

The Eastern Province
OF THE
CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

PART THE FIRST.

SECTION I.

THE DISCOVERY AND OCCUPATION.

THE discovery of the Cape of Good Hope stands prominently forward at the head of an order of events which have had the most marked and extraordinary influence on the progress of society, but which are so well known to the general reader as to require no recapitulation here.

It may, perhaps, seem to savour not a little of idle vanity for so obscure an individual as an Albany settler to pride himself upon the fact that the site of the rising and happy settlement, Algoa Bay, the land of his adoption, was the first spot in Southern Africa visited by Europeans when in search of a maritime path to the golden and gorgeous East.

History informs us it was on the anniversary of the festival called Holy Cross, in the year 1486, while sea-born Venice,—"the crowning city, whose merchants were princes, and whose traffickers were the honourable of the earth,"—was assembled under the magnificent roof of St. Mark's splendid cathedral, to celebrate the impressive ceremonials of religion, that two small and weather-beaten barks anchored off a rude islet in a remote and tempestuous ocean, and there, amid the roar of the untamed flood, its half-exhausted crew mingled their rough voices with its wild music, in holy anthems to the Redeemer of men. *That* crew was the gallant band under the illustrious, the ill-requited, but immortal BARTHOLOMEW DIAZ, who had doubled the Cape

of Storms without being aware of it; and *that* little lonely island was the now really classic ground of SANTA CRUZ, in Algoa Bay. Little dreamt the proud worshippers in their glorious fane at Venice, that on that very day the sentence had gone forth—“*The sceptre is departed;*” but so it was. Diaz, by his discovery at that precise moment, arrested the spring source of Venetian wealth and pre-eminence, plucked the oriental diadem from her imperial brow, and transferred to Portugal the sovereignty of commerce.

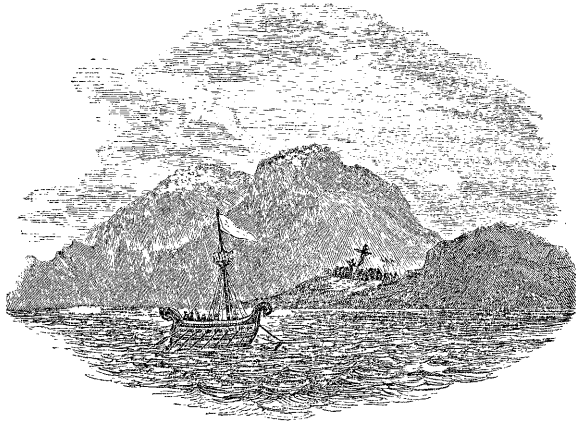
The illustrious Diaz, the *Discoverer*, whose purer fame has been obscured by the halo which surrounds the memory of the great Vasco de Gama, the *Conqueror**, was the first navigator of the Southern Seas, sent out by King Henry of Portugal in search of India. He swept round the Cape, and after having made the western horn of the present Mossel Bay, named by him Cabo Vacas, from the quantity of cattle he saw there, he pursued his course, and on Thursday, the 14th of September, 1486, he anchored in *Algoa Bay*. At this place the spirit of his mariners began to droop, and fearful of seas more boisterous than those they had hitherto encountered, they began to clamour, declaring they would proceed no further. Their objections, vexatious as they were to the ardent commander of the expedition, were couched in respectful but decided language. They alleged that their supplies were diminishing, that it was requisite to return and look after their small provision tender, from which they had parted; for should it be lost, they must inevitably starve. They urged that their commander should be satisfied with their past labours, as they would carry home to their own country more information than any previous navigators, “having discovered so much land;” and they expressed a conviction that, as the coast appeared to trend further in the further they proceeded, they

* The result to Venice of De Gama's voyage, in which he discovered India, is thus beautifully alluded to by Rogers, in his poem “Italy:”—

“————— Thus did Venice rise,
Thus flourish, till th' unwelcome tidings came
That in the Tagus had arrived a fleet
From India, from the regions of the sun,
Fragrant with spices, and the golden stream
Turned to enrich another. Then she felt
Her strength departing——”

must have left some great Cape behind them, and that they had better return and look for it.

Diaz, obliged to satisfy their scruples, and at the same time determined to carry home with him an authenticated proof of the obstacles which had opposed his further progress, landed on an island in the bay with the chief officers of his vessel and several seamen, trusting that the touching solemnities of religion he intended to celebrate might soften a decision so discouraging to an adventurous spirit like his own. He therefore caused the Sacrament to be administered at the foot of the cross, which he there planted with his own hands, and which has given the name to the island. Thus upon this rugged spot, at present only visited by the seal fisherman, and where European foot had never before trodden, were the symbols of Christianity first displayed in the Southern Ocean.



Santa Cruz.

Having performed this ceremonial, Diaz made his officers swear to the opinions they were about to give as to what was best to be done for the King's service. With one voice they all declared for a return; and as he had been directed by his sovereign how to act in such an emergency, he made them sign a document to

that effect: this completed, he conjured them, like Columbus afterwards (in 1492), to indulge him by sailing only two or three days further, pledging himself, should nothing of importance be discovered, to accede to their wishes; to which they agreed: and in this interval they found the present Great Fish River, which received the name of Rio d'Infante, from Joao Infante, Captain of the Santa Pantaleone, the first who landed at that spot. The Portuguese entered the river with their vessels, and remained there for three days; but failing to procure any news of India from the natives (who the chronicler of the voyage says were "a savagesort of people"), they weighed anchor, and returned to Santa Cruz. Diaz (says the same narrator), when he left this scene of his labours, was melted even to tears, and parted with the cross he had set up on this barren rock, "as if he had been leaving a son in perpetual banishment." He was destined never to revisit this scene of his tender emotions, for he was drowned, eleven years afterwards, off the great Cape, to which he had given the name De los Tormentos, altered by his master, King Henry, to Boa Esperanza (Good Hope), at once his trophy and his tomb.

After the discovery of the Cape, the Portuguese fleets continued for several years to resort to various bays of the present colony for the purposes of refreshment, but that nation does not appear to have ever taken possession of any part of the territory for the purposes of a settlement, and its ships were soon chased out of the Eastern Seas and from their Indian empire by their zealous rival and indefatigable enemy, the Dutch. In 1614 the English, animated with the same spirit of enterprise as the Dutch in their search of the Eastern markets, attempted a settlement with a few convicts at Robben Island, in Table Bay, which was soon broken up by the slaughter of some of them in an affray with natives on the mainland, and the return of the remainder to England. In 1620, however, the commanders of two English ships, finding a Dutch fleet in Table Bay, and hearing that they intended forming a settlement there, resolved to anticipate them by taking an immediate and formal possession of the place in the name of their sovereign James I, which they carried into execution without molestation by the Dutch officers. Andreas Shilling and Humphrey Fitzherbert, the commanders of the vessels in question, then gave to the Lion's Rump, where

the present signal-post stands, the name of James Mountain; to the lower portion near the present quarries, that of Prince Charles; to the Lion's Head, the Sugar Loaf; and the Devil's Head was dignified with Captain Fitzherbert's own name, the Table being allowed to retain its own appropriate designation. Except the act of possession and the change of nomenclature alluded to, no further step appears to have been taken by the English Government*.

"In the fulness of time," VAN RIEBECK, a surgeon and a botanist, touched at Table Bay in his homeward passage, in 1648. The excursions he made into the country, in the prosecution of a delightful and bewitching science, probably inspired him with the first desire to revisit this richest and most splendidly adorned temple of Flora; some lovely flower, perhaps, whose predecessor had been

" ————— born to blush unseen,
And waste its fragrance in the desert air,"

may have been the trivial cause of this important settlement. Whether this be the case or not, being a man addicted to speculation, and enthusiastically devoted to the service of his country, Van Riebeck, with others, having represented the advantages to be secured by forming a general rendezvous at the Cape for the United Chartered East India Company of Holland, was selected as the founder of the new colony, and on the 23d Dec. 1651, he launched with three vessels on the ocean, freighted with the precious seeds of civilization, to the celebrated promontory of

* It was the practice of captains of vessels visiting the Cape for live stock, previous to the occupation by the Dutch, to bury letters and despatches under large stones, on which was inscribed the name and date of the arrival of the vessel. Many of these are still preserved at Cape Town, and some few years ago, on removing the earth to repair a drain in one of the principal streets, one of these memorials was dug up:—

T—E . LONDON . ARIVED . T . E 10 OF JVL
HERE . FROM . SVBAT . BOVND . FOR
ENGLAND.
T—E 20 DICTO . RICHARD . BLYTH .
CAPT . ANE . 1622.
HEARE . VNDER . LOOKE
FOR . LETTERS.

1629
JAN . REYB . CLOCK
CASP . V . BEBIVECT.

the Cape of Good Hope, where he arrived about sunset on the evening of the 6th April, 1652, and immediately afterwards commenced his little settlement.

Having taken possession, Van Riebeck issued his first proclamation, enjoining kindness to the aborigines, and prescribing that, "should they be detected in theft, they should on no account, without his previous knowledge and consent, be pursued, beaten, or even be looked upon with anger;" that any European, "who ill uses, beats, or pushes any of the natives, be he in the right or in the wrong, shall be punished with fifty lashes;" and "that every friendship and kindness should be shewn to them*."

The colony thus planted soon began to spread its wide encircling branches over the surrounding territory. Within eight years a treaty gave the new possessors an extent of three Dutch miles beyond the original fort; ten years more incorporated Saldanha Bay and Hottentot Holland, in fact all the Cape Peninsula; and, in 1672, two contracts with the Hottentot chiefs, signed on the 19th April and 5th of May, witnessed the sale in full perpetual and hereditary property of the lands around the Cape. "The consent of the chiefs" (says Mr. Moodie, the collector of the Cape Records), "and their contentment with the price paid, was testified by the members of the Cape Government, and by the Admiral of the Fleet as Supreme Commissioner; and the purchase appears as complete as that concluded between William Penn and the North Americans. In all such transactions between such parties, the advantage must be on the side of the civilized. The prime cost of the articles delivered by Penn may have borne the same proportion to the value of Pennsylvania in its present improved condition, as did the tobacco, beads, brandy, and other trifles, to the value of the land around the Cape at this day.

In a few years after this transaction, the colonists spread along the eastern slopes of the dividing range of Hottentot Holland mountains, and soon descended into the fertile valleys of Stellenbosch and Drakenstein, carrying with them their industrious habits and religious faith. The Swellendam district, then called the "far and outlying district," was appended in 1742, and Graf

* Vide "The Record," or a series of official papers relative to the condition and treatment of the native tribes of South Africa, compiled, translated, and edited by D. Moodie, Lieut. R.N.—RICHARDSON,

Reinet in 1786, at which time the eastern frontier of the colony was fixed where it is up to the present day, namely, the Great Fish River. Since that year, except in 1836, when the colony was extended to the Keiskama by Sir Benjamin D. Urban, this has been the only boundary, although, in unfair attempts to stigmatize the colonists for cupidity, efforts have been made to assign the Chamtoos river as the eastern limit of the colony. The erroneous charge that the lands as far as the Great Fish River were lately wrested from the Kafirs is now totally exploded by the publication of the official records of the colony.

After a peaceable possession of the colony by the Dutch for one hundred and forty-three years, on the 10th June, 1795, an English fleet arrived at Simon's Bay, bringing letters from the Prince of Orange, enjoining the Cape Government to place the colony under British protection, which, being disregarded by the French party then at the head of affairs, forcible possession of the colony was taken on the 16th September following; but, on the signature of the general treaty of peace at Amiens in 1801, the restoration of the settlement was ordered to take place on the 1st of October of that year. This event was, however, delayed until the 20th of February, 1803, when the inhabitants were absolved from their allegiance to his Britannic Majesty. Hostilities having recommenced in Europe, the British Government, acquainted, through their recent occupation of the colony, with its great importance, determined again to take possession; and after some slight resistance by the troops at Blauwberg, near the metropolis, Cape Town capitulated on the 10th of January, 1806, and the colony has ever since remained in the hands of Britain, being finally ceded at the Congress of Vienna in 1815.

The treatment of the aboriginal inhabitants by the Europeans, in the acquisition of this extensive tract of territory, has not only been open to suspicion, but deliberate and distinct charges have been laid against both the *early*, and even the modern colonists on that head, by a number of writers, some from ignorance, some from misinformation, and some from motives of a less creditable character. The number of natives, estimated at the time of the discovery as about 200,000, are stated to have been reduced, or "*cut-off*," to the present population of about 32,000, "by a continual system of oppression, which, once begun, never

slackened." Now there is every reason to believe that the Hottentot tribes were never one-fourth so numerous as represented, and the parties thus representing their numbers have not attempted or been able to produce the data on which they found their calculation. Whatever other reasons may have been the cause of their disappearance, disease and *not oppression*, and feuds among themselves, not the aggressions of the colonists, must chiefly account for their gradual and still progressive extinction. In 1663, 1666, 1674, 1713, and 1767, we find that small-pox, measles, and *other* infectious diseases (not apparently of European import, but *indigenous*), ravaged the villages of these people, so that they perished by thousands. That wars between the Dutch and the natives can be alleged as the cause, is not at all either a tenable position, for *twice* only did hostilities take place between the parties, namely, in 1659, and 1673 to 1676, on which occasions not more than 25 of the natives are stated to have been destroyed, and all the booty taken seems to have been 1765 head of horned cattle, and 4930 sheep. Of these wars and their *causes*, namely, robbery of cattle by the natives, and the treacherous murders of some twenty Europeans, the fullest and most circumstantial details are still preserved, and have been published; "they are in the usual spirit of bulletins, and the loss inflicted upon the enemy does not seem to be under-rated."

It has been represented that the Hottentot race, on the arrival of the Dutch, kept the law of nations better than civilized people; as being remarkable for the purity of their morals, as acquainted with the Scripture idea of the Deity, and as having worshipped the true God, previous to the introduction of Christianity;—that among them the vices of lying and stealing were unknown, and that they lived together in great harmony;—with many other statements contrary to fact,—to the very nature of man in his best estate, and more particularly untrue as regards the Hottentot race. So far from theft and falsehood being rare, perfidiousness, murder, and robbery, were, as might be expected, of constant occurrence. This people had not the slightest idea of a Divinity, or the smallest glimmering of religious light; they seem, indeed, to have been almost entirely devoid of the common superstitions of the barbarian state. Even with fetichism, so generally acknowledged by other Africans, and with the practice

of the *Taboo*, they were totally unacquainted. Their lives were stained by the grossest practices, and they were continually waging the most sanguinary and exterminating wars with each other, plunder of cattle being the principal object. This state of affairs, it is known, was not incident to the intrigues of the new comers from Europe, but, according to native testimony *at that time collected*, had existed from periods as far back as their earliest recollection; and even within two days after the arrival of Van Riebeck and his party, two neighbouring clans measured their strength in his presence. Surely with the well accredited facts connected with these subjects, which recent research has brought into light, it is unjust to impute the cause of the disappearance of this people to the conduct of the early settlers.

As the depopulation of the country cannot, then, be attributed to devastating wars of the Dutch, similar to those carried on in America by its conquerors; so neither can it be assigned to an organized system of oppression and cruelty. This colony possessed no mines in which to immure the natives; no gold or diamond-bearing streams, in which to enforce *labour* under the lash, as in the new world; it produced no valuable agricultural riches requiring extreme exertion of strength; nor were the people seized, sold, and expatriated to foreign climes to pine away in the shackles of irredeemable servitude. On the contrary, so far from "oppression" being the rule of the Dutch government, they evinced a constant solicitude for their protection. All their orders relative to the aborigines, whether Hottentot, Bushman, or Kafir, breathe the spirit of kindness and conciliation, and the records of the criminal courts, fortunately preserved from the earliest date of the colony to this present time, fully bear out the statement that every protection was afforded them, and that Europeans were as constantly condemned to punishment for their ill usage, as the latter were subjected to correction for their misdeeds.

However melancholy the contemplation, it seems certain that the native tribes must inevitably melt away before civilization. The process is going on wherever a new settlement is founded: even the Hottentots of the present day, who enjoy all the privileges of equal laws with the whites, who have had the advantage of missionary efforts for nearly half a century, and who are not

subject even to the shadow of wrong or injustice, are rapidly disappearing, from the effects of their own profligacy and misconduct, from which no human agency appears able to redeem them.

In the language of a Wilberforce, "All the colonies which the world has seen for centuries past have flown forth from Christendom; and they have settled amongst tribes, who knew not the Lord or his Christ, and who, as the plain result of that ignorance, have been weak and uncivilized, and (which is a most awful feature in this picture) who have been in almost every case, *even before* the stronger race of Christian Europeans came amongst them, *wasting away in power and number*; who through the natural working of their own vices, which by degrees had eaten out the national character amongst them, though they had once been great, had now begun to waste away. So that in almost every instance, when we have *come* to these lands, we have found traditions amongst them, that they were much more numerous than they are now; shewing that God, in the fulness of time, and just when their ignorance of Christ and their servitude to the things of the world was beginning to work out its accomplishment,—when the time of these Gentiles was fully come,—when God's hand was already laid upon them in judgment, just at that time it was, that by the dispensations of His secret will He so ordered it, that this nation should come to their shores, with the message of that Gospel which is able to lift them up again from this debasement, and to give them back again to strength and to national existence, and to knit them up again as a nation, out of which they were slipping, and to build them up again as a people, from which they were falling. And this, observe, agrees exactly with the whole apparent plan of God for the spreading of His truth, and that especially since the cessation of the power of working miracles in His church. For by the natural law of God's appointment, Christian nations must be the colonizing nations. The greater value of human life in every Christian land, the greater purity of manners of every Christian people, the greater kindness of man to man, and so the greater shelter for the weak and infirm amongst us—all these which follow in the train of Christianity, and which abound so in this land of ours, naturally make Christian people the most numerous, and so lead to their being the nations which naturally throw off

their swarms into the less peopled districts of the earth. Again: the higher moral and intellectual tone of Christendom will naturally lead it to be thus the source of the great sowing of the earth with the seed of man, because it naturally leads to the patient daring, to the untiring effort, to the wise plans, through which all of these great works of sowing new people can only be brought to a proper effect; and Christianity, moreover, and Christianity only, is that which furnishes a land which it leavens with the resources of wealth and power, which make such enterprises possible, or even desirable in men's eyes. So that here we see a whole series of appointments of God's providence, by which it is evidently intended by Him, that Christian people should be the great founders of colonies, in order that by this natural law of His appointment, Christian nations may spread the truth of His Gospel throughout the world. It is only by making our colonies the outposts of the Christian faith that it can fulfil the universal law, 'Increase and multiply, and replenish the earth,' consistently with justice. It is only thus that it can knit into one the race to which it comes with the race which it pours forth and settles. It is only thus that this great problem can be solved which, because we have never perhaps endeavoured to solve it in full faithfulness, has never yet been fully solved—how civilization and barbarism can be brought together, without the barbarous people being destroyed by the Christian people. And thus only, no doubt, *can* the two races be brought together. Instead of the stronger preying upon the weaker, as it has been too often, thus only can they be wedded together as one people. By sowing through *Christianity* the seed of national revival of life in a dwindling people, into which the stronger element is thus inserted; by this, and *by this only*, can the destruction of the weaker be prevented."

Thus speaks Archdeacon Wilberforce. It is the language of truth and true philanthropy, attested by daily experience; for lamentable as has been the loss of human life among the South African aborigines, in consequence of the emigration of the Dutch farmers from the Cape Colony to Natal, it is trifling compared to the devastation occasioned by native wars. There is great reason to hope, as soon as the Boers are firmly seated under the British, that their presence will repress the murderous inroads of the savage tribes upon each other.

The following list, compiled by an intelligent Christian Missionary, long resident in the interior, beyond the Colonial Boundary, "of the population and position of the Bechuana tribes, before their extirpation by the Zoolahs in 1822, and long before any white people had settled among them, and few had visited their territories," will shew that white aggression cannot be alleged as the reason of the awful destruction which fell upon so large a portion of the human family.

The comparatively high state of civilization of these victims to native barbarity, and their interesting manners, &c., may be seen in the travels of Campbell and Burchell.

List of the Bechuana Tribes (their Population and Geographical Position) destroyed by the Zoolah incursions of 1822 and subsequently.

TRIBE.	POPULATION.	POSITION ABOUT	
		lat.	long.
Bamangwato	20,000	24. 10	23. 5
Basmyreli	15,000	23. 20	5. 5
Bachazeli	30,000	23. 5	26. 30
Bawaukelzi	16,000	23. 30	26. 30
Bakutta	10,000	23. 10	27. 50
Bagachu	7,000	23. 45	28. 25
Bagasitze	15,000	24.	27.
Bamsile	5,000	24. 10	28. 5
Bamagase	500	24. 40	28. 10
Bamauyana	3,000	24. 15	29. 20
Bamokakuki	10,000	24. 30	29.
Bapeers	500	25.	28. 45
Barolong	30,000	25. 15	26. 50
Barumisana Bafoku	2,000	25. 25	29. 30
Barisana Bafoku	4,000	25. 40	29. 30
Bafoka	10,000	26. 10	29. 25
Bagoking	16,000	26. 30	30. 30
Basoking	35,000	26. 45	28. 50
Baropogato	35,000	26. 50	29. 50
Bapito	22,000	26. 45	31. 5
Battopeen	15,000	27. 5	24. 5
Baralota	10,000	27. 10	29. 50
Bamaraki	15,000	27. 30	30. 5
Bamaguade	12,000	27.	30. 25
Bagoyo	20,000	27. 50	29.
Baguin	10,000	27. 40	29. 30
Balouri	15,000	27. 45	30. 10
Basituana	10,000	27. 50	29. 50

TOTAL: 28 tribes of 384,000 souls dispersed and destroyed, and whose destruction cannot be attributed to white aggression upon their territory, or the influence of the accursed traffic in slaves, but from mere native restlessness and ambition.

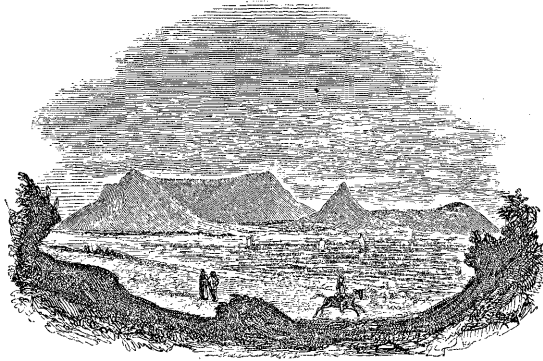


Table Mountain, the Lion's Head and Rump. (Taken from the Eastern Side of Table Bay.)

SECTION II.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE COLONY OF THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

THE extensive colony comprised under the inappropriate name of the CAPE OF GOOD HOPE is confined within somewhat irregular limits, but may generally be defined as bounded by the meridians of 17 deg. 40 min. and 27 deg. 20 min. E. longitude, and the parallels of 29 deg. 40 min. and 34 deg. 50 min. of S. latitude, containing an area of about 150,000 square miles, or 96,000,000 acres, inhabited by a population *said* to amount to 161,484 souls, (but really by 220,000,) who are dispersed over this, one of the largest possessions of Great Britain, at the rate of little more than one individual to the square mile. These boundaries, which enclose pretty nearly a square figure, will be best understood by the map attached to this work.

The surface of this extensive country is intersected by considerable mountain chains, whose mean average elevation is from 1000 to 4000 feet, some peaks attaining the height of from 7000 to 9000 feet, and, perhaps, in one or two instances somewhat more.

The two principal ranges nearest to, and which run nearly parallel with the sea board of the colony, are the Kamiesberg and Cedarberg, extending along the western shore, and the Zwartbergen, a continuation of the Cedar Mountains, skirting the southern coast, gradually falling off and losing themselves near the mouth of the Kromme River, in St. Francis Bay. Immediately behind this ridge is that of the Great Zwartbergen, also originating in the Cedarbergen; this, following at varying distances the direction of the southerly Zwartbergen, proceeds to the Chamtoos River, where, dropping a portion of its height, and spreading out into innumerable ridges, it continues its course to the Winterbergen, on the confines of Kaffraria; at this point again shooting up into several splendid elevations, it enters that country, forming a line along the south-eastern coast, subsidiary to the great dividing range which separates the country of the coast from the central regions of the continent.

The chief mountain system, however, begins to rise about one hundred miles from the west coast in the Roggevelden (*anglice*, rye-fields), and first pursuing a southerly, then a south-easterly, and ultimately a north-east direction, under the successive appellations of the Nieuwveldt, Snieuweldt, Zuure and Bamboo Bergen, penetrates the country of the Kafirs, under the name of the Stormbergen, keeping at an average distance from the ocean of about ninety miles: it then passes behind Natal as the Quathlamba, and can be traced even beyond the Bay of Dela Goa. The southern or exterior spines of this magnificent vertebral column give birth to all the large rivers running through the colony and Kafirland into the Indian Ocean, while its interior or northern slopes supply the great basin of that beautiful collection of waters called the Great Gariep, or Orange River, whose estuary is on the shores of the Atlantic.

These mountain chains may be considered as a series of steps or terraces, successively rising from the sea, and attaining, as they retreat, a gradual increase of altitude, and they enclose natural districts or divisions of the country, varying considerably in extent, climate, and productions.

The first range is that formed on the east by the Cedarbergen, containing the rich valley of the Oliphant's River and the Konde Bokvelden (Cold Goat Pastures), which continue along the

eastern line between the two Zwartbergen forming the Kanna-land, and the celebrated valleys of the Large Kloof and Kromme River. This terrace, although no great distance from the sea, is in most parts so elevated as to fit it for the growth of almost every description of produce belonging to a cold climate, as the apple, pear, cherry, currant, raspberry, and gooseberry.

The second great terrace commences on the north, or behind the great Zwartbergen, and presents a surface of table land of from eighty to a hundred miles in breadth, by at least four hundred and twenty miles long. A large proportion of this space is absorbed by unsheltered deserts, called Karoos, the greater part of which are, however, confined to the western or elder province of the colony. These wastes are for the most considerable portion of the year much denuded of pasturage and devoid of moisture, and are only travelled over during or immediately after the periodical rains, when they are traversed by innumerable river channels, but which, acting as mere drains, hurry off, but retain no water. The great altitude of these plains is unfavourable to the growth of wood, and they appear to be doomed by nature to remain unfruitful wildernesses.

A constant *mirage* haunts for ever the thirsty traveller on these blasted heaths, and huge pillars of revolving sand, whirling about in fantastic evolutions wherever the eye roams, are the continual, monotonous, and tantalizing phenomena of this inhospitable solitude.

To the eastward of these "brown karroos," and upon the same terrace, lie the happier regions of the Camdeboo, Bruyntjes Hoogte, and the Tarka, "thrice blessed" divisions of the more favoured Eastern province, deservedly celebrated for their riches in cattle, and the fertility of their soil.

The Nieuwveldt and Snieuwberg mountains rising from these plains, form the buttresses of the next or third plateau, which extends to and across the Gariep or Orange river. This country, especially in the mountains, is also calculated for the cultivation of the productions of Northern Europe. The capsicum, or Indian pepper, can only be raised within doors. This district is well peopled, and its inhabitants are amongst the most wealthy as well as the most intelligent of the Dutch yeomanry of the colony.

Fuel is so scarce in this country that the manure from the cattle-fold is in general use; it is cut into thin cakes, and dried and hardened in the sun, when it makes a ruddy fire, producing an intense heat. Many of the cattle-folds are built of this material.

The population of the Cape Colony, which at first sight seems so disproportioned to the extent of the settlement, is really greater than it appears to be; the scarcity of springs and streams, and their distance apart, prevents that general diffusion of the inhabitants over the surface so common to Europe and Northern America. They are therefore concentrated in towns, villages, and hamlets, and frequently on farms; but that the colony is capable of maintaining a very large augmentation of its numbers cannot be doubted. Innumerable are the instances of estates which, when in the possession of a single family, with difficulty supplied water for irrigation and other purposes, have, upon their sub-division into smaller farms, or becoming the sites of villages, afforded abundance of water for a considerable mass of inhabitants. Such is the history of most of the colonial towns, of which Graham's Town, now containing 5000, and Colesberg 1000 souls, are the readiest and most recent instances. The farmers who occupied these two places are stated to have raised a bare subsistence for their families and few dependants, whereas now thousands live there in comfort and affluence. The Dutch farmer, of the name of Cloete, who was the last possessor of the site of Graham's Town, was in the habit of frequently moving his cattle in quest of water.

In estimating, too, the ratio between the inhabitants and the superficial extent of the colony, we must take into consideration those immense regions already alluded to in the Western Province, the Karoos, or desert country, and to the extent of these wastes must be added the useless mountain slopes and declivities, with their inaccessible defiles, large patches of unwatered lands, and the uninhabited forest country, which are all ill-adapted for the abode of man. When we have made this deduction, we shall find the available part of the colony reduced to half its actual area, and the calculation will then give us a density of population of about $2\frac{1}{2}$ to a square mile, being more than double that of

New South Wales, which rises not higher than $1\frac{1}{4}$ *. It may here be observed, that facilities for sustaining a greater population belong to both provinces, but in a much greater degree to the Eastern Province than the Western; the former being more plentifully watered, better covered with pasture, and entirely free from those patches of desert which compose so large a portion of the area of the latter division.

The rivers of the colony are neither very numerous, nor likely to be very serviceable as a means of internal intercourse. From the structure of the country, which so rapidly attains an extreme elevation from the coast, they generally receive their birth at no very considerable distance from the sea; and they leap down from terrace to terrace, until they fall into the plains below the last range of mountains skirting the ocean, whence they flow, not then always unimpeded, into their kindred waters. Inland navigation in those rivers which will admit vessels must, therefore, under these circumstances, be restricted to a very short distance from their estuaries, but boats and barges might navigate from twenty to thirty miles. Among the rivers on the Western coast is the Oliphant, which waters a very fertile country, and one of whose branches, rising, like the Nile, deposits a slime productive of the most splendid crops. The basin of this stream, said to be inaccessible by shipping, is navigable for small craft full twenty miles from its mouth, but the nature of its roadstead, to the shame of the colony, is at present unknown. Grain, wine, and cattle, would be the exports vessels might bring to Cape Town within a few hours; but which are now almost entirely shut up in the place of their production—the land carriage amounting nearly to a prohibition. The Berg River is a fine stream falling into St. Helena Bay, but useless also as regards navigation. It has long been considered a desideratum to divert its waters into Saldanha Bay, in order to supply that magnificent and secure harbour; but the expense of such an undertaking, it is thought, would be too great to warrant the Government in making the attempt; besides, recent circumstances lead to the supposition that good water is not so scarce in that bay as for-

* This proportion is taken on the assumption that the *official* population returns are correct; but if we take the real population at 220,000 we exceed New South Wales more than three times.

merly imagined. These two are the only rivers of any consequence falling into the Atlantic from the colonial shores.

The BREEDE or BROAD RIVER is navigable for vessels of 200 tons burden, and possesses capabilities for becoming one of the longest water-carriage ways in the colony; it is frequently resorted to by coasters, as the surrounding country produces great quantities of the finest grain. The GAURITZ is also a considerable river, but perfectly ineligible for the use of shipping. It is one of the largest streams of the colony, but rather performs the office of a great drain, than waters the country. The rivers now described all belong to the western province of the colony.

The most considerable streams of the eastern province are the KROMME, CHAMTOOS, ZMALTKOPS, SUNDAYS, BUSHMANS, KOWIE, and GREAT FISH, which will be hereafter described as they occur in their respective divisions or districts.

The colonial bays are nine in number on a coast of 720 miles, namely, in the western province, St. Helena, Saldanha, Table, False, St. Sebastian's, Mossel, and Plettenberg; and St. Francis and Algoa Bay in the Eastern Province. Besides these, are several small inlets, but of no great importance.

1. ST. HELENA BAY is large and commodious, and has a tolerably safe anchorage, but is seldom visited except by small coasters, and occasionally a few American whalers.

2. SALDANHA BAY is one of the finest in the world, and capable of containing at safe anchorage the whole British fleet, during all seasons of the year; nature, however, always capricious in her favours, has denied fertility to the adjacent soil, and the supply of water is limited, in consequence of which it is seldom resorted to, except by foreign whalers, fishing on the coasts.

3. TABLE BAY is too well known to require particular description in this mere general account of the colony. It is the chief harbour of the Cape of Good Hope, and exceedingly commodious; Cape Town, the metropolis, is situated on its shore.

4. FALSE BAY, rather a sound than a bay, contains within its capacious bosom several fine and safe inlets, among which Simon's Bay is the most important; here is the naval arsenal and depôt, but the proximity of the metropolis and its more convenient bay, distant only twenty-one miles, diverts the whole of the trade from this excellent and perfectly land-locked harbour.

5. ST. SEBASTIAN'S BAY is at the mouth of the Breede River, and is said to possess good holding ground; it is seldom visited except by vessels intending to enter the river.

6. MOSSEL BAY is about 70 miles east of the before-named bay; it has a good anchorage and a safe landing-place, and is gradually rising into importance, which it will doubtless speedily attain, as all the extensive territory to the westward of the port is becoming a wool-growing country, and has long been deservedly celebrated for the excellence and abundance of its corn crops.

7. PLETTENBERG'S BAY, 60 miles further eastward, opens the principal forest country of the colony. The finest specimens of timber are exported from this bay, but its trade is restricted to this article, the adjoining fertile corn districts being shut out from access to the port by a range of mountains, over which good roads cannot be constructed until the population and resources of the colony become more dense and more developed.

8. ST. FRANCIS or KROMME RIVER BAY, and

9. ALGOA BAY, will be described more in detail when I come to speak of the Eastern Province in particular.

Besides these marine approaches to the colony, it will be proper to notice the KNYSNA RIVER, or rather an arm of the sea, which, penetrating a thin ridge of precipitous rocks, on the coast of the county of George, forms inside a perfectly landlocked and safe harbour. It has 18 feet water at low ebb tide on the bar, but egress and ingress are hazardous, and vessels are often detained for a considerable time within its bosom, before they dare breast the surges of the ocean. Its produce, at present, is timber only, the neighbouring grain country, like that around Plettenberg's Bay, being vexatiously cut off by the interposition of a mountain belt that has hitherto set at defiance every attempt to make it safely practicable for wheel carriages. Could this formidable obstacle be surmounted, the Knysna would become one of the most valuable ports of the Cape settlement. Time and capital will, however, vanquish the giant, whose Briarean arms so maliciously enclose this valuable spot. The scenery is of the most enchanting and magnificent description.

SEASONS AND CLIMATE.—The Cape Colony being situated in

the southern hemisphere, as a natural consequence has its seasons reversed in the order in which they succeed on the opposite division of our globe, the winter of Europe becoming the summer of the southern peninsula, and *vice versa*. Being sufficiently near to the equator, it is within the influence of the monsoons which divide its seasons into wet and dry, the south-east monsoon blowing in the summer, and the north-west in the winter months. It is at the same time also remote enough from the same great circle to possess the advantages of the temperate zones in all their variations of the four alternate seasons; perhaps, however, the intermediate seasons of spring and autumn are somewhat less distinctly marked than in Europe.

Between the two great divisions of the colony of Western and Eastern Provinces there appears a perceptible difference in the characters of the seasons and the periods of their commencement. The winter of the west side is wet, inclement, and disagreeable; while on the other it is cold, dry, bracing, and delightful: and the summer of the eastern is wet and stormy; whereas the western is pleasant, fine, and dry. There is also a full month's difference in the advent of the respective quarters. The commencement of the winter, for instance, in the Western Province, being in June, and that in the Eastern in July. The following tabular comparison will perhaps put these matters into a more palpable shape, and shew at once the points of dissimilarity between the two provinces:—

Comparison between the Seasons in the Eastern and Western Provinces of the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope.

SPRING.

WESTERN PROVINCE.

Dry Season.

SEPTEMBER.—Weather variable. Some showers, west, north-west, and south-west winds prevail. The great flowering month of the native plants.

OCTOBER.—Winds variable, generally from the N. W., but in some years S. E.; occasionally rains.

NOVEMBER.—South-east monsoon begins, but little rain falls.

EASTERN PROVINCE.

Wet Season.

OCTOBER.—Fine rains, occasionally severe storms, occur in this month. The great flowering season.

NOVEMBER.—Fine showers frequently fall, weather gradually becoming warm.

DECEMBER.—South-east monsoon begins; still fine showers.

SUMMER.

WESTERN PROVINCE.

Dry Season.

The most pleasant season, fine and bright weather; the S. E. most prevalent as a dry continuous wind, without rain.

DECEMBER.—S. E. winds, with sometimes slight showers.

JANUARY.—S. E. wind blows violently; weather very hot; a few light showers.

FEBRUARY.—S. E. violent; excessively hot; a little rain.

EASTERN PROVINCE.

Wet Season.

A wet and stormy season. The S. E., laden with moisture from the Antarctic Ocean, blows in gusts, bringing much rain.

JANUARY.—Great heat and dry; but the earth refreshed with occasional heavy showers.

FEBRUARY.—Hot, with occasional rain.

MARCH.—Raw and showery.

AUTUMN.

Wet Season.

MARCH.—S. E. winds; heat moderates; smart showers.

APRIL.—S. E. wind begins to decline.

MAY.—Generally dry; temperature rapidly diminishes. Whaling season begins about the 15th.

Dry Season.

APRIL.—Small showers; weather variable; mornings and evenings cold.

MAY.—Fine weather.

JUNE.—Leaf falls; cool weather. The whaling season begins about the middle of this month in Algoa Bay.

WINTER.

Wet Season.

Weather inclement, damp, and stormy, the N. W. wind blowing in gusts, and followed by much rain. The western bays unsafe for shipping in this season, the wind blowing in-shore.

JUNE.—N. W. monsoon begins to set in. Showers frequent; snow on the mountains, which lays on them for a short time.

JULY.—N. W. wind, violent, with occasional changes to S. E. Copious rains fall; middle of month the whaling season ends.

AUGUST.—Monsoon continues in considerable force; much rain descends.

Dry Season.

The most delightful season of the year; the weather fine, dry, cold, and bracing. The N. W. wind continuous, and not succeeded by rain, of which but little falls this season.

JULY.—The monsoon begins; fine weather; snow falls on the mountains, and remains there generally for some months.

AUGUST.—N. W. wind very strong. Planting season.

SEPTEMBER.—N. W. somewhat abates; occasional gusts of S. E. The finest month of this splendid season. Whaling season concludes about the 15th. Flowering season of native plants begins.

The mean temperature of the whole settlement is pretty correctly estimated for the winter at between 50 deg. to 60 deg. Fahrenheit, and for the summer at 70 deg. to 80 deg. An almost unbearable degree of heat is experienced in some unfavourable situations, such as deep ravines or under the aspect of high mountains, and severe cold is common to others where the altitude and season both combine. Even death has indeed, in a very few instances, been known to arrest the unwary traveller, crossing the ridges of the Camdeboo and Cat river ranges during snow storms. The entire colony is subject to great and sudden transitions of temperature. I have myself experienced in the Eastern Province a change of 40 deg. within twenty-four hours; but notwithstanding these great fluctuations, it is as true as it may seem extraordinary that they are unattended by *any* injury to health. Upon the whole, the climate of the colony may be considered as temperate, and the reason of its general equality may easily be accounted for, from the fact that our winter winds traverse the heated plains of the interior before they reach the colony, while those of summer arrive on our shores from the immense expanse of the Antarctic ocean, cooled down and fitted for our respiration, at the very season when they are most wanted and most agreeable.

The only inconveniences of climate, against which a new immigrant may justly complain, are the occasional hot winds, and the strength and duration of the monsoons, the most violent and most prevailing being the south-east. The new colonist, however, is soon habituated to its assaults, and quickly reconciles himself to the annoyance, when he reflects that in a country with such a geographical position, and where vegetation is so rapid and luxuriant, this boisterous visitant is actually an angel of health. At the Cape itself the south-east wind is proverbially designated "*the Doctor*," and no doubt by driving off the miasmatic exhalations, and intimately combining the elements we breathe, it converts what might constitute *malaria*, into *the most salubrious atmosphere in the world*. In some seasons, when it begins to blow somewhat later than usual, the event is immediately marked by a diminution of the public health. The hot winds seldom reach the country along the coast, being confined to the more interior parts of the colony. They are neither fre-

quent in occurrence, nor lengthened in duration, seldom extending beyond a few hours; but their effects are debilitating and oppressive; as they are, however, quickly succeeded by electric changes, which clear the atmosphere, the human system is immediately refreshed and exhilarated.

The sea coast of the colony is comparatively exempt from storms of thunder and lightning, but the interior (especially the mountainous districts) are frequently thus visited.

Over all the colonies of every country, as well as over every other part of the habitable globe, the Cape of Good Hope unquestionably stands out alone and unrivalled in respect of *salubrity*. We may want capital and labour (yet even these emigration will supply), but still Providence has enriched her with the greatest blessing in its store, a perfectly healthy climate.

The foregoing observation, derived from a personal experience for twenty-two years, as well as the concurrent testimony of travellers who have visited, and residents who have inhabited almost every other clime, and been able to draw comparisons, derives additional weight and superior value from the facts developed in "The Statistical Report, the Result of Major Tulloch's and Dr. Balfour's Researches, laid before the Imperial Parliament of Great Britain, respecting the Sickness, Mortality, and Invaliding of Troops stationed in the various Dependencies of the United Kingdom;" a report which has been well and justly designated in the "Quarterly Review" for June, 1840, as "the most valuable gift, as to the effects of climate, which has ever been made to medicine."

The following return of the proportion of deaths among the European and other troops at the undermentioned military stations of England will do more to prove the superiority of the Cape climate than whole folios of elaborate disquisition. The average strength on which the ratio is computed is taken at per thousand men, out of which die annually, at

	<i>Europ.</i>	<i>Nat.</i>		<i>Europ.</i>	<i>Nat.</i>
Sierra Leone	483	} 30	St. Helena	25	—
Jamaica	121		Gibraltar	21	—
West Indies	78	40	Malta and Canada . .	16	—
Madras Presidency .	48	16	N. Scotia and N. Bruns.	14	—
Bermudas	28	—	CAPE—West District	13	—
Mauritius	27	37	Do. Eastern Prov.	9	10

Upon which important statement the reviewer in question pronounces the following complimentary, but at the same time correct, tribute to the Cape of Good Hope :—“ Our African possessions at the Cape, and especially its eastern frontier, present a scale of mortality unknown in the rest of the habitable globe. At Cape Town itself, the annual mortality is less than at home, being one in forty-six ; and this, too, after it has received the invalids of the East, in the last stages of malady. In certain districts, where this class of cases is excluded, the mortality is one in sixty-seven, or that of the healthiest counties of England. In spite of indifferent barrack accommodation, fevers are slight ; the intermittent and remittent are almost unknown, and of the eruptive class only nine cases and one death have occurred in nineteen years. Consumption is not so rife even as among the Ionian Islands. Rheumatism *, however, is more prevalent than at home, or in any other colony. On the eastern frontier the mortality is the least among all our colonies or than that of the United Kingdom. This is owing to the extreme rarity of diseases of the lungs. From fevers, too, this spot is more exempt than any other part of the world.”

On the subject of the general healthiness of the colony, apart from the results drawn from his military statistics, Major Tulloch himself speaks thus of the Western Province :—“ Neither the variable climate of the *Cape* district, nor the high range of temperature during the summer, seem by any means prejudicial to health ; for in 1833 the deaths were only 681 out of a population of 31,167, being 1 in 46, while in the United Kingdom, according to the last census, the mortality of the population was 1 in 47½. When it is taken into view that among the former are included the deaths of many invalids who arrive at Cape Town in the last stage of disease, there can be little doubt that, so far as regards the resident population, the climate is at least as favourable to the constitution as that of Britain. It may be stated as a further proof* that in the neighbourhood of *Swellendam*, *Stellenbosch* and *Worcester*, where the deaths were not so

* Considerable as had been the prevalence of rheumatism, not a single European soldier on the frontier of the colony, and only two of the Hottentot force, died of that complaint during the whole period of Major Tulloch's returns, which extend over a space of *thirteen* years ;

liable to be increased by the arrival of invalids, the mortality in 1833 was only 707 out of a population of 47,071, or 1 in 67, being a lower ratio than in the healthiest counties in this kingdom." And of the Eastern Province he adds—"In point of salubrity, the *Eastern* frontier district of the Cape of Good Hope is said to exceed the Cape district, though it is stated that the climate in different parts of the frontier varies materially," but, "notwithstanding the extremely high temperature of this climate, its salubrity is probably *unequalled* in any portion of the globe; as a proof, we may state that in the three adjoining districts of Somerset, Albany, and Utenhay, the deaths in 1833 did not amount to more than 327 in a population of 30,000, being only 1 in 91, *which is much lower than has ever been observed, even in the very healthiest districts of Great Britain.*"

The returns of Major Tulloch only came down to the end of 1834, and it may appear, after such testimonies, a work of supererogation to adduce additional authority, but I cannot omit the evidence of Dr. Murray, principal medical officer with the army in Kafirland, in 1835, who reported, after five months' exposure of the regular troops and the colonial militia, in that affair, "that not a single officer or soldier of the regular army has died, or been required to leave the field on account of sickness, during the whole campaign, which I ascribe partly to the judicious and perfect manner in which the army was organised and equipped in the first instance, and partly, perhaps I should say chiefly, to the salubrity of the climate, in which respect I do not think that the country is surpassed (and I question if it be equalled) by any of the world*."

To the support of the above professional "certificates" a cloud of witnesses might be brought, if requisite. Not a traveller or resident, from the time of the Dutch occupation down to the latest period, but agrees in the same opinion and speaks or writes in raptures of the beauty and healthfulness of the climate. Tachart, Valentyn, Linschoten, Kolben, De la Caille, Thunberg, Sparrman, Vaillant, Alberti, Barrow, Lichtenstein,

* *Vide* Report of the British Army Hospital after the late Kafir War, by John Murray, D.D., head-quarters, King William's Town, 8th June, 1835.

Burchell, Campbell, Thompson, Pringle, Thomas Philipps, Steedman, Major Parlby, Sir J. Herschell, Fairbairn, and God-lonton, besides innumerable others,—praise, in varied language, but with concurrent testimony, the splendour of our skies and the purity of our delicious atmosphere*.

An idea has been prevalent with some persons, who admit the wholesomeness of the climate, that people generally decline after a ten years' residence in the colony, and that in particular elderly persons shorten their years by immigrating hither. Major Tulloch, indeed, observes, regarding the military, and, perhaps, his remark may have given rise to the opinion, "It appears, however, that the troops between the ages of 18 and 25 are found to suffer less at the Cape than in the United Kingdom, but the reverse at more advanced ages," and he at once proceeds to give the true reason for this, stating, "This rapid deterioration is attributable to *habits of intemperance*, which, though they add little to the mortality of the youngest class, are likely, if persisted in, to sow the seeds of diseases which develop themselves more fully as the *soldier* advances in life," which will of course easily account for a similar consequence among the civilian class, under less restraint than the soldiery. To those of steady habits the adoption of this colony as a home most assuredly does not accelerate decline, but on the contrary, I verily believe after a twenty-two years' experience and some observation, that it prolongs life, by giving firmness to mature health, and strength to many a weakened and shattered constitution. Abundant instances might be adduced within my own knowledge of persons who, arriving in the Eastern Province at an advanced age, have reached the octogenarian goal, and those who have then paid the great debt have dropped off unattended by any of the usually sad accompaniments of decay in Europe, but have been ripely gathered into "the house appointed for all living †."

* Sir John Herschell states the purity of the air is such, that at the Cape of Good Hope the planet Venus shines so brightly, that the most minute parts of objects, such as the leaves of trees, are perfectly well distinguished, and this not only by contrast (as when such leaves are seen against a white wall), but even when lying on the dark ground. The smallest print can be read by the light of the moon.

† In a recent excursion I made to the frontier districts, I visited

That the climate, therefore, is congenial to our species is no matter of question; and I believe nowhere will be found a finer race of people than are born within our colony. The youthful Dutch are commonly of the heroic standard in stature, and display that complete development of muscular beauty which marks at once the suitability of the climate to mature the human frame. Those of British origin, too, are not behind the offspring of the elder colonists; and whether we take into account their capability of enduring fatigue, and their personal courage (not unfrequently tested, and in which they assuredly excel the former), their physical appearance, their activity, strength, and their moral habits and intelligence, I feel assured that, in its youth, manhood, and old age, no other settlement can surpass, if it can compete with, the Cape of Good Hope. Although these remarks apply to the colony in general, it is only fair to observe that the Eastern division seems more favourable to imparting the *semblance* of health to its juvenile population; for while the young persons, especially about the Cape districts, have somewhat of the sallowness of complexion common to warm climates, those of the east possess all the ruddy freshness of an English rustic. Great personal charms, too, are common among both sexes, but *par excellence* amongst "the fair."

Perhaps another practical argument may (not vainly) be employed, while insisting upon the superiority of our climate, which is deduced from the actual experience of the British settlers of Albany; I quote from Mr. Godlonton's paper, the "Graham's Town Journal," but vouch for the facts as they fell under my own eye:—"On their arrival in 1820, the total number of the

the village of Bathurst, the centre of the locations of the immigrants of 1820, and I there numbered up fifteen persons still living in the immediate neighbourhood who all left their native homes after they had attained sixty years of age. One, my respected relative, Simon Bidulph, Esq., has just paid the great debt of nature, who, during the whole period of his residence in this colony, twenty-two years, never knew a day's illness, and parted at last from life in a gentle sleep.

The late Mr. Le Breton, who founded that eminently successful company the *South African Fire and LIFE Assurance Company* in order to ascertain the probabilities of human life in the colony, visited most of the churchyards, and examined every death registration within his reach, and then pronounced, "If a man has rounded forty-two in this colony, he may live for ever!"

settlers consisted of nearly 4000 souls, and these were placed upon the lands allotted to them at the commencement of winter, and during an unusually wet season, with no protection save the shelter of the bush, the tent, or other canvass covering. The discomforts experienced were many, but still the general health of the settlement was excellent; and although complaints of want of comfort were rife enough amongst the emigrants, yet there was but one opinion as to the salubrity of the climate, and its congeniality to an European constitution." In truth not one death, either juvenile or adult, was occasioned by exposure; an extraordinary circumstance, when it is known that nine-tenths of the settlers came from London, and none were accustomed to brave such exposure in their parent land. But I must proceed with my quotation from Mr. Godlonton, who adds—"It is this superiority which enables the farmers of the interior districts to make their long and toilsome journeys to market. They are sometimes several weeks from home, during which time they seldom enjoy the shelter of a roof. In fair weather the bare ground, or a rush mat spread upon it, usually serves them for repose, whilst in wet their waggons afford them effectual refuge; nor is this exposure deemed any hardship. The fineness of the climate seems to make up for the badness of the roads, and also reconciles the inhabitants of the more remote parts of the colony to the great distance between them and a market for their surplus produce." So far from these excursions being considered a hardship, they are looked upon as pleasurable relaxations from toil.

But nature, "kindly bounteous" in the protection and maintenance of her work, is quite as propitiously disposed for its multiplication. Unstinted room, plenty of food, exemption from the cankering cares of an old country, and an early development of the physical powers, induce early marriages, generally the happiest in all countries, and especially desirable in a climate so warm and a settlement so young as this; the consequences are large families brought to maturity within a period when they can gratify their parents with the sight of their successful establishment in the world, and when they can repay the solicitude bestowed upon them during the days of infantile weakness. Another circumstance favourable to the rapid increase of the

population is, not only the comparative ease with which parturition itself is accomplished, but the infrequency of its fatal termination; and if it be not impiety to express the thought, I should say it would seem that in this climate the tremendous denunciation at the fall—"In sorrow shalt thou bring forth children"—had in mercy been stripped of half its terrors. The loss of life, too, in the early ages of childhood, from dentition, and a "thousand" other "ills that flesh is heir to," common to the colder climes, is extremely trifling. One-half of the human race born in Europe are said to die in infancy. Infant death in the colony is of rather rare occurrence, and by far the very great majority who inhale their first breath at the Cape, of whatever origin, except the native races, stretch out their span of life to a mature age, and in most cases to a time when the weary spirit wishes to depart. The average length of life in the Cape settlement, in the absence of correct calculations, may be stated as equal to that of England, and the colony appears equally able with the American states to double its population every quarter of a century, if not in a less period; that of 1816 having been 88,486 souls, while that of 1841 is estimated at from 180,000 to 220,000 souls.

SOIL AND PRODUCTIONS.—The plains stretching along the western and southern coasts are as rich and luxuriant as any in the world, bringing forth in abundance every variety of animal and vegetable food. It is the most densely peopled portion within the colonial boundary. Beyond the first range of mountains which bound these plains is the first terrace or elevation, containing a considerable area of well-watered and fertile land, interspersed with karoos or desert patches, but still raising much grain, and a large quantity of stock. Behind this is the second terrace, a space occupied almost exclusively by desert spaces called the Great Karroo, still even here are many *oases* where rich crops are harvested, and large herds of stock successfully reared; and above this is the third terrace, chiefly desert waste, except along the slopes of the mountain buttresses of the Roggeveldt, Nieuwveldt, Winter and Snieubergen, where some of the most intelligent and substantial yeomen, herders of sheep, cattle, &c., reside.

THE VEGETABLE AND ANIMAL PRODUCTIONS of the Cape are, perhaps, more varied than those of any other country in the world, and while the indigenous descriptions are almost innumerable, those of exotic birth which have been introduced, thrive most luxuriantly. Wheat, barley, rye, oats, maize, the *pabula* of life, with the clustering vine, and every species of culinary herb or plant, and nearly all sorts of fruits, both of cold and warm climates, grow as well, and in some cases better than in their native stations, and the horse, cow, hairy and woolled sheep, goats, swine, and poultry of every known kind attain equal excellence and perfection. It would be an endless task to enumerate the native resources; but gums, fruit, herbs, medicinal plants,* wax, timber, ivory, hides, tallow, wild animals, ostrich feathers, and oil, are a few among the long list which are prepared of exportable articles of value.

THE POPULATION returns of the colony are shamefully defective. The census being taken only at the time of the payment of taxes, when a capitation impost being supposed to be intended, it is not to be wondered at that they should be underrated; there are, however, within the legal boundaries of the colony, without doubt, from 180,000 to 220,000 inhabitants, including coloured people. The distribution of the population following the official, but defective, rolls alluded to, will be found in the tabular return at the end of this section.

The whole colony, until lately comprehended under one government, was, upon the 19th of February, 1836, by authority of the home Government, divided into two provinces, the WESTERN under the jurisdiction of his Excellency the Supreme Governor; and the EASTERN under his Honour the Lieutenant-Governor; the latter officer's power, however, being superseded whenever the governor visits, and as long as he remains in, the Eastern division. These provinces contain the following districts or counties, namely:—

* Medicinal plants. The Bukà has already proved a valuable addition to the *Materia Medica*; but there are innumerable other botanical treasures known to the farmers' wives, and old Hottentot *ladies*, of great use in many diseases, which a judicious inquirer could add to physical science. It would be worth any man's while, panting for fame and profit, to turn his attention to this matter.

WESTERN PROVINCE.	EASTERN PROVINCE.
1. Cape County.	1. Albany County.
2. Stellenbosch do.	2. Utenhay do.
3. Zwellendam do.	3. Somerset do.
4. Worcester do.	4. Cradock do.
5. Clan William do.	5. Graf Reinet do.
6. George do.	6. Colesberg do.
7. Beaufort do.	

Over each of which presides a civil commissioner or political agent of the Government, who is at the same time a resident magistrate; these counties are again subdivided into wards, the chief officer over which is termed a field-cornet, while for ecclesiastical purposes, certain arbitrary limits mark out the parishes or respective church jurisdictions of each county.

The Cape Colony has now become essentially British. The laws are administered by British judges, and the language is officially declared to be English; why not, then, at once make British immigrants feel they were still *at home*, by adapting everything possible to British ears? From this day forward, therefore, we have counties and shires, instead of districts or divisions, and hundreds in lieu of field-cornets.

SECTION III.

DESCRIPTION OF THE EASTERN PROVINCE.

THE Eastern Province of the colony of the Cape of Good Hope comprises the divisions or counties of—1. ALBANY; 2. UTENHAY; 3. SOMERSET; 4. CRADOCK; 5. GRAF REINET; 6. COLESBERG; comprehending an area of 37,544 square miles, peopled by 60,842 souls, of whom 26,032 are white, and 34,810 of colour. It is separated from the Western Province of the colony by the counties of George and Beaufort. On the south the Indian ocean is its boundary, on the north the Gariep or Orange River, and on the east it has the country of the Kafirs.

1. ALBANY.—Albany is the extreme easterly frontier county of the colony. The country along its sea line, now called Lower Albany, obtained, at a very early period, from the Dutch inhabit-

ants, in consequence of the nature of its pasturage, the name of the *zuurevelden*, or *sour fields*. To this county Governor Sir John Cradock attached the appellation of Albany, in honour of the late Duke of York, after he had recovered it from the encroachments of the Kafirs in 1814; and on the arrival of the British immigrants in 1820, this county having been selected as their future home, it was separated from that of Utenhay, and formed into an independent jurisdiction under its present name.

The boundaries of this, by far the most beautiful and interesting division of the Cape colony, are as follow:—on the north-east the ridges of the hoary and elevated Winterbergen, to the sources of the Kat River, separate it from the country of the Amatembu or Tambookie tribes; on the east the Kat and Great Fish Rivers divide it from the Amakosa or Kafirs Proper; on the south the billows of the Indian Ocean break upon its coast; and on the west and north-west, the Bushman's and Kunap Rivers part it from the counties of Somerset and Utenhay. Its area is 1792 square miles; its population 19,777; 7710 whites, and 12,067 of the coloured race. It is, without any exception, by very far the most densely peopled division of the whole colony, having $11\frac{1}{2}$ souls to a square mile.

The chief productions of Albany are cattle, sheep, and grain; it possesses 3340 horses, 42,510 horned cattle, and 255,400 sheep, and 45,350 goats. Of the sheep, the larger proportion, about 200,000, is of the improved breed, and *wool* forms the staple of the district. Its other exports are identical with those of the rest of the colony. The southern parts of Albany are generally best fitted for the breeding of horned cattle, and for arable purposes; while the northern, and more particularly the country around the Koonap, are peculiarly adapted for fine woolled sheep as well as for cultivation; the corn of the Winterberg division especially is particularly fine and abundant.

The county is divided, for the purposes of local administration, into six wards or hundreds, over each of which an officer called a field-cornet presides.

Albany is watered by the Bushman's River, the Kowie, Kariëga, Great Fish, Kat, and Koonap Rivers, besides several other fine rivulets of smaller note. In Lower Albany the streams are too deeply seated to be used for the purposes of irrigation, but

as that part of the country enjoys all the influence of the moisture derived from the neighbouring ocean, and the soil being light, crops are easily raised without the necessity of leading water. In the upper parts of the division, the Koonap, the Kat, and the Great Fish Rivers are capable of being diverted from their beds over the stiffer soils, whereby the most luxuriant harvests are reaped.

The scenery of this Arcadian county has called forth the unqualified praise of every inhabitant and sojourner. Towards the sea, well grassed and gently undulating meadows are interspersed with park-like scenery. Natural shrubberies, variegated by flowers of a thousand hues, everywhere arrest the attention of the delighted beholder. These elegant prairies are covered with numerous flocks of sleek and healthy cattle, and sprinkled with the cottages of farmers, whose dazzling whiteness pleasingly contrasts with the freshness and brilliancy of the bright verdure. On the north the character of the landscape undergoes a complete and sudden change, passing at once into sublimity. There the bold ranges of the Winterberg, Kat River, and Kaf-frarian Mountains with their occasional crests of snow and eternal diadems of hoary forest, stand out in sharp relief against an intensely azure sky, and give a grandeur to the scene not surpassed in any part of the world. In short, the appearance of the entire county is splendid beyond description, and continues to increase in majesty and richness as the traveller proceeds eastward into the country of the Kafirs. The pastoral muse of the amiable poet Thomas Pringle has conferred a classic immortality upon many of the lovely spots in this district, in which he for some time resided, especially those around the "lone Mancazana," "the Wizard Kat," and the "Green Camalu."

For the further details of this important county, I shall now avail myself of the labours of the editor of the "Graham's Town Journal," R. Godlonton, Esq., whose description, drawn on the spot, has recently been published in the colony, and may be depended upon for its fidelity*.

* Sketches of the Eastern Districts of the Cape of Good Hope, as they are in 1842, the copyright of which has handsomely been conferred on the Editor of the present work.

“ Albany may properly be divided into two parts, by a line drawn from east to west, from Double Drift on the Fish River, to Rontenbach's Drift on the Bushman's River. The portion south of this line comprises what is called *Lower Albany*, and is the tract of country known as the *Zuureveld*, originally appropriated for the reception of the British settlers of 1820, and who must justly be considered as the founders of the settlement.

“ This part, to an English eye, is beyond comparison the most pleasing, though the upper part, as being more suited for sheep, is considered at present as by far the most valuable.

“ The line mentioned would intersect Graham's Town at a point equidistant from the east and west boundaries, and which is thus admirably situated to command the trade, and to contribute to the convenience of the whole district.

“ Lower Albany, though not in request for sheep walks, the pasturage being too rank and sour*, and the atmosphere too humid, is nevertheless, from its capabilities of supporting a dense population, a most valuable tract of country. Thousands of acres are ready for the plough, perfectly free from obstruction of any kind, and the soil of excellent quality for the production of grain of all descriptions.

“ Port Frances is situated at the mouth of the Kowie River, where it forms an estuary of considerable width and depth of water, but which is impeded at the entrance by a large accumulation of sand, partly the *debris* of the surrounding high lands that skirt the river, and partly from the action of the sea and its evident but slow retrocession from the eastern shore of this continent. Through the sand thus formed, the spirited projector, W. Cock, Esq., has succeeded, at an expense of several thousand pounds, in cutting a straight channel on the western side, by which means much greater velocity has been given to the current, while the channel thereby has been considerably deepened.

“ A steam tug has been ordered for this port, by the aid of which the most sanguine hopes are indulged that vessels of considerable burden will be enabled to enter the port. A company

* Farms formerly entirely covered with sour grass, which scours the cattle. By being burnt down in summer and gradually depastured with sheep and cattle is very soon improved, and has turned out in some cases the best land for stock.

has also been formed for the purchase of a steam vessel to trade between this point and Cape Town, and for which shares have been taken to the amount of £8000.

“The population in the village of Port Frances is scanty, but it can boast of an excellent inn, kept by Mr. Berrington; a neat chapel of the Wesleyan denomination, and some of the most picturesque scenery in South Africa. Both banks of the river are particularly beautiful. The river itself is navigable for vessels of considerable draught of water for about twelve miles.”

The mouth of the Great Fish River, there is not the smallest doubt, is navigable for craft of considerable size, and might be used without expending a single farthing for piers, or other sea works, such as has been done at the Kowie. The only danger is from the chance of a lull of wind off the steep rocks on the eastern side, where, however, there is great depth of water; but this might be obviated by employing a small steam tug, for which there is abundance of wood fuel on both banks of the river.

One of the earliest of the British settlers, Mr. John Bailie, entered this river in a small decked boat, on the 19th Sept. 1825, and after having carefully sounded the entrance and inspected the bar, pronounced it to be perfectly practicable. The average rise of tide at Springs is seven feet; eight feet six inches has been obtained. The depth upon the unshifting bar at low water is six feet. It is both a singular circumstance and a shame to the inhabitants that no attempt has been made to avail themselves of this port. The Kowie, where several thousand pounds have been expended, has not half the advantages of the Great Fish River. In the former there is a very small quantity of back-water; for its sources are not above twenty-five miles from its mouth, and it has no tributaries, while the latter has a run of above 200 miles in a direct line, besides numerous and strong tributary streams. Around the Kowie all the land is private property, while the eastern bank of the other for fifty miles belongs to the Kafirs, who would gladly dispose of it to settlers. The navigation of this stream besides would enable merchants to receive and supply the whole trade of Kafirland.

“Bathurst is nine miles from Port Frances, and lies almost

on the direct route from thence to Graham's Town. This is considered to be one of the most pleasing villages in the colony. It is the Richmond of Albany, and well worthy of its designation.

"It has also an inn, admirably conducted by the widow Hartley; an Episcopalian church, which, for chasteness of style and general appearance, may challenge comparison with any edifice of the same size in the parent country; a Wesleyan chapel; a public school, and a reading association.

"A resident justice of the peace is appointed for this village, with a stipend of £100 per annum.

"Diverging a little to the south-east from Bathurst, at the distance of four miles, is a village, called Ebenezer, and sometimes James' Party. The greater part of this location lies upon an elevated ridge of limestone formation, and which may, perhaps, account for the peculiar fertility that distinguishes the land in this neighbourhood. The quality which lime possesses of retaining moisture and of rendering the soil cool and nutritive, makes that mineral as a manure of great value, and we doubt not but, were it more generally used, it would greatly improve the character of lands which are comparatively unproductive. In this village, on an elevated site, commanding an extensive prospect, is another chapel, belonging to the Wesleyan Methodists.

"Proceeding four miles further towards Graham's Town, lies *Clumber*, but which need not be longer dwelt upon than to remark, that it contains a day and Sunday school, and a chapel, all of which have been established, and are conducted, by the Wesleyan society.

"About ten miles south of this village, at a place called *Cuylerville*, a school-house has been erected by members of the Episcopalian church, and to which a schoolmaster has been appointed, although from the paucity of the population, and its scattered state in this particular neighbourhood, the attendance is not likely for many years to be very numerous. Cuylerville was the first village established by the settlers of 1820, and named as a mark of respect to Col. J. G. Cuyler, the then chief magistrate of the district.

"From this point, a little to the west of the road to Graham's Town, on a spot called Trappes' Valley, an institution for

coloured persons has recently been established by the Wesleyan Society. They have here a chapel and a school, which are well attended by the natives who reside there.

“Proceeding from this station towards Graham’s Town; the road gradually rises, until, at a distance of ten miles from the capital, you ascend from Manley’s Flat, the lofty ridge by which it is partly environed. From the summit of this elevation, the traveller obtains a bird’s-eye view of nearly the whole of Lower Albany. Facing the south, his horizontal line is the ocean, distant twenty-six miles. A little inland from the coast, on the left, is Mount Donkin. From thence, looking westward, are seen the Bathurst Hills, and beyond them, to the extreme right, the heights at Lombard Post, near which is situated the Hottentot village of Theopolis, founded by the London Missionary Society, one of whose missionaries resides on the spot. The population of this village consists of 17 whites, 186 Hottentots, and other persons of colour, natives of the colony, and 120 aborigines (styled by the Government “native foreigners”) of the country beyond the colonial boundaries, making a total of 323 persons. They have about 60 acres of land in cultivation, upon which were raised last season 58 muids of wheat, 110 of barley, 83 of oats, and 163 of maize. The live stock consists of a few horses, and about 550 cattle. The village contains a school and a chapel.

“About fifteen miles north of Theopolis is situated another institution for coloured persons, called *Farmerfield*, and which was established by the Wesleyan Society about four years ago. The residents on this place are much more industrious than at the sister institution, and as a consequence more wealthy. An European superintendent, who acts as schoolmaster and catechist, is stationed here. The population consists of 74 Hottentots and other coloured colonists, and of 246 ‘native foreigners.’ They have 225 acres of land in cultivation, and possess 15 horses, 1135 cattle, and 220 sheep. Last year they produced 30 muids of wheat and barley, 418 of maize and millet, 20,000 lbs. of oat-hay, 100 muids of potatoes, and ten of peas and beans.

“It is computed that about one-third of the men on this station are usually labouring for the neighbouring farmers, the general rate of wages being 1s. 6d. per day. They have an

excellent day and Sunday school, and Divine service is regularly performed by the Wesleyan missionaries, or by their lay assistants.

“ Four miles from *Farmerfield*, to the north, is the village of *Salem*, established by a party of Wesleyan Methodists, who formed a portion of the emigrants of 1820, and whose active zeal for the spread of religion, and the general diffusion of knowledge, has had such a manifest and powerful influence, not only upon the county of Albany, but upon the whole province. In this village there are several very respectable and substantial houses. The Assagai Bush River runs through the village, and affords during the driest seasons an abundant supply of water. The channel of the river lies deep, and has more the character of a succession of pools than a continuous stream. It frequently ceases to flow for considerable periods, but these pools are never exhausted, and abound with fish of excellent quality. In this village is a neat, well-built, and spacious chapel belonging to the Wesleyan Society, and a respectable dwelling for the resident missionary, who receives from Government a salary of £75 per annum. An unpaid justice of the peace resides here, W. H. Matthews, Esq., whose attention to the duties of his office, and zeal in promoting the advancement of every useful public measure, is worthy of imitation.

“ The distance from Salem to Graham's Town, which lies in a N.E. direction, is sixteen miles, the road leading through some of the most romantic scenery. On approaching the chain of hills, behind which the town is situated, the road winds for several miles through a mountainous pass, where is exhibited some of the boldest and wildest features of African scenery. Here and there the mountains present the appearance of having been torn asunder by some violent disruption; while on the jutting crags, and in the fissures of the rock, which frown in some places at a dizzy height above the head of the traveller, are seen the klipspringer bounding from point to point with a temerity and success that are perfectly surprising. This agile and interesting little quadruped is, however, not the only denizen of this wild neighbourhood. It abounds also with baboons, and several varieties of the monkey tribe. These animals are frequently seen in considerable numbers, and occa-

sionally do much mischief in the fields and gardens of the adjacent farmers. The road through this mountain pass was originally constructed from funds raised by a voluntary subscription of a few of the inhabitants interested in that particular locality, assisted by a contribution of £100 per annum from Government. It has since been kept in repair by means of a toll, and by the occasional labour of the convicts*.

“On ascending the summit of the hill, *Graham's Town* is seen resting on its eastern base, embosomed in high land or ridges of inferior elevation. The general appearance of the town is pleasing, if not imposing. The houses being interspersed with gardens, and the streets of great width, the entire area of the town is so considerable as to afford ample room for the next generation at least, without the smallest extension of its present limits. The number of houses is computed at 700, the total amount of population at 5000, of whom 1000 are persons of colour, of the class usually termed ‘native foreigners.’ Some of the stores are spacious and handsome edifices, of late years a very considerable improvement having taken place both in the general style of building and the character of the workmanship. It has two weekly newspapers, which are well supported; a Joint Stock Association Bank, with a capital of £40,000, in most flourishing circumstances, the shares bearing a premium on the paid-up capital (£16 13s. 4d.) of £10 each. It has its own Fire Assurance Company, with a capital of £20,000, bearing a premium of 100 per cent. on the paid-up capital. A Steam Navigation Company has also been organised, with a capital of £8000; and a subscription public library has been commenced, and funds raised for the immediate purchase of 4000 volumes of standard works. A building for the reception of these books has been obtained from the Government, and which is now undergoing the necessary alteration and fitting up for the purpose. The annual subscription to this library is £1 10s., but which it is proposed to increase to £2, when a cer-

* The Cape is not a convict Colony, but the natives or Hottentots committed to prison for thieving, &c., are employed in Government works. Labour, indeed, is so scarce, that masters, after committing their servants to prison, have been the first at the door, on the expiry of the term of punishment, to re-engage them.

tain number of shares shall have been taken. Strangers will have free access to the library.

"The most conspicuous edifice is the Episcopalian church, which is awkwardly placed in the centre of the high street, nor does the style of this structure compensate in the least for the badness of the site. It is altogether a heavy clumsy-looking building, with low tower, pointed arches, and pinnacles.

"Within this edifice are several monuments; the most remarkable is to the memory of Lieut. T. C. White, who fell by the hands of the Kafirs, while engaged with the colonial forces in repelling the invaders.

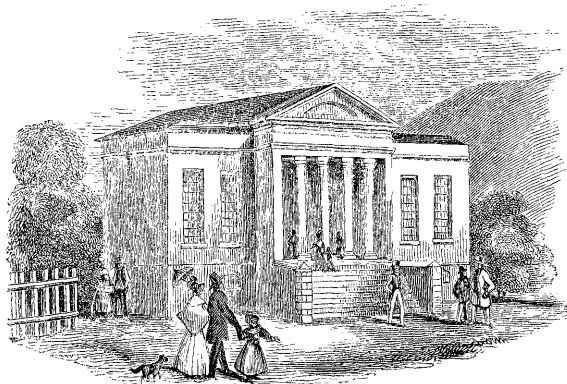
"About a quarter of a mile from this church are the premises of the Wesleyan denomination. These consist of a handsome chapel, capable of containing 1000 persons. On one side is a spacious school, used on week days for the Government free school, and on Sundays by the Wesleyan body both as a school and a chapel, in which service is conducted in the Dutch language. On the other side is a plain but well-built and commodious dwelling-house for the superintendent of the Wesleyan Society's missions in South Africa. These premises altogether form the handsomest range of buildings in Graham's Town. The chapel formerly used by this society is now applied to the use of the coloured classes, and Divine service is performed in it every Sunday in the Kafir tongue. On week days it is occupied as a school of industry for girls, principally coloured children.

"The Independent and Baptist denominations have also chapels, which are well attended, but there is nothing in the buildings themselves which require remark. Each has a more spacious edifice in course of erection, and which, when completed, will contribute greatly to the appearance of the town and accommodation of the inhabitants.

"The Catholics have a temporary chapel and also a structure in course of erection, which, judging from the plan as far as it is developed, promises to be the most imposing public edifice in the province.

"The building now occupied as a court-house and public offices was originally erected for a commercial hall, but was lately sold by the proprietors to Government for the purposes stated. It is a handsome building, the approach to the front

entrance being by a spacious flight of steps leading to a portico supported by massy pillars, constructed of a whitish porous sandstone, which is found near Bathurst.



Court House, Graham's Town.

“The gaol is a low but spacious building, having little to recommend it to notice either in point of style, architecture, or workmanship. The internal arrangement is said to be commodious, but we believe not sufficiently so to admit of that classification which is so essential in the maintenance of efficient prison discipline. There is no profitable in-door employment for the prisoners, and consequently there are no earnings to reduce the amount of expenditure for their maintenance. The introduction of a treadmill, under proper regulations, would remedy this, and, as a means of discipline as well as of profit, might be made of great public benefit.

“Graham's Town, being the head-quarters of the military, contains numerous buildings appropriated for the several departments connected therewith, but which do not call for any particular description. The presence, however, of a considerable military staff adds greatly to the animation of the place, as well as contributes essentially to that money circulation which is confessedly the sinews of trade as well as of war.

“The town is governed by a municipality, composed of six

commissioners and eight ward-masters; the former being elected by the general voice of the householders, and the latter by the inhabitants of the wards respectively to which they are appointed. The officers of the municipality are, a town-clerk, clerk of the market, superintendent of roads, an assizer of weights and measures, and a street-keeper. These offices are in the gift of the commissioners, who also collect the rates and defray the expenditure consequent on the improvement and good order of the town at large. Though all has not been done which might have been accomplished, yet it is but just to remark that, since the erection of the municipality, a very manifest improvement in the town has taken place. The streets have been greatly improved, a large water-tank has been constructed at the head of the high street; the watercourses have, to some extent, been repaired; while one bridge has been built, and another is constructing, which, when completed, will both improve the appearance of the town and contribute to the comfort of its inhabitants. When all this has been done, there is still a wide field for exertion. There are wanting a night police, or a few lamps at the corners and crossings; a paved, or at least a smooth, footway; the erection of a town-hall and market-house; and a variety of other matters which it would be out of place here to particularize. Enough has been done to shew the value of such institutions, while at the same time they are preparing the people to take upon themselves those legislative and civil duties which are connected with the unshackled control by themselves of their own public interests.

“The revenue of the municipality for the year 1841 amounted to—market dues, £613; town rates, £269: total, £882.

“The market is well attended, and from the great variety of character and of produce which is there to be met with, is a scene of much interest. It is held every morning, Sundays excepted, at nine o'clock, the sales being conducted by public auction by the clerk of the market, who receives the money from the purchaser, and for which he is responsible to the seller. The market dues consist of 1 per cent. on all produce sold, and a registry fee of 4½d. for each waggon. There is also a trifling fee for weighing, which is paid by the seller. The value of the produce which passed the market in 1841, according to the re-

gister, amounted to £27,159 17s. 11½*d.*, and at Fort Beaufort, for the same period, to £1855 1s. 3½*d.*

“Graham’s Town is the emporium of the eastern frontier districts, and its main streets present a scene of incessant commercial activity; while almost every article, whether of utility or of ornament, may be as readily obtained as in most of the provincial towns of the mother country. There are several good inns, where visitors may command and receive every reasonable comfort and attention.

“One of the most important works ever undertaken on this frontier is, a military road, called the Queen’s road, leading from Graham’s Town to the north-east as far as the Tarka district. The direction of this magnificent work is vested in Major Selwyn, R. E., the immediate superintendence in Mr. A. G. Bain, Assistant Engineer. Leading over some table land, which skirts Graham’s Town on the east, at a distance of about eight miles, it crosses a stony ridge near a conspicuous peak called Governor’s Kop, and then immediately enters the wild and rugged jungle of the Fish River Bush. Here it winds round the precipitous and densely-wooded hills which in many places have been scarped, though of solid rock, so as to make a perfectly safe and substantial road; in some places having on one side a perpendicular wall of rock and an impervious thicket, and on the other a glen so wild, deep, and precipitous, as to inspire in a stranger a feeling of apprehension which it is very difficult altogether to dispel. The road throughout is admirable, whether considered in reference to surface or inclination, the dip nearly throughout being very considerable. After clearing the Fish River Bush, this road crosses the river itself, at a drift four miles above Fort Brown, formerly called Hermanus Kraal; three miles further it crosses the Konap, near the drift of which on the eastern side is another military station called Tomlinson’s or Konap Post, and also an excellent inn, where the traveller meets with every attention. Passing this spot, the road commences the ascent of the Konap heights, on the summit of which is presented a magnificent view of the mountain chain which, rising in the district of Graf Reinet, stretches away in a line parallel with the coast, to the furthest extremity of Kafirland. From thence to Fort Beaufort, twenty miles, the road leads through one of the most

valuable tracts of pastoral country in the colony, runs to the right of the road as far as Fort Beaufort, and at a mean distance of not more than from two to three miles from it.

“Fort Beaufort has sprung up since the Kafir war from a mere military post, to the rank of the second town of the district. It is beautifully situated on the right bank of the Kat River, near the mountain chain referred to, on a small peninsula formed by a bend of the river. It contains several well-built, handsome, and substantial dwelling-houses and stores, a good inn, extensive military buildings, and is altogether a place of great interest and importance: it is the head-quarters of the 75th regiment, under the command of Lieut.-Colonel Greaves. The country for many miles around it contains some of the finest sheep and grain farms in the Eastern Province. It is the seat of a resident magistrate; contains a neat Wesleyan chapel, a minister of that denomination residing on the spot, and also one of the Episcopalian church, who acts as military chaplain.

“The celebrated Kafir chief Macomo is almost a daily visitor to this town.

“A few miles above Fort Beaufort, keeping the course of the river, the road leads through a narrow *Poort*, or defile to a stream called the Blinkwater, to the right of which is the Hottentot settlement of the Kat river.

“This tract of country is one of the most interesting and remarkable in the eastern counties. It may in general terms be described as a basin encircled by the chain of mountains before mentioned, and from which issue the numerous streams that give fertility to the soil, and render it so eligible for a numerous population.

“These mountains are of considerable altitude, and present from their summits magnificent views of the surrounding country. In many places their sides are clothed with timber of large size, and of the most useful description, especially for waggon and other work, for which the hard woods of the colony are found to be so valuable. The population consists at present of 60 whites, 3312 Hottentots and other persons of colour, and 1504 native foreigners; in all 4876.

“There is no magistrate in the whole settlement, nor is there any canteen or public-house. A minister of the Dutch Re-

formed church, the Rev. W. R. Thompson is stationed amongst them, and also two missionaries belonging to the London Missionary Society. Religious services are well attended, and numerous schools are established, in which the children are making encouraging progress. The majority of the population is excessively poor, and it is to be lamented that more discrimination was not exercised at the outset, in reference to the permission given to persons without means to proceed and establish themselves here. This has greatly retarded the progress of the settlement, and has given a character of slothfulness to many of the locations which is not altogether undeserved. The total quantity of land in cultivation is estimated at 2668 acres, while the produce raised last year consisted of, wheat, 7605 bushels; barley, 6372 bushels; maize, 5271 bushels; peas and beans, 756 bushels; potatoes, 1341 bushels; together with 55,000 pounds of oat-hay, some oats and rye, and a large quantity of pumpkins and other vegetables. The stock in the settlement comprises 9000 sheep, of which about 1700 are wool-bearing; 5000 goats, 8765 cattle; and 307 horses.

“ Many of the settlers possess waggons, and have very comfortable cottages and productive gardens. Great pains have been taken by some of the inhabitants to lead out the water, without which these lands are comparatively unproductive, and to make other improvements, which indicate a pleasing advancement in the scale of civilization. The mountains surrounding the settlement are frequently covered with snow during the winter months, but the valleys are well sheltered by the thorny mimosa, and afford excellent pasturage during the whole year. On the whole, though there is much room for improvement, yet the Kat River settlement must be pronounced as being one of the most interesting portions of this district, affording as large a scope for the meditation of the moralist, as for the researches of those who delight in the investigation of natural history.

“ Returning to the Blinkwater, the new road is found following the course of that stream in a direct line towards the Winterberg, the highest mountain in this part of the colony. It forms the most conspicuous, as it is the most imposing, feature in the whole landscape. When capped by the dazzling snows of winter, or by the sombre thunder-clouds of summer, it presents

an object, which, from whatever point of view it is beheld, cannot be otherwise than pronounced as extremely beautiful.

“This mountain is the north-eastern angle of Albany, and from its table summit commands a view of the whole district, as well as of part of Kafirland and of the three counties of Somerset, Cradock, and Graf Reinet. From its rocky and precipitous sides issue the various streams, called here *spruits*, which, uniting lower down, form the Konap River, which then meanders for about fifty miles through a tract of country, with safety pronounced one of the richest and most valuable in Southern Africa, until it unites itself with the Fish River at Tomlinson's Post. The upper part of this tract of country, lying more immediately under the Winterberg, contains some of the most productive grain farms in the colony. Many of the streams have their sources at a considerable elevation, and are thus easily led out for the purposes of irrigation. Artificial water-courses have been constructed at comparatively little expense or labour; and by this means, large gardens and orchards have been planted below them, and corn lands cultivated, which have been found very productive. The pasturage is eminently suited for large cattle, the great drawback being the immediate proximity of the dishonest Kafirs. Lower down from the Konap to the Fish River, are some of the finest sheep-walks in the colony. The surface, though stony, is in general covered with a rich sward of grass, interspersed with a good deal of *spekboom* and other succulent herbage, so conducive to health, and consequent increase of sheep and other animals of the same genus. The Fish River here pursues its course through a deep but broad valley, in some places greatly encumbered with bush. It contains, however, some excellent farms, and though, from the general character of the soil, known by the colonial term of karroo, it is subject to severe drought, is a very valuable tract of country.

“Beyond the Fish River, westward to the Zureberg, and from thence to the Bushman's River, the country is extremely rugged. It is, however, interspersed with some good farms, and maintains a large amount of every description of live stock. From the nature of the country, these farms are in general much scattered, but it is upon the whole well watered by pools or vleys,

and rivulets; and where not too much encumbered with bush, is found to make excellent sheep-walks. For large cattle, this tract of country in general is scarcely surpassed by any in the colony.

“From Graham’s Town, the great post-road to Port Elizabeth and Cape Town runs for a short way in a N.W. direction, and then nearly due W. At a distance of twelve miles from town, it crosses the New Year’s River, a small stream tributary to the Bushman’s River. Assagaibosch is the next stage; and seven miles further is the little village of *Sidbury*, established by Lieut. R. Daniell, one of the most active, enterprising, and successful sheep-farmers in the colony; and whose perseverance and example, despite of numerous discouragements at the outset, have been productive of most important benefit to the whole district. His estate, called Sidbury Park, is situated here, his residence being a little to the right of the road. His farming establishment and flocks of fine woolled sheep are well worthy of the visitor’s attention, and a sight of them, if he can rightly estimate the value of rural affairs to the prosperity of the country, will repay him for a little delay he may suffer in consequence. Mainly through the exertions of this gentleman, an Episcopalian church has been erected here; it is a handsome substantial structure.

“The village itself is small, but contains a good inn, and being on the main road, it promises, as population increases, to become of great importance. It is surrounded by many good farms, and inhabited by some highly intelligent and respectable families, immigrants arrived within the last few years from the United Kingdom.

“Seven miles from Sidbury brings you to the Bushman’s River, deeply seated in a woody jungle, and which forms the western boundary of the Albany district. Here there is another inn; and, indeed, along the whole line of road from Fort Beaufort to Utenhay and Port Elizabeth, the traveller will find at easy stages every attention and accommodation that he can reasonably desire. From the Bushman’s River to the former town, the distance is forty-two miles, and to the latter fifty-five the road passing, with the exception of Quagga Vlakt, through a broken but diversified and interesting country.

“Albany is very rich in botanical treasures. Its indigenous trees and bushes are various, and many of them extremely beautiful; and, as but few of them are deciduous, they retain their beauty during the whole year. Nothing can be conceived more pleasing than the valleys, and many of the plains and ridges, at Midsummer (January), when the mimosa is in flower, delighting the eye with its clusters of blossoms, and perfuming the air with its fragrant odour. Most of the kloofs and forests abound with woods of a useful character, and which, for waggon and farm work in general, are not surpassed by any in the world. For house building they are not so suitable. The native fir, called yellow-wood (*Taxus Elongatus*), is greatly inferior to deal. It is harder, and much sooner and more injuriously affected by atmospheric influence. The Cape mahogany, or stinkwood, is not found in Albany, but it produces several others, such as sneezewood, saffron, red-els, &c., which, when seasoned, are found to be excellent substitutes. The foliage of nearly all the native forest trees is extremely beautiful, and being intermingled with numerous parasitical plants, aloe, euphorbeas, and flowering heaths and shrubs, presents to the lover of nature a scene, the view of which cannot fail to afford him much pleasure.

“The soil and climate of Albany appear favourable to many of the forest trees of Europe, and also to the fruits of both warm and cold latitudes. The oak and fir are common, and grow rapidly and luxuriantly, attaining often a large size. The timber, however, is much more soft and porous than it is found to be in colder climates, neither will it effectually answer the same purposes for which it is there used. The orange tree thrives well in moist situations, and produces fruit of fine quality. Peaches, nectarines, and apricots, are very abundant. Plums of several varieties are produced, but are less plentiful. Apples, pears, and mulberries, abound, and are very productive. The banana is successfully cultivated in a few sheltered situations, and is found to produce fruit of good flavour. The vine is common and prolific, but no wine has been produced here that would, in the English market, be reckoned even tolerable. Melons, and many other plants of the cucurbitaceæ class, thrive exuberantly, and are very productive. Gooseberries and cur-

rants are not uncommon, but their fruit is scanty and rather insipid. The cotton tree, though not cultivated to any extent, is found to thrive well, and produces cotton of good quality. The most productive of the *gramina* order of plants in this district is maize, or Indian corn. It is a very hardy plant, and capable of enduring a much greater degree of drought than any other of the same class. Wheat is successfully cultivated, but it is subject to rust near the coast, and is not of such good quality, either in respect to colour or weight, as that which is produced more in the interior or in the western districts. Barley and oats are extremely plentiful, and kitchen vegetables of every variety may be produced in abundance in appropriate situations. On the whole, Albany must be pronounced as one of the most fruitful districts in the colony, and, from local peculiarities, better able than any other to support a dense population.

“In rural affairs, the inhabitants stand deservedly high in public estimation. With a perseverance beyond all praise, they have devoted themselves to the improvement of live stock in a manner which has already been attended with the most important results, and which promises to give an entirely new character in this respect to the colony at large. Till within the last twelve years, wine was the staple produce and export of the colony; *wool* is now the grand object of the eastern districts, and partly of the western, and is increasing so rapidly in quality and value, as to hold out a reasonable hope of this colony attaining, at no very distant day, to an eminence equal to the most favoured possessions of the British Crown. Large sums have been expended in the importation from Germany, France, England, and Australia, of wool-bearing sheep, principally of the Merino and Saxon breed, and by means of which the comparatively worthless sheep of the colony have been so improved, that the wool shorn from them has produced in the London market as high as 2s. 6d. per pound. The fair average may be stated at a range of from 1s. to 1s. 6d. per pound. The entire success of this pursuit has brought forth a new class of competitors, as well as given a largely increased value to land. Many men of capital, of education, and of intelligence, are now engaged in this pursuit, and buildings and other improvements are springing up, which