

vented the invasion and the bloodshed which unfortunately followed. But the fact that the Republican Government, who had the best means of information and the greatest interest in the matter, was entirely unaware of any preparations which would justify a remonstrance, is evidence of the unexpected character of the invasion, and proves that the circumstances preceding it were not of a character to call for special notice from you.

19. On the 29th December, however, it was suggested to me that the Chartered Company's police might be used to force matters to a head in Johannesburg. The suggestion appeared to me almost incredible; but as a precautionary step I immediately telegraphed to you in order to put you on your guard, and instructed you, if you thought it necessary, to warn Mr. Rhodes of the consequences. Unfortunately Dr. Jameson had already crossed the border of the Transvaal.

20. As soon as the raid became known, every possible effort was made by the British authorities to stay Dr. Jameson's advance. On the first rumour you at once telegraphed to the Resident Commissioner in the Bechuanaland Protectorate to send a fast messenger to warn Dr. Jameson and his officers of the position in which they had placed themselves, and to direct their immediate return. Your message was somewhat delayed by the cutting of the wire south of Mafeking, but within 40 minutes of its receipt by Mr. Newton the messenger was on his way with written orders, which he succeeded in delivering when the force was about half-way to Johannesburg. The only reply he brought back was a verbal one that the despatches had been received and would be attended to. Meanwhile a second messenger had been despatched by the British Agent at Pretoria, and returned with a written answer from Dr. Jameson, dated the 1st January, in which he stated that in the absence of food supplies it was necessary for him to proceed, but added that "he was anxious to fulfil his promise on the petition of the principal residents in the Rand to come to the aid of his fellow-men in their extremity," an excuse which I sought to deprive of its plausibility by authorizing any necessary expenditure for food and forage. Proclamations were also issued by the Governor of Natal and by yourself, calling on all British subjects to abstain from taking any part in disturbances in the Transvaal, and on the 1st January I directed you to make known by telegraphic communications to the newspapers in Johannesburg, Pretoria, and Bloemfontein that Her Majesty's Government, the High Commissioner, and Mr. C. J. Rhodes, all repudiated Dr. Jameson's action, and that you were commanded by Her Majesty to enjoin her subjects in the South African Republic to abstain from aiding or countenancing Dr. Jameson or his force, to remain quiet and obey the law and the constitutional authorities, and to avoid tumultuous assemblies. It was my desire that Sir J. de Wet should proceed in person to Dr. Jameson and summon him to retire. I have since learned from you that, owing to the partial interruption of telegraphic communication and to the rapidity of Dr. Jameson's movements, by the time my instructions reached the British Agent at Pretoria, fighting had already begun fifty miles away.

21. On the 1st January you observed a report in the Cape newspapers that there had been a rising in Johannesburg, and that a Provisional Government had been proclaimed. You at once offered, if the President of the Republic should wish it, to come to Pretoria in order to co-operate with him in endeavouring to bring about a peace-

ful settlement, and, your offer being accepted, you started on the following evening.

22. The situation as you found it on your arrival in Pretoria was extremely critical. Dr. Jameson and his force were prisoners. The town of Johannesburg was supposed to be in an attitude of armed, but for the moment passive, rebellion, and was surrounded by a burgher force variously estimated at from 8,000 to 12,000 men. The Republican authorities had practically withdrawn from the town, and the maintenance of order rested with the Reform Committee and with those who had armed themselves, or accepted arms from the Committee, with the expressed intention of protecting life and property and preserving the peace. A considerable amount of arming and organization appears to have gone on during the next few days, but it is clear that the majority of the population had little, if any, sympathy with the revolutionary movement.

23. At this juncture President Krüger showed a spirit of wisdom and moderation, which I desire heartily to acknowledge. He kept within bounds the natural exasperation of his burghers, and the decision to which he came with regard to the prisoners was equally prudent and magnanimous. When it first came to my knowledge that he might offer to hand them over to Her Majesty's Government for punishment, I felt it my duty to point out that it would be practically impossible to punish the rank and file, and that even as regards the leaders it was not possible to proceed otherwise than according to law; all that could be done was to bring them to trial and to leave the issue in the hands of justice. He nevertheless decided, after some correspondence, to hand over the whole of the prisoners to Her Majesty's Government, and it was arranged that such of the rank and file as were not domiciled in South Africa should be sent to this country to be disposed of as Her Majesty might direct, the leaders being also brought here and put on their trial immediately after their arrival.

24. As regards the town of Johannesburg, the Government of the South African Republic decided that the inhabitants must lay down their arms unconditionally within twenty-four hours, "as a condition precedent to any discussion and consideration of grievances." You sent Sir J. de Wet on the 6th ultimo to communicate this decision to the Reform Committee and the people. In this task he was aided by Sir Sidney Shippard, who appears to have taken up his residence in Johannesburg; and as a result, either through a conviction that the rebellion was futile, or that it was wrong, or from an anxiety not to injure the position of the prisoners, the people of Johannesburg accepted the ultimatum, and placed themselves and their interests unreservedly in your hands, in the fullest confidence that you would see justice done to them. You informed me that you hoped then to be able to confer with the President and the Executive Council with regard to the redress of Johannesburg grievances.

25. On the 9th ultimo you reported that the Government of the South African Republic had issued a proclamation granting a general amnesty to all in Johannesburg, with the exception of the leaders, who should lay down their arms before the following evening; and on the 10th ultimo you communicated to me a proclamation addressed by the President to the inhabitants of the town, couched in conciliatory language, wherein he promised to submit to the Volksraad at its next session a law for the establishment of a municipality, with a mayor at its head, to whom