, Mrs. Sauer said that if England persisted in this policy of revenge—she might disfranchise the whole districts of the Colony, and she might fill their prisons but she would inevitably estrange for ever the Dutch people of this country, and cool their belief and that of the Englishmen who were with them today, in her sense of justice. (Applause.)

Mrs. Malan, in second the resolution, said: I take it that I do not need to ask you to excuse me if I speak to you in my mother tongue—the tongue of a large section of the people of our country and the tongue of the people who at present are undergoing such oppres-

sion. (Hear, hear.) I take great pleasure in seconding the resolution, as

#### I AM PERSONALLY CONCERNED

in it. My parents, brothers, and sisters, and other relations, as well as dear friends, are enduring much suffering under Martial Law. I need not say that my heart bleeds for them. I am certain that all present will extend their most cordial sympathy to the people in those districts where Martial Law prevails. (Hear, hear.) It has been rightly asked, who suffers more than the women do in this time? In these districts the women are bereft of their husbands, who are arrested, imprisoned, and kept in prison without trial

#### BY THEIR POLITICAL ENEMIES,

who have been enabled to take revenge upon them. (Hear, hear.) Amongst those who have been treated in this way are some of the most influential farmers and several of our ministers. Some time ago we learned of the arrest of our dearly-beloved Father Ross, an old, grey-headed man, by whom I was educated. It will be remembered that this old gentleman some time past wrote to "Ons Land," in which he said that he had called down the anger of Mr Crewe upon him owing to his staunch opposition of the latter's treatment of loyal Afrianders. (Hear, hear.) I can almost see in imagination this old gentleman's motherless children, some of them quite young still, standing before the gaol gates and refusing to go away before their father had been released. (Hear, hear.) These men have been imprisoned without trial. They have been sitting for

#### MONTHS IN PRISON,

and no opportunity has been given them of defending themselves; they have been refused bail, and they have not been allowed to consult their legal advisers, although Mr Chamberlain assured the House of Commons that the accused were in every case placed in a position to obtain legal advice. (Hear, hear.) Meanwhile, what was done with their property? The women have to look on and see how everything they possess is taken away; yes, even their means of subsistence—and sold. Women who have been rich, and who have always lived in the joyful expectation that they would be in a position to give their children a good education and make

them useful members of society, are at present

#### NOT IN A POSITION TO EDUCATE THEIR OFFSPRING.

Their hearts are filled with anguish at the thought of what their children will have to endure, and they shudder when they think of the future. To what future will they have to look forward save as poor whites? These poor families have not had the education and experience which their brothers and sisters in the towns possess, and they have to sit in

#### SILENT BITTERNESS OF SPIRIT

eating out their hearts in despair, and passing over their sad thoughts and bitterness of spirit to their children who will grow up amidst these unfortunate surroundings. We can scarcely take it amiss if they teach their children to be bitter and discontented, and indeed I need hardly say that I think everyone here will cordially sympathise with them. (Hear, hear.) What do we ask by this our meeting? We simply pray that that animosity may be removed. Must these poor persons be doubly punished; first by the confiscation of their goods and secondly by the law? Already they have suffered much—endured much, and been tried severely. If we take into consideration the fact that they were kin to the Republicans, and that they have practically been forced into rebellion we cannot do otherwise but condone their faults. Even Dr. Kolbe has declared that he cannot morally condemn these poor men for their rebellion. These men were convinced of the injustice of the war in which their countrymen, nay, their kinsmen, had been involved to

#### MAINTAINED THEIR DEARLY PURCHASED FREEDOM

after having so strongly and vainly pleaded for arbitration and peace. (Hear, hear.) The frontiers were left unprotected, and the troops at Naaupoort and Stormberg were called back from the positions in which they had been placed to protect the Colony and prevent the occupation of these districts on the frontier by the Republican troops. By that occupation the poor farmers were placed in a terrible position—in a position which was unnatural and unbearable. (Hear, hear.) Right-minded Englishmen recognise that if their kinsmen had been in a similar

position they would have acted in entirely the same manner. The British Government left these men unprotected, and they could not do otherwise than obey the temporary Government which the Republicans brought into being. In view of these things we ask that a full amnesty should be granted to these men, and that everything which could possibly give rise to bitterness of feeling should be removed—(hear, hear)—not only in the interests of our people and South Africa but in the true interests of the British Empire. (Loud applause.)

#### AN ENGLISHWOMAN TO AFRICANERS.

Miss Green (Port Elizabeth) said she would like to say a few words to the Africaner women present as one who was born and bred in England, with none other but English blood in her veins, and educated a Tory of the Tories, but one, however, who had lived 13 years in this country and had learned to love it well. It might be said to her by many, what right had she, an Englishwoman, to oppose an English policy; to do this proved her disloyal, un-English, and unpatriotic? On the contrary, said the speaker, it was just because she was an Englishwoman, who had to some extent grown in and loved the best teaching of the English, that she came to join hands with them in resisting this present war policy of England. For many years now England had been looked upon in the eyes of the world as the champion of freedom and magnanimity, but it would almost seem in view of recent history that she held the position in spite of herself. The birthright of freedom had not been always a happy one, even in that land of the free. She referred to men who had fought for it like Wm. Wallace, Simon de Montfort, Sir Thomas More, Latimer, and Ridley, Burke, Washington, and John Ruskin. These were English heroes, English teachers, but rebels some of them, against the established authority of their day. But these men England was more proud to-day than of her Clive and her Wellington. Looking at this war, she said that in resisting the suicidal and ruinous policy of Salisbury and Chamberlain they were fighting the battle, not only of freedom and justice for South Africa, but freedom for England, and



freedom for the world—(applause)—and then as English people ought to assist in this resistance in this Colony, or else they would cease to be loyal British subjects. It was their bounden duty to speak out fully and freely everywhere on behalf of justice, nationality, and humanity, and nothing would persuade her that this was un-English. She wanted them to turn away from the stock-jobbing, race-course England, and to look at that land of such dear memories—that dear, dear land—dear for her reputation through the world—the England of Shakespeare and Milton, the England of Burke and of Chatham, the England of Wordsworth and Ruskin, and the England of Gladstone and Courtney. (Applause.) She said that the gallant Africanders, like the Americans of a century ago, had to do their duty to the English people by showing them what was meant by loyalty. They were fighting England's battle right loyally when they urged upon her not to take that fatal step which would kill her Empire in the hearts of its lovers—that was the only Empire of which she need be proud, the only Empire on which she could safely rely. Let England revoke the unheard of and iniquitous Martial Law throughout this Colony, let her grant an amnesty to the rebels, let her leave the Republics their independence—then and not till then would the Empire cease to be in danger. "What," concluded Miss Green, "shall it profit a nation if it gain the whole world, and lose its own soul?" (Loud and continued applause.)

Mrs A. B. de Villiers (Paarl), in supporting the motion, said one of the greatest prophets had predicted that in later times there should be wars and rumours of wars, and we were living in these times. (Hear, hear.) The capitalists had dreamed and schemed for

#### THE GOLD OF THE TRANSVAAL,

and this had ultimately led to this war, which the women of South Africa had so much to deplore. The women of South Africa were ranged on the side of their brothers and husbands in opposing the war, and for nine months they had been silent, unknowing what their children and their brothers were enduring—unknowing if these were lying dead on the battlefield or still fighting in the

cause they held so dear. (Hear, hear.) There were some who could sleep and eat and dance, heedless of what others were enduring: but there were some too to whom the anguish of their neighbours was as excruciating as their own sorrows. The Free Staters had laid down their arms in good faith, but the promises which had been made to them had been broken. Their houses had been burned, and their Kafir servants had taken in their wives and children and

#### FED THEM OUT OF CHARITY.

(Hear, hear.) These poor black men had pitied those for whom no one seemed to have any pity. But the conquerors had been harsh and hard, and latterly they had forced the burghers who had laid down their arms to act as bulwarks to the soldiers in the trains on their foraging expeditions. The latest proposition was to take away the franchise from the rebels. Why had

#### DR JAMESON'S VOTE

not been taken from him when he developed into a raider? (Hear, hear.) Another proposition was to take away the Dutch language, but the true Africanders would never allow this to be done. (Applause.) The Jingoës regarded it as a great triumph to find one "English Africander," but where in the world did one find an English Scotsman or an English Irishman? No. Ireland was for the Irish, Scotland for the Scots, and Africa for the Africanders. (Loud applause.) Proceeding, Mrs De Villiers referred to the unjust treatment meted out to Colonists by the military and the obnoxious. The election of Dr Jameson was calculated to bring the Colonial Parliament into disrepute, for no one could feel any respect for such a man, who had violated every principle of fair-play and honour. (Hear, hear.) What the women of South Africa demanded was the repeal of Martial Law in those districts where it was no longer necessary, and a speedy and lasting peace conducive to the best interests of the country and people. (Applause.)

The Chairwoman thereupon put the resolution to the meeting, and it was carried with acclamation.

Mrs Reineke (Ceres) proposed another resolution, which was as follows:—

"We, the South African women of English and Dutch descent, here assembled, send to all women who have syn-

pathised with South Africa in her present time of trouble, our deep and heartfelt thanks, more especially to the women of England who have so nobly endeavoured to help our cause."

Mrs. Reincke said: Let the women of the Cape Colony appeal to the women of the Christian world to join them and the good women in England who have so nobly espoused our cause, in a protest against the annexation of the Republics and the consequent degradation of England's fair name. And may God grant that from this beginning may arise a still wider and nobler and more far-reaching movement, namely, that the women of the world in the not far distant future may continue to inaugurate a world-wide agitation against war, and so establish on a firm and immovable basis the principles laid down at the Peace Conference at The Hague. We have to give the men for war whether such a war be just or unjust, whether we have confidence in the statesmen responsible for such war or not. We are the chief sufferers; we are left behind to mourn the dead, to nurse the maimed, and those crippled by disease. We, principal victims, have hitherto been helpless to prevent or stop war. This must and will be changed in the future. Let us fight with all our influence. In the words quoted at the Paarl meeting, "Let us to-day light a fire which will not be put out."

Mrs. Beck (Rondebosch), in seconding the resolution, said: I wish to express a sense of extreme gratitude to those noble women across the waters, who have by their example opened our eyes as to what our rights and privileges as British subjects are. (Hear, hear.) It is a source of great regret to notice the tendency of late years, on the part even of prominent British statesmen to split up the inhabitants of this country into two sections—British and Dutch. Acting upon this idea, it has become the fashion to refer to the privileges the so-called Dutch enjoy under the British flag, as a something granted to them by the magnanimity of their rulers. (Hear, hear.) Speaking as

#### A HUGUENOT DESCENDED BRITISH WOMAN,

I repudiate that idea. The privileges we enjoy are our birthright—a birthright we share equally with Irish,

Scotch, English, or any other British citizens—a birthright we are proud to share with those noble women of England, who with their high thoughts and deep sense of right, have had the courage to espouse our cause and speak out their minds. (Hear, hear.)

#### THE BOND OF WOMANHOOD

embraces the world; and as we are touched by the sympathy of our far away sisters; so our hearts go out to those broken-hearted homeless women, who, with their tottering children have had the roofs burnt down over their heads, and who in many cases have become either the victims or the charitable dependents of Kafirs. There is something very touching in the report that Kafir huts are sheltering some of these homeless wanderers. Huts owned by faithful servants, who are touched with pity for their former employers.

#### SISTERS! WOMEN OF SOUTH AFRICA,

what a duty lies before us! What a life work! Think of the legacy in fatherless, homeless, poverty-stricken children alone, this cruel war has left us with! Truly shall we as women of South Africa have work to do. Work which our Great Teacher has taught us should not be undertaken as a charity, but as a sacred, solemn duty. "Whoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water, he shall in no wise lose his reward." (Applause.) We do not merely thank our noble sisters for what they have done, but their noble action emboldens us to believe that in what there is still left to be done we shall have the sympathy and co-operation of the English, American and all Christian women of the world. (Loud applause.)

The motion was then put and carried unanimously, the meeting rising to express their appreciation of the services which had been rendered by their sympathising sisters.

Mrs. J. T. Moltano moved:—"That the Lady President be instructed to forward copies of these resolutions to the secretary of the Women's Conciliation Committee in London, and also to the Peace delegates in England, to be used by them to the best advantage." In doing so she said she had a message to deliver from the many women of England and elsewhere who were op-

posed to the war, and that message was this, "Do not imagine that you are fighting England, but the capitalists." (Hear, hear.) There were many not only women but men, soldiers, who nevertheless had to do their duty, who disapproved of and opposed the war. "You women of South Africa," said Mrs. Molteno feelingly, "who sent your sons and relatives to fight, knew they were laying down their lives in a just cause, but many a brave English soldier has died for a cause he knew was cruelly unjust—(hear, hear)—because his was not to question but to do his duty." The capitalists who represented

#### ENGLAND AT ITS WORST

were the cause of the war, and she asked the meeting to bear this in mind and never forget that there were many who sympathised with them. As an Englishwoman, she felt the shame and disgrace acutely, for she had always looked upon England as a country which was true to the principles of fairness and justice. (Applause.)

Mrs. Purcell seconded, and the resolution was carried unanimously.

Mrs. Sauer, in replying to a vote of thanks which was carried with acclamation, said she esteemed it one of the pleasantest moments of her life to have presided over such a meeting. Her

heart was full of gratitude that she should have been able to preside.

Mrs. Steytler then thanked the German ladies present for their attendance, and referred to the consistent sympathy the Germans in Cape Town, especially the two

#### PASTORS OF ST. MARTIN'S CHURCH,

had shown to the Africanders.

This concluded the proceedings.

A large number of

#### LETTERS AND TELEGRAMS

were received from friends and sympathisers who were unable to be present. Amongst these were letters from Mrs. D. J. Marchand, of Cape Town, 180 ladies of Pearston, ladies of Murraysburg, and telegrams from Lynedoch, Malmesbury, Stellenbosch, Tulbagh, Caledon, and many other districts. Several gentlemen expressed their sympathy with the meeting by buying tickets at 1s. each, but owing to the limited accommodation only about 30 of them could obtain seats. The profits of the sale, some £5 18s., were added to the fund for the Peace deputation to Europe. A collection was also held at the doors in aid of the fund, and realised some £25, the majority of those present not being able to reach the plates owing to the crush.