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The Language of Empire
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this historic book may have numerous typos and missing text purchasers can usually download a free scanned copy of the original book without typos from the publisher not indexed not illustrated 1898 edition excerpt had to be exercised in passing under or between the many ugly looking kopjes and boulders and through the dense bush as we went we gathered up any of the scattered pack that we came across after about half an hour's riding we struck the Umfuli river and there we found McMahon with three sections of his company baying in front of the kraal shown on the opposite page and also on page

203 he had with his usual go a headness gone for it directly he came across it and had got half way across the river but then found the fire too hot and wisely decided to wait for reinforcements in getting back to the north bank of the river mcmahon was hit in the foot but in spite of this he remained with his company until i sent word that he must go to the ambulance the kraal was known as chena s and as will be seen by hare s excellent sketch it appeared an ugly place to tackle by the time several casualties 201 we had collected and concentrated a sufficient force to attack it with the sun was beginning to set and seeing the size of the place and the thickness of the bush and of the boulders round it we decided that it would be better to wait until the next day i should have liked to have placed piquets round it but its size the distance we were from the laagers the work done by the men during the day and also the fact that the natives would think we were afraid of it and therefore be sure to stay there made me consider that that game was not worth the candle so having fired some shells into it with the result of setting a portion on fire we began our march back to the laager just as the sun disappeared behind the western line of bush much to my regret i found that we had again had several casualties these were

includes the proceedings of the royal geographical society formerly pub separately

this volume deals with the conquest and colonization of zimbabwe and the establishment of southern rhodesia from the beginnings of british involvement in bechuanaland to the death of cecil rhodes its emphasis is on the white invaders and its chief concern is white individuals their motives actions and influence on events the british south africa company and the irregularity of its financial and political operations are dealt with in detail keppel jones also discusses the development in the midst of the indigenous population of an alien white society and state from their crude beginnings to their emergence in a form still recognizable today the reader is led to conclude that by 1902 southern rhodesia was already set on the road that would lead to the upheavals of the second half of the twentieth century the author examines the racial consciousness and prejudice of the white society and addresses an important question why did the imperial government grant a royal charter to the bsa company the facts show conclusively that the imperial government had little interest in central africa or care for its fate except when foreign competition appeared keppel jones also reveals the important role played by black troops employed by the company in suppressing the rebellions of 1896 7 for opposite reasons neither blacks nor whites have been willing to recognize this on the other hand the habit of the men on the spot of making and carrying out decisions without regard to their superiors in london is a commonplace of imperial history one of the main themes of the book is the tension between the unofficial imperialists straining at the leash and the colonial office struggling to hold them back rhodes and rhodesia is based on extensive use of public records mainly in the public record office london and the national archives of zimbabwe of collections of private papers and of contemporary published works arthur keppel jones is professor emeritus of history at queen s university

the debate about the empire dealt in idealism and morality and both sides employed the language of feeling and frequently argued their case in dramatic terms this book opposes two sides of the empire first as it was presented to the public in Britain and second as it was experienced or imagined by its subjects abroad British imperialism was nurtured by such upper middle class institutions as the public schools the wardrooms and officers messes and the conservative press the attitudes of 1916 can best be recovered through a reconstruction of a poetics of popular imperialism the case study of Rhodesia demonstrates the almost instant application of myth and sign to a contemporary imperial crisis Rudyard Kipling was acknowledged throughout the English speaking world not only as a wonderful teller of stories but as the singer of Greater Britain or as the laureate of empire in the last two decades of the nineteenth century the empire gained a beachhead in the classroom particularly in the coupling of geography and history the island story underlined that stories of heroic soldiers and fights for the flag were easier for teachers to present to children than lessons in morality or abstractions about liberty and responsible government the Education Act of 1870 had created a need for standard readers in schools readers designed to teach boys and girls to be useful citizens the Indian Mutiny was the supreme test of the imperial conscience a measure of the morality of the master nation

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Introduction

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