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Saturday edition, per year, in advance	2.00
Semi-Weekly, " "	2.00

Correspondence and other reading matter for publication should be addressed to the EDITOR, THE DESERET NEWS, Salt Lake City, Utah.

NEW YORK REPRESENTATIVE, R. A. Craig, 41 Times Building.

CHICAGO REPRESENTATIVE, Craig & Woodward, 87 Washington St.

SALT LAKE CITY, DEC. 16, 1899.

#### CHRISTMAS EDITION.

The Christmas number of the Deseret News will be a splendid edition. It will contain numerous special features. Among the most important will be contributions from the pens of the First Presidency of the Church. Signed articles will be published by Presidents Lorenzo Snow, George Q. Cannon and Joseph F. Smith. They will all be of great interest to the Latter-day Saints in particular and to the public in general. There will be no doubt a heavy demand for this issue of the "News," and orders for it, both for extra copies and for advertising space should be sent in immediately. It is designed that this edition shall be the best ever published in this inter-mountain region. It will be a gem.

#### NO CAUSE FOR A PANIC.

One of the leading journals in America asks the question whether the people of this country are not terribly subject to wide-spread hysteria. There are certainly indications that this is a fact, the symptoms clearly showing its prevalence. Just now there is danger of it in this State and particularly in this city. A smallpox scare is being raised, for what purpose we do not care at present to discuss, but one object is evidently to force upon the people of Salt Lake, and ultimately of all Utah, the repulsive and oppressive system of compulsory vaccination.

It appears, from the reports of physicians, that there have been some mild cases of smallpox in Sanpete county, and in one or two places in other counties. Also that there is one case of the same kind quarantined in this city. If the diagnosis is correct, the disease is in its mildest form. It is varioloid. Adequate measures have been taken to prevent contagion. There is little, if any, danger of its spread. It is proper that the strictest precautions in this direction should be observed.

There are strong doubts among people who are familiar with the dread disease—smallpox, that there is a single case in the State. They aver that the eruption which has caused so much excitement is only a skin disease. Also that the doctors who have pronounced it smallpox are not personally acquainted with that complaint, but judge from the symptoms and the books and reports from others. We mention this not as our opinion but as statements coming from the county where the excitement commenced.

Whatever foundation there may be to these views, we think it is highly proper and commendable to take steps for the protection of our children and of the public generally, and that all available preventives should be utilized. So far we are with the health officers and the school authorities. But we do not join in the effort to frighten the people of this city into universal vaccination. We do not believe that the conditions justify any such proceeding.

At the last session of the Legislature, a determined attempt was made to secure the passage of a law for compulsory vaccination. It failed because of the popular protest against it. There is now a scheme on foot to enforce this obnoxious regulation without the authority of law. We warn its promoters that it will be vigorously resisted. What they could not accomplish through the Legislature, they must not try to force upon the public by power they assume to exercise. The people have rights as well as public officers have. The liberties of citizens must and shall be maintained.

We do not care today to enter into the dispute as to whether there is a case of smallpox in this city or not, nor as to the merits or demerits of vaccination. There are potent arguments on both sides of the latter question. The assertion made by certain doctors that no "intelligent person disputes that vaccination is a thing greatly to be desired," is a reflection upon a number of the brightest members of the faculty in both hemispheres. Facts and figures are numerously cited to show the uselessness as well as the violence of the vaccination practice. But we will not take up that point at present, except to say that if Utah, as alleged, is "the only State in the Union where vaccination is not made compulsory," the fact that there is no State in the Union which is free from smallpox, is a pretty strong argument against the theory of the compulsory vaccination promoters.

What we object to, on behalf of the people, is the attempt to compel those who do not believe in the practice of injecting into the veins of a pure and healthy child, filthy virus from a diseased cow or human being, to submit to the demands of persons who are determined to exercise authority with which they are not legally endowed. Let those who believe in vaccination practice or submit to it if they choose, but keep your hands off those who vehemently object to it and refuse to permit you to tamper with their children. That is the issue today. Also, in order to enforce this tyrannical measure, stop

trying to frighten the public! So far there is no earthly reason for a panic and we trust there will be no occasion for fear in the future.

#### CAN UTAH BE CAST OUT?

When Utah was admitted as a State, a solemn compact was made that polygamy should cease. But if we can believe the testimony furnished by the Salt Lake Tribune, the leading Gentile paper of Utah, it has not ceased, but polygamous marriages are being secretly contracted almost every day, and polygamous children are being brought into the world by hundreds, if not thousands, every year.

The paragraph above is clipped from the Minneapolis Tribune. We reproduce it as evidence of the false impression which has been made upon the public mind by the misrepresentations sent forth from this city. A discussion is now going on between some of the leading journals of the East concerning the "compact" entered into by the people of Utah and the United States. It seems to be taken for granted, by many of those papers, that this "compact" has been violated by the State of Utah. That is in consequence of the kind of charges accepted as correct by the Minneapolis Tribune, and the question has been raised whether, because of that alleged violation of the agreement, Utah can be reduced to a territorial condition.

First as to the question of fact. We deny most emphatically that "polygamous marriages are being secretly contracted almost every day." It is not required of us or of the people of this State to prove a negative. It is for those who prefer the charge to establish it by evidence such as can be accepted as proof. The journals which are debating this question should understand that no case of polygamy, such as is contemplated in the laws forbidding the practice, has been prosecuted in the Utah courts. Against the charge repeated in the Minneapolis paper and originating in this city, the Ogden Standard, a non-Mormon and Republican paper, has had for some time a standing offer of \$100 for every authenticated case of a polygamous marriage since Utah entered the Union. No one as yet has made application for the reward, though it has been published repeatedly.

The Deseret News, while disputing the charge concerning new polygamous marriages, and asking why such cases, if they exist, are not prosecuted, has never denied the continuance of family relations among some of the plural households, in which the marriages took place long previous to statehood. When any person or paper states that we have challenged action of the courts in such cases, a grave mistake is made, whether willfully or unintentionally does not matter. However, we do deny and have denied, the monstrous assertion that "Utah is filling up with plural wives who were not wives when Utah entered the Union, and thousands upon thousands of polygamous children are being born." The first part of the charge is wholly untrue, and the other part is a gigantic and malicious exaggeration.

The position we have taken on this question, has been and is that plural marriages have ceased to be solemnized in Utah; that the compact with the nation has been faithfully kept; that the number of plural families is steadily decreasing; that in process of time the system, on natural principles, must disappear, and that the whole agitation on this question is needless, injurious to the State and of no benefit whatever to the nation.

Next as to the question of the exclusion of Utah from the Union as a State. That is an impossibility without infraction of the Supreme Law of the land. The Constitution of the United States provides for the admission of new States into the Union, but not for putting any of them out. Even if it were true that there have been violations of the anti-polygamy provisions in our State Constitution, it would offer no reason for such a course, supposing there was constitutional authority for it. Laws are broken in every State. There is less lawlessness in Utah than in almost every other part of the Union.

There are requirements in the Enabling Act concerning Indian lands, and in regard to taxation. Suppose some of them should not be carried out, would the remedy be the exclusion of the State from the Union? Is there anybody so foolish as to suggest such a preposterous proposition? Would there be no other means of rectifying the wrong? Our Constitution complies with the Enabling Act in those respects as well as in that under immediate consideration. All that was demanded of the people of Utah has been strictly fulfilled.

But it will be asked, is there no remedy for the United States in case the State of Utah willfully and flagrantly ignores the agreement in reference to polygamous or plural marriages? On that point we will quote a little from New York papers. The New York Sun discusses the question at length and after giving a brief history of the formation of the State, and quoting the provisions of the Enabling Act and of the State Constitution, it says:

All that the new State undertook to do in respect to polygamy was to prohibit it forever. The people have adopted a Constitution containing a double prohibition. The fact that they have not been uniformly successful in enforcing it, confers no right upon the national government to deny to Utah the privileges of a State. Indeed there are some constitutional obligations which a State cannot be compelled to comply with. The States are required to surrender fugitives from justice from another State, yet there is no way of enforcing this command in the event of a refusal. In the case of Utah, however, the new State appears to have done all she promised the other States, so that the talk about an unfulfilled compact has no basis in fact.

Whatever happens as a result of the Roberts case, and that the extraordinary temper with which the House of Representatives has taken it up makes it easy to foretell, there is no need to fear that Utah will be read out of the Union.

The New York Mail and Express, which is very strongly anti-Mormon, after having said some very severe and unwarranted things about Utah, being impressed with the same mistaken ideas as the Minneapolis Tribune, admits that Utah cannot be thrust out of the Union. It remarks, editorially:

Utah out of the Union for breach of contract or for "working the confidence game" on the federal government is merest buncombe, and can serve only to involve unduly the issue now before the people. It cannot be abandoned too soon in favor of intelligent concentration. Several important points are overlooked by the radicals.

So long as Utah keeps her Constitution, as she does, a distinct and "irrevocable" prohibition of polygamous or plural marriage, the most serious legal charge that can be laid against her is partial failure in the administration of her fundamental law. But the same charge may be laid against other States in relation to other matters—and who talks of expelling these from the sisterhood of commonwealths? As to the "irrevocable" provision against polygamous marriage borne by the Enabling Act of Congress as a condition of admission, became a compact fulfilled when it was transferred to the State Constitution and adopted by the people. Is it possible that, in a country where civil contracts are so jealously guarded, one party to the highest form of this contract—Utah—should be able to violate its terms if it chooses, and the other party—Congress—be utterly helpless either to compel performance or secure remedy through reversion to prior conditions as a penalty? Such a thing appears inconceivable. But the Constitution declares that "the citizens of each State shall be entitled to all privileges and immunities of citizens in the several States." In no other State are the people fettered as to marriage laws by the Federal power. How, then, can the agreement with Utah referred to, being extraordinary and isolated, be constitutionally made of binding force? Apparently it cannot, and it is vain to make the wish father to the thought.

Those are the views of journals that are not favorable towards Utah, and that reason from the standpoint that the charges against Utah are true. Even on that hypothesis they conclude that the State cannot be ejected or reduced to territorial vassalage. After awhile they, with the rest of the country, will learn the pivotal fact that Utah has religiously and faithfully kept inviolate the terms of the agreement with the country in reference to the subject that has caused so much agitation, and about which there has been so much misunderstanding. Utah has a splendid destiny and that is "irrevocably" connected with the perpetuity of the Constitution and institutions of the United States. The time will come when that will be demonstrated beyond dispute and for the maintenance of human liberty!

#### ABANDONING THE CHURCHES.

A New York exchange makes a note of the fact that according to expert calculation, out of Brooklyn's entire population of 1,197,100 souls, 62,737 are entirely outside of church influence. This is considerably over one half.

This raises the question whether the churches have "ceased to represent to mankind something vital, something which they can believe, something that they can worship and something worthy of their manhood and womanhood?"

The paper quoted finds consolation in the thought that Brooklyn, notwithstanding its large percentage of population outside church influence, is a highly moral borough. This goes to show, it is assumed, that the people are possessed of "innate righteousness," and that the ministers have no just ground for complaint.

The evident drift of this reasoning is that the churches are rather superfluous institutions, since morality can be, and is, maintained without them. This impression is quite widespread. Only the other day a paper in this city, which poses as the friend par excellence of sectarian churches, had this harangue, which might have been penned by an infidel:

"Did Bishop Leonard ever know a chronic liar to be broken of his habit by conversion? Had he ever known a vicious woman, who loved to slander her sister women and make rows in the neighborhood, that was cured of that by conversion? Does conversion make a man more fair in his judgment of his neighbor? Is he any just as likely, after conversion, if he runs against three or four dishonest men, to conclude that the whole community is rotten as he was before? Commerce is not established by the churches. That is a purely worldly adjustment, as the Bishop will see if he mingles much with them. There are plenty of men who are scrupulously particular to maintain the morality of the church, who would be dangerous men for Bishop Leonard to trade with. And there are a good many men we believe that belong to Bishop Leonard's church, who fail all in their obligations to the church, that Bishop Leonard would not like to make administrators of his estate."

If this is the reputation the churches have established among their intimate friends, it is no wonder that a population of Brooklyn should desert the places of worship where "commercial honor is not established."

Morality, of course, exists outside religious associations. It existed in pagan Rome; and it exists in the heathen world today. But if the testimony of history be taken for it, the kind of morality that cements together individuals into families, families into communities and communities into States, and holds them firmly established against the raging and ravaging storms of time, is found nowhere outside the influence of true Christianity. Pagan empires have risen, flourished for a time, and then crumbled into ruins, or entered into a stage of stagnation; not for lack of genius, or enterprise, or power, but on account of the absence of the highest moral qualifications. Christianity supplied this want. When the Gospel came to the Grecian centers of civilization, Corinth for instance, it found that a great many "pillars of society" were fornicators, idolaters, thieves, covetous, drunkards, and extortioners, but it changed all that. "Such," says the Apostle in his letter to the Corinthians, "were some of you, but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord."

It is perfectly clear, therefore, that the charge that "conversion" in our times does not even break a liar of his evil habit, is an indictment against modern churches. If true, it places them on the level of paganism with its "innate righteousness." It brings small comfort to a nation dominated by them. It is equivalent to a warning. Assyria, Babylonia, Persia, Egypt, Greece and Rome have fallen notwithstanding the "innate righteousness" of their people. To the Christian world, the expiring century may well repeat the Master's words: "Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."

#### PAUL KRUGER'S RELIGION.

Those who know Paul Kruger are willing to vouch for the sincerity of his religious convictions. It appears that when he was about thirty-five years old, he had an experience in some respects similar to that of the Prophet Joseph, and so many other great men in the world's history, and from which they date the beginning of their "new life." At that time he was prompted to go out on the lonely veldt and to devote himself to the confession of his sins, and prayer. For three days and nights he was prostrate, without food and drink, crying to the Lord for light and power. It is said he was nearly dead when found. From that time he has been looked upon by his countrymen as a chosen instrument in the hands of the Almighty to lead them against all enemies.

A story is told in Ainslie's magazine illustrating Kruger's position as to "higher criticism." At one time on a railroad train the conversation among the passengers turned on modern theories about the formation of the earth and the origin of man. Kruger listened for some time attentively and was perfectly amazed. Then he broke in with: "Pardon the interruption, my friends, but if you are right, then I might as well throw my Bible overboard."

At the outbreak of the present war, the religious disposition of the Boers, and their fervent prayers to the Ruler of the world for success were frequently referred to by a skeptic press in a sneering way, with the remark that the Lord is always on the side of the biggest guns and the largest battalions. The question seems in order now, whether there is not in the wonderful events of the past two months an indication of the efficacy of prayer. The world is always slow to make the confession of the Egyptian magicians: "This is the finger of God."

#### THE WAR IN NATAL.

The news of the defeat of General Buller at the Tugela river is the most serious so far received from the South African scene of conflict. Great confidence has been placed in the ability, experience and valor of this British commander. It has all along been supposed that his arrival at the front would change the course of events. But it now seems the Boers have succeeded in checking his advance for the time being. General Buller reports the loss of eleven guns, and from the wording of his dispatch it must be inferred that the loss of life was heavy.

The total loss to the British, so far, including prisoners, reaches in the neighborhood of 6,000, not counting the casualties of General Buller's forces. This already exceeds the number of killed and wounded on the American side in the war that crushed Spain's power in the western hemisphere. No wonder if a feeling of depression is felt at home, as the magnitude of the South African undertaking is receiving public demonstration.

It is too early to speculate on the possible effect of the reverse sustained by General Buller, but it would create no surprise if the rivals of Great Britain should at this time make some movements to the detriment of her vast interests. There are various rumors afloat of a disquieting nature. One is to the effect that France is about to buy from Spain the fortress Ceuta on the African side of the Strait of Gibraltar, while Russia is negotiating for Tarifa, on the European side of the Strait.

What such a deal would mean is hard to conceive at present. In the hands of strong naval powers these positions would block the entrance to the Mediterranean and render the Suez canal practically valueless to England as a highway to India.

Another rumor declares that the Negus of Abyssinia, in accordance with Russian plans, is preparing for an attack on the Sudan, while the Ameer of Afghanistan is said to show a disposition to ally himself with Russia. Still another rumor has it that there are signs of unusual military activity at Port Arthur and Tientsin in China. There may not be any desire to precipitate a world-war but the numerous rumors of military activity prove the uneasiness that prevails, and that the great powers are preparing for possibilities that may arise. England's extraordinary concentration of warships at Gibraltar at the beginning of the outbreak of hostilities, which appeared unintelligible at the time, may find an explanation in European complications yet to be revealed.

#### SLOW WORK.

A contributor to the London Free-thinker calls attention to the fact that the efforts for converting Jews to "Christianity" are largely a failure.

The London Society engaged in this enterprise had last year an income of \$37,669, while about \$770 more was expended, adding that much to a previous debt of about \$10,000. The two secretaries of the society draw a salary of \$333 annually, and other employees are proportionally well remunerated.

In England the society has 109 stations and 51 agents, besides numerous "voluntary helpers." The chief work seems to be the distribution of tracts. In London alone were distributed during the year, 69 Bibles, 445 parts of Bibles, 417 New Testaments, and 1,774 tracts. And what is the result? In London not a single convert was made during the year. For the entire England, twenty-eight converts were reported, twenty of whom were children secured in some way or another; and four were probably paupers, glad to receive the financial aid of the society. The result of the year's work, as far as England is concerned, is then narrowed down to four converts.

There is nothing strange about this. Judaism of today is a good deal more attractive than Protestantism. Its theology is more intelligible, and its rites, or rather absence of rites, are more in accordance with the ideals of modern worship. Why should a Jew leave the religion of his fathers for a faith that is farther removed from the Christianity of Jesus than is Judaism itself?

Besides, ancient prophets clearly predict that the conversion of the Jewish people en masse will take place only at the appearance in power and glory of

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the King Messiah. The very fact that they as a people, reject the advances of missionaries is a proof of the truth of those prophecies. At last they will be converted, but not by human power, represented by so many pounds sterling a year.

#### A PREVENTIVE.

While we do not wish to foster the alarm about a smallpox epidemic, we think all safe measures should be adopted for its prevention. During the prevalence of the disease in different parts of Great Britain a simple prophylactic was recommended by experienced physicians, and found to be efficacious, far ahead of vaccination. We therefore republish it as mentioned several years ago in these columns:

Take two ounces cream of tartar, one ounce of Epsom salts and one lemon, sliced. Pour one quart boiling water over these ingredients and sweeten to taste. Be taken cold, a small wine glassful three times a day, or in a little larger quantity night and morning. That is for adults; smaller quantities for children according to age, and not enough to act as too much of a purgative.

It was found good in fever cases and also in actual attacks of smallpox.

The Boers made quite an addition to their artillery on Friday—ten guns at Tugela river.

The Prince of Wales says he has a horror of gambling. Princes say many good things.

An exchange says "the line between penuriousness and economy must be drawn somewhere." It is usually at the low wages line.

General Buller now appears to be in the same boat with Gen. White, Gen. Gatacre and Gen. Methuen. All have attended Boer surprise parties.

The South African war has one feature of interest to the western world grower. Of late the Orange Free State has been a strong competitor in the sheep business.

It is said that fair sized Christmas trees will cost a dollar a piece this year, untrimmed. But the expense of trimming is the chief feature.

New York farmers are abandoning their hopfields, as they get only 8 to 10 cents per pound, while the cost of raising is about 11 cents. They will turn their attention to raising corn and beef.

Press dispatches and newspapers are telling of 17 to 20 cents a pound being paid in advance for the wool clip of 1899, but the woolgrowers' publications are offering rewards for a single authenticated instance of such a transaction.

The reproduction in a Z. C. M. I. window of the yacht Columbia at sea, showing the ocean waves, the swaying vessel, the sails filled with wind, and moonlight on the waters, is one of the specially interesting sights of Christmas display this season.

A year ago, horses could be had for \$10 in the Puget sound country, and purchasers at that price were few. Two shiploads of these animals just sent to Great Britain for army purposes were bought at an average of \$47 per head; and the stockmen of Washington agree that war is a good thing, in some respects.

Now that Philadelphia has secured the Republican national convention, New York is making strenuous efforts to secure the great Democratic gathering, with a fair show of being successful. Both conventions being held in the Mississippi valley in 1896 is a potent factor in sending next year's meetings to the East.

doubtless will proceed with due consideration of the people's rights.

The announcement that over 300 Northumberland fusiliers have arrived at Bloemfontein as prisoners of war recalls the fact that when this regiment left London before the outbreak of war there was a great sensation caused by the men shouting, "All aboard for Pretoria!" Evidently they got on the wrong train.

Two months ago, Great Britain declined offers from Canada and Australia of men for the war in South Africa, saying they were not necessary, and accepting only a few from each dependency, to avoid giving offense. Today, Great Britain appeals for aid to both Australia and Canada, asking that well mounted and good marksmen be furnished. The change wrought, and particularly the latter action, is worthy of being specially noted.

The notice of Col. Baden-Powell, British commander at Mafeking, to the Boers, to lay down their arms, and promising them protection as soon as Great Britain takes the Transvaal, has in it a grim humor for the Boers, who thus far are standing off the "taking" with considerable success. The gallant colonel refrains from promises of protection from now to the event he anticipates; and his omission is sufficient to make the Dutch farmers hold aloof, if there were nothing else in the way.

#### THE BATTLE AT STORMBERG.

Springfield Republican.  
Gen. Gatacre's force was originally expected to move north from East London through eastern Cape Colony to the Orange Free State boundary, and from there he was to join or co-operate with Lord Methuen's army. It is supposed, for the invasion of the Free State, after the relief of Kimberley. But Gen. Gatacre has been unexpectedly delayed, owing to the portentous attitude of her majesty's Dutch subjects in that part of Cape Colony. Boers from the Orange Free State have entered the Colony and have been joined by hundreds of the Cape Dutch. Yesterday morning Gen. Gatacre attacked the hostile forces at Stormberg, where the Boers, as usual, held a very strong position. The British artillery was ineffective and the infantry found the enemy impregnable, with the result that Gen. Gatacre's whole force was thrown back, retreating 10 miles south to Maitland, a station on the railroad to Queenstown and the coast.

Milwaukee Wisconsin.  
The loss of the British was unusually large, 633 killed, wounded and missing. Gen. Methuen lost seven per cent of his men at Mafeking river, while Gen. Gatacre lost 25 per cent. This proved the severity of the engagement. It was really not a large affair, but a severe fight in which an unusual number of killed, wounded and missing is reported. The affair is regarded as of serious moment only because it might tempt the Boers of the Cape Colony district to revolt against England. There is no evidence of that yet, and the reverse is likely to have over without serious consequences.

New York World.  
England has been impatiently awaiting news from Gen. Gatacre, as it was expected that his advance through Northern Cape Colony upon the southern boundary of the Orange Free State would aid Methuen's advance to the relief of Kimberley on the west and Buller's advance to the relief of Ladysmith on the east. Now comes news from Gen. Gatacre. "I regret to announce that I have met with a severe reverse." He sent a partial list of casualties, ending with the ominous statement that 605 are "missing"—one-seventh of the entire force under his command. This battle was British territory fifty miles from the border of the Orange Free State, and the army which defeated Gen. Gatacre was as Winston Churchill said in one of his first dispatches to The World, composed almost entirely of revolted British subjects.

Worcester Gazette.  
The British force will soon be vastly stronger, but as the Boers change from offensive to defensive tactics setting disparity of numbers and they have yet their best cards to play. There is every prospect that they will gradually fall back in concentration on Pretoria, fighting stubbornly every step of the way, and there make their final determined stand. Pretoria is strongly fortified, and there is for a dozen additional lines of entrenchments to be constructed. A siege of a strongly for-

ted city is a stupendous task, and British army might camp before Transvaal capital a full year without reducing it.

The Evening Sun.  
Reports differ as to the numbers gaged, but Gen. Gatacre seems to have had as large a force as the enemy. That the retreat was made in good order, but as almost a full battalion cut off and the British abandoned gun, the inference is that the retreat was a rout. The truth appears to be that Gatacre was beaten in every particular as that met by General Buller. "I was misled by the guides," does not compare well with Gen. White's map, avowal that he was responsible for his lance and Irish fusiliers were fought, surrounded and compelled to surrender.

Kansas City Star.  
It is remarked that while there is great satisfaction in Berlin and Paris over the British defeat at Stormberg the newspapers of those cities are moderate in their expressions of delight. This seems to occasion some surprise. London. It may be said that while enemies of England do well to indulge in triumphant exclamations over a humiliating disaster to the British arms as that met by General Buller, there is no particular occasion for rejoicing on the part of the friends of the Boers or the advocates of peace.

Boston Herald.  
In an address made in the House of Commons on May 8, 1894, Mr. Joseph Chamberlain said: "A war in South Africa would be one of the most serious wars that could possibly be waged. It would be in the nature of a civil war. It would be a long war, a bitter war and a costly war." This statement is chief promoter of the war, confirms the notion—that those in authority at London have foreseen from the first that the work cut out for them to do was one of tremendous difficulty.

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