

colonised, a hedge of cedars, a copse of young oaks, with the ivy, the vine and the rose climbing the house walls. There was no fence, and no formal flower beds. What need when all nature was a-bloom? The sward, untouched of scythe, was more beautiful than any shorn velvet lawn, as its tangle of varied grasses swayed like fairy harvests.

As the two approached, Maritz rose from his armchair on the stoop, and taking a long pipe from his lips said heartily,

'Goot morning, vriend Glendenig. Welgome on Christmas Day.'

He was a square, sturdy man in a corduroy hunting garb, with spurred boots and a wide felt hat. He had the frank, fearless face and bushy moustaches one sees in the old Dutch portraits.

'How d'ye do, Mynheer Maritz?' said the younger man. Hope you're well.

'Yaas. Sit tou. Haf a bipe? Dit you rite far to-day?'

'From Johannesburg, on my way to Pretoria. If you'll kindly have my friend Jacky, yonder, feed the mare, I must then push on.'

'So! To Pretoria, ant in a hurry. Can you not spent Christmas mit us? Dere is news, perhaps?'

'Yes, sir, and serious at that. I must see Kruger and wish you to go with me.'

Maritz hesitated a moment and said, 'Yaas, I will go after we haf eat.'

When the mid-day meal had been dispatched, somewhat hastily for a holiday occasion, the two men rode north over the veldt to the capital of the South African Republic. It was clearly visible, six miles away, after they had flanked the ridge enclosing the dell of Maritzdorp.

Clendenin began to tell his love for Annetje, when the Boer stopped his horse roughly and turned with a frown, saying,

'No more. I haf made you mine guest, put you may be no more in my house. You are Uitlander and Annetje will wed mit her own beoples. Egscuse me, I would not be rude, but you do not know—'

'I beg your pardon, sir,' exclaimed the other, 'I do understand and sympathise with your feeling about the strangers. Otherwise I would not be here. Well, let us put this matter aside for the present. But I will always love your daughter. I will not abuse your trust as my host. Yet I do not resign hope. Perhaps you will some time allow me to address you again, for in a few weeks events will ripen and put an end forever to my suit, or else prove me a friend to the Transvaal, so that you will not call me an Uitlander.'

'Now for the subject of my mission. I have a message for Kruger which concerns you and the rest of his Council. But to avoid repetition, I will only say now that a serious danger menaces the Republic, which will destroy it surely and swiftly unless counter measures are promptly determined.'

'Dose Englanders,' snarled Maritz, 'ant to Gottless rapple at te mines! Yaas, I know they voult trestroy us. But Gott vill ait us yet once again. You do not know all what makes mine heart burn as like fire. Gott in heafen! it trives be mat.'

'Let me tell you somedings. My beoples, long pack, was Hollanders ant Huguenots, what come to the Cape—it was a Goot Hope to them—for gonscience sake, that they might worship Gott and lif free. They made homes in the colony, but at the last the Englanders steyn their liperities. But they dit not fight at the first. They lofed peace only less than liperity. So mein granvater, Pieter Maritz, he trecked away, ant more pesides—far away into the wild gountry of the Amazulu, ant got land by deaty with Dingaan. That was Natalia. But when years ago, again the Englanders come ant take Natalia, ant mein ver leave the graves of his dead, and trek to the Orange gountry. I was then a boy, but I mind the long, hart chourney. Others come. We lose much catties ant sheeps by the thurst ant the fly, ant some beoples die by the way, but again we settles far from all mens but the blacks, ant make homes.'

'The old man stopped as if his memory was busy with that far past, and Clendenin asked:

'It was there you grew up?'

'Yaas, ant married; but to get forefer away from the Englanders I trek across the Vaal. Some Boers stay in

the colony, some in Natalia, some by the Orange, but many would be free. They come, like Israel in the wilderness, here to this goot land. Seel the pones of my beoples are scattered along the way—one here, another there—ant we haf no place until now. Here we make the Republic, ant in 1852 England sign agreement, at Sand River, which say—"they haf the right to manache their own affairs ant to govern theirselves according to their own laws without any interference on the part of the British Government."

'Yaas, that was the worts—'One would consider that sufficient guarantee,' said Clendenin.

'Ja,' said Maritz, eager to resume now that his heart was open, 'so it would from any others. Ant, see you, fife ant twenty year all go well; but the natives they was many as ten to one ant sometimes steal catties ant purn houses. So we fight ant subdue them at Secoeni. But before that, in 1877, come Sir Shenstone ant offers us ait. We deglines, but he says we were weak against the blacks ant that hurts the brestige of the white man ant entangers their colonies. So, for our goot and for civilisation—Hein! the civilisation of the traders ant the land-grabbers—he annex us to the great British Empire.'

'He hoists the flag—the red flag of birates ant blunderers—ant bropose to make a State with high-sounding officers of justice, ant finance, ant war. Some poor fools of Boers say, "yaas," but the Volksraad vote "Naay." But what could we do? The troops was in Pretoria to protect us.'

'In two years the Zulus rise up. Now the Englanders for theirselves see what the savage was. We would not help them. Let them inspan their own team—'

'That was the Zulu war, was it?'

'Ja! It pass, ant after come Sir Bartle Frere. We demant our liperities. He say, very bold, "No territory offer which the British flag has once wafed will efer be abandoned." Not? Vell we rise—Kruger, ant Joubert, ant Smit, ant Maritz, too—I was dere—we go to Heidelberg ant make a government for the Boers lone. That was war! Thunder ant lightning! It was a time to live!'

'The detachment of the Ninety-fourth Regiment was wiped out at Broncker's Spruit. They say we surprised them. What! I was one of four what ride to Colonel Anstruther with flag of truce for them to leave. He refuse ant advance. Then we attack.'

'Sir George Colley, he come with much troops ant try to gross the Drakenberg at Laing's Nek. He was triven away from five assaults. We follow to the Ingogo ford ant fell on them ant kill more as a hunter ant fifty mens. But Colley he come pack with more soldiers—it was said tree thousand—ant fortify Majuba heights to cover the pass at Laing's with gannons. Well, we glimb that hill, ant kill him ant many pesides ant capture more. We was repulsed twice, but the third time was luck. Smit lead. All victories, seel The Boers was not once whipped.'

'Aye,' said Clendenin, 'I remember that. It occurred while I was at West Point, and our Professor described the battle as a splendid example of courage, which enabled militia to conquer, under adverse circumstances, a superior number of regulars. It was so in our own War of Independence. I have never forgotten it. How the fellows cheered that day!'

'What! You dit? Goot! Well, there was peace ant interpentance—the deaty of 1881; then the gonvention of 1884. These recognised our liperity, but the last say Great Britain haf the right to veto our deaties with native tribes or foreign nations. The Volksraad protest, ant did not vote for the veto, or the debt gombromise, or the western boundary, ant we haf nefer agree with them, but England say it is a deanty all the same.'

'Ant efer since they try to steal, efen as they lie, ant now are ready to kill, that they may take the landt. They haf no fear of Gott, for, see you, govt was found. At first we hie the discovery. We know their greed ant want no mines. But the cursed govt leak out. Then we pass a law forbidding to mine. But what avails? they come like locusts, by thousands, trinkling, cursing, gambling, ant puilding a city with play-houses ant—ant hells of iniquity. They demant to

govern, but at the latter end that means an English colony. Nefer! The cup is full. We must fight. We cannot trek. The Englanders are all about the Transvaal, south, north, ant west. They have seized all the hinterlandt. Mark me, young man, we trek no more! We holdt this landt, or here we all together die, ant if so, Gott's will be done, ant let the murder of a nation curse England to all the ages.'

Clendenin could not wonder at Maritz's wrath, which, long smouldering, now glowed with fury. Indeed, he had seen and heard enough in the Rand to know that these Boers had their quarrel just. And the blood of his revolutionary forbears, who fought with the old Maryland line, stirred in his heart with rhythmic ardors for liberty in Africa as in America.

He said little, however, and Maritz's soliloquy ended as they drew near Pretoria. It is a quiet, pretty town, on a hillside, of quaint, homelike Dutch houses, with wide streets, each having its stream of sparkling water, and its archway of trees. The Government House, on the public square, is a substantial building, recently constructed out of the affluent taxation of the Rand mines. Halting here they found President Kruger.

Clendenin saw then, for the first time, and with curious interest, this shrewd diplomatist of a petty African commonwealth, who was destined to become famous the world over. He stands at least six feet, despite the stooping of his broad shoulders. His heavy body, with immensely long arms, suggests the nickname—Gorilla—bestowed by his enemies. His eyes are small, deep-set, and almost closed by folds of fat. His nose, both broad

and long, dominates a wide, fleshy mouth. White whiskers fringe the strong chin and jaw. But, despite this homeliness, not to say unique and alluring ugliness, his expression conveys the true impression of an intelligent, amiable and generous nature.

After greetings Clendenin handed Kruger a note from the Council's confidential agent in Johannesburg, saying:

'Sir, this is my introduction. It read thus:

'Johannesburg, Dec. 24th, 189—'To His Excellency, President J. P. Kruger:

'The bearer, Mr Henry Clendenin, is worthy of all confidence. I am fully aware of the facts he will report, and heartily approve the plans he will submit to your judgment. I am unable to visit you without exciting suspicion, and dare not trust, by wire or rail, a message or a messenger of our own people. Hence, Mr Clendenin will ride unnoted to Pretoria. Receive him as you would myself.'

'Very respectfully yours,

'JOHANNES BOK.'

Kruger eyed the young man for a moment and said:

'This is a matter for the Council.' After some delay there assembled in the President's office, Joubert, Smith, Jorriison and the elder Bok, who, with Maritz, were all immediately accessible, and a majority of that body.

With brief introductions and explanations, Clendenin was requested to unfold his budget.

'Gentlemen,' he said, 'you know the state of affairs in the Rand. I will advert to it only so far as closely related to my message. The Uitlanders have formulated their demands on the Volksraad. They have raised a so-

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