

## PREFACE.

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**I**N presenting to the South African public our new production—MEN OF THE TIMES, PIONEERS OF THE TRANSVAAL, AND GLIMPSES OF SOUTH AFRICA—we feel confident that it will be recognised that we are filling a want. South Africa of to-day, and more particularly the Transvaal, is very different from what it was in the pre-war days. The influx of a younger section of the community from Great Britain, Australia, Canada and other British possessions, as well as every part of the civilised world, has had the effect of rendering the large towns much more cosmopolitan in character, and the *esprit de corps* that was such a noticeable feature in the old days, is now conspicuous mainly by its absence. In the earlier stages of the existence of the larger towns in the Transvaal everyone knew everyone else, and those whose services to their fellow townsmen entitled them to their respect, received what was their due. But to-day the policy is becoming more and more that of every man for himself, and it is to be regretted that the unselfish spirit that used to obtain is dying out. It occurred to us, however, that underlying this apparently absorbing self-love there must be in existence, no matter how deeply hidden, a desire on the part of the intellectual members of every community to know more of the prominent men, men to whom the growth, and in some cases the existence, of the town they had chosen for their homes was due. It was with this in our minds that we conceived the idea of this work, and the readiness of the response to our requests for information and the encouragement we have received in the way of support assure us that we have gauged the position accurately.

Any remarks in the nature of an introduction would be incomplete without some word of thanks to the Rand Pioneers' Association for the assistance they have rendered us in compiling our work. The aims of that Association are well known and far-reaching, and they are at one with ourselves in a fervent desire to give honour where honour is due. The members of that Association, both individually and collectively, have been exceptionally considerate, and this volume owes its completeness, to a large extent, to the kindly interest they have evinced in our undertaking.

We have also to express our gratitude to the prominent citizens of the various towns in the Transvaal who have displayed a readiness to spare their valuable time at our request so that we might not be guilty of the sin of omission in dealing with the celebrities of such towns. Interviews have been granted, biographies have been revised and photographs submitted without the slightest hesitation, and the sympathy which has been accorded us on every hand has made the compilation of MEN OF THE TIMES a pleasurable occupation.

It would be supernatural in an undertaking of such magnitude as this work if there were no omissions or errors, and as we cannot lay claim to anything beyond the gifts usually possessed by the average man, in anticipation of such omissions or errors we tender our apologies to all who we may have unwittingly offended in this respect. We would only say that we, on our part, have left no stone unturned so that our work might be as complete as possible; we have spared neither time nor labour; we have taken every means that it was in our power to devise to ensure

completeness and accuracy, and we anticipate that the result of our labours will be satisfactory to those who have supported us throughout, and to ourselves.

In conclusion we would say that Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode, our printers, possess a world-wide reputation, and we feel assured that it will be conceded that their portion of the work is entirely in keeping with the nature of the publication, and has naturally enhanced the value of what has been accomplished by

THE PUBLISHERS.

JOHANNESBURG,

*December 1905.*





LORD SELBORNE.