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With Lord Methuen in
South Africa

FEBRUARY 1900 TO JUNE 1901

Being some Notes on the War, with
Extracts from Letters and Diaries

BY

H. S. GASKELL, M.B., Ch.B.

Late Xth Regiment I.Y.

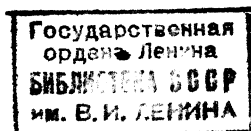


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TO
LORD METHUEN
SOLDIER AND SPORTSMAN

ABOUT only one thing was he more anxious than the comfort of his horses and men, and that was, to get into touch with his enemy, and keep there.

PREFACE

IT seems to me, on looking over my first proof-sheet, that it contains too many "I's." There are, in fact, including "I's," "me's," "my's," and "mine's," no less than twenty-six allusions to the First Person Singular. I can only hope that what I have written may stand also for many hundreds of other "I's" who did very much the same things, and thought very much the same thoughts, perhaps, as I did, during our experiences in the South six years ago.

I wish to thank very heartily my friend and erstwhile messmate, Mr. G. S. Ramshay, for his help in writing these notes, and especially for the opportunity given of making extracts from his diary.

H. S. G.

BUXTON, *5th April*, 1906.

WITH LORD METHUEN IN SOUTH AFRICA

CHAPTER I

THE South African War was declared in October, 1899, when I was a student of medicine in Edinburgh.

The reverses which followed in the last three months of the year determined the Government to call out the Reserves, and invite the services of Volunteers, both horse and foot.

At the end of December, 1899, a notice was posted in Edinburgh University to the effect that a few men were to be selected from the University Volunteer Corps (Queen's Royal Vol. Batt. Royal Scots), of which I was a member, for active service. I put down my name, but was not one of those chosen. I then wished to try to enter the army as one of the University candidates, to whom commissions were being rather freely offered, but I was again unsuccessful, being rejected as medically unfit.