

**George Fearing Hollis Papers**

**1852 - 1903**

**MSS.471**

**de Villiers, L. - Correspondence from a friend from South  
Africa whose husband was a Bank of Africa employee**



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Bank of Africa  
113 Cannon Street  
London

August 15<sup>th</sup> 1900

My dear Capt Hollis

Thank you so very much for writing & speaking in favor of the Boers. We received your pamphlet and newspaper on our return from Norway; your Periodical rather I should have said. Most English people do not care to hear both sides of the question.

I hope you get the S. A. News regularly. I made arrangements before I left home that it should be sent you regularly. We get our own every week, so I hope yours is sent too.

I trust Mrs Hollis is quite herself again if we could have managed it I would have liked running over to America for a few weeks & in that case we might have given you a look in, I fear however that we shall not have time. We leave for Paris next week & I am trying to persuade my husband to go to the Cape by himself in Oct. While I remain on the Continent with the girls till next April I am anxious for them to learn to speak French well. Learning at School is all very well but it



does not enable them to speak.

In Norway one of my children (the youngest daughter) had measles, so we stayed two weeks longer than we intended, we had a lovely time there, all the Norwegians sympathetic so much with the Boers, in fact so did every one we met there, Germans, Americans, Belgians French &c. Only some English were against them, the old story with them of stating facts & when asked for proofs none forth coming. For instance one man said the Dracula had been coming for the last 26 years for this war. My husband said "your proof"; but not a word in reply. The glory of England has departed as far as foreigners are concerned; every body knows it was the gold & the gold alone that caused the war. One man told a Norwegian lady that England was so sorry for the Kafirs & that was why she went to war. This lady said "if there had been no gold you would not have troubled about the Kafirs, why did you not go & help the Armenians? Because there was no gold there for you to get. - I enclose a few slips, that the Conciliation Com. here has had printed. This Com. is doing splendid work over here & counts amongst its members all the most ~~big~~ enlightened English men & women of the day. With love to Mrs Hollis & thanks to yourself, I am  
yours sincerely & gratefully L. de Villiers.