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Mr. Evans Lewin criticising the German Colonial Work.

How Mr. Lewin contradicts himself in his writings.

MOTTO. The English are mentioned in the Bible "Blessed are
the meek, for they shall inherit the earth".

Mark Twain: More Tramps abroad. Chapter XIX.

"It would seem therefore that Britain is the predestined
owner of a great part of African soil, and as if the destinies
of the larger portion of the negro race will eventually be worked
out under the Union Jack."

Evans Lewin: The Germans and Africa. Page

Mr. Evans Lewin has written in 1915 a book entitled "The Germans and Africa". The
Right Hon. Earl Grey has written the introduction, on which a German proverb might be cited:

"Whatever I plan and do

I think others capable of too".

Whoever of us guileless Germans would have dreamt of taking a foothold in Marocco, in order
to fight the United States of America and to threaten the Panama canal (Page XII).

Why not also the moon and the Southern cross. No, Mr. Grey, you give us credit for
more political wisdom, than we possess.

The book of Mr. Lewin tends to prove, that Germany is unworthy of her colonies and
that the latter must come into the hands of England. The two sentences cited at the head of
this pamphlet, the sarcastical words of Mark Twain and the own words of Mr. Lewin,
correspond beautifully.

This book, however, appeared not sufficiently strong to the instigator of the great
calumnatory campaign against Germany, Stern-Northcliffe, who made Lewin write a second
pasquil, entitled: "German Colonisators in Africa" which for mendacity and misrepresentation
is unsurpassed.

It is psychologically interesting to compare these two pamphlets. As Mr. Lewin has
culled from his first book **only the atrocities**, he could possibly find, testified by partly very
doubtful testimonies and put them into his second pasquil, we claim the right to cite from his
original book in his own words, what makes the German doings appear in a very different light.

We cite from the chapter emigration as follows:

After Mr. Lewin has spoken of the terrors of the thirty years war, he continues speaking
of the French invasion in Germany under Louis XIV.:

page 40: "The Palatinate was slowly recovering a measure of prosperity when in 1674 the
the armies of Louis XIV overran the country, and fourteen years later it suffered the
most cruel devastation of all, when the french monarch decided that it should no
longer serve as a granary for his enemies, and destroyed the historical cities of
Heidelberg, Mannheim, Speyer and Worms, and burnt innumerable villages. To the
horrors of a war in which no man was safe from murder, no woman secure from
rape and murder, and the lives of numberless children were sacrificed to the insensate
lust of Le Roi Soleil, were added"

On page 41 he mentions: "It is a curious illustration that during the wars in the palatinate
it was the Walloons (Belgians), who were so frequently employed in the work of devastation."
What he says about the Congo (see the following notes) corresponds remarkably well with
what he cites about the cruelties of the Belgians (Walloons) in the German palatinate. The

mean calumnies of the Belgians accusing our soldiers 1914 of cutting off the hands of children and women, originates from the nation's own habit, who in the Congo ordered the hands of natives to be cut off, for not bringing their tribute of Rubber to their oppressors.

About the Congo atrocities Mr. Lewin writes:

page 67: "the Congo Free-State which afterwards degenerated into one the most awful instruments for the degradation of mankind and the destruction of personal liberty that the world has ever seen."

Page 215: "The evils of the administrative policy carried out under the Belgian monarch, the long and perfectly justifiable campaign against the appalling loss of life, in the tropical forests, the knowledge that every pound of rubber exported from this portion of Central Africa (Congo) was stained red with the blood of hapless natives, diverted men's thoughts from the silent diplomatic fight proceeding between Great-Britain and Germany."

Page 224; " It is not necessary here to follow the administrative policy initiated by King Leopold, because the results are too well known to need specific mention. The open buying and selling of slaves was indeed done away with, but a system far worse in its ultimate effect upon the natives of the Congo Basin took its place; and there is always to be remembered, the damning fact that the very state (The Belgian Congo) which claimed to be a great philanthropic agency has, until very recently, refused to institute any full inquiry into the alleged defects of its administration."

Mr. Lewin writes very flippantly, which makes him easily forget what he has said some 50 pages before.

Compare the following two phrases:

page 177: "The "treaties" (in German East Africa) were in reality the pitiful legal symbols of the doctrine that might is right. They were obtained from ignorant chieftains

Page 221: "He (Stanley) made upwards of 300 treaties with the native chiefs, by which their lands were ceded to the International Association of the Congo. Sir Travers Twiss, who acquired fame during the Berlin Conference for his able exposition of doctrines of international law, held that they were perfectly valid.

Will Mr. Lewin make believe, that the nigger chiefs in darkest Afrika, as Stanley called the Congo, possessed better knowledge of international law, than the chiefs in German East Africa near the coast?

In his book, and especially in the second pamphlet, Mr. Lewin has cited atrocities, which Germans have or are supposed to have committed. We take the permission to cite from the "Daily News" atrocities committed in **British East Afrika**.

A native of East Africa was caught some time ago stealing flour or corn from the godown of a white man, named H. E. Watts of Lumbwa (British East Africa). The native was beaten terribly. Before the magistrate the following was stated:

The native was first beaten by Mr. Watts, later on his clerk, another white man, named Betschari, continued the beating. After the first beating the native was thrown into a pond, then pulled out again and beaten afresh. This treatment was continued until the native was unable to stand. He was then brought into the house of Betschari and bound cross wise under the bed each hand and foot to one bed post. During the night Betschari was seen carrying the corpse of the native from the farm and the next day he was observed taking a petroleum can and wood, with which he lighted a fire, in which he tried to burn the corpse. The Daily News continue to say, that the Jury nevertheless did not find the accused guilty of manslaughter or murder and fined Betschari 1500 Rupees and Watts 1000 Rupees, or 12 months and 6 months imprisonment. Both paid.

We further find in a colonial paper chosen at random:

East African Standard, March 29th 1913, page 15.

The Director of Prisons' report shows startling statistics as to the criminality prevailing in Natal. The lash is kept well oiled and swinging 1,736 offenders (7 Europeans, 1,580 natives, and 149 Indians) received 17,994 strokes, or lashes, an average of 10,3 each.

The Germans can claim to have entered into their colonial possessions in a much more human and just manner than most of the other nations. In his second pamphlet Mr. Lewin finds with difficulty among thousands of functionaries the names of about 15, whom he cites for having committed cruelties which for the greater part have not even been proved.

Mr. Lewin dares to pretend, that the German entry into her Colonial possessions was generally marked by native rebellions or war. Will Mr. Lewin pretend, that it has been different with any other nation? and that since the time when Cortez destroyed Mexico, any colony has been taken otherwise than by force? How many wars have the English waged in their **African** colonies alone? In South Africa against Zulus and Boers, in Uganda, Nandi, Ashanti, Egypt, the Sudan, Somaliland, Abyssinia, on the Niger? Does not England hold the record for colonial wars?

And Portugal in her East and West African colonies, France in North Africa, Algiers, Tunis, Morocco, in the Senegal, Dahomey, Madagascar, Italy in Tripolis, on the Somalicoast, in Abyssinia?

How will Mr. Lewin explain, that when the Hun Chieftain Lettow-Vorbeck invaded Portuguese East Africa, the natives, as reported in the British papers, were on his side and helped him instead of taking the side of the protectors of the small nations, the lenient friends of the natives, the English and the Portuguese.

But Mr. Lewin will not explain anything in accordance with the facts, he uses all means possible to run us down.

Thus he writes:

page 188: The entry of Germany into her colonial possessions has generally been marked by native rebellions, **and further:**

In Kilva Kivindsche the officials of the (D. O. A. G.) Company were murdered, the insurrection was mainly instigated by the Arabs, who were unwilling to see their trade pass into other hands and were fearful lest the **traffic in slaves should become too difficult** to be remunerative

Thus Mr. Lewin admits, that it was not a fight with the natives who were in no way mixed up with it, but with the Arabian Slave Dealers. If Mr. Lewin had written a book on **English**, instead of German colonies, he would have added, that the Whites thus introduced themselves with a fight for culture against barbarism in East Africa and that they succeeded to reconcile the Arabs fully with the new state of affairs. A token of a sensible policy, with the result, that the Arabs now saw in the Germans their protectors to such an extent that one Sultan of Zanzibar not approved of by the British Government, took refuge in Daressalam in German East Africa. Nothing can speak more in favour of the respect the Germans were enjoying.

Mr. Lewin writes about South-West-Africa:

Page 74. The lives of Europeans were unsafe, traders were killed, the storehouse of the missions at Walfish Bay was burnt and both, British and German subjects were living in a state of great insecurity and constant Alarm.

Therefore Mr. Lewin cannot deny, that some European power had to take up this case, and that, without fighting, order now could not be restored the Germans having had to deal with elements of this kind.

On the causes of the Herero war in German South Africa, he says:

Page 115. The governor Colonel Leutwein was not prepared for so sudden a rising, which according to many of the colonists, had been brought about by the **leniency** with which he had treated the natives.

Thus too great **leniency** was the reason that war broke out. It is to be regretted, that so many native lives were lost. This was caused partly by the enormous extension of the country in which the war was waged, and which forced the Germans to adopt the measures, they had learned from the British in the Boer war.

Notwithstanding his animosity, Mr. Lewin has not succeeded to suppress in his book the good, he saw during his short visit to the colonies. (He evidently only made a touring trip on a steamer round Africa and went ashore in Swakopmund, Daressalam & Tanga for a few hours) and what he culled from other sources.

He writes:

Page 116. The Governor was fully alive to the desirability of preserving adequate reserves for natives, and by a series of ordinances the administration decreed that sales of land between natives and whites would not be valid without the consent of the Governor. The Government, moreover, adopted the view of the missionaries as opposed to that of the colonists, and decided that the native reserves should not be sold to white settlers.

The English too created native reserves in British East Africa for the Massai people, but drove them out again, when it suited the imigrating white settlers.

We read:

Page 256: Those who have visited any of the German colonial possessions must have been impressed by the admirable public buildings erected in the principal towns, and by the contrast these towns present when compared with those of neighbouring British colonies. The writer has visited Swakopmund, Daressalam, and Tanga, and was specially struck by the fine public buildings and the order and cleanliness that existed.

Page 256: Before the outbreak of the war of 1914—15 it is not too much to say, that they were quite as valuable and had quite as great possibilities attaching to them as any similarly situated French or British colony.

Page 259: The hinterland (of Togo) is reached moreover by a network of roads, which for cheapness and excellence of construction are unsurpassed anywhere in Westafrica.

Page 269: Since that date (14th January 1893) much has happened in connection with the German African colonies. They have advanced greatly, and previous to the outbreak of the war in August 1914, they had attained a state of prosperity that seemed likely in future almost to justify the expenditure of money and lives that had been lavished upon them.

Page 276: It is unfortunate, but nevertheless true, that the worst side of an administrative policy has the greatest effect upon the native mind, whilst the benefits — and **they are many** — that are to be experienced under a strong and settled government are overlooked and ignored, and

The baleful effects of the actions of the black sheep — and **at one period** they were not few — amongst the German colonial officials are to be seen in the German African colonies to this day.

The latter assertion is untrue and refuted by the fact, that the natives in Togo, Cameroon, Samoa, but especially in East Africa stood faithfully to the Germans during the war. The great Sultan of Ruanda in token of his loyalty to Germany was killed by the Belgians.

How will Mr. Lewin explain (see the following quotations) that so much progress was made? Under a cruel and wrong system? No, simply because he himself admits, that the faults he cites, were committed only in a **certain period** before 1893 (see page 269) and by some black sheep amongst the German officials,

He says:

Page 277: With the growth of prosperity, due to **better administration** and an enlightenend policy of establishing public works, such as railways, bridges, and so on.

Page 280: Within the last few years the prosperity of the German colonies in Africa has increased by leaps and bounds.

Page 283: Of late years too, there has been a considerable change in the German attitude towards the natives. Not only has the stupidity of the former policy been realised, but great efforts have been made specially in East Africa, to bring to the natives the benefit of education the foundation of an excellent educational system is being well and effectively laid.

Mr. Lewin marvels at the progress of all kind. He will recognise this progress only for the last few years, but, as he says on page 269, things changed since 1893, that means for the last 25 years, while the period of defects only lasted 10 years — namely from the beginning of the German colonial policy 1884 til 1893. Truly this is a very much shorter period of defects and experiments than any other European colonial Power had to go through.