

CORRESPONDENCE

OF

LIEUT.-GENERAL THE HON.

SIR GEORGE CATHCART, K.C.B

RELATIVE TO HIS

MILITARY OPERATIONS IN KAFFRARIA,

UNTIL

THE TERMINATION OF THE KAFIR WAR, AND TO HIS MEASURES FOR
THE FUTURE MAINTENANCE OF PEACE ON THAT FRONTIER,

AND THE PROTECTION AND

WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA.

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P R E F A C E.

ALTHOUGH the official Correspondence with the Governor of the Cape of Good Hope, relative to the state of the Kafir tribes, and to the still recent outbreak on the Eastern frontier of the Colony, has already appeared in the form of a Blue Book, presented by Her Majesty's command to both Houses of Parliament, on the 31st of May, 1853, it may not in that shape have been accessible to the general reader.

It is, therefore, considered to be essential to the object of the present work, to reprint, in these pages, Sir George Cathcart's own despatches, omitting those of others which have no direct bearing on its subject, for the purpose of connecting, or explaining, the circumstances and events alluded to in the Letters and Papers, some of a more private character, and later despatches, which are now published for the first time; in order to render as complete as possible the statement of facts which is submitted to the Public in this volume, with a view to the right understanding of the principles and policy which influenced and guided the military and the civil administration of the Governor Lieut.-General Sir George Cathcart, and which resulted in the successful termination of the war, by the complete subjection of the rebellious tribes, without any compromise or treaty, which all former experience had shown to be of no avail with these people;

In the restoration of peace to the Colony, and the consequent reduction of the heavy expenditure occasioned by the war;

And in the wise and provident measures planned and effected by him for the future security and tranquillity of the frontier, which had been so long exposed to the predatory inroads of the hostile Kafirs and rebellious Hottentots.

That the conduct of the gallant spirit by which results so important were achieved, may be appreciated at its full value, is the sole object for which these Records have been compiled.

Posthumous praise cannot reach him who so well merited the approbation of his Sovereign and his country, cut off in the full career of his usefulness, and with the prospect of rising to the highest distinction. Ever foremost in the path of duty, he gloriously fell on the battle-field of Inkermann, and now rests in a soldier's grave in a distant land, where soldiers have, with the cross of Faith, marked and hallowed that spot called by the name of the General they honoured and loved (Cathcart Hill).*

His spirit, his noble spirit, "is returned to God who gave it," but it is left to the hand of affection to trace from his own words in this Publication, the portrait of a mind such as few have possessed, enriched as it was with the noblest qualities which form the character of a good man and a brave soldier. Every page testifies to his straightforward singleness of purpose, and to the energy and ability with which he could overcome the difficulties opposed to its accomplishment.

The justice and moderation of the principles by which all his actions were regulated, gained for him even the esteem and respect of the savage Chiefs who were subdued as much by his clemency as by the force of his arms.

Conscious of his own rectitude, he totally disregarded the disparaging doubts and the impatience by which his measures were assailed by interested parties, and steadfastly persevered in his laborious and often ungrateful task, until he had patiently and skilfully worked out the plan which he had conceived with so much forethought from the beginning, to the successful issue which he had himself anticipated, the benefits of which will be long felt and acknowledged by a grateful people; and the memory of Sir George Cathcart, as a benefactor, will be cherished and revered at the Cape of Good Hope, so long as that Colony shall endure.

* Col. Windham, and the other officers and men of the 4th Division, have erected a handsome solid granite monument, with an inscription in English and Russian.

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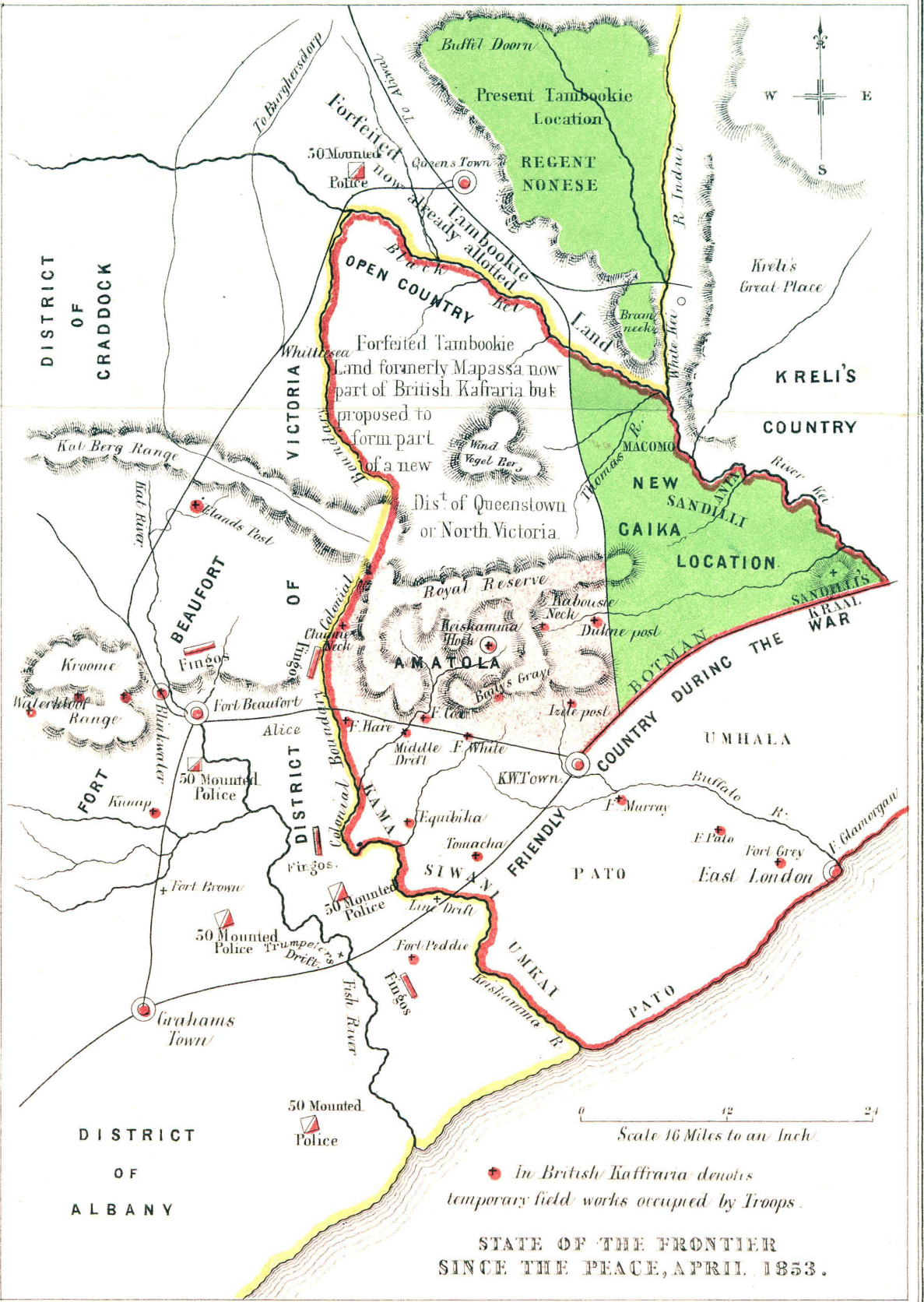
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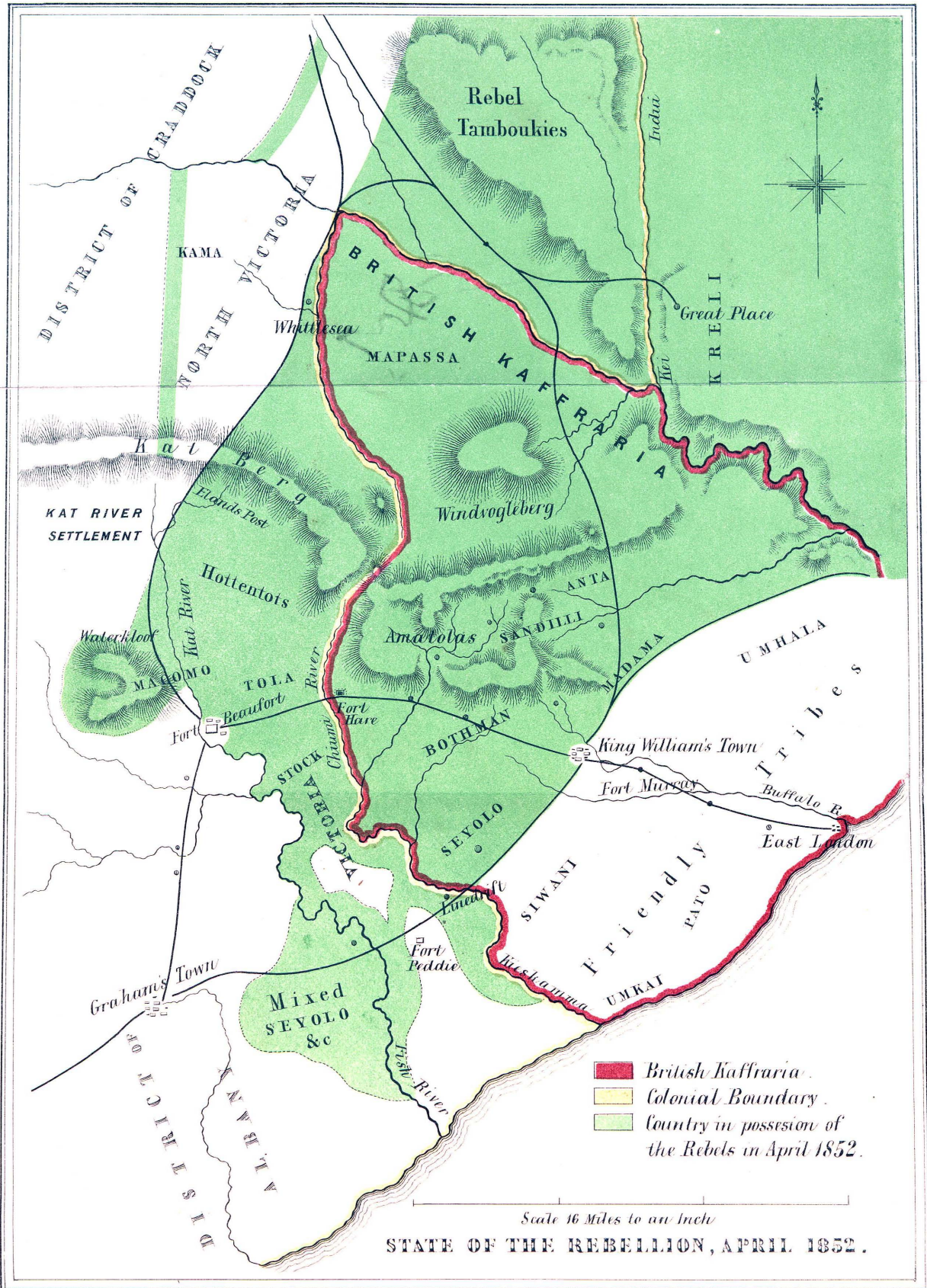
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● In British Kaffraria denotes temporary field works occupied by Troops.

STATE OF THE FRONTIER SINCE THE PEACE, APRIL 1853.



Scale 16 Miles to an Inch
STATE OF THE REBELLION, APRIL, 1852.