

the whole municipal government of the town would be entrusted.

26. For the next few days your attention appears to have been devoted to questions relating to the handing over of the prisoners, and on the 14th ultimo I learnt from you that, this matter having been arranged, you proposed to return to Cape Town that evening.

27. I desire to take this opportunity of expressing my cordial appreciation of your action on learning of Dr. Jameson's invasion, and also of your subsequent negotiations at Pretoria. In concluding the arrangements connected with the transfer of the prisoners and in averting the further evil consequences which might have arisen from Dr. Jameson's action, you achieved a success which was a worthy fruit of ripe experience, of long years passed in difficult employments, and of an exceptional tact and a high degree of power in winning the confidence of other men. I had hoped that it might have been possible for you before you left Pretoria, to obtain some definite assurances from President Krüger as to the character of the reforms which his Honour has promised to the Uitlanders, and as to the time at which they might be granted; and I had telegraphed to you, some days before, the views of Her Majesty's Government on those subjects. Your telegrams had led me to expect that you would be able to find an opportunity of discussing these matters during your stay at Pretoria. You have since informed me that it would have been impossible to enter on a discussion of these questions at the time, inasmuch as the Government believed that they had evidence of a widespread conspiracy to overthrow the Constitution, in consequence of which they had arrested between 50 and 60 prominent inhabitants of Johannesburg; and that, pending the investigation of the facts before the Courts, they would certainly not entertain the question of concessions to the Uitlanders.

28. It seemed to me, I confess, somewhat hard that the suspicion, or even the certainty, that a handful of the wealthier inhabitants were more or less implicated in a treasonable conspiracy, should be regarded as a reason for delaying the discussion of the question of granting to the vast majority of industrious and peaceable inhabitants concessions which seem urgently called for by considerations alike of justice and expediency. I deferred, however, to your representations that the moment was an inopportune one for pressing the question, and I have intimated that you would receive in the present despatch further and fuller instructions for your future guidance. But before proceeding to this subject there are two points to which I must refer.

29. The first is as to the recent arrests in Johannesburg. I am unaware of the precise charges on which the persons now in custody or on bail or parole will be tried, but I am anxious to have a full report on the subject, and to be in a position to give information to those foreign Governments who have invoked the good offices of Her Majesty's Government for such of their citizens as are implicated in the charges; and I accordingly instructed you to engage Counsel to watch the trials and to furnish a complete account of them. I have now learned with much satisfaction that you have been able to secure for this service a gentleman of the high reputation and ability of Mr. Rose Innes, Q.C., formerly Her Majesty's Attorney-General for the Cape Colony.

30. In the next place it is necessary that I should state clearly and unequivocally what is the position which Her Majesty's Government claim

to hold towards the Government of the South African Republic.

31. Since the Convention of 1884 Her Majesty's Government have recognized the South African Republic as a free and independent Government as regards all its internal affairs not touched by that Convention; but as regards its external relations it is subject to the control of this country in accordance with the provisions of Article IV. There is no reason to anticipate that any foreign state will dispute our rights, but it is necessary to state clearly that Her Majesty's Government intend to maintain them in their integrity.

32. As regards the internal affairs of the Republic, I may observe that, independently of any rights of intervention in particular matters which may arise out of the Articles of the Convention of 1884, Great Britain is justified, in the interests of South Africa as a whole, as well as of the peace and stability of the South African Republic, in tendering its friendly counsels as regards the new-comers, who are mainly British subjects.

33. The list of grievances under which the Uitlanders labour is, as I have already intimated, formidable in length and serious in quality. I cannot pretend to give an exhaustive statement of them here, and I do not wish to be understood as implying that everything which has been at one time or another put forward on behalf of the Uitlanders as a grievance is a grievance in reality.

34. The first is the difficulty in obtaining naturalization and the franchise, to which I have already alluded. This subject was discussed in my predecessor's Despatch of the 19th October 1894, wherein, in anticipation of an opportunity occurring for the intervention of Her Majesty's Government, he set forth certain arguments and conclusions which I adopt. I agree with him in thinking that the case would be met by the grant of the franchise after a period of five years' residence, with a modification of the oath of allegiance so as to remove what are felt to be objectionable features in it; and I may observe, as was pointed out by Lord Ripon, that the taking of such an oath, in whatever way it may be framed, will, according to British law, effectually deprive the person taking it of his status as a British subject.

35. Hardly less important than the franchise is the question of education. Up to the present it seems to have been practically impossible for the children of Uitlanders to obtain efficient education in the State, or State-aided, schools. I have strong hopes, however, that an understanding may be arrived at between the Government and those interested, as I gather that on the 30th and 31st December the President and Executive Council made specific promises on this and other points, which, if fulfilled, should go far towards meeting some of the Uitlanders' complaints.

36. A further set of grievances are those connected with finance. It is maintained that the finances are mismanaged, and that the expenditure escapes proper control and audit; that taxation is maintained beyond the needs of the administration; that unfair discrimination is shown in the collection of personal taxes; that the import duties on the necessaries of life are not only a hardship on the working class, but so raise the cost of the working of the mines as actually to be prohibitive of the working of the poorer ones, which, if the taxation were better apportioned to the ability to bear it, might be opened up to the general advantage.

37. Then, again, there seems to be a serious ground of grievance, at least in theory, in the exceptional restrictions imposed by law upon the