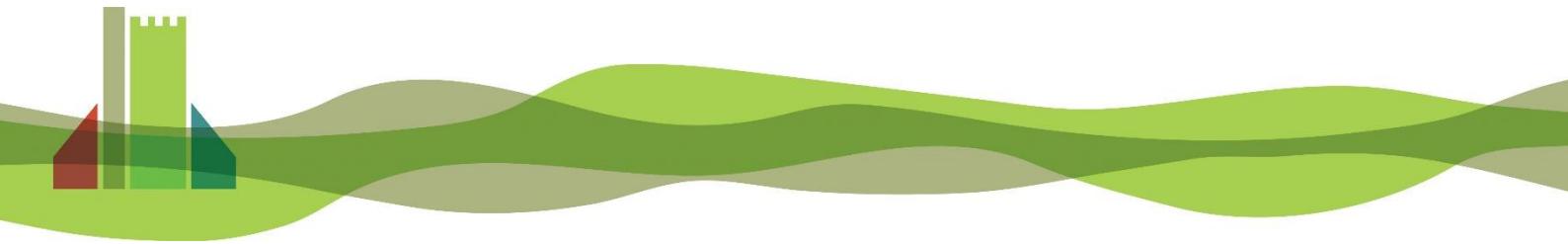


Studwell – Letter 26 June 1923

Graham Bower to The Star

26 June 1923

www.friendsofdroxfordchurch.org.uk



Draft + four copy

- letter G Bauer → ? Star

26th June 1923
Re S Africa.

- can be publish on his death

- letter returned on
Graham's death

Sir Graham Gould

Kew

L450

Olympus
mini

H8141

Studwell Lodge,

Droxford, Hants.

26th June, 1923.

Dear Sir,

I thank you for your letter of 5th June and for the compliment you pay me in associating my name with persons who have played their part in South African affairs. I will see if I can find a photograph which might be of use to you at my death, and as I am now over 75 that cannot be far off. But I doubt if it would be wise for you to publish any notice of me or my work, at all events at the present time. It is true that I spent sixteen years in South Africa and that I learnt to love the country and the men. I knew and loved Paul Kruger, one of the finest gentlemen who ever lived. I knew and loved Rhodes, who in spite of a domineering and overbearing manner sincerely loved South Africa and its people, both Dutch and English. I knew and loved John Brand, the embodiment of calm common sense; and Jan Hofmeyr, a shrewd, clear-headed patriot. It is true that all these men made mistakes at times, possibly the only exception was John Brand, who never made a mistake during the time I knew him. But who does not make mistakes, and we can honour and love the memory of all these great-hearted men and acknowledge that to no man has God granted infallibility.

But I tried to serve South Africa and her people and I still desire to do so, and the best service I can render to South

Africa is to efface myself and allow all past controversies and painful memories to pass into oblivion. So I ask you not to notice my existence. It may be that at my death a more informed and charitable view will be taken, but the time has not yet come to revive painful memories. I can only hope and pray for the Union and amalgamation of the two white races and trust that God may in his mercy grant to the peoples of South Africa Unity, Peace and Concord. That unity, peace and concord which are the sole foundation of happiness and prosperity.

This is my last message to the people I loved and tried to serve. You can publish it at my death but not before.

Meanwhile I may perhaps render some service in another quarter. There is and has been some controversy respecting the American attitude to the League of Nations and a little over two years ago I took upon myself to explain the American view, which I share, to a small Society which meets in the Temple once a fortnight.

I forward under a separate cover a volume of the Transactions of that Society and I invite your perusal of the speech I made at the tomb of Grotius on p. XXIX and also the paper on "Peace versus the League of Nations" on p. 39.

I think it is possible that these two deliverances may help to a better understanding on America: but if that is not so, then I ask you to attribute the failure to my defects and not to the merits of the cause I plead.

Yours faithfully,

Graham Bower.

PHONES 33-3111

The Star

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P.O. Box 1014

JOHANNESBURG

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

January 10, 1934.

Commander Graham Bower,
Soberton,
Droxford,
HANTS. England.

Dear Sir,

In reply to your recent letter, I think copies were posted you of the obituary notice of Sir Graham Bower, which appeared in The Star at the time of his death.

As the result of further search we have found the enclosed letter written by Sir Graham Bower in 1923, and I have pleasure in sending it to you with the Editor's compliments.

Yours faithfully,

Harrington

ASSISTANT EDITOR

AH/DS.