

THE ZULUS

AND

THE BRITISH FRONTIERS.

CHAPTER I.

EASTERN SOUTH AFRICA: COUNTRY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Geographical position.—Physical features.—The whole region divided between the elevated inland plains and the parallel ranges, or descending terraces, falling towards the sea.—The Transvaal.—Territory of Natal.—Zulu Land.—The mountains.—The rivers.—Animals of this region of South Africa.

OUR possessions in South Africa have now become so extended in their area, and embrace so many detached portions of an enormous frontier in that country, that I think it will be highly necessary to give some exposition of its geographical regions, so that, by a slight reference to the map, the reader may realise our present position with some certainty. This will therefore, I am afraid, necessarily be a somewhat dry chapter. Africa, however, is a dry country; which perhaps may be some excuse. I believe our knowledge generally of the geography of

South Africa to be of a very vague description, even among the educated classes; and I was amused when first preparing to start for the Cape, on my way to join my regiment, the Cape Mounted Rifles, at the remark made by a friend of mine who came to pay me a parting visit, which will illustrate my theory. "As you are going to Cape Town," said my friend, "you will meet my brother, and perhaps you will kindly take him a small parcel from me." "With pleasure," said I; "where does he reside?" "Oh! he's at Graaf Reinet, and mind and tell him that he's to write and let us know how he is getting on!" Now Graaf Reinet is nearly 500 miles from Cape Town. Why, it reminds me of the Irishman who enlisted in the 93rd regiment because he had a brother in the 94th and he wished to be near him!

Now, the country of which I am here about to speak is that region, lying to the north-east of the Cape Colony, which has its maritime shore looking over the Indian Ocean. It is situated between the twenty-eighth and thirty-second degrees of south latitude. I fear that many stay-at-home ladies and gentlemen who seldom look at a map will have been apt to think of Natal and the surrounding territories as part of "the Cape." Let them pardon me for reminding the reader, who may or may not be liable

to that mistake, how this geographical appellation is limited. The "Cape" originally meant only the Cape of Good Hope, a small peninsula between Table Bay and Simon's Bay, or False Bay, at the southwestern extremity of Africa. It may now be generally understood to signify the whole Cape Colony, including the Eastern Provinces, which extend along the entire south coast of Africa, to the Kei river, and have recently been further enlarged. But the Natal and Transvaal provinces, and the territory of the Orange River Free State, cannot properly be spoken of as a portion of the Cape, in any sense, either political or geographical. I propose in this first chapter to describe them, together with Basuto Land and East Griqua Land, which stand next to Natal inland, and with Zulu Land, the kingdom of Ketchwhy, which is situated north of Natal along the sea-shore.

The whole region of Eastern South Africa, to which I invite the reader's attention, is naturally divided into two very different stretches of country. There are first the great inland plains, elevated some 5,000 feet above the sea-level, through which the upper course of the Orange river, with its chief tributary the Vaal, collects waters to flow westward into the Atlantic; while the Limpopo, rising near the centre

of the Transvaal territory, passes north and by a circuit finds its way to the Indian Ocean. This upland flat, extending above 500 miles from the Zuurberg, near the north-eastern boundary of the Cape Colony, to the mountains above Lydenberg, in the eastern part of the Transvaal, has its own general character. It is nowhere approached by the sea, which is from one to three hundred miles distant, and shut off from it by lofty mountain ranges. On the other side, beyond the basin of the Orange River, is the arid expanse of the Kalahari desert. Hence the climate is dry, and there are no forests; very little bush is seen except on the banks of rivers. But it is a grassy land, and its surface is here and there varied with undulations, or with conical hills and rocks. The rivers and streams are frequent, rising mostly in the Drakensberg and flowing inland, or westward, to join the Orange, which drains nearly the whole width of the continent in this latitude. But in the north-east quarter of the Transvaal, it is all different. The Oliphant and other rivers which take their rise in the Magaliesberg range, in the middle of the Transvaal, as well as the Limpopo, the principal outlet of waters on that side, have a northerly course. They flow around the rugged highlands of the Lydenberg district, in which are the goldfields of Pilgrim's Rust.

Near this, the Lolu mountains, where Secocooni bade defiance to the attacks of European troops, stand in the angle formed by the Oliphant joining with the Steelpoort river. Another district belonging to the Transvaal territory, though it was long disputed by Ketchwhylo as part of the Zulu Kingdom, presents an exception to the physical aspect of the Transvaal generally. This is the Utrecht district, with the adjacent one of Wakkerstrom, forming the south-east corner of the Transvaal. It is divided from Natal by the Buffalo river as far as Rorke's Drift, the memorable scene of a terrible conflict on January 22nd of this year. The Wakkerstrom and Utrecht district is, in some parts, mountainous and thickly wooded. It may perhaps be regarded, despite its political attachment to the Transvaal, as naturally belonging to the second division, in physical geography, of Eastern South Africa.

This second regional division is very much more picturesque and diversified in surface aspect than the inland open plain. It consists of several mountain and hill ranges, and terraces, more or less parallel, one above another, ascending from the coast of the Indian Ocean. The differences of elevation and of exposure cause this region to experience several varieties of climate. Its geological structure is also more complex

and mixed up than that of the interior table-land. The result is an interesting Flora and Fauna, though without the abundance of some kinds of large game, the antelope kind especially, that was met with till lately in the plains of the Orange and Vaal. The sea-coast parts of Natal and of the Zulu country are semi-tropical. I would give a more detailed account of the successive zones of territory, with their varying characteristics ; seeing that these determine, in the long run, the human settlement of a country. The movements of population, savage or civilized, the steps of colonisation or conquest, are scarcely otherwise to be understood. I wish to disclaim, however, any pretension to give a scientific lecture on physical geography, botany, zoology, or any branch of natural history. It is only needful to get a fair notion of the habitable and productive qualities of a territory, or a group of territories, the better to understand its recent history, and the present condition of its people.

As the province of Natal, having been many years a British colony, is most accurately surveyed and described, and is most interesting to Englishmen, I will begin with this. Some notice will have to be taken afterwards of the surrounding countries, more particularly of Zulu Land.

The inland or western boundary of this province is

formed by the Drakensberg, a continuous mountain range, attaining heights of six thousand to ten thousand feet, which is called also the Kathlamba. Beyond it, in the interior, are Basuto Land, the Orange River State, and the Transvaal. The seaward slopes or terraces, looking east over the Indian Ocean, have a breadth of not more than 130 miles, altogether, nowhere less than 90 miles, which is the width of Natal. The Drakensberg range is advanced eastward by a bold angle, the projecting point of which is "The Giant's Castle," rising 9,000 feet. Another summit, called "Champagne Castle," is 500 feet higher; and here most of the Natal rivers have their source. A system of offset inferior ranges, branching to right and left from the spurs of lower mountain beneath the Giant's Castle, and connecting itself with other ranges towards the sea-coast, occupies the central part of Natal. It forms the upland basin of the river Umgeni and its affluents, in which Pietermaritzburg, the capital of the province, is situated. The Upper Tugela, above its junction with the Buffalo on the northern or Zulu frontier, flows directly east from the re-entering angle of the Drakensberg, and drains all the Klip and Weenen districts. In the southern part of Natal, the chief rivers are the Umkomazi and the Umzimkulu, with the Umlazi near Durban, which seaport town, a

very bad harbour, but the only one for the province, lies between the mouths of the Umlazi and Umgeni. None of these rivers are navigable. I must not forget the Umvoti, a comparatively short one parallel to the Lower Tugela, in the north-east corner of the province; which has, on the whole, an irregular rhomboid configuration. The Umvoti runs within twenty or thirty miles of the Zulu frontier, as marked by the Lower Tugela; and Greytown, of which we heard so much at the outset of the Zulu war, is near the sources of the Umvoti.

The entire country, it may be said, is all hills and valleys, except here and there a flat moor, or a piece of alluvial deposit. Much of the upper portion is composed of mere rock, of granite, trap, or sandstone; the granite "tors" have been compared to those of Dartmoor, in Devonshire, huge overhanging blocks, which thrust themselves out of the ground, at the brow of a hill, cresting and capping the eminence with singular effect. The sandstone cliffs, like enormous walls intersecting the land, uphold platforms or tables of limited extent; these are fragments of a former bed of sandstone, several thousand feet thick, which has been split up by the igneous eruption that formed the trap or granite. I believe there is a similar geological structure to be seen in the Blue Mountains of New

South Wales. On the west side of the Drakensberg, in Basuto Land, the basaltic ranges present a most remarkable appearance, with lofty cliffs, the upper part of whose face is hollowed out in caverns, as if by the action of the sea waves.

Zulu Land, the kingdom of our present foe Ketchwhy, situated beyond the Lower Tugela, north of the Natal Colony, presents a continuation of the same physical features that I have described as characterising the easterly and maritime districts of South Africa. The sea-coast is low and flat, unlike those shores of British Kaffraria, about the mouth of the St. John river, which delight passing voyagers with the prospect of their beautiful wooded hills and grassy downs. A series of lagoons and tidal marshes, the neighbourhood of which, in that sultry climate, is scarcely less unhealthy than that of the West Coast of Africa, indents the coast line. Here is St. Lucia Bay, the Zulu port for the trade in foreign muskets and gunpowder, which has also been carried on at Delagoa Bay under Portuguese sanction or tolerance. The land, some fifteen miles from the sea, begins to rise in terraces, which are covered with rich grass, and are backed, though not with perfect uniformity, by two or three mountain ranges successively, one above another. These are interrupted by the deep-cut channels of several rivers. The

most considerable river of Zulu Land is the Umvolosi, which discharges itself into the Indian Ocean at St. Lucia Bay. It is formed by the confluence of two mountain streams, the Black Umvolosi and the White Umvolosi, near the centre of Zulu Land, and not far from the capital, Ulundi, where King Ketchwhy usually resides. The rivers within a less distance of the Natal frontier, along the coast road, are better known to Europeans. Upon one of these streams, higher up, stands Etchowe, the fortified position held by Colonel Pearson's force in January and February last, at the commencement of the present war. The banks of the river are for the most part thickly wooded, or at least clothed with thick bush; the lower plains, where not swampy, are covered with scrub; and there are large forests inland. This country is not subject to drought in any season; the rivers, which in summer are greatly swollen by the heavy rains of thunderstorms in the highlands, dwindle in the winter, from March to September, becoming insignificant streams, with here and there a deeper pool. There is no malaria in the hilly districts on the side towards Natal; but the nether parts of Zulu Land are pestilential both to man and beast; and the jungle is there infested by the tsetse fly, whose bite is deadly to horses and oxen.

A few words on the natural history of this part of Africa will be permitted me, I trust, by the kind indulgence of readers who may possibly be aware, from my "Camp Life and Sport in South Africa," that personal experiences have made this topic one peculiarly fascinating to me. The future chapters will be engrossed with subjects of more urgent public interest at the present crisis.

First in order, then, amongst the *feræ naturæ* comes the colossal elephant. This animal is now rarely to be seen within the precincts of the colony of Natal, though it is still to be found occasionally hidden in the deep recesses of the Tugela valley. The lion is also a rare visitor on this side of the Drakensberg, his proper habitat being the vast tract of country forming the upland plains. Both the panther and the leopard are present, however, the latter known to the Dutch settlers as the tiger (*felis leopardus*). This animal is the terror of the jungle, climbing trees and dwelling habitually in the bush and tangled forest. The leopard and panther seem to be both included in the generic term "tiger" of the colonists. The rhinoceros may still be encountered within an easy ride on the Zulu Land side beyond the Tugela. The giraffe has, however, returned to the country far distant beyond the Drakensberg, and the buffalo, once

common, has disappeared to the remote interior. The hippopotamus alone of the large feræ remains yet comparatively undisturbed in his watery retreats. The Sea Cow Lake formed by the lower waters of the Umgeni is notably a favourite resort of this animal, as also are the lagoons of the different river-mouths. To these he makes his way at early morning, crossing at times from river to river; but he is very shy of observation, his habit being to lie concealed in some favourite pool during the day-time, barely showing the tip of his broad snout above the surface of the water, and only disporting himself in the dusky hours of the evening.

Three species of hyæna are to be met with, all here known as wolves; the hyæna *crocuta* (*crocuta rufa*), the brown hyæna, the hyæna *villosa* or maned jackal, the strand or coast wolf of the Dutch, and the hyæna *maculata* (*hyæna capensis*) or tiger wolf. There is also the aarde wolf (*proteles salandii*) or earth wolf, again called wild dog, which appears to be somewhat intermediate between the hyæna, the jackal, and the dog. This animal is about the size of a large fox, but with longer legs, larger, more extended ears, and a shorter tail; and it has also a stiff erectile mane running the whole length of the back, with much the look of a small hyæna. It is a loathsome savage-

looking beast, its hair coarse and wiry, and bare and mangy in patches. From its activity and ferocity it is the scourge of the plains, and the most indefatigable hunter in pursuit of the antelope, never hesitating to attack the largest, and hunting in packs in the most curious manner, the chase being successively taken up by fresh relays when the first pursuers are fatigued, till in this manner the fastest antelopes become their prey. A singular proof that this animal's nature pertains more nearly to the dog than to the hyæna is adduced in the fact that the ordinary dog when hunting the aarde wolf will invariably refuse to attack on a closer acquaintance, though the same animal will hunt a hyæna to the death. The aarde wolf lives in burrows having many outlets. That curious animal the balke-vark or wart hog (*phacochærus æthiopicus*) is found in Natal. Its ugly head is furnished with powerful tusks, which are directed both sideways and upwards, and its cheek bones are further disfigured with huge warts projecting beneath its eyes. This hog may be seen creeping along with its forelegs bent under it, and prizing up the roots with its enormous canine teeth. It is a denizen of the bush equally with the bush-pig of the Colony, and weighs some 80 lbs., but is inferior in size to the latter. It has been known to shelter itself when hard pressed by

the hunter in the burrows of the jackal, out of which it is said to have a curious way of thrusting itself backwards when routed out by its pursuers. It is considered to be excellent eating. The ant bear, *aarde vark* (*orycteropus capensis*), is as common here as elsewhere in South Africa, but is as rarely seen, being a very shy nocturnal animal, living secluded in its deep circular burrows, which form perfect shafts descending some feet in a perpendicular direction before branching off laterally. Here it remains concealed by day, issuing forth only at dusk in search of its ant food. Nothing can be more interesting to a naturalist than to observe this curious quadruped laying his bulky carcass prone upon the veldt, and protruding his long prehensile tongue, thickly covered with glutinous fluid, into the cavity which he has already scraped out with his powerful claws in some ant heap. Here he waits patiently and without motion until the startled formicæ have come to the surface in sufficient quantities to cover that pliant member, to which they become glued beyond extrication, by means of the viscous matter with which it is supplied. Then, bringing his retractile muscles into play, he withdraws his tongue, to be again and again replenished. When we observe the great bulk of this animal's body, and the enormous power dis-

played in its muscular fore-arms, it seems nothing short of marvellous how the heavy beast can be sustained upon such unsubstantial food. Yet it is always fat and in good condition. Its power as a digger is unequalled. I have often heard the Boers describe how they have dug after it in their endeavour to get it out of its burrow, and how it has actually made its way through the hard baked earth at a greater rate than they could follow it. Take it altogether, the aarde vark is perhaps one of the most curious of the many feræ to be found in this interesting country.

Natal possesses ten species of antelopes. The hartebeeste, (*alcephalus caama*) common on the Umvoti flats, is a fine but singular antelope, its head being most strangely put on at right angles to its shoulders, giving it a very peculiar appearance. The horns of this species project direct from the forehead in the first instance, the points being suddenly retracted. The hartebeeste is a very swift antelope, though not apparently so, from its peculiar lumbering canter when in action. It is very important to the hunter as supplying most excellent meat. Another fine animal is the noble eland, which grows to fourteen hands high at the withers, and often weighs 1000lbs. The bush bok is an antelope inhabiting the thick cover, and possessing the singular power of laying its sharp

curved horns on either side of its neck, in passing through the tangled bush ; it is notable for its canine bark and the dangerous way it has of charging when brought to bay. The graceful bles-bok derives that name from the bles or blaze of white on its forehead. The ourebi is an antelope which has the peculiarity of squatting on the ground like the hare and running round in circles when pursued. The duyker or diver is so called from its plunging motion when taking flight into the bush. The riet-bok or reed buck, which lives in the reedy swamps, is a fine fawn-coloured antelope which buries itself in the thick cover until one comes close upon it. The horns of this species are beautifully curved and striated between the rings. The rhebock, called the chamois of South Africa, is very wary and swift, and is found in rocky ground and on the sides of hills covered with stunted underwood. These and the small bush-bok of Natal, almost identical with the pretty little blue buck of the Colony, are the antelopes peculiar to Natal.

The common crocodile still haunts the rivers of the coast along the sea frontier, but is seldom dreaded by the colonist unless the rivers are flooded and full of water, in which case it becomes bolder, and at times very dangerous. The large water lizard, the iguana, is common in the rivers here as further south. Of

snakes there are several varieties, the most important as to size being the Python which sometimes even attains a length of twenty-five feet. Destitute of poison fangs it is a true boa, crushing its prey within its massive folds, but not formidable to man. The im-amba is doubtless the most fatally poisonous of all the Natal serpents. It is a coast snake living in the bush, and has the reputation of attacking even when not assailed; this and the puff-adder, which is common to all South Africa, are the most deadly of the snake tribe. The puff-adder is dangerous not only on account of its poison fangs, but from its sluggish nature, which constantly exposes it to be trodden upon by the unsuspecting traveller, and prevents it from getting away quickly from the disturber of its repose. It is particularly dangerous to the sportsman, as his dogs will point it and in this way often lead him up close to the reptile under the impression that he has come upon one of the numerous game birds of the country. These, with many smaller quadrupeds and numerous curious insects, and a variety of birds and fish which are found on the coast, form an interesting catalogue of animal life; every species of which is well represented in this part of South Africa.

CHAPTER II.

THE KAFFIRS.

Natives of Eastern South Africa, a branch of the great Bantu race.—“Kaffirs,” origin of that name.—Ama-Zulu and Ama-Xosa.—Clanship, and kindred of tribes.—Galeka headship of Amaxosa.—Overthrow of Kreli, and suppression of the Pondo tribe; recent disturbing events in Kaffirland.—Sketch of Kaffir history in South Africa.—Law of succession.—Limited power of chiefs.—Difficulty of securing observance of treaties.—Early Dutch colonisation.—Transfer of the Cape to Great Britain.—Border troubles with the Kaffirs.—Thefts of cattle.—Disputed right to the land.—Final subjection of Kaffirland by last year’s war.

THE eastern parts of South Africa, briefly described in my preceding chapter, have been occupied, within historical times, by a variety of native tribes, who are often spoken of, in general, as “Kaffirs.” They differ essentially, as I suppose most people are aware, from the negro races of Western and North Central Africa. According to Mr. A. H. Keane, in his learned treatise appended to Keith Johnston’s “Africa,” the Kaffirs, with whom are reckoned the Zulus, are one branch of the great “Bantu” family, a term denoting certain affinities proved by the structure of their language. To the same family, he tells us, also belong the

Matabele and other Bechuana populations of the interior, away towards the Zambesi and farther on where Dr. Livingstone travelled in his earlier journeys. The shores of the Mozambique Channel are inhabited by kindred nations. They seem even to have a community of origin with the Suaheli and Wanyamwesi, of the coast opposite Zanzibar and the Lake Tanganyika region; at any rate, they are East Africans, and not negroes properly so called. Their colour is seldom black; it is most commonly a dark brown; but they are fond of smearing their bodies with reddish clay and oil. Their eyes are black and brilliant; the hair is not so woolly as the negro's, and the features, though varying in different individuals, are of an Eastern type. Some writers have suggested that these people are descendants of the ancient Ethiopians, who came up the valley of the Nile, crossed the equatorial region, and overspread the shores of the great Lakes, and the banks of the Zambesi.

The Kaffirs in the south-eastern region of Africa form three chief ethnological groups; which are, first the Amaxosa, now located in British Kaffraria or the Trans-Kei territory, and including the Galekas and Gaikas, the Tembus, and the Pondos of St. John's River; secondly, the Basutos, who inhabit the inland

and upland country behind the Kathlamba or Drakensberg range; and thirdly, the Zulus, who are nearly equal in numbers to all the others put together. The Zulus, amounting to at least six hundred thousand, are in these days about equally divided between those living under British rule in the province of Natal, and those constituting the independent native kingdom, to the north of Natal, over which Ketchwhyho is still reigning.

The Kaffir branch of the great Bantu race of Africa has a linguistic token of distinction in the use of the plural prefix "Ama," or for the sake of euphony, "Aba," to the name of each particular nation or group of tribes, to denote their collective identity; thus, "Ama-Zulu," "Ama-Mpondo," "Ama-Gcaleka," "Ama-Gquika" (written by us Galekas and Gaikas); whereas other nations dwelling in the interior use "Be," or "Ba," as Bechuana and Basuto; and those on the Zanzibar coast describe themselves collectively as "Wa," for example the Wa-nyamwezi. But their affinity is proved by many common forms of speech. The tribes on the eastern frontier of the Cape Colony, dwelling formerly between the Keiskamma and the Bashee rivers, were Gaikas and Galekas, who belong to the Amaxosa group, and who derive their names, in each case, from a renowned ancient chief, the head

of the clan; but the clan of Gaika is an offshoot from that of Galeka, which is regarded as the purest and most primitive of the Amaxosa Kaffirs. Its late hereditary ruler, Kreli, was a native prince of the noblest royal African lineage; and in his person, scarcely a twelvemonth since, the whole fabric of Kaffir aristocracy and inherited political dignity has been smitten. This important event will have to be related among the occurrences immediately preceding the outbreak of the present Zulu war, as it was probably the cause of general alarm and disturbance to all Kaffir chiefs and their dependents throughout South Africa.

Another very recent transaction of the British Government, which may have also contributed to the sullen mood of King Ketchwhy and the hardly suppressed agitation of Kaffirdom, took place at the conclusion of the late war. This was the peremptory annexation of Pondo Land, the fertile and beautiful shore, to the south of Natal, on both banks of the St. John's or Umzimvubu river. The Pondos were not indeed highly esteemed by the other Kaffir nations; but the act of reducing them to immediate subjection to British rule, in accordance with Sir Bartle Frere's scheme of policy, has excited much uneasiness along the other parts of our colonial border. These circum-

stances are here mentioned in advance to show why it is needful for me to speak of the Kaffirs and Kaffir warfare in general, as well as of the Zulus.

According to historians, early in the seventeenth century a great Kaffir emigration set in from the north-eastern parts of South Africa to the regions now known as Kaffir Land. The origin of these nations is doubtful. Many writers have recognized in the habits and character of the Kaffir some traits of the Arab; notably in his nomad existence, his addiction to polygamy, and his practice of the rite of circumcision; above all, his proud, imperious disposition and warlike instincts have been noticed as clear evidence of Bedouin blood. The word "Kaffir" itself is attributed to the Arabian word "Kafr," meaning a waste; but is applied by Moslem nations generally to the heathen of Africa as well as of Asia, and was adopted in this sense on the Mozambique coast, the Portuguese borrowing it from the Arab traders, to denote all the natives of Eastern South Africa. These so-called "Kaffirs," as I have said, began to press southwards, approaching the Cape, two or three hundred years ago. The Bushmen and Hottentots gave way before this invasion as the stronger naturally ousted the weaker.

One race alone, so far as native traditions bear

witness, then peopled the hills and plains of Kaffraria. Pondo, Tembu, Gaika, and Galeka all originally owned the sway of one chief. But each chief, at an advanced age, chose one amongst his numerous wives whose son should be his successor; this was his "great wife." By virtue of this selection her son became heir to the chief's place. To this son the whole tribe bears the most sacred allegiance; none but those connected with him by royal blood can succeed him at his death.

This law of succession lies at the root of the repeated failures of our native policy. Treaty after treaty has been broken; and this not necessarily from bad faith on the part of the individual chief. For instance, in 1817, when Gaika was recognized as paramount chief of Kaffirland by Lord Charles Somerset, he was vassal of the great reigning House, that of Galeka, and therefore had no right to the authority with which he was vested. Though his brother chiefs appeared to acquiesce for the time in the arrangement, they were no sooner beyond the power of the troops than they evinced their discontent and retaliated by fresh outrages. This necessitated reprisals on our part, in which large herds of cattle were taken. The Kaffir loves his cattle better than his life. This led to the war of 1820. The fact is,

the chief's power of restraint over his subjects is almost at zero. He is all-powerful for evil, but most impotent for good. He can invite his subjects to rebellion, or lead them on to bloodshed and rapine, but in curbing their unlawful desires or restraining their predatory habits, his authority is of the weakest ; and this will explain why many treaties made with the chiefs might as well have been made with the winds.

Now, the great wife being selected, the chief then chooses a right-hand wife. On the death of the chief the eldest son of this wife receives a portion of the title, and with it moves off and forms a new tribe independent of the parent community, but bound to assist it in time of difficulty. Thus a network of relationship is formed and spreads out over the length and breadth of the land, tending in time of war to general conflagration.

In 1652, whilst these hordes were pouring into the southern territory, a Dutch East India ship touched at the Cape, and in a few years Europeans were marching with irresistible steps towards the northern frontiers. In 1702, the vanguard of the races met, and the Kaffirs retreated : Graaf Reinet was then the limit of the colony. The oppressive conduct of the Dutch Boers soon compelled them to flee into the

interior. At this period, those early settlements were almost relapsing into a state of barbarism. They were without the means of education for their children, and their only object in life was the herding of cattle and the obtaining of land. Until the arrival of the English settlers, in 1820, the Boer was the only type of European with which the native had come into contact. In 1783, these colonists had reached the banks of the Great Fish River. By that time the Dutch had become hated by the native tribes ; and even now after the lapse of a whole century that feeling is not yet extinct. Both the Dutch Boer and the English settler of the present day have to suffer vicariously for the sins of their predecessors.

In 1815 Great Britain finally obtained possession of the Cape Colony in exchange for certain West India Islands. The Great Fish River was then the boundary. The tribes on the Borders very soon commenced their depredations.

The reason of these Kaffir thefts lies deep in their customs. Cattle were the ever fruitful source of mischief. The chiefs having no settled revenues were in the habit of supplying any deficiency by the summary spoliation of their subjects on various pretexs ; of these witchcraft was the most common. In this way the prosperous Kaffir was always fixed upon.

Without any evidence or trial the decree at once went forth against him, and he was "eaten up" forthwith. No hope was then left him but to plunder in his turn. Again, to obtain a wife the Kaffir must pay his dowry to the father in cattle. So the indigent Kaffir looked to cattle as the means of establishing himself in life ; and plunder was the result.

Thus, when the chief who wished to keep to his treaty obligations issued his commands to his subjects, he found that they were set at defiance ; until, looking with dismay at the excesses which were committed whatever his efforts might be to repress them, he began in course of time to hate the sight of Europeans, whose property was to his people a temptation to plunder, being always in fear of the retribution it would draw upon him at our hands.

In 1809 the Kaffirs, from committing depredations, began to intrude upon the land within the Border, and the first British force was sent against them. This was our first actual collision with the natives ; and now came that burning question, another fatal cause of all our disputes in time to come ; I mean, the Kaffirs' grudge against us for occupying the land, and their dread of further encroachments.

This tribal system of the Kaffirs is incompatible with all progress, and it has just now received its

death blow in Kaffraria by the overthrow of the last powerful chief in that part of South Africa. I have alluded to the first Kaffir war. The result of it was to drive the Kaffir from his old boundary of the Great Fish River to the Keiskamma, and again in successive wars from the Keiskamma still further on the banks of the Kei River, until the last war in 1878 has now completed our conquests in that direction. Gaika and Galeka now alike own our sway, whilst their tribal system has been broken and disorganized.

It is time however that I should give an account more particularly of the Zulu branch of the great Kaffir race, inhabiting a country several hundred miles distant from the old frontier of the Cape Colony.

CHAPTER III.

THE ZULUS, UNDER CHAKA AND DINGAAN.

Origin of the Zulu Nation, and its growth by conquests.—The South African "Celestials," or "Heaven-born."—Chaka, their Founder.—His birth and education.—Resolves to be an African Napoleon Buonaparte.—Conceives an Imperial policy.—Creates an Army.—Conquers his world.—Indulges his pride and cruelty.—Invades British Kaffraria.—Fails in expedition to Delagoa Bay.—Is put to death.—Despotism tempered by fratricide.—Tyranny of Dingaan.—Dealings with the British at Durban.—With the Dutch settlers in Natal.—That territory then vacant.—Pieter Retief at the Zulu King's Court.—The stolen cattle regained.—Second Dutch embassy.—Dingaan's murderous treachery.—Slaughter of his visitors.—The Rev. Mr. Owen.—Massacre of the Dutch at Weenen, the "Place of Weeping."—Gert Maritz.—Pietermaritzburg.—Dutch and English fighting against Dingaan.—His overthrow, by the aid of Panda.—Revolution in Zulu Land.

THE name of Zulus, like the name of the Romans, originated with a small local community in a particular district ; it was spread by war and conquest, and by its consequent adoption or imposition among the conquered tribes till it soon covered a hundred times the number of its primitive owners, and extended over a tolerably large empire. That dominion, though for a few years only, in the early part of the nineteenth century, held in bondage and in terror all the seaward

or eastern portion of the region I have described, from the land of the Swazies, to the north, approaching Delagoa Bay, down to the banks of the St. John, the land of the Pondos, in British Kaffraria. The present kingdom of Zulu Land is about one quarter of its former extent, while the Zulu nation, as I have said, is now divided, half its people dwelling under British government. How such changes were brought about is to be shown in two or three chapters.

“Zulu,” in the native language, is a word signifying “Heaven,” and was probably adopted by the glorious conquering tribe at the outset of its victorious career. It is as much as to say, “We, the Celestials.” Their history begins with the exploits of Chaka, who was born in the year 1787; he was the son of Usenzangacona, who was the son of Jama, who, as some genealogists say, was the son of Umakcaba, but others say, of Umbuzi, and both these were sons of Upunga; but I can trace their lineage back no farther. Usenzangacona was only the chief of a petty tribe dwelling on the sea-coast between the Umvolosi and Umlatusi rivers, but he was lord of nearly thirty wives and about two hundred children. Among these was the Lady Umnandi, with her boy Chaka. She incurred the jealousy or other displeasure of her husband, and fled from him to Uding-

iswayo, chieftain of the Umtetwa, a neighbouring tribe on the coast to the north-east. Chaka was educated, by this chieftain's orders, under the care of one of his Indunas, or magistrates, named Ungomana. The young man learnt all the Kaffir accomplishments becoming a prince and warrior; but he is said also to have fallen in with some English sailors, who had been cast ashore in St. Lucia Bay. These men told him of the famous deeds of Napoleon the Great, then at the height of his prosperity and power in Europe. Young Chaka listened attentively, and resolved to become the African Napoleon Buonaparte. I am not sure whether he ever heard of Julius Cæsar or Alexander the Great, but the effect, I fancy, would have been all the same upon his mind. It was henceforth inflamed with military ambition, to which he was enabled to sacrifice hundreds of thousands of lives. Savage as he was, it was from European modern example that he got this lesson.

Upon the death of his father, old Usenzangacona, the aspiring hero of Zulu chivalry, being twenty-five years of age, went in for succession to the chieftainship. He had first to turn out his half-brother Usingujana, and then began to reign with a vengeance. A large portion of the Umtetwa, desiring a more warlike policy than that of their own ruler,

voluntarily joined themselves to the Zulu tribe. Chaka presently sallied forth at its head, conquering and to conquer. His idea was not perhaps, in those early days, to be an Attila or Tamerlane, a mere destroyer and waster of mankind. Indeed, he knew no more of those historical personages than of the others above mentioned ; but the empire of his great contemporary, Napoleon I., had been created, he was told, by compelling men of different nations, Belgians, Germans, and Italians, to become French citizens. So Chaka proceeded, while defeating and subduing one tribe after another, to oblige them all to take the name of Zulu, and to form part of the new compact and rigidly governed nation, over which he ruled. The people of various tribes were divided, mixed up together, allotted and distributed here and there, with consummate statecraft, to efface their original connections. Fifty or sixty different tribes were thus dealt with in the course of Chaka's reign ; there are about forty of these which have been resuscitated, to a certain amount, by collecting their survivors under British protection in the Natal territory.

The whole manhood of the fast-growing Zulu nation was employed in compulsory martial service ; and fresh occasions for its use were incessantly sought and seized upon. He created an Imperial guard of

twelve or fifteen thousand prime warriors, who were kept always ready, at an hour's notice, to march fifty miles in any direction without a halt, and to "eat up" a town, a chief, or a tribe in two or three days. He built numerous fortified kraals, to be occupied as permanent camps by as many regiments of his army. The troops were sedulously drilled, by the advice, perhaps, of Chaka's European acquaintances, in a system of manœuvres not before practised by African soldiery, which I have more particularly described in my chapter on Zulu tactics and other Kaffir warfare compared in their manner. Chaka succeeded, by these well-devised measures, in creating the most formidable military power that has been wielded, in modern times, by any native African potentate.

I should not put before my readers a very agreeable narrative, if I were to relate the particulars of this great monarch's wars and conquests from 1813 to 1828, shedding rivers of blood all over the countries east of the Drakenberg, and from the Limpopo in the north to the Umzimvubu, or St. John's in the south ; devastating the lands of the Swazies and Amatonga in one direction ; in the other, Natal, Basuto Land, and Pondo Land, besides the eastern districts of the Transvaal and Orange River territories. There were few or no Europeans at that time in any of those parts ; as

for the natives, they were destroyed wholesale, except those who could be driven up like herds of captured cattle, to augment the tyrant's hosts of military slaves in Zulu Land. The entire country of Natal was found quite empty of its former population in 1837, when the Dutch Boers came down there after crossing the Drakensberg from the Orange Sovereignty, as I shall relate presently. Chaka's motto was "Thorough" in the magnanimous work of violence, cruelty, and rapacity, which he considered to be his mission as a heaven-born or "Zulu" ruler of mankind.

In the year 1825, when Mr. Nathaniel Isaacs visited the Zulu Kingdom, Chaka had some talk with him, inquiring about the state of political affairs in Europe and other parts of the world. Having been told something of the extent of British dominion, and the overthrow of the French empire of Napoleon at Waterloo ten years before, this half-naked barbarian complacently remarked, "Yes, I see now, there are only two great chiefs in all the earth; my brother, King George—he is King of all the Whites; and I, Chaka, I am King of all the Blacks."

Mr. Isaacs gained so much of his confidence as to receive a sort of grant of all the territory in Natal he might wish to take for himself and his party of missionary and industrial settlers. But in visiting

the Court of Chaka, whose principal residence was at a Zulu town called Utukasa, on the Umvoti, within the present Natal boundary, Mr. Isaacs witnessed some dreadful instances of cruelty. Upon one occasion, he says, a hundred and seventy boys and girls were slaughtered for some offence committed by their parents against the King's most gracious majesty. Chaka himself began, with his own hands, by dragging forward several of the lads, and ordering their necks to be twisted, and others to be beaten to death. This went on two days, after which the king finished his entertainment by feasting and dancing with his courtiers and favourite soldiers. One of his palaces had its name changed to Umbulale, the "Place of Slaughter," to commemorate the fact of his there putting to death a whole regiment of married soldiers, with their wives and children, because they had been defeated in a battle.

This amiable and respectable example of "the right divine of kings to govern wrong" is certainly entitled to a grand place in history; but his reign and life, however "Zulu," or "Celestial," had to come to an end. The termination of his career was characteristic and troublesome. He marshalled all his forces in 1828, compelling some of the European settlers in Natal to join him, for an expedition to the south-west,

beyond the Umzimkulu and Umzimvubu, against Faku, king of the Amapondo nation. As usual in the campaigns of Chaka, he came, he saw, he conquered, pushing on as far as the Bashee, which was the boundary of the British Kaffrarian protectorate. This caused a great alarm in the east provinces of the Cape Colony, and the Governor hastily sent forth a company of our regular troops, with some of the militia Burghers, and several thousand of our native allies the Tembus, to stop the Zulu army in the Trans-Kci. Now the Zulu King had made short work of ravaging and harrying the land of the Pondos and Bomvanas, since their king had prudently withdrawn to the adjacent highlands. Chaka was already marching homewards in high triumph, with immense spoil of captured oxen and cows, when the British and Colonial force was out looking for him. This force, accidentally meeting with a fugitive tribe of innocent people, the Amangwana, who were driving their own herds, of nearly 20,000 beasts altogether, to a place of safety, mistook them for the hostile Zulus, and attacked them instantly. It is lamentable to record that several hundred lives of not unfriendly Kaffirs were lost by this unhappy error, while their cattle, speedily driven off by our native auxiliaries, could not afterwards be restored.

King Chaka meantime returned, with his mighty army, to his ordinary residence on the Umvoti; whence he immediately despatched another military expedition, but the opposite way. It was to attack his northern neighbour, Usoshengane, towards the shore of Delagoa Bay. The Zulu troops, in a campaign of two months, suffered greatly from disease in that most unhealthy country, as well as from hunger and fatigue, and exposure to summer rains. Their ill success put Chaka in such a royal rage, that he decided to punish the disgraced soldiery by murdering some two thousand of the wives they had left at home. This massacre of women actually began, at the rate of three hundred daily, before the remnant of the army, reduced to one-third of its former strength, was on the return march. Among the victims were the wives of two of the king's brothers, who held command in that unlucky expedition. Upon their arrival home, in the month of September, Dingaan and Umhlangane, the princes in question, resolved to depose or assassinate their august relative, as his sublime ferocity had by this time excited the indignation of all his subjects. They conspired with others, among whom his confidential servant, Umbopa, having unsuspected access to the royal person, undertook to perform the deed. The blow was struck on Sep-

tember 23, 1828, by the hand of Umbopa, with the ready assistance of the king's brothers, and several malcontent nobles or courtiers. Such was the fate of this South African Alexander and Zulu Napoleon, whose renown is still cherished by the lovers of martial prowess among his countrymen of the present generation. He was little above forty years of age, and had reigned but fourteen, in which brief space of time he had founded a powerful native dynasty, and raised the Zulu nationality, almost a creation of his own, to the highest military and political importance. Truly, Chaka had not lived in vain!

The enviable succession to this illustrious monarch at once became a natural cause of deadly strife between his affectionate brothers, Umhlangane and Dingaan. They lost no time in settling the matter by a duel, fought within the precincts of the royal palace, two or three days after the late king's decease and funeral. Dingaan killed the other, and was thereupon invested with the titles, dignity and authority of the Zulu King.

The reign of Dingaan, from 1828 to 1840, was of a different character, inasmuch as he did not pretend to be a very great warrior, or seek wide enterprises of foreign conquest. His domestic government was, indeed, cruelly tyrannical, and great numbers of his

miserable subjects fled the kingdom to escape its merciless laws, or the arbitrary rule of one who knew neither justice nor pity. Many thousands came into the Natal territory, where the British coast settlement of Durban was founded in 1835. With a view to obtain pardon for these distressed fugitives and restore them to their homes, the British local authorities made a treaty, by which Dingaan promised to let them return unmolested; but on the other hand it was stipulated by him that any future deserters from his kingdom should be sent back there. This was a grievous error, and the execution of the compact was a deed that reflects no slight disgrace, as Bishop Colenso has remarked, on the British name in Africa. Though nothing was said of their treatment by Dingaan, it was perfectly well known that the prisoners thus delivered into his hands would either have their brains knocked out with clubs, or be impaled, with the direst tortures, or be starved to death. A case is particularly described, in which a female of rank with her two servants, a man and woman, and three children, who had sought refuge in Natal, were given up to Dingaan, first the elders, afterwards the children, and were sent back across the frontier. The intolerable compact, however, was afterwards set aside. Natal has since absorbed a large portion of the Zulu

people, consisting, indeed, of the remnants of many tribes which had anciently belonged to that country, and had been removed elsewhere by Chaka. The frequent shifting of place, to and fro, at distances of several hundred miles, in the history of these pastoral native populations, has had a marked effect upon the condition of Africa. Their wealth being composed almost entirely of cattle, with a few simple utensils which are easily carried, and their houses of no costly or difficult construction, they can move readily enough wherever land is offered them. Natal has thus received, since it became British territory, an immigrant African population of at least three hundred thousand.

The events of Dingaan's time are closely associated with those passages of colonial history which I reserve for a later chapter ; but it is proper here to give some account of his detestable career, and of his conflicts with European settlers in Natal. He was not like Chaka, a great Napoleonic warrior and conqueror aspiring to gain universal dominion ; but a Machiavellian despot, who sought only to confirm his sway by destroying all foreign and domestic rivals, with the most insidious treachery and ruthless cruelty. It so happened that the first collision between Europeans and Zulus took place under the reign of Dingaan.

The emigrating Dutch Boers from the old Cape Colony, led by Pieter Retief and Gert Maritz, had in 1837 moved far northward beyond the Orange River and further beyond the Vaal, till their progress was stopped by a conflict with the Matabele, an offshoot of the Zulu nation, whose chief, Umsilikatze or Mosilikatze, had seceded ten years before from Chaka's kingdom. The Boers moreover found the northern districts of the Transvaal ill-adapted for their pastoral occupation; they preferred to turn eastward, crossing the Drakensberg range of mountains, and descending into the Natal country. It was then little known to Europeans, though its coast had obtained that name from the Portuguese above three centuries before. The Dutch East India Company, in 1719, had endeavoured to form a settlement on that shore. In 1824, a proposal was made to the British colonial government of the Cape by Lieutenants Farewell and King, who had visited Natal, to take possession of the country, but this was declined. English Church missionaries, upon the recommendation of Captain Allen Gardiner, who had been in Zulu Land, were sent to the kingdom of Dingaan, with that monarch's permission. The first of these clergymen, the Rev. F. Owen, had recently taken up his abode at Umgungundhlovu, on the White Umvolosi river, at the beginning of the year 1838,

when the Dutchmen came down into the territory of Natal.

This territory was then considered part of the Zulu Empire created by Chaka, but scarcely any of its former native inhabitants were left. It was therefore proposed by the immigrant Boers to ask Dingaan for a grant of the vacant land, in return for a pledge of their constant alliance and assistance. Pieter Retief opened his negotiations, through Mr. Owen, with the Zulu King, and soon went forward to visit the royal court at Umgungundhlovu. That formidable name signifies, "The place of the trumpeting of the elephant," which is a figurative way of denoting the political capital, where the voice of the monarch, likened to the biggest of fierce beasts, was then wont to make himself heard. The palace of King Dingaan was neatly built, of a circular form, but not much more than twenty feet in diameter; it was supported in the interior by twenty-two pillars, ornamentally covered with beads. In the same fortified town, or kraal, there were nearly seventeen hundred houses or huts, each of which could accommodate twenty soldiers. Pieter Retief and his companions were hospitably and politely entertained. They beheld a grand military spectacle; the parade of the Royal Guards, four thousand veterans with ringed heads, bearing white

shields, and two thousand younger soldiers, with their black shields ; clattering upon these with knobby clubs or " kerries," and wildly bounding through a mazy wardance, in which their ranks were mingled with those of a drove of beautiful oxen and heifers, to represent the spoils of warfare ; all perfectly arranged, though in seeming tumult of battle. Such was the pomp and circumstance of glorious Royalty, in the proud reign of Chaka and at the commencement of Dingaan's, among the Zulu nation.

King Dingaan, after some days, had a business conversation with the worthy Dutchman, while Mr. Owen acted as interpreter and secretary. He was told of the injuries which the Boers in the Transvaal had suffered from the Zulu rebel chief Mosilikatze, and from the Matabele, who were mostly refugees out of Chaka's kingdom, their name in Zulu being " those who have disappeared." Of course, the great Zulu potentate declared his intention to pursue and chastise those rebels ; but he also told Retief that some people riding horses, wearing clothes, and carrying guns, had been guilty of stealing cattle belonging to himself. The Dutch leader earnestly denied this charge on the part of his own folk, and assured Dingaan that the Zulu cattle were to his knowledge in the possession of the Chief of the Mantatees, a tribe inhabiting the

uplands west of the Drakensberg, through which he and his followers had just passed. Dingaan then asked that the Boers, as the price of his friendship and of their settlement in Natal, should recover his stolen property for him, which Retief unwillingly promised to do. It was performed by the Dutchmen using an artifice to seize the person of the Mantatee Chief, and keeping him prisoner until the cattle were given up.

Having accomplished this service to the Zulu King, Pieter Retief now thought it time to receive the stipulated grant of title-deeds to the fair lands of Natal. He set forth, on the first day of February 1838, from the Boers' encampment of waggons on a southern branch of the Tugela, called the Bushman's River, upon his second journey to the capital of Zulu Land, which is about one hundred miles distant. Gert Maritz, it is said, felt some doubts of the Zulu King's honest intentions, and would have preferred sending only two or three messengers to convey the embassy. Pieter Retief, however, thought fit to make an imposing show, and took with him sixty or seventy of the Boers, well mounted and armed, with thirty Hottentot servants, led horses and baggage. They arrived at the court of Dingaan, and were again received with much civility; the King expressing his satisfaction with the Boers for having

got back his stolen cattle from the Mantatees. He once more exhibited the barbaric parade of his army in a war-dance, and professed in return to admire the horsemanship of the Boers, and their skill in using their fire-arms, which they showed off in the customary exercises of their troop. With regard to the business they had come to conclude, he made no further difficulty, but instructed Mr. Owen, as scribe, to write out a formal charter freely granting to the Dutch settlers all the country between the Tugela, which is still the Natal frontier river, and the Umzimvubu, in Kaffraria, the full extent of the present British province. All matters seemed to have been harmoniously agreed upon, and the Dutchmen were to live in perpetual peace and prosperity on this eastern shore of South Africa, which had been neglected or even positively rejected by the British government of the Cape Colony. But they had reckoned not indeed without their savage host, but with too great reliance upon his integrity; and this mistake was to cost them dear.

When the diplomatic business was finished, and Pieter Retief with his comrades was about to depart from Umgungundhlovu, to return to their fellow-countrymen in the Natal territory, which was henceforth to be held as their own, Dingaana affectionately

entreated them to stay with him one day longer. He wished to give them a farewell party, with a very peculiar solemn dance and choral song of his expert court servitors and valiant body-guards, which they had not yet witnessed. He was so fond of the noble white men, and so much obliged to them for getting his lost bullocks and cows from the rascally Mantatees! They must not quit his palace in such a hurry. Pieter Retief, stout-hearted, frank and brave, consented to stay for this final Zulu entertainment. On the fatal morning of the 6th of February, two of the leading men of the Dutch party breakfasted with Mr. Owen and his wife and sister, when they expressed their confident belief in the King's friendly disposition. The English clergyman was invited to be present at the festivity of that day, but chose to stay in his own house, studying the New Testament. The whole company of unsuspecting Dutchmen were admitted within the enclosure of the King's Kraal, leaving their guns, with their horses, in charge of the Hottentots outside. They found his Majesty seated in the centre of a large circle formed by Zulu soldiery of the highest rank, equipped in warlike array, with plumes of feathers on their heads and breasts, and with their shields, assegais, and knob-kerries, ready to perform the usual

mimic feats of the battle-dance. The King pleasantly saluted his guests, bade them sit beside him on the ground, had them served with Zulu beer, and gave the signal for a preliminary dance round and round the place, going ever faster and faster, while the brandished weapons overhead, as the linked circle of savage warriors drew closer and closer to its middle point of space, had a fantastically terrible effect on the doomed spectators' minds. At length, suddenly springing to his feet, Dingaan exclaimed in a fierce and angry tone, "Bambani Batagati!" or, "Seize the accursed wizards!" for such in the view of Zulu criminal law is the character of all heinous and malignant criminals. The soldiers instantly laid hands upon every one of the sixty or seventy white men, who were unarmed, and dragged them out of the King's palace, while Dingaan coolly sent a message to the Rev. Mr. Owen, telling him "not to be frightened, as he was going to kill the Boers." That gentleman, a minute or two afterwards, heard a fearful clamour on the hill directly opposite his abode, which was partly screened from view by his waggon in front of the hut. It was the customary place of execution for malefactors and prisoners of war, and for slaves, women, and others, slain as an expiatory sacrifice to the objects of heathen superstition.

“There,” some one said to Mr. Owen, “they are killing the Boers now !” He went forward, and saw the hill side thronged with a great multitude, each of the hapless Dutchmen in the custody of nine or ten Zulus, who brought them in succession up to be slaughtered, their brains dashed out with the war-club, and their bodies speared ere they fell to the ground. Such was the farewell entertainment of brave Pieter Retief and his honest comrades, simple Dutch emigrant yeomen or Border farmers, at the court of the Zulu King.

As for our countryman the Church missionary, he was presently sent for to the King’s palace, and was told that he and the two ladies of his family might go in safety. They hastened the same day to leave that abode of cruelty, Umgungundhlovu, and joined the other English families in Natal, who went down to the sea-port, and there waited till the “Comet” brig was sent round to take them away. A few men stayed on the coast to see what would become of the infant European settlements.

Dingaana was resolved to root these out of the earth, and to scatter the bones of their founders over the devastated fields they had laid out in vain. He lost not a moment in sending forth legions of his soldiery, the expeditious “travellers” of the Zulu army, to

pounce upon every Dutch hamlet of fresh-built huts, or encampment of newly-arrived waggons, and to massacre all that lived under their shelter. The principal station of their community, as I have said, was on the banks of the Bushman's River, at a place which is now the chief town of an important district. It bears the sorrowful Dutch name of Weenen, that is to say, "Weeping," in the ancient Hebrew fashion bestowed on that site of a grievous affliction by the Bible-loving Dutch people. There it was that the Zulus, falling upon the aged, the infirm, and feeble, the women and children of the community, as the best of its adults and strong men were already cut off with Pieter Retief, found an easy prey. The number of Europeans there slaughtered was 366, besides some 250 of their coloured servants. Gert Maritz, second to Retief in authority, was among those who died fighting in defence of his brethren. Their names are jointly commemorated to this day in that of the town or city of Pietermaritzburg, the capital of Natal.

It was the boast of the Zulu tyrant, by this atrocious deed of treachery and cruelty, to have exterminated the foreigners in his dominions south of the Tugela; and he ordered the heart and liver of the Dutch commander to be exposed at the gate of the metropolis,

with certain mystic rites and incantations, that no stranger might ever hereafter pass the same way. But the remnant of Dutchmen in Natal who had survived the first onslaught, here and there fortifying themselves in the "laager" formed by collecting waggons to enclose a square, with brushwood or thorn-bushes stuffed between and beneath, still defied the fury of their savage foe. They were reinforced by some of their own nation from the Orange River and the Vaal, while the few Englishmen on the sea-coast were ready to join in a war that seemed needful for their own security. Its fortunes were for some time uncertain or adverse; in the month of April, a "commando" of 400 mounted men, who boldly rode into the enemy's country, and attacked the capital, suffered a disastrous repulse. A party of eighteen or twenty Englishmen, with thirty Hottentots and a great mob of native allies, went upon an expedition to carry off some of the cattle of Zulu Land; they were defeated, and only four or five of the English got back alive. Then King Dingaan marched his army into the Natal country, across the Lower Tugela, and laid waste all the grounds planted or sown, and burnt every house or hut at the missionary station, as well as other settlements; but their inhabitants had fled beyond his reach, and most of them had sailed to the Cape. He returned to Zulu