

Nevertheless, in spite of this fact, or because of it, the Mendi Anniversary Celebrations have captured and fired the imagination of Black South Africa as the evidence of our eyes and ears even now proves by this noble and reverent gathering, and of similar gatherings of black people throughout the length and breadth of this land of South Africa, and one knows of committees that have been, or are being set up, even in out-of-the-way places to perpetuate the thought and and commemorate this act of heroism and sacrifice; and more and more, this Ceremony, at first confined to the limits of the Witwatersrand, is now rapidly becoming national in its appeal.

Cynics and scoffers there must, of course, always be, but their's is probably a point of view which disagrees with, or misunderstands the motives of those who have died, and exaggerates those motives beyond the actual and grim fact of death, or else they blindly disregard the main purpose of living monuments, and the beneficent motives and intention of the mourners that

'The true way to mourn the dead is to take care of the living who belong to them', (Edmund Burke)

Those who stand aloof from this act of homage are surely careless of the fact that by this Monument - The Mendi Memorial Scholarship Fund - Bursaries amounting to several hundreds of pounds are awarded to our youth to further their education, and that by the assistance of the Fund our sons and daughters can enter the highest institutions of learning in the land, and obtain degrees in the arts and sciences at Fort Hare and other University colleges.

Finally, then, my Brothers and Sisters, I have suggested that the more sensitive among you can hear a voice from beneath the icy waters of the English Channel faintly crying - "We shall arise to inspire you". I now suggest that all of us here, if we close our eyes, (we) can see in our minds, silhouetted on the distant north-eastern horizon, the filmy forms of those 615 men of our race, and if we attune our spiritual ears and listen in, we can hear a voice, at first faint and sepulchral, but afterwards firm and clear, urging us - Sons and Daughters of Africa - 'Not to be cast down, nor to be full of heaviness, nor to be disquieted' (Psalms) But to "Awake : To put on our strength and to don our beautiful garments : To rise from the dust and to loose ourselves from our dull bands of captivity O To shine and banish the gross darkness of ignorance that covers us : Yea, To Arise and Shine in the everlasting Light of the Lord and the Glory of God". (Isaiah) It is the voice of them who went down the English Channel with His Majesty's Troopship Mendi on the 21st of February 1917, now thirty-five years ago.

I suggest that if we hear the voice, we must loyally heed its bidding and answer accordingly now :

As to the graves of those they loved in life  
Our fathers of old their gifts of love did bring,  
So, to your distant watery graves, Dear Countrymen:  
We, too, shall bring our gifts and proof of Love.

Gifts that are not only streaming with our tears,  
But gifts that will become a living Monument,  
To be a tribute worthy of your Sacrifice :  
To you, a deathless Memory, to us a godly Heritage.  
(S.M.M)

Thomas Graham, Attorney General of Cape Colony, and were welcomed by ~~the~~ Chief Wessel Montshiwa, who however, died soon after -December 1903, <sup>and</sup> ~~an~~ was succeeded by his brother Badirile as chief.

Now comes the Royal Era. <sup>in a remarkable presence</sup> In 1906 H.R.H the Duke of Connaught ~~also~~ paid a visit to the Barolong town at Mafeking and was accorded a ~~tumultuous~~ tumultuous welcome by some 12,000 Barolong people. Then in 1922, H.R.H Prince Arthur of Connaught, as Governor General of the Union, and High Commissioner visited the Barolong Stad and was welcomed by Chief Lotia-moreng Montshiwa. Then in June 1925, H.R.H. The prince of Wales -later King Edward VIII, and now The Duke of Windsor also visited the Barolong people at the kgotia, chatted freely with the chiefs and commoners, and exchanged gifts with them. He was greeted with shrill cries of welcome from hundreds of Barolong women and deep plaudits of 'Pula' from thousands of men.

*The grand finale*

The climax, the crowning excellence of royal visits, was in April 1947 when His Majesty King George V with the Queen and the two princesses visited the Barolong at their Stad amidst unforgettable demonstrations of joy and loyalty.

*angskom*

*afgekou*

*angskom - gesamenl*

Snyman

for some reason - treachery or jealousy or cowardice - did not support him from the east, as previously arranged, and Eloff and his men were overpowered and forced to surrender .

On the 17th May the relieving columns arrived, Col Mahon with a flying column of ~~1,000~~ 1,000 men from Kimberley, and Col Plumer with a couple hundred from the north, and after some sharp fighting entered Mafeking, forcing the besiegers to flee eastward from whence they had come . Thus ended <sup>the</sup> a siege which wrote the name MAFEKING in capital gold letters across the page of history

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