

I N T E R O D U C T I O N.

Dr. Abraham Kuyper, the author of the following masterful criticism and review of South African affairs, is a great Dutchman whose opinions cannot but command the respectful attention of thoughtful men and women in this country to whatever political party they may belong. Dr. Kuyper has won distinction as a scholar, a theologian, a journalist, and a statesman. He was born in 1837 and, after a brilliant career as a student at the University of Leyden, where he graduated D.D. in 1862 he became a famous preacher in Amsterdam. In 1880 he was appointed professor of Theology in the Free University of that city — a position which he still holds. His "Encyclopædia of Theology", has been translated into English and is well known to students of the science of religion on both sides the Atlantic. In 1898 the University of Princeton, U.S., conferred upon him the honorary degree of LL. D., and two years ago he was appointed to deliver the "*Stone Lectures*". He was welcomed by the American people with remarkable enthusiasm. "The Dutch Gladstone" was the title appropriately conferred upon him in the American press. Dr. Kuyper is also a brilliant journalist. He is President of the Dutch Press Association and in 1897 his silver jubilee as editor of "De Standaard", one of the ablest and most influential daily papers in the Netherlands, was celebrated by friends and opponents alike in a manner worthy of his fine character, his great intellectual powers, and his far-reaching influence. It is however, as a Statesman that he has made his name familiar as household words to Dutchmen all over the world. He is the leader of a great party in the States General and is a master of parlia-