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A2/1565

ROYAL OBSERVATORY,

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

1902 July 29

Dear Mr. Fawcett

Mr. Chamberlain
has made his first mistake
in his policy with respect to
this country.
I believe in my heart, and others,
who shall be nameless, agree
with me ~~that~~ in the belief
that Chamberlain knew that
Suspension was the better course
but that his colleagues in the
Cabinet feared the name of the
House of Commons & their Edu-
-cation Bill.

It is one of those political acts of
cowardice - like the surrender

after Majuba - that are apt to
bring costly retributions.

Already the Board sees its oppor-
-tunity - and will do unaffected

Transvaal & O.R.C. men are
buying land in the Colony to
secure Board votes - We are
in danger of becoming a Coven-
of Belshazzar to which all the
disaffected will flock -

There is a very bad spirit abroad -
Young men in Country districts
are going about with turned up
felt hats embroidered "Rebel" -
And are heroes to the Dutch folk.
The Transvaal O.R.C. under
Cromm Colony Govt will be pro-
vided with plenty of immigrants

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and free from political agitation -
But here Ministers will not dare
to attempt to introduce measures
for immigration - or laws against
sedition.

Martial law is dead, for the High
Court has decided that sentences
under Martial Law after hos-
-tilities have ceased, have no
effect. There is somewhere a
Privy Council decision to support
this.

As a Civil Impl. Servant I cannot
now fight in opposition to the
declared policy of my Chief -
at least in no public way -
Honestly, I thought that Cham-
berlain was so well informed that
he must support suspension.
When will public men learn to
trust the name of the Impl who knows?

I have just returned from a 10 days
visit to Lord Milner at Johannes-
burg. We have swept over the
folly of the powers that be.
My main object was to get govern-
ment sanction for the Survey of
the Transvaal & Orange River
Colony - and I am now busy
with organization of the work -
There was a very interesting Congress
of 700 or 800 teachers of the Con-
stitution Camp Schools - I gave
them three lectures - The teachers
had many interesting things
to tell.

How simple is John Bull. How he
has fished over the coming loyalty
of the Boers, in consequence of the
speeches of a few miserable surren-
-ders - who were provided with
supplies food & clothing -

John Bull
How little ~~they~~ ^{he} knows brother Boer -
how ready ^{he} to say anything to
serve his immediate end.
These men had not yet met their
wives, and ~~they~~ ^{latter} are almost all
as bitter as can be. Wait till
they have been a few months
back in their married homes &
under their wives influence -
If they had any gratitude or
desire to become British subjects -
it will have evaporated.
In the new Colonies they will see
later that their case is hopeless
and will accept the situation -
but here where they don't know
the horrors of war - and where
Sedition is not a dangerous play -
thing - where there is every
prospect of political success -
i.e. of supreme British influence

it will be another story - now.

I visited Colenso & Ludynith
on my way home via Natal.
and three most interesting days
I had. I left with Supreme ad-
mirations for the pluck & endurance
of the republican officers & men,
and contempt for the military
services of their Chief. Anything
more wise than the conduct
of Buller's ^{bill} attack on the Trepela
at Colenso it is impossible to

conceive.

My poor wife's health broke down
4 or 5 months ago. She was 8 weeks
under Dr Playfair (massage &c)
& 6 or 7 weeks in Harrogate. She is
now decidedly better but not yet
well enough to return. She is taking
a little house at Wimbledon to have
the nephews with her in their holidays.
With kindest remembrances to you
yours -
Always sincerely
yours

Dan Hill