

Dr. W. J. LEYDS
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AMERICAN SENTIMENT.

A PLÉBISCITE

UPON THE

BOER WAR.

J. W.
Frankenslug 501
1900

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ON THE

BOER WAR.

On May 22, 1900, there was mailed to the clergymen of the United States the following letter:

“NEW YORK, May 9, 1900.

“REVEREND AND DEAR SIR:

“Be so kind as to obtain the expression of opinion—the vote—of the voters of your congregation and of your acquaintance upon one side or the other of this important question, and remail both sheets to me by the 31st of May, 1900. Whether your own views be in favor of the British or of the South African Republics, please obtain as full an expression as you can of the views of your people.

“Let us be perfectly fair to both sides.

“I say this as an American.

“Please certify each page containing names by signing your name at the foot and filling in your place of residence, so that no one can question the good faith and correctness of this plébiscite.

“The result of the whole country will be announced through the press.

“Very respectfully yours,

“GEO. W. VAN SICLEN.”

And with each letter two voting lists headed as follows:

The 1st. “Each person whose name and address are subscribed hereto votes in favor of the United States offering to mediate between Great Britain and the two South African Republics, for the purpose of putting a stop to the war now going on.”

The 2d. “Each person whose name and address are subscribed hereto votes in favor of Great Britain in her war to conquer the two South African Republics.”

And at the foot of each sheet was the following certificate for the clergyman to sign :

“ I hereby certify to the truth of the foregoing list.

“ Dated....., May 31, 1900.

“ REV.....

“ Minister of..... Church.”

The answers have come to me by the thousand, often by registered mail, from every part of our great country. They are still coming in, and show unmistakably that the great heart of the American people has been hurt by the wrong course pursued by the Government of Great Britain towards the two small independent Republics of South Africa.

Whether the sympathy and approval or the condemnation and disapproval of the American people are of any value to the Government of Great Britain, the future will determine.

Unfortunately the late date at which the plan was put in operation has prevented a full report in time to inform the Republican National Convention, June 19, 1900.

I am a Republican and voted for Mr. McKinley, as I did for Abraham Lincoln, and I know from these votes and from the thousands of communications I have received from every part of the United States during the past six months that the rank and file of the Republican party are disappointed at the failure of the present Administration to speak out the sympathy of the American republicans with the brave republicans of South Africa, and to offer mediation under Article III. of the Peace Convention at the Hague.

I charge distinctly that this last has never been offered by the United States, or its Executive.

The Secretary of State in his answer to the Boer Envoys, May 21st, says that on March 10th a telegram

was received from the United States Consul at Pretoria, *a request by the Governments of the republics*, urging "*intervention* with a view to cessation of hostilities," and that the President at once conveyed the substance of this telegram to the British Government, and added to it "his earnest hope that a way to bring about peace might be found, and to say that he would be glad to aid in any friendly manner to promote so happy a result."

Of course, Lord Salisbury answered that "Her Majesty's Government could not accept the *intervention* of any power."

This pretense of an *independent* offer of mediation by this country and that nothing more can be done by us is supported by Mr. Secretary Hay by quoting from Article V. of the Peace Convention of The Hague, which says: "The functions of the mediator are at an end when once it is declared, either by one of the parties to the dispute or by the mediator himself, that the *means of reconciliation* proposed by him are not accepted."

No mediation was offered by the United States, no "means of reconciliation" proposed by us.

A majority of the American people, composed of Republicans as well as Democrats, believe the foregoing proceedings to have been an evasion of both the letter and the spirit of the Peace Convention of The Hague. What the latter says is :

"ARTICLE 3. Independently of this request, the signatory powers think it to be useful that one or more powers which have no part in the conflict MAY OFFER OF THEIR OWN VOLITION, so far as circumstances may make it appropriate, their friendly offices or their mediation to the states engaged in the conflict. The right to offer these friendly offices or mediation is absolute in the powers which take no part in the conflict, EVEN DURING HOSTILITIES. THE EXERCISE OF THIS RIGHT SHALL NEVER BE CONSIDERED BY EITHER OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONTEST AS AN UNFRIENDLY ACT."

This has never been done by the United States.

The President has never offered mediation, nor has it been refused.

If this country had said officially months ago, "Brothers of England, we offer you our mediation under Article III. of the Peace Convention of The Hague; your course toward South Africa appears to us wrong, and hurts our consciences; do not fight, but rather submit your quarrel to arbitration," the people of England would have listened to us, their true friends.

But the United States has failed in its duty and in its mission.

And Great Britain has lost the hearts of Americans.

The plea that Americans should approve of the Boers being conquered for the benefit of the latter and in order that British civilization may take their place, is to my mind no more sound than would be the willingness of a clergyman to go into partnership with the Jesse James brothers in order to found a church with the proceeds of robbery and murder.

I have received up to June 12th answers from about two thousand five hundred clergymen.

The number of votes returned is :

In favor of offering mediation... ..	106,830
In favor of Great Britain conquering...	1,345

These come from every one of the fifty-one States and Territories except Alaska, and including the District of Columbia. The clergymen sign themselves as Methodists, Baptists, Catholics, Congregationalists, Presbyterians, Episcopalians, Reformed (Dutch), Universalists, United Brethren, Lutherans; 567 did not state their denomination. In many cases clergymen reported that the sentiment was so unanimous in favor

of the Boers that it was useless to count the votes, while 530 gentlemen refused to act, and 15 more required further information before they would act, but time was too short to give it to them. A few declined to "work for nothing." Many complained that they did not get the voting lists until the 30th of May, and had not time enough in which to obtain all the votes, and some, for that reason, did not obtain any.

Hundreds of clergymen returned the British list without a single signature, and many others returned only the Boer list, deeming it useless to return the other unsigned.

GEO. W. VAN SICLEN,
A Son of the American Revolution.

Dated June 12, 1900.

141 Broadway, New York.

**EXTRACTS FROM SOME OF THE LETTERS
FROM THE CLERGYMEN.**

FROM KENTUCKY.

An Episcopalian: "I pray you and your co-workers in the cause of peace go on until England will stand without a single sympathizing nation in its aggression on the Boer Republics."

FROM LOUISIANA.

A Roman Catholic: "No use writing names. To my knowledge all and everyone here are in favor of the Boers and wish them success in the favorable outcome of the war. We hope they will not be crushed by haughty England. The Boers are heroes and the English are abominable tyrants.

"Show England that there is justice yet in the world, and that we are not afraid of her.

"I showed the British voting list to the men of this place. They did not want to hear of it. Let the war be stopped, and soon, and liberty be given to the struggling people of South Africa."

FROM TEXAS.

An Old-School Presbyterian: "All sympathize with the Boers, and believe our Government ought to mediate in their favor. I know only two men in two counties who sympathize with Great Britain, and both are lately from the old country. The Republicans here are for the Boers. No use writing names. We are solid. It is so in all Texas."

Another a Roman Catholic: "You should have given me time. Six hundred voters in my congregation, without exception, are in sympathy with the Boers struggling for their independence, and we hope our Government will offer to mediate in some way."

Another: "It pains my heart that our glorious, liberty-loving, free, Christian America has acted in such bad faith with her little sisters of Africa. At least two-thirds of our people here are in favor of the Boers, and our Government should be compelled to offer mediation."

FROM OHIO.

Reformed Church: "The people of this community who are law-abiding citizens say that the United States should first cease their warfare in the Philippines before they make any offer to mediate and to persuade the British Government to cease the degrading warfare of the South African Republics; and, second, that it is a downright shame for the British Government to allow 6,000,000 of her own people to starve in India, and, regardless of that calamity, to impoverish and enervate their own country for the purpose of carrying on a war against a weaker nation in order to take the gold and diamonds.

"If the British Government had spent their many millions of dollars for the support of famine-stricken India, the civilized world would have hailed and honored them with respect, but their aggressiveness and greed have soiled their garments with the blood of their brethren.

"The American Government would be silenced should it attempt to intervene, because it is indulging in similar nefarious work. If circumstances were different the American Government would emphatically demand peace, and would have the power to cause Great Britain to stop all this unnecessary trouble.

"Our Government is giving up the principles of freedom—liberty—and is fast drifting towards despotism."

Another, Lutheran: "As a citizen I vote and exercise my rights; as a pastor I preach the gospel, and never interfere in political matters. Personally I favor stopping the English in their hoggishness by every just power in our hands. I should judge from the expressions I hear, but never solicit, that the 80 voters among my communicants are for stopping the Boer War."

Another: "Such papers as yours are an utter waste of good effort. My strongest sympathies go out to the valiant Boers. I greatly fear we shall again see overwhelming wrong triumphing for the time over right."

Another: "Let me vent my righteous indignation at the ungodly war England has waged against these poor South African Republics. It is, on the part of Old England, one of the most gigantic pieces of fraud that any nation is capable of committing. The sacking of Cuba by Spain was tame by the side of it; for Spain had somewhat of a claim on Cuba, while England has no more of a claim on these two Dutch republics than she has on this America of ours; and she ought to be called down by this country in the same way that Spain was. If this be 'jingoism,' as politi-

cal gladiators term it, then God's appointment of bringing to justice a criminal nation for the crimes it has committed, by another free nation, is 'jingoism'.

"I am not an admirer of war, but there are such things as 'wars of humanity'. This would be one of them. God will require the blood of 200,000 Armenians with 20,000 Bulgarians and 6,000,000 Hindoos, besides many thousands of Boers, at the hands of Great Britain. 'In her is found the blood of souls.'"

FROM PENNSYLVANIA.

A Lutheran minister: "Dear Brother—I serve four churches, 1,200 members. All my people are farmers, scattered through the country. It is impracticable to secure their names. Besides, you do not give me time. But I want to assure you that my 1,200 members are with the Boers in their present struggle with morally 'Little Britain'.

"One man with God is a majority.

"God alone is a majority."

"At a congregational meeting held right after service on Sunday, May 20, 1900, it was unanimously decided to adopt the following resolutions:

"Resolved, that we, the members of the German Lutheran Tabor Church, at Olney, Philadelphia, numbering 150 communicants, do hereby most energetically protest against the crime committed by England against the two South African Republics.

"And be it further resolved, that we most heartily endorse the movement in favor of mediation on the part of the United States between Great Britain and the South African Republics.

"It is our prayer and most earnest desire that this unjust and mercenary war waged by England against our sister Republics in South Africa shall come to a speedy and honorable end.'

"As these resolutions were cheerfully adopted by the whole congregation, we did not ask each member to subscribe.

"The truth of the foregoing statement is certified by affixing the official seal of the church."

Evangelical Lutheran Church, York, Pa.: "This congregation was founded September 23, 1733; was the first church west of the Susquehanna River; is the mother church of nearly 200 congregations; has sent about 100 of her sons as ministers of the Gospel; has now about 1,300 names on her list of members; has 800 communicant members and nearly 1,100 enrolled in our Sabbath

Schools. As pastor I submitted the proposition in favor of the United States offering to mediate between Great Britain and the two South African Republics for the purpose of putting a stop to the war now going on, with full explanation: Result, the whole congregation arose in enthusiasm. A perfectly unanimous vote. I put the opposite question, and not a single person arose. All against England and in favor of the Boers. I believe this is universal hereabouts and all through our country."

Another: "The pro-Boer sentiment in Pittsburgh and vicinity is so overwhelming as to make an impression of practical unanimity."

Another, Reformed Church: "Not only my own people to whom I have preached the Gospel for thirty-three years are united in favor of the Boers, but also citizens of all ranks and shades of belief."

"The course of Great Britain is a shame and a shock to the civilized world."

Another: "I consider this war of conquest by the British the most wicked and unrighteous that they have ever undertaken. It is worse than when the Turks slaughtered the Armenian Christians, for here is a would-be most Christian nation against their fellow Christians. It compares favorably to ten highway robbers falling upon a single traveler, robbing and murdering him in broad daylight, with plenty of strong men looking on without a single one offering to interfere."

A United Presbyterian: "In the fiftieth year of my ministry, since the beginning of this cruel war, in private and public worship, I have prayed for the defeat of the British and the victory of the Afrikanders.

"As an American citizen I regard the attitude of Great Britain in this war as that of an unjust oppressor, with wicked tyranny, described in Habakkuk ii: 5-11.

A Baptist: "My sympathies are with the Boers, but I believe that for the best interests of all concerned the two South African Republics should be under the British flag. The United States should not meddle in the matter. We should not offer to mediate."

Of course this gentleman did not take a vote.

FROM NEW JERSEY.

Reformed Church: "The mediation of our Government would not be hostile to either party and would accord with pre-

vious usage and would be a proper protest against unnecessary war. The Republics conceded every reasonable and unreasonable demand of the British Government in the negotiations preceding this war.

“The contest is one of might against right.

“It will be a lasting disgrace to the English Government and people.”

Another, Presbyterian : “This is a strong Republican town, and the whole thing seems distasteful to the average Republican to commit himself either way. He does not want to be accounted as having no sympathy with patriots, yet there is Great Britain, with whom our Administration, if in no sort of alliance, is in sweetest understanding.”

FROM MISSISSIPPI.

“I was in the War of the Rebellion, which was of God to free the colored race. Don't be afraid. God will bless the nation that speaks for the truth.

“I am an Evangelist and travel mostly in the South. I have only met two men who were opposed to these brave little Republics.”

FROM NEW YORK.

“The Catholic priests of the Diocese are one in denouncing the unjust war that England is now waging in South Africa. All our professors condemn England's course. Our laborers and all Americans whom I meet condemn England's cruel course.”

A minister of the Reformed Church : “The sentiment of my church is unanimous against England's unholy war. Her attempt to exterminate so brave and noble a people is the blackest and most infamous crime in human history.”

A Presbyterian minister, an Emeritus professor : “I know that any attempt to induce the Government of the United States to mediate is idle. But I would gladly do anything in my power to organize and unify sentiment in the United States against the atrocious and infamous effort of the British Government to trample down and destroy the independence of a Christian and Protestant people.”

An Evangelical Protestant minister : “Every member of my congregation, more than 700 souls, are all most heartily in favor of the Boers. My people scorn Great Britain for carrying on such an unjust war.”

A Lutheran pastor : " I have only found one person in this part of the country who favors Great Britain in her war against the South African Republics. The great majority of the voters in my locality would like to see the Boers drive the British out of South Africa as fast as the latter can run. Since the Boers are unable to do this, we would like to see the United States offer to mediate."

FROM MASSACHUSETTS.

" Lexington knows what it means to fight for liberty. More than two-thirds of her population believe in the justice of the Boer cause and are in hearty sympathy with that brave people in their efforts to save their republics."

" Naboth's Vineyard." " First, last and all the time I am in favor of the Boers."

FROM MISSOURI.

" Blanks came so late I fear I am too late. All the people around here are in sympathy with the Boers and condemn the action of Great Britain."

A Lutheran pastor : " If you had given me more time I would have more than one thousand names in our little town of Boer sympathizers."

FROM MINNESOTA.

A Unitarian minister : " Given sufficient time I could have secured thousands of names. In fact, from my knowledge of the people of this State and the whole Northwest, I am confident that practically all voters are in favor of having our Government offer to mediate for the Boers."

Another clergyman : " We are all deeply interested and pray from the bottom of our hearts that the Boers may succeed in their hard struggle for liberty and peace.

" My congregation is composed of farmers covering a wide area, but for the sake of the poor Boers I gladly underwent the trouble of obtaining the signatures. I know of no man in the entire neighborhood who is not in sympathy with the Boers. Their reason seems, for the most part, to be that they consider it a crime by mere physical force to wipe out independence and attempt to impress foreign characteristics and ways of thinking on a people who are as brave and good as any other, who have a

character eminently their own as a people, and who are seeking happiness in their own way."

A Catholic: "I need not trouble my people about this matter, as at numerous occasions Great Britain was totally buried by the curses of those in favor of liberty and justice. The American Eagle had courage to chase the Spanish Sparrow, but is afraid of the English Lion, and the history of the strongest Republic on God's globe is soiled with a dark spot that will never be wiped out."

FROM ILLINOIS.

A Presbyterian clergyman says: "Had I time to go around, this paper would easily be filled in favor of mediation; few declined to sign it, preferring to make no expression either way. But I found none willing to sign the other paper in favor of Great Britain."

From Peoria: "The time being too short, I cannot comply and get signatures, but I can assure you that each and every one of the seventy-five members of my congregation is heartily in favor of seeing this unholy war ended in favor of the brave and good Boers."

Another: "I must say all our people, those of Central Illinois, without any exception, are in favor of the poor Boers, and wish our Government would interfere to settle their war."

Another: "I have presented both petitions to all the legal voters of this vicinity I have met. No one would sign in favor of Great Britain, and only a few refused to sign in favor of the United States offering to mediate. I wish this had been done six months ago. It is a burning shame that one of the greatest Christian nations of the earth should engage in such a war as that of South Africa, or that in the Philippines."

Another: "According to Congregational usage, I submitted to my congregation the question whether such a canvass as was requested should be made. The vote was unanimous that it should not. I return you the blanks. I may add that I am quite certain that my congregation is very nearly unanimous in favor of the English side, as that of liberty, justice and civilization to Christianity."

It is remarkable how unwilling the English side has been during this war to take a vote or to submit to arbitration.

A German pastor: "Received the circular this 28th of May, and it is actually impossible for me to get the signatures of the

people of my congregation to remain by the 31st. But I assure you that the whole congregation of eighty families are heartily in favor of the United States offering to mediate for the purpose of putting a stop to that unjust, cruel war now going on."

Another, Methodist: "64 in favor of the Boers, and 14 in favor of Great Britain."

The minister adds a note to the British vote: "All these are Englishmen."

A minister of a Christian Church sends 33 signatures, and adds: "If I had had time I could have gotten 100 signatures for the Boers."

A Roman Catholic priest sends 152 signatures for the Boers; none for the British.

A Congregational pastor says: "There is no question as to the sentiment in our church here; we are decidedly in favor of Great Britain in the present war."

Of course he did not take any vote. I have counted him one for the British.

An Evangelical Lutheran: "I assure you that I have not heard of anyone who has said a good word in favor of the British Government. All are in favor of the Boers as far as I can find out."

An Episcopalian declines because: "1. The mediation here proposed has already been proffered and declined."

He is mistaken. Many good citizens have been misled as to this point.

"2. Considering the obligations of our country to Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippines, we have our hands full, and might well listen to the wholesale advice: 'Mind your own business.'

"3. We wait for the effect of Aguinaldo's Commission to England, asking for the mediation of England, England's Government and people to settle the present 'unpleasantness' between us and the Philippines."

The Rev. Mr. Rooker, who very properly omits the name of his church and his location, and sends no vote, writes in favor of Great Britain: "If you —— fools would attend to your own business, if you have any, and not bother honest people, you might be worthy of some respect. The United States has nothing to do with this officially. I think we have enough sense to keep out of the mess. I, individually, hope to see all South Africa under the British Crown."

Of course he does.

The minister of an Evangelical Church : "Too late ; mine being a country congregation. I wish it had come to hand a fortnight ago. There is, however, not a single man of the 72 votes of my congregation who would not cheerfully subscribe his name hereto in favor of mediation if an opportunity could have been given him. God save our South African friends from the hands of their wicked persecutors ! God bless the two valiant and god-fearing presidents—Kruger and Steyn !"

A Lutheran minister : "I am in favor of your movement, but cannot obtain all the names, as my people are much scattered. There is only one opinion in my congregation about this burning question, and that is pro-Boer. They also believe in putting a stop to this war by offering the mediation of the United States." 80 voters.

A Catholic priest : "84 for mediation, 2 for the British."

A Reformed Church without a pastor : The elder sends 46 signatures in favor of mediation.

St. Paul's Evangelical Church : "Could I have had your lists earlier I would have sent you 200 signatures in favor of mediation. I know not one voter in favor of England's course."

Another Evangelical St. Paul's Church : "Inclosed please find list of voters, among which all the officials of City and County, Senators and ex-Senators ; W. R. Morrison, ex-Congressman and Member of Interstate Commission, the father of the 'Horizontal Bill,' and others. The entire community of this section of the country is in favor of the just cause of the South African Republics and in favor of the United States offering to mediate. May it please God to help the oppressed !"

"MR. GEO. W. VAN SICLEN :

"DEAR SIR—I regret that I am not in pastoral charge, so as to be able to send you a list of names as per your recent request.

"But I must express, briefly, my own sentiments. I was in England last Autumn, where preparations were being actively made for this long-contemplated conquest of the Transvaal. The ship on which I had engaged to sail was taken in September 'for trooping purposes' by the British Government, as were some sixty ships, during which time Chamberlain has *since* had the perfidy to claim they were formulating propositions for a peaceable settlement of the matter in dispute. It seems as if the British Government became jealous of the infamy achieved by France in the Dreyfus business, and were determined to entirely eclipse

that infamy by a greater and more damnable infamy, which they have done.

“ I am an American, of American ancestors for generations back. I am a Republican and always have been ; but if the Republican party has become so un-American as to refuse sympathy, or fear to express it, for these heroic little Republics, and decline to express abhorrence of such unprincipled and brutal aggression of a powerful monarchy, such as we have been witnessing, then the Republican party has lived too long, and defamed its vital principles.

“ I have many friends, chiefly among professional men—they are nearly all native Americans, and in politics Republicans—and with almost no exception they feel as I do, that one of the most infamous and brutal crimes of all history is being perpetrated by Great Britain.

“ Many of them, as well as myself, have been the cordial friends of Britain until these past nine months ; but that cordial and friendly feeling is forever gone, and we shall from henceforth regard that Government the enemy of justice and liberty, and await the time that will surely come when a terrible vengeance shall come upon that nation for its atrocious crimes.

“ Yours most sincerely,
“ _____.”

An Episcopal “ priest ” : “ I suggest that you leave this matter with the United States Government, which is abundantly able and sufficiently wise to act properly.”

Evidently this gentleman does not understand that the United States is a Government by the people, and that he is a part of the Government.

A Roman Catholic : “ I wish to say that there is no use for the other list with us. Some, of course, favor the English, but they are ashamed to vote for a war as unjust as the present in Africa.”

A Lutheran pastor : “ It is useless to canvass any votes in favor of Great Britain in her war with the South African Republics. Members of my church here are all in favor of the South African Republics and opposed to England. I asked an American two weeks ago what he thinks of the South African war. He said, ‘ I wish the Boers would lick them [the English] all to hell !’ Such hard feelings seem to prevail against England through all our country.”

The pastor of a "Christian Church": "Let not the kettle call the pot black."

A Roman Catholic: "I cannot canvass our parish (we have about 8,000 families), but I may state that every Polish heart beats for liberty, and our sympathies are with the poor Boers in their struggle, and we condemn the land-grabbing schemes of both England in South Africa and America in the Philippines; both are unworthy of a civilized nation."

An Englishman, a Baptist: "I do not think the American people should have anything to do with Great Britain's affairs whatever, and I could not say anything to the voters of my congregation concerning it."

In every instance I find that the clergyman in favor of Great Britain was afraid to take the vote.

A Methodist pastor: "I have carried my almost world-wide observations with the spirit of an American who is devoted to liberty for all. I agree with my friend, the present Bishop Hartzell, that everybody here ought to pray for the success of the British in Africa."

It would be difficult to find a fuller collection of misstatements of fact than are to be found in the address which Bishop Hartzell delivered to the late Methodist Conference at Chicago.

"Every voter of my congregation, numbering 75, mostly farmers, is in favor of the Boers. There is hardly a person to be found in our town who is with the British on this question."

Another: "It is the duty of every republic and every Christian nation to assist the Boers."

St. Paul's Protestant Church: "The list for the Boers was easily filled in a day; hundreds more of votes in favor of the Boer cause could be obtained here if necessary. People in favor of Great Britain in this unjust war I could not find. I do not think there are any in this neighborhood."

FROM ALABAMA.

A Baptist minister says: "I am sure that it is the wish of all the people in this country that the United States offer to mediate."

A Catholic priest says: "I can state without hesitation that the people of my congregation are entirely in sympathy with the Boers. If there be an exception at all, which I doubt, it would not amount to more than one per cent. I speak for about 230 people."

Another clergyman : "I send to you the names of a part of my congregation ; the sheet could not hold all the voters of my congregation in favor of mediation in South Africa."

Another—a Methodist presiding elder : "My membership is near 8,000, or about 1,600 voters. I cannot poll them all, three-quarters of that number at least favor mediation."

One minister declined "to work for nothing."

Another reports that ten persons were in favor of mediation, but refused to sign because they were also opposed to the war in the Philippine Islands (a matter which I have carefully kept out of the question).

One Baptist church returned 46 in favor of Great Britain, and 33 in favor of the Boers.

A Methodist minister sends a full list in favor of the Boers, and says : "Could have gotten 200 to this if I had time. No one wanted to sign the other."

Another : "Your request came too late for me to present to my people. I can safely say that nine-tenths are in sympathy with the South African Republics—not only my people, but all of this county. I hope and pray that you may get such expressions from the people of the nation and from the executive authorities as will stop bloodshed and restore peace to those oppressed peoples."

FROM MICHIGAN.

A Reformed Church : "Our people, almost without a single exception, favor the proposition that the United States should offer to mediate between Great Britain and the two South African Republics." Number of voters about 700.

Another : "I had no use for the pro-British list."

Another, a Lutheran : "Everybody here is in sympathy with the South African Republics and favors mediation. If there is a single Britisher here among the 350 voters, I am unable to locate him."

FROM ARKANSAS :

"Ninety per cent. at least are in sympathy with the Boers. Use all power possible to influence the Administration to offer mediation."

Another : "My people feel insulted when I ask them their opinion on this question. The entire community are certainly in favor of mediation."

FROM GEORGIA.

"I have traveled over five counties, always inquiring concerning this war, and have not yet found one man who sympathized with Great Britain."

Another: "On the part of the British Government the war is uncalled for, unwarranted, un-English, wicked, cruel, abominable in the sight of God and detestable to civilized man."

FROM IOWA.

"May freedom come to a victorious end in this great struggle with tyranny! It is the duty of our Government to say to England, 'Stop this bloodshed and this unjust and cruel war.'"

"My whole congregation of seventy families believe that the war of England against the South African Republics is one of the greatest injustice, and the Boers have our hearty sympathy."

Another: "I am not pastor, but president of the college here, and feel that the British are waging an unjust and wicked war against the South African Republics, and this is the sentiment of almost every individual in this community and all over Iowa. Our Government should intervene with all the moral influence it can bring to bear to save the independence of those States."

Another: "Would that these lists were sent out one month earlier through the whole country! My prayers for Oom Paul and his people are offered daily to God Almighty. You will find the list in favor of Great Britain blank, because there were no American citizens in this neighborhood who would sign it."

FROM INDIANA.

"I find not one in favor of the British. All the voters in my congregation are strongly sympathizing with the Boers. I do not say too much when I add that all the voters in this whole vicinity, both Americans and Germans, sympathize with the Boers. The British Lion would devour the whole world if he could."

Another, a Roman Catholic: "The subscribed list in favor of the Boers are business men, not only members of my parish, but Jew and Gentile, and Christians of every denomination and of every calling. Every name on my list is a reliable, influential and highly respectable man."

A Lutheran: "I cannot go around among my people on this voting question, but it is not for lack of sympathy. I know

how my people think; there would not be a single one who would fail to subscribe for mediation by the United States."

FROM KANSAS.

"I had only one single day for canvassing. I return you a list of 60 who willingly signed in favor of mediation, and only one in favor of Great Britain. There were 28 who would not sign any papers, giving as a reason that I was really helping Bryan, or that the President had already tried mediation. Others said, 'The Boers commenced to fight, not America,' and others that they did not know enough about it. 'The Judge of the whole earth shall do right.'"

FROM THE STATE OF WASHINGTON.

"Too late. Received your letter the day after the answers should have been sent in. It is a shame that England, once so splendid in her standing for right and liberty, should blot her fair name with her present proceedings in South Africa. If England is right, then rob and steal and even murder if you are strong enough to do it. What civilization can that be where the very principles upon which all higher civilization must rest are totally disregarded and trampled upon?"

FROM WISCONSIN.

"Among all my congregation not half a dozen think of declining to sign in favor of mediation. Words will not express my horror and disgust at England's action in regard to the Boers, but what hurts us more as Americans is that we seem either so weak or worse that we do not seriously attempt to stop the hand that would slay a brother and rob him of that most precious gift, liberty."

Another: "Inclosed find list of signatures for the Boers. I could not get any for the English side, although some do sympathize with England."

FROM TENNESSEE.

A Methodist minister: "Every voter of this district, with one exception, and he is English, and all the magistrates, are in sympathy with the South African Republics. Nine-tenths of all our citizens would glory in the defeat of England in this war for greed and gold. It is a shame upon our Christian civilization.

FROM SOUTH CAROLINA.

A Methodist minister: "Sentiment here is overwhelmingly in favor of the Boers."

FROM SOUTH DAKOTA.

"I, a Catholic priest, am obliged to visit my different missions. I do come in contact with my parishioners and many others, and until this very day I have not met one man who does not despise the English Empire on account of its greediness which induced it to attack the two South African Republics. I have not met so far a single man of character who does not blame our Government for not offering to mediate and to save the Boers."

FROM OKLAHOMA.

"I traveled all through Oklahoma Territory, and I can safely say that everybody is for the South African Republics and sympathizes with the Boers and wishes an immediate stop to the war going on."

FROM NEBRASKA.

German Evangelical: "There is not one person in my congregation who is in sympathy with Great Britain in this unjust and brutal war against the South African Republics, and we feel it to be a shame for our Government not to try every honest and just means to stop this crime against liberty and bravery."

FROM NORTH CAROLINA.

A minister of the Christian Church: "Too late, and my people live too far apart. I know their sentiment, however, very well. They regard the war of England upon the Boers as outrageous and wholly unjustifiable, and we believe that this Government should offer to mediate to stop it, if possible, at once."

FROM MAINE.

"I could not get the signatures of our 600 voters. Time too short. But I will give you the results of my investigations. They are, as to votes, three to one for the Boers. As to inhabitants, clergymen, wives and adults, ten to one in favor of the Boers."

FROM SOUTH DAKOTA.

“There were no signers in favor of the British, which gave me much pleasure. This great Republic of ours ought heartily to sympathize with other republics in distress, so that free governments may not be crushed by crowned heads, but may continue to exist in the world.”

FROM DELAWARE.

Christian Presbyterian Church, pastor for forty years: “To wipe the South African Republics out of existence will be the most atrocious outrage of the nineteenth century. I fully appreciate the kindness of our British cousins during the Spanish war, and would like to cultivate towards them the most kind and friendly feelings, but I most cordially disapprove the course they are pursuing toward the feeble, but grandly courageous, people of the South African Republics. There is but one expression of opinion in this vicinity—it is all in favor of the Boers.”

FROM ONTARIO, CANADA.

“As subjects of Her Majesty, we have no vote in the United States, but I can assure you that hundreds of Her Royal Highness’s subjects in this part of our country deeply sympathize with the two Republics (although in that case they are looked upon and often spoken to as traitors), and they sincerely hope and pray that this unequal and most cruel war will soon be followed by an honorable peace that will last.”

FROM ARIZONA.

“Too late! Too late! We cannot obtain and return names in time. I can assure you that we are unalterably opposed to the cruelty and oppression of the British Government in this South African war. Let the war be stopped by any possible negotiations. I have never yet met a man in favor of this war.”

The originals of the votes and letters (with many more of the latter) are on file in my office, No. 141 Broadway, New York.

GEO. W. VAN SICLEN.