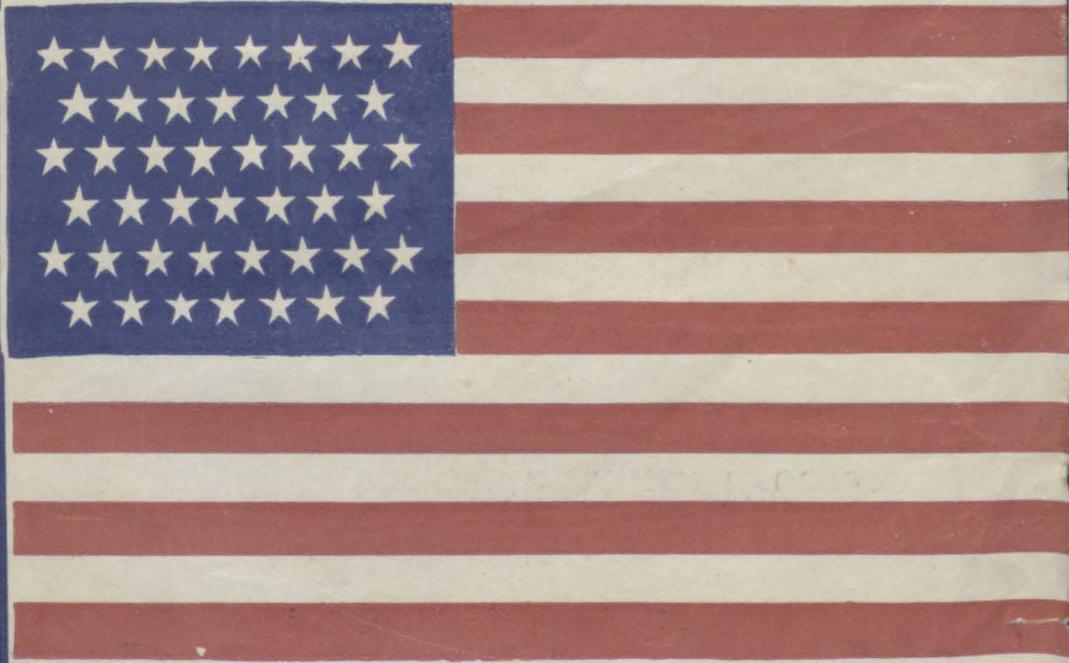


DR. W. J. LEYDS
KANTOOR.

To the Citizens
... of ...
The United States



Read
Resolve
and Act ...

The United States of America

... and ...

The South African Republics



An Appeal to Americans by an American



By M. L. B.



New York, March, 1900

"It is too early to prophesy the outcome of the war or its duration. The Boers are in God's hands and he will not let us perish."

"Our total fighting strength is but forty thousand, but with God's aid, we can prevail!"

"I have two hundred blood relatives fighting, and would rather see them all perish than yield to England's unholy aggression."

"It is Liberty or Death!"

"Convey to the American people my esteem. We feel that every American should be with us, in this struggle for Liberty!"—
Kruger Interview, March 6, 1900.

Brave words, nobly spoken by this Spartan leader of a brave people! Not since the days of Patrick Henry has the world heard them, uttered then as now, against Britain's unjust and tyrannic aggression! What have the Boers done, so terribly wrong and cruel, that England can think herself justified in attempting to crush this hunted and liberty-loving little nation?

It has dared to wish to live alone, unmolested by overbearing intruders. It has chosen to seek happiness and welfare in the wilderness for the purpose of enjoying liberty and independence! And after being twice before driven out of its hard-gained, rough home, it is for the third time pursued by the same greedy and arrogant Empire, now pretending to have found a plausible pretext, for which, in her love of power, diamonds, gold and "trade," she has long been looking.

Like pirates and highway robbers the delectable Cecil Rhodes and Jameson attempted to steal the country, and when caught in the act, having forfeited their lives to the Boers, they were, unwisely and all too generously, on England's promise to give them due trial and punishment for invading a friendly people's country, turned over to her, the Hon. Mr. Chamberlain claiming utter innocence and ignorance of the conspiracy *now confessed by him!* Nay, practically confessed then, not by words, but actions; for instead of punishing the criminals, as they deserved to be, a mock trial was given them, and behold! they were patriots! who were feted, cheered, honored and rewarded, so that *Sir Cecil Rhodes* now sheds lustre upon the titled gentry of England and the Cape Colony!

Shame on such hypocrisy! Out on such vaunted inconsistent consistency! Eternal shame and disgrace upon the leaders and people of England, who, claiming to be in the van of civilization and progress, lend themselves to fraud, and the crushing out of the independence and freedom of two little Republics!

And the civilized world looks coldly on while this band of modern Spartans stands against the hosts, trained to kill, of a mighty modern Rome!

And what are the American people doing who once proclaimed to the astounded nations: "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal and entitled to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

Are these no longer "self-evident" truths? Or are we to-day with our teeming millions of people and mines of untold wealth afraid to *reassert* what we dared say when but thirteen colonies? Have we lost our love of liberty? Have we ceased to sympathize with other republicans striving to maintain *Right* against *Might*?

Were we not with Greece in her struggle for independence? Did we not cheer on Hungary's patriots and "demigods" under Kossuth's brave leadership? Were our sympathies not with France, when, bleeding at every pore, after her struggle against the German hosts, precipitated upon her through the ambitious treachery of "the nephew of his uncle"—and his merited defeat and capture—were we not with France when she heroically drove the Empire and Communism from her high places and proclaimed the Republic with "Liberty, Equality and Fraternity" as the corner-stone?

And last and latest, did we not sympathize, did we not actually go to war with a friendly nation—with Spain—with whom we had always been at peace before, in order to help the unfortunate and oppressed, sacrificing thousands of lives and millions of money, because we could no longer bear to hear the wail of the widows and orphans, and the despairing agony of the men, the hopeless cry of Cuba's youth, the sacrifice of patriotic lives, old and young, men and women?

And now, that a sturdy, patriotic, brave, free little nation, whose ancestors and themselves are akin to the Knickerbockers of our own country, of whom we are proud, because they are liberty-loving, bold and true, who crossed the wide expanse of ocean, like our own, to found new homes; now that they are being crushed out by superior numbers—*not superior fighters*—

we, as a nation of freemen, we, as brother republicans, calmly look on, and our Congress, too busy with pettifogging politics, too anxious for small political advantage at home—*deaf* while ten thousand newly acquired Porto Ricans are begging for food, and with our flag floating over them, as if in mockery, are still treated as foreigners and aliens, who must pay duty or die of starvation, though they had been promised help; though the American Governor there appeals for relief and succor—Congress hears no voice from Afric's burning sands and bristling "kopjes"—heeds no swell of human sympathy and murmurings at home!

Where are our Clays and Websters, our Bentons and Casses, our Sumners, Sewards, Everetts, Conklins, and their compeers? Men who were statesmen and patriots, who had great heads and great hearts, with world-wide sympathies!

And where is our Poet-Secretary of State, that he hears not the cry of outraged humanity? That he heeds not the evident sentiment and wish of the solid backbone of the nation—the so-called "middle class"; not the millionaires and money interests, whose love for England is so transparently sincere, but the common-sense, hard-working industrial and farmer elements, who have yet the leaven of natural sincerity within them, who are by far the majority, and who have the hardihood to believe that we have the *Right* to speak our honest feelings and convictions—even to *England*!

Or has our Poet-Secretary been hypnotized by the flattery and coddling he received while our Ambassador to England, the effect of which has not yet passed off, and which seems to have made him more English than American? Else why in "the way of friendly good offices" should he so tremblingly transmit the request made by the two African republics for a cessation of hostilities? And for daring to say "that the President would be glad to aid in any friendly manner" to bring about peace, my Lord Salisbury, with genuine Anglican bluntness, replies to the United States, and at the other powers, that "Her Majesty's Government cannot accept the intervention of any other power." Is not this a neat and clean snub? Do not our Poet-Secretary and the people of the United States stand in a noble and enviable position? Practically the tail to the English kite, just allowed "with humble bow and a scrape," to beg for a word, "you know!"

Imagine, if you can, Marcy or Frelinghuysen, Seward or Olney putting us in such position! They were American to the core! They had some backbone, and with all the friendship in the world for England, and all desirable regard for the amenities

of friendly intercourse, they would, and our present foreign (?) Secretary could have told England "*That the people of these United States of America, view with great regret and displeasure, the avowed scheme of Great Britain to crush out of existence two Sister Republics, akin to our own people in race, government, political principles, and love of liberty.*"

"America cannot regard with indifference the extinction of two free people and governments, small though they be, based upon the rights of man, as asserted in our own Declaration of Principles."

This would have been a manly, dignified and true expression of the national feeling, worthy of a great people and a great statesman, worthy of the country that has offered a safe harbor and refuge to the oppressed of other lands.

Such a declaration England would have to respect, not alone because it is the voice of a powerful country, and on its own merits deserves respect, but also because the continental nations, all, every one of them, feel with us the outrage that is being attempted, though their rulers forbid its public expression by the press.

Nor does such declaration mean War. *England to-day, has no friend in the world except these United States—and she knows it! She wants no war with the United States; it would destroy her commerce and ruin her power. But our example would animate other nations to speak out, and England would respect the whole world's opinion and wish.* It is too late to do violence in this nineteenth century, to human rights such as could be done in the fifth or tenth century! Where is the vaunted Christian civilization, where the Brotherhood of Man? Are the strong to devour the weak?

Is there no longer a difference between Right and Wrong? It is not yet too late for our people and Government to act with promptness. Let us not waste time and neglect the present opportunity, and then when too late everlastingly regret it!

Let us do our duty to ourselves and our country as self-respecting American citizens and freemen; to humanity that has claims upon us, as a God-fearing people; and to the heroic Boer republicans, fighting for their homes and firesides, for their lives and liberty—who appeal to us!

Let our President stand forth as the head and representative of a free and independent nation! Let him emulate the example of Washington, Monroe, Jackson, Grant and Cleveland, who feared not to boldly speak the will of the people to the Governments of other nations; let him extend encouragement and a fraternal helping hand to the heroic struggling republics, and with God's blessing, they will preserve their liberty and independence forever!