

MEDDLERS FROM ABROAD

Lord Malvern (formerly Sir Godfrey Huggins) has spoken of "certain woolly-headed gentry—particularly meddlers from abroad—who want to hand the government over to an African population." He asked: "Do they really think you can pronounce upon the eternal verities by counting noses?"

There are some caves across the veld
Full of the Illustrated Gnus;
But meddlers from the sluggish Scheldt
With guns and Calvinistic views
And tally-ho and syphilization
Performed some swift extermination. . . .

The Bushman and the Hottentot
Knew nothing of religious creeds;
Of land they had an awful lot
Without the proper title deeds;
Meddlers with Bibles as their warrants
Regarded this with some abhorrence.

The English came to meddle next
(Converted slavers, bent on wrecking);
The Dutch, considerably vexed,
Decided on a spot of trekking;
But first they swelled the population
By meddling in miscegenation.

The British, not to be outdone,
Though suave and naturally urban,
By further meddling had begun
To build a little place called Durban,
Where some of their indentured meddlers
Became quite prosperous as peddlers.

And Cecil Rhodes, who thought it wrong
The Bantu shouldn't share their mealie,
Went round about and up-along
To meddle with the Matabele
Who, in some fit of strange amnesia,
Were sold along with South Rhodesia.

With so much meddling it is queer
 That some should now resent the entry
 Of further meddlers, who appear
 As "certain woolly-headed gentry",
 Now treated with extreme revulsion
 Or—like Miss Ainslie—with expulsion.

This meddling (it has been agreed
 By those who've made a tidy packet)
 Ought now to end—because, indeed,
 Those who once owned the land now lack it;
 To meddle with the Upper Crust meant
 Uncomfortable re-adjustment.

And Huggins (who is now a Lord)
 Wangler-in-Chief of Federation,
 Deplores all meddlers from abroad
 Lest Blacks should lose their Proper Station.
 The Whites are (in their own opinion)
 Ripe for another White Dominion,

In which Eternal Verities,
 As Godfrey Huggins now discloses,
 Will not—as in democracies—
 Be voted on by counting noses:
 Well . . . not exactly . . . just the *right* ones—
 Sir Roy and Co. will count the *white* ones.

REGINALD REYNOLDS.