

tenance of the independence of the Republic, the securing of equal rights, and the redress of grievances. In that manifesto, although the complaints of the Uitlanders were set out in detail, and very plain language was used concerning the administration, no hint was given of an intention to resort to force.

12. I mention these matters because they seem to me to prove that, whatever may have been the secret schemes of individuals, the agitation, as the great majority of the Uitlanders understood it, and to which they gave their sympathy, was one proceeding on the only lines on which an agitation against an organized Government of military strength can proceed with any hope of success—that is to say, it was an open and above-board agitation, prosecuted without violence and within the lines of the constitution.

13. It is needless to say that Her Majesty's Government had watched the progress of these events with careful attention. Apart from their legitimate concern for the interests of so large a body of British subjects, they could not but feel a keen anxiety lest the agitation should degenerate into a contest with the constituted authorities; but there was no ground for their active intervention. The Uitlanders and their organs had always deprecated the introduction into the dispute of what is called in South Africa the "Imperial factor." To have intervened uninvited seemed impracticable, and calculated only to be injurious to the prospects of a peaceful and satisfactory settlement.

14. There were, indeed, rumours from time to time that violent measures were in contemplation, but these rumours were continually falsified by the event, so that, in the long run, the opinion gained ground that the Uitlanders did not mean to risk a collision with the Government; and in the light of later occurrences it would seem evident that, so far as the Rand itself is concerned, that view was the correct one. Nor was it confined to Her Majesty's Government, for the Consul-General in London of the South African Republic, the Government at Pretoria, and the Press of South Africa as a whole, appear to have been of much the same way of thinking.

15. Such was the position of affairs when, on the 30th December, I learned the grave fact that Dr. Jameson had invaded the territory of the South African Republic at the head of a force of armed police.

16. It need hardly be stated that neither you nor Her Majesty's Government had up to the last moment any reason which would lead us to anticipate that this invasion was likely to take place. It has, I believe, been suggested in some quarters that the concentration of police at Mafeking and Pitsani Potlogo, on the western borders of the Republic, should have sulliced to indicate to us that some aggressive movement was intended against the Republic; but this view is founded on a misapprehension of the circumstances. So long ago as August last the British South Africa Company, in connection with the projected extension of the railway northwards from Mafeking, asked permission to station, for the time being, a certain portion of their police force at Gaberones in order to afford protection to the railway, and to preserve order among those engaged on the work and the natives and others who would be attracted to the spot. I did not, at the moment, consider it desirable to comply with the request, because the territory in question still formed part of the Bechuanaland Protectorate, and I saw objection to introducing into it a body of armed men who would not be under the exclusive control

of the Crown. The matter then dropped, but was revived by the circumstances attending the visit to this country of Khama and the other two principal Bechuana Chiefs, when an understanding was come to as to the future administration of the Protectorate. By that arrangement so much of the Bechuanaland Protectorate as was not reserved to the three Chiefs above mentioned was to pass under the direct administration of the British South Africa Company, which was to become the border authority all round the territory. It consequently became unnecessary to retain the services of the Bechuanaland Border Police. On the other hand, the Company represented that this increase in the area of the territory wherein they were to become responsible for the preservation of order demanded a corresponding increase in the strength of their police, and they expressed themselves anxious to obtain the services of so many of the Bechuanaland Border Police as were not about to be transferred to the Cape Colony, or were not to be discharged. I assented to this proposal, and the Bechuanaland Police, scattered throughout the Veldt, were called in to Mafeking, their headquarters, for the purpose of being either paid off or inspected by Dr. Jameson, the Company's Administrator, with a view to his selecting such of them as might be willing to join the Company's service, and as he might be willing to accept. So far as my information went, the numerous details attending the transfer of men and stores to the Company were being discussed and settled in a routine manner, and there was nothing in the detailed correspondence to arouse any suspicion. I understand that about 200 of the Police were in this way collected, of whom at least 120 were taken over by Dr. Jameson on behalf of the Company.

17. Some little time before the settlement with Khama and his allies, the Company had come to an agreement with the minor Chiefs Montsioa and Ikanning, through whose districts the first section of the railway was to pass, for a transfer of the administration of their territories; and, as I have since learnt, they obtained from Montsioa a site for a police camp at Pitsani Potlogo, and, with your knowledge and assent, an apparently small body of police came southwards from Buluwayo to occupy these two minor districts. The only official details which I have received of a marked concentration of police are given in your telegram of the 10th January, from which I gather that you saw nothing suspicious in the arrangement, that you were not aware of any ordnance being at the camp, and that you did not think it necessary to specially report the circumstances to me. I am given to understand that the Bechuanaland officials were, equally with yourself, taken by surprise; and on this and other cognate questions I await the full report which Mr. Newton, the Resident Commissioner in the Protectorate, has been directed to furnish.

18. The question has been much discussed whether the Government of the South African Republic, which, I believe, has police patrols along the Bechuana border, were equally in the dark as to Dr. Jameson's intentions. I understand from your message of the 10th January that the Government of the Republic was taken entirely by surprise, and this has been confirmed by a statement since published on authority by the Consul-General of the South African Republic. If it had been otherwise, it is clear that the Government of the Republic ought to have communicated its information or its suspicions to you, and that you would then have been enabled to take steps which would have pre-