



SOME LADIES OF
SOUTH AFRICA.

BY MARIE A. BELLOC.

FROM the days of the Lady Anne Lindsay, to whom the ballad-loving world owes "Auld Robin Gray," English-speaking women have played a very great part in South African life, and never more so than during the last few years, when

It would, however, be a great mistake to suppose that Capetown is lacking in feminine influences. When entertaining distinguished "home" and colonial visitors at Groote Schuur, Mr. Cecil Rhodes is often helped to do the honours of his beautiful house by his sister, Miss Rhodes, who is said to be as remarkable a woman as her brother is a man. She is, like him, very unconventional, but her unconventionality is wedded to much shrewd common sense. She has become an authority on South Africa and its many difficult and complicated problems, and probably no Englishwoman has seen more of the inside of the country.

She resided for a time at Bulawayo, and in her own house, which is situated not far from that of her brother, near Capetown, is a fine collection of hunting trophies and native curios. Miss Rhodes is very fond of country life: as a younger woman she was devoted to



Photo. by Kate Pragnall, Sloane Street, S.W.
MRS. COLENBRANDER.

the opening up of the gold-field country has introduced a new and powerful element not only in South African, but also even in London Society. Perhaps this is the more curious when it is remembered that South Africa's dominating personality, Mr. Cecil Rhodes, is a bachelor, and that Government House, Capetown, under the régime of Sir Alfred Milner, is also lacking in one of those gracious official hostesses who have done so much all over the world to weld together the many racial strands which compose the human side of the Empire.



MRS. INNES.

her English home, and was rarely seen in London Society; now, however, when she and



Photo. by Alice Hughes, Gawer Street.
MRS. BUCHANAN.

her famous brother happen to be in Europe at the same time they are often lionised, as far as they will allow themselves to be, together, and Miss Rhodes' company is as eagerly sought as is that of Mr. Cecil Rhodes himself.

Mrs. Colenbrander, the young wife of Mr. Rhodes private secretary, takes her full share of entertaining stray visitors to the Cape; and the same may be said of Mrs. Buchanan, the wife of the judge, and of Mrs. Innes, who bears a name honoured in the annals of Cape Colony. Again, Mrs. Hanbury Williams, the wife of Sir Alfred Milner's military secretary, takes an active part in promoting what may be called the hospitable side of Government House: it fell to her lot to arrange the Jubilee festivities, which took place very soon after the arrival of Sir Alfred Milner at the Cape, and her efforts on this occasion greatly contributed to the personal popularity of her husband's chief.

South Africa has been designated as "the country of Olive Schreiner," and it must be admitted that so far the elder sister of



Photo. by Elliott & Fry, Baker Street, W.
OLIVE SCHREINER.

the present Prime Minister of Cape Colony is the only notable writer of Afrikaanderland has produced. Since Mrs. Cronwright-Schreiner placed her powerful pen virtually on the side of the



Photo. by Alice Hughes, Gower Street.

MRS. LIONEL PHILLIPS.

Transvaal it has become the fashion to speak of her as being to all intents and purposes a Dutchwoman. As an actual fact, the Schreiner family are in no sense Dutch. The grandfather was a German pastor, who settled in London in early youth, was naturalised there, and married an Englishwoman. In due course the family emigrated to Cape Colony from this country, but they have never had any direct connection with the Transvaal. Olive Schreiner's husband, Mr. Cronwright, is, it seems, of Dutch extraction, and this, of course, may have influenced her views; but it must be admitted that she was always intensely Afrikaander in sympathy, though there is probably no South African-born woman now living who has more friends and correspondents in the United Kingdom.

"The Story of an African Farm" was written when the author was still in her teens. Mr. George Meredith came across the manuscript and immediately realised the high qualities of the work; indeed, so struck was he by the story that he did what he is said to have done in the case of no other writer—he asked "Ralph Iron"



Photo. by Alice Hughes, Gower Street.
MRS. HAYS HAMMOND.

Dear Olive, though
you've ceased
to be
For some time now
a friend to me;
Though you ex-
plode at me
and mine,
I'm sending you
a valentine
In memory of
olden days,
Ere blame had
taken place of
praise,



Photo. by Alice Hughes, Gower Street.
THE HON. MRS. GOLDMANN.

I've read your
story — every
scrap :

It's too—well, Schreineresque (*verb. sap.*) ;
And, what with margins and big print,
It seems to me there's not much in't !

to come and see him in order to discuss the novel with her. Although the book is now far more topical than it was at the time of its publication, "The Story of an African Farm" created an immense impression, and within a year of its appearance something like a hundred thousand copies were sold.

Since her marriage Mrs. Cronwright Schreiner has lived in a lovely Dutch homestead, which has been described by an enthusiastic visitor as an idealised edition of an African farm. Like her brother, she has always been keenly interested in politics. At one time she was

an admirer of Mr. Cecil Rhodes; indeed, when "Trooper Halkett of Mashonaland" appeared, an amusing skit was circulated in Capetown, supposed to have been written by Mr. Rhodes after the perusal of the book:



MRS. SHEPSTONE.



Photo. by Elliott & Fry, Baker Street, W.

LADY SARAH WILSON.

In connection with what may be called literary South Africa two of the most valuable contributions to the history of the Rand and of the Reform Movement have been written by women, their work in each case gaining much in value and interest owing to



Photo. by Alice Hughes, Gower Street.

MISS CONSTANCE ROBINSON.



MRS. HANS SAUER.

the fact that each is the wife of one of the four members of the Reform Committee who were condemned to death at the conclusion of the lengthy proceedings which followed the Jameson raid.

Under the modest title "Some South African Recollections" Mrs. Lionel Phillips published last autumn a vivid account of her personal memories of the Reform Movement. The book is dedicated to the writer's three children, Harold, Frank, and Edith, and it was mainly written in order that they may, as they grow up, realise what actually occurred during the most momentous period of their parents' lives.

Mrs. Lionel Phillips is an Afrikaner born, and so regards African

problems from a very impartial point of view. Again, in no sense can Mr. and Mrs. Lionel

Phillips be said to belong to the group of millionaires who have been so often taunted with making their immense fortunes on the Rand and then eagerly departing to spend them elsewhere. Mr. Phillips was once called "the King of Johannesburg," and during the whole of his early married life he and his family lived in the Transvaal; indeed, he built himself a beautiful house close to the "Goldreef City," and filled it with valuable works of art, which were, of course, brought at immense expense from Europe.

Now, as is natural in the circumstances, Mr. and Mrs. Lionel Phillips have removed their



MISS DORIS JOEL.

household gods to London, where they have lately taken a charming house in Mayfair, and Mrs. Phillips has already a leading place among those South African hostesses who form a characteristic section of English Society.

Mrs. Hays Hammond published "A Woman's Part in a Revolution" some time ago. She is an American by birth, and, as is proved in her amusing little volume, possesses a strong sense of humour, which stood her in good stead during the terrible days when her husband was being tried and condemned for his share in the Reform Movement.

Already feminine pens have been busy in putting on record the events of the last few months. Lady Sarah Wilson, the youngest of the late Dowager Duchess of Marlborough's brilliant group of daughters, has been acting for some time as one of the special correspondents of the *Daily Mail*, and her letters from besieged Mafeking gave a valuable, because amateur, view of how the whole situation struck an intelligent European having no direct interest in what was going on.

Lady Sarah, not content with being a war correspondent, also actively assisted



MISS LEAH BARNATO.



Photo. by Alice Hughes, Gower Street.
THE COUNTESS CARRINGTON.

in organising the arrangements which were made for nursing the wounded. When, accompanied by her husband, she left England for a two months' tour in South Africa, she little thought that in four months' time they would find themselves in a beleaguered town. One of her earliest and most interesting experiences after her arrival in Mafeking was being present at the trial trip of an armoured train.

Mrs. Maguire and Mrs. Goldmann, Lord Peel's daughters, who are both married to prominent South Africans—for Mr. Rochefort Maguire is the most intimate friend and confidant of Mr. Cecil Rhodes, while Mr. Sydney Goldmann is a member of the great African firm of which Mr. Sigismund Neumann

is the head—happened to be in Africa at the outbreak of hostilities. Instead of staying quietly at Capetown, as they were, of course, advised to do, the two sisters made up their minds to accompany their husbands, and so they shared all the exciting adventures which befell the beleaguered inhabitants of Kimberley.

In spite of all that has been said as to the haste with which those connected with the great mining industry leave the Rand

as soon as their circumstances permit, it must be admitted that many of the most charming and distinguished South African women have had the bitter grief of seeing their homes broken up and their social life entirely destroyed by what has occurred during last



Photo. by Kate Pragnall, Sloane Street, S.W.
LADY JOHNSTON.

summer and autumn. To take one notable example, Mrs. Newberry, of the Orange Free State, possessed a home famed through all that part of the world for its extreme beauty, Mr. Newberry being the largest British estate owner in the country. Mrs. Hans Sauer of Bulawayo, Mrs. Frank Thompson, the wife of the man known throughout the whole of South Africa as "Matabele Thompson," Mrs. Shepstone,—these are but a few of the many whose interests were bound up in the country which, even though they only ranked as Uitlanders, was to all intents and purposes their home. Indeed, now many South Africans must bitterly regret that they did not follow the example of those others—the J. B. Robinsons, the Joels, and the Barnatos—who, whatever their interests on the Rand, also acquired more or less luxurious *piéd-à-terre* in London.

With scarcely an exception, those men whose reputations are essentially South African have come home for their wives. Thus Mrs. Fred Selous was a daughter of Canon Maddy; after

her marriage she went out to South Africa, and while still little more than a bride saw her lovely home destroyed by the savage Matabele. Now, as all the world knows, Mr. and Mrs. Selous have settled down in Surrey.

Lady Carrington, the wife of the famous South African warrior, was a Miss Elwes, and though there are few men better known from the Cape to the Matabele border than Sir Frederick Carrington, his young wife's connection with that part of the world can scarcely be called a personal one, the more so that at the present time Sir Frederick is in command of the Belfast division.

Connected in a very real sense with the government of Her Majesty's South African Empire are the wives of the administrators and governors of the various colonies and districts. Among the ladies of South Africa Lady Lily Greene surely deserves an honoured place.

Lady Grey, *née* Miss Alice Holford, was at one time, owing to her husband's connection with the British S. A. Co., often at Capetown; and she also resided for a considerable time in Rhodesia, of which territory she has retained very pleasant memories.



Photo. by Alice Hughes, Gower Street.
THE COUNTESS GREY.

The position of the governors of all the British dependencies in Africa was naturally affected by the outbreak of war. Before and since his marriage Sir Harry Johnston has been for almost the whole of his public life connected with South, Central, and North Africa; indeed, it may safely be said that the historian of the future will place his name high in the roll of quiet, unobtrusive empire-builders.