

and regularly indentured for seven years, ought to form part of the settler's establishment, A greater number might perhaps be usefully employed, but the tendency to dissatisfaction is so great, wherever a considerable number of English servants are engaged together on long contracts, that the annoyance would probably more than counterbalance the benefit; and the master had better trust to the resources of the Colony for additional labour, (limited as these resources are,) than expend a large sum on bringing out a numerous retinue to torment his life with extravagant claims and eternal grumblings.

In all colonies where the price of labour is exorbitant, white servants are apt to become saucy and unreasonable. In America and New South Wales, matters in this respect are fully as bad as at the Cape,—in Van Diemen's Land, I believe, much worse. This circumstance forms, in fact, one of the chief inconveniences and obstructions to new settlers in all these countries, of which every book of travels furnishes abundant illustrations. At the Cape, however, the Hot-

tentot population affords an important resource. These natives are not, indeed, well adapted for regular heavy labour, nor are they likely to do well with hasty or capricious masters; but they form good herdsmen and waggon-drivers, and, when judiciously treated, generally prove useful and obedient dependents.

For the sake of domestic comfort, especially where there are children, one or two active English maid-servants would be very desirable; but if young and good-looking, it is more than probable that marriage would very speedily cancel all previous engagements. The old or the ugly are the most convenient housemaids to carry to new colonies. Except in Cape Town, an unmarried woman above twenty-five years of age is an anomaly almost unknown.

His preliminary preparations being made, the emigrant should, if possible, secure a passage direct to Algoa Bay, in preference to Cape Town,—unless he means to establish himself within a moderate distance of the latter, which would require, however, a more considerable capital than I have

taken into account. Cape Town is comparatively an expensive place, and would consume in a few weeks a sum of money which would be of no slight importance in the stocking of an African farm; while, on the other hand, by proceeding at once to Uitenhage, he could maintain his family in that village, or its vicinity, at a very moderate rate, until he had leisure to look about for such an estate as suited his circumstances. At Uitenhage, house-rent is moderate,—vegetables are abundant,—good beef is sold for 1*d.* per lb., and mutton for 1½*d.* Several genteel English families are already settled there;* and should it become the capital of the eastern districts, the population must rapidly increase. There the emigrant, should he not immediately find a farm that pleased him, might very agreeably, and not alto-

* These are chiefly half-pay officers with families. For persons of this description, the salubrious and delightful climate, and the great cheapness of living, either on a farm, or in most of the country towns, render the Cape a most eligible residence. At each of the district towns there is now an English teacher established by Government, and the clergymen are also mostly English. Female education is the chief difficulty for genteel families.

gether unprofitably, reside even for some months. He ought not to be too hasty in purchasing a place ; but should make careful inquiries in regard to the capabilities of such farms as are advertised for sale ; for the value of lands in South Africa depends much more upon local circumstances, than upon extent or external appearances.

Supposing the emigrant arrived at Uitenhage, with funds at his disposal to the amount of from 1500*l.* to 2000*l.*, it will be more advantageous for him to purchase a boor's place than to locate himself upon a new grant on the frontier, even though he has interest with Government to procure an extensive one. An estate of the usual extent of 6000 acres, with some tolerable buildings, garden, and other improvements upon it, may be obtained for a sum, varying from 6000 to 10,000 rix-dollars, (450*l.* to 750*l.*) The place being purchased, transferred, and competently stocked, the settler would find the account of his outlay since he landed in the Colony, somewhere as follows :—

204 ESTIMATES FOR STOCKING

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|--------|---|---|
| Expenses of debarkation, waggon-hire, travelling in the country, residence at Uitenhage for three months, and other contingencies | - | - | - | £75 | 0 | 0 |
| Purchase-money of an estate | - | - | - | 700 | 0 | 0 |
| Four per cent. transfer duty | - | - | - | 28 | 0 | 0 |
| A bullock-waggon | - | - | - | 50 | 0 | 0 |
| Household furniture, &c. | - | - | - | 100 | 0 | 0 |
| Forty cows of the common country breed, at 1 <i>l.</i> each | - | - | - | 40 | 0 | 0 |
| Twenty cows of the fatherland (or bastard European) breed, at 1 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i> each | - | - | - | 30 | 0 | 0 |
| Twelve good draught oxen | - | - | - | 24 | 0 | 0 |
| Twenty young oxen, at 1 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i> each | - | - | - | 30 | 0 | 0 |
| Five hundred ewes (Cape breed), at 4 <i>s.</i> each | - | - | - | 100 | 0 | 0 |
| One hundred wethers, at 5 <i>s.</i> each | - | - | - | 25 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | <hr/> | | |
| Carried over | | | | £1,202 | 0 | 0 |

A CAPE FARM.

205

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------|-------|-----|
| Brought forward | £1,202 | 0 | 0 |
| Ten mares, at 4 <i>l.</i> each | - | 40 | 0 0 |
| Four horses, at 7 <i>l.</i> each | | 28 | 0 0 |
| | | <hr/> | |
| | £1,270 | 0 | 0* |

* In the above estimate I have supposed the settler to carry out no live stock, and but a moderate supply of other articles. If his capital, however, is equal to the task, he might advantageously take one or two bulls and rams, with a view of improving the breed of cattle and sheep which he will find in the Colony. To facilitate his operations too, if his funds do not exceed 1500*l.*, he might pay up only half the purchase-money of his estate at first, and the remainder by annual instalments, as is a common practice in the Colony. It is to be observed, also, that I have taken the usual price of *first-rate* farms in the interior, on the supposition that competition might somewhat raise the price of land. At present, very good farms may occasionally be had in the eastern districts, for 300*l.* or 400*l.*

The following estimate is supplied by a practical English farmer, who has spent upwards of five years in the Colony. In some points it differs from the above, being calculated rather for a settler who purposes to rear an improved breed of cattle and sheep, and to look for his principal ulterior returns from raising Merino wool, than one who commences with the common stock of the country.

Estimate

The preceding calculation (supposing the settler to land with 1500*l.*) will leave in his hands a balance of 230*l.*—which, with economy, will suf-

*Estimate of the Expenditure of a Settler with a capital of 1500*l.**

Preparatory expenditure in England:—

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|-----|----|---|
| One year old, Devon bull | - | - | £15 | 0 | 0 |
| One ditto, Durham or Yorkshire breed | - | - | 15 | 0 | 0 |
| Two young Merino rams | - | - | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| Six yearling Merino ewes | - | - | 12 | 0 | 0 |
| Two strong iron ploughs, with additional shares | | | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| One winnowing machine, with additional sieves | | | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| One hand corn-mill | - | - | 5 | 10 | 0 |
| One very fine wire sieve, and horse-hair cloth for flour sieves | - | - | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| A chest of carpenter's tools, with pit and cross-cut saws | - | - | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| A grind-stone | - | - | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| Spades, shovels, pickaxes, &c. | - | - | 1 | 15 | 0 |
| Two iron wheels for wheelbarrows | - | - | 0 | 14 | 0 |
| One cwt. of harrow-teeth | - | - | 1 | 8 | 0 |
| One cwt. of nails of various sizes | - | - | 1 | 8 | 0 |
| Two saddles and bridles | - | - | 7 | 10 | 0 |
| Two fowling-pieces and three muskets | - | - | 12 | 0 | 0 |
| Garden seeds of various sorts | - | - | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Furniture, &c. | - | - | 100 | 0 | 0 |
| Cabin passage for two persons | - | - | 80 | 0 | 0 |
| Passage for two European servants | - | - | 36 | 0 | 0 |
| Freight for live stock, &c. | - | - | 50 | 0 | 0 |

£375 17 0

Expenditure

fice for all the ordinary expenses of his establishment, until he can obtain some return of produce from his farm. For the first two or three years his agricultural operations should be very limited; and he would find it useful to avail himself, in all ordinary affairs, of the experience of the Cape Dutch colonists in his vicinity,—a class of men not deficient in shrewdness, and who, if civilly treated, will be found generally useful and friendly neighbours. In

Expenditure in the Colony :—

| | | | |
|---|---|---|------------|
| Travelling and other expenses previous to settling on a farm | - | - | £50 0 0 |
| Purchase-money of a place of 6000 acres | - | | 500 0 0 |
| Two waggons | - | - | 75 0 0 |
| Two teams of draught oxen | - | - | 45 0 0 |
| Two good saddle horses | - | - | 22 10 0 |
| Five mares, at seventy-five rix-dollars each | | | 28 2 6 |
| Twenty cows, averaging eighteen rix-dollars do. | | | 27 0 0 |
| Forty young cattle, at ten rix-dollars do. | - | | 30 0 0 |
| One hundred yearling wethers, at two and a half rix-dollars do. | - | - | 18 15 0 |
| Two hundred ewes, at two and a half rix-dollars do. | - | - | 37 10 0 |
| | | | £833 17 6 |
| | | | 375 17 0 |
| Total Expenditure | | | £1209 14 6 |

the course of a year or two his own experience will enable him to judge correctly of the capabilities of the place, and the peculiarities of the climate, and he may then proceed securely with such improvements as he considers practicable or expedient. In the mean while, the produce of his live stock, after the first year, will enable him to support his family in comfort, without trenching greatly on his spare capital, if he has any.

Settlers, whose clear capital does not exceed 1000*l.*, will have greater privations to submit to, and must either content themselves with places of secondary value, which may be obtained for 300*l.* or 400*l.*, or must make the purchase partly upon credit, and pay off the incumbrance by degrees.

The direct taxes in the district of Uitenhage are very moderate. They consist of quit-rent upon land, varying from fifteen to two hundred rix-dollars per annum; one skilling (or twopence farthing) for each horse; two stivers (or three farthings) for each head of cattle; four skillings (nine pence) per hundred, for sheep; two stivers for each muid of grain harvested; and two rix-dollars and two skillings (three shillings and four-

pence halfpenny) of church money. Thus, the taxes upon a farm, such as I have supposed the settler to occupy, would be as follows:—

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|---|-----------|
| Quit-rent on 6000 acres—say 175 | | | |
| rix-dollars | - | - | £13 2 6 |
| Ninety head of cattle | - | - | 0 5 2½ |
| Six hundred sheep | - | - | 0 4 6 |
| Fourteen horses | - | - | 0 2 6½ |
| Church money | - | - | 0 3 4½ |
| | | | <hr/> |
| | | | £13 18 1½ |
| | | | <hr/> |

An addition of twenty-five and sometimes of fifty per cent. is occasionally made on the live stock, &c., to meet extraordinary expenses; but the utmost amount of direct taxes would not exceed fifteen pounds sterling. It must, however, be remarked, that the taxes in the Uitenhage district are considerably lighter than in any other part of the Colony.

In order to exhibit more distinctly the profits of farming in the eastern districts, I subjoin the following exact account of the capital invested, and the income obtained by a respectable Dutch-

African farmer in the vicinity of Uitenhage, with which I have been furnished by a friend residing in that district.

CAPITAL INVESTED.

| | Rix-dollars. |
|---|---------------------|
| Value of the estate | - 10,000 |
| Seven male slaves | - - 14,870 |
| Four female ditto, with children | - - 14,100 |
| Two hundred and thirty head of breeding cattle | 2300 |
| Sixty oxen | - - 1800 |
| Two waggons | - - 1000 |
| Sixteen mares | - - 640 |
| Three horses | - - 300 |
| Four hundred and fifty sheep and goats | - - 1000 |
| Agricultural implements, fur- niture, &c. | - - 2000 |
| | <hr/> |
| Rix-dollars | 48,010 = £3600 15 0 |
| | <hr/> |

INCOME.

| | Rix-dollars. |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| 3200 lbs. of butter—sold for | 1200 |
| Carried over | 1200 |

| | | |
|---------------------|-------|------|
| Brought forward | | 1200 |
| 130 muids of barley | - | 910 |
| 90 muids of oats | - | 405 |
| Six cows | - - - | 90 |
| Twenty-four oxen | - | 720 |

Rix-dollars 3325 = £249 7 6

EXPENDITURE.

| | Rix-dollars. |
|----------------------|--------------|
| Quit-rent | 130 — — |
| Taxes | 43 1 3 |
| Clothing for family | 700 — — |
| Ditto, for slaves | 400 — — |
| roceries, wines, &c. | 600 — — |

Rds. 1873 1 3 = £140 10 6

Surplus, Rds. 1451 6 3 = £108 17 0

Perhaps few families, accustomed to English comforts, could live quite so economically as even the better sort of Dutch farmers usually do, with all their hospitality ; but it must be noticed, that.

the preceding calculation was made in the year 1823, when the *rust* had destroyed the whole of this farmer's wheat crops. Had this not been the case, he might have calculated upon selling about 130 muids of wheat, (or 394 Winchester bushels,) which, at ten rix-dollars per muid, would have made an addition of 1300 rix-dollars, (97*l.* 10*s.*.) to his income. It must also be observed that the capital invested in slaves, in this instance, is a great deal more than is necessary; and that slaveholding is a hazardous and unprofitable investment of property, which an Englishman, from prudential as well as moral considerations, would avoid.

All things taken into account, farming at the Cape must be allowed to afford, in ordinary times, and with competent funds, a secure income for a moderate family.

The second class of emigrants calculated to succeed at the Cape, are practical agriculturists, who can carry out small capitals of from 300*l.* to 500*l.* This class, not having means to purchase or stock a large farm, ought to receive from Government allotments of land in proportion to their

funds, of from 1000 to 2000 acres, at least : if the land consists exclusively of pasturage, the allotments should be larger. Some assistance from Government, in order to diminish their preliminary expenses, would also be highly advantageous, and might be bestowed under the security of a mortgage upon the lands granted to them, to be cleared off in a certain number of years. How important such aid would be will be obvious, from the following account of the actual expenses of a British settler, who emigrated to the Colony about three years ago, and who received no aid whatever from Government, except a grant of about 2000 acres.

| | | | | |
|---|---|-------|----|---|
| Passage for himself, wife, and one servant, to Cape Town | - | £95 | 0 | 0 |
| Expenses in Cape Town, and pas- sage to Algoa Bay | - | 47 | 10 | 0 |
| Waggon-hire, and other expenses in proceeding to his location near the frontier | - | 11 | 10 | 0 |
| | | <hr/> | | |
| Carried forward | | £154 | 0 | 0 |

| | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|------|---|------------------|
| | Brought forward | £154 | 0 | 0 |
| One horse | - Rix-dollars | 70 | 0 | |
| Two mares | - - | 85 | 4 | |
| Six draught oxen | - | 180 | 0 | |
| Twenty young cattle | - | 300 | 0 | |
| Twenty cows, at 10 rds. | | 200 | 0 | |
| Five hundred ewes, at | | | | |
| 2 rds. | - - | 1000 | 0 | |
| Fifty wethers, at 3 rds. | | 150 | 0 | |
| Two rams, at 3 rds. | - | 6 | 0 | |
| Twenty-five goats, at | | | | |
| 2½ rds. | - | 62 | 4 | |
| 6 muids of Wheat, for | | | | |
| seed and bread, at 20 | | | | |
| rds. | - | 120 | 0 | |
| 10 muids of Barley, at | | | | |
| 5 rds. | - | 50 | 0 | |
| | | | | |
| | Rds. 2224 | 0 | = | £166 16 0 |
| | | | | <u>£320 16 0</u> |

It will be observed, that the prices of the live stock in this statement are somewhat lower than in the preceding accounts. This is owing to the

settler having made his purchases in the interior, and partly by barter with the cattle boors. His whole capital, however, not at first exceeding 350*l.*, almost one half of it was consumed before he reached his location. In consequence of this he was unable to purchase a waggon, or any furniture except cooking utensils, and was obliged to content himself with an insufficient quantity of stock. Yet, being an ingenious and industrious man, he has in the course of three years nearly surmounted these difficulties. With the help of only one English servant, he has erected a commodious stone house of three apartments, rudely but snugly furnished by his own handiwork; he has cultivated and inclosed with ditch and wattled fence about thirty acres of land,—planted an orchard and small vineyard,—and constructed for himself a number of conveniences. His crop the first season merely supplied his family with bread; in the second, he was able to sell thirty-five muids of wheat, and sixteen muids of barley, at high prices (there being a scarcity), which brought him in about 45*l.*, and enabled him to supply his family with comforts, and to add somewhat to the

amount of his stock. The third season his crops failed from drought and rust, but he saved enough for family consumption. His flocks and herds (which are tended by Hottentots, whose wives act as household servants,) are fast increasing; and in a few years more, even without any aid from agriculture, he will be in easy circumstances. It is obvious, however, that if he had been enabled to bring to his location the whole of the slender capital he originally set out with, his circumstances the second year would have been equal to what they will now be in four or five.

It cannot, indeed, be calculated, that every settler will be equally economical and industrious as the individual now referred to; but with common prudence and activity, and with adequate grants of land, there seems little reason to doubt that six or seven hundred emigrants of this class might be prosperously established on the eastern frontier,—particularly if the Home Government should be induced to supply some facilities towards their obtaining a cheap and direct passage to Algoa Bay.

The last class of emigrants to be noticed are

mechanics and labourers. The number of these who might at once find profitable employment in the Colony it is difficult to estimate with accuracy; but from the speedy absorption of the several importations of persons of this description that have recently taken place, without any diminution of the high price of labour, it may be pretty safely inferred, that a progressive influx of three or four hundred annually, for many years to come, would scarcely meet the demand. Nine years ago, Mr. B. Moodie carried out about two hundred and fifty labourers and mechanics, who speedily dispersed themselves throughout the Colony; and who, although burthened by a severe drawback upon the profits of their labour, on account of their passage, (amounting to from 30*l.* to 60*l.* per family,) have, in general, not only cleared off that large sum, but for the most part established themselves in comfort; and not a few have acquired property. In various parts of the Colony, individuals of this party are now to be found, carrying on considerable business as tradesmen, or occupying thriving farms. I found one of them settled near the Camtoos River, who had originally been

a small farmer in the south of Scotland, but had failed and come out to the Colony without twenty shillings in his possession. In the course of seven years, however, by indefatigable industry, he had paid up Mr. Moodie's claims, had obtained a considerable grant of land from Government, (in a place which the African boors had not considered habitable,) which he had cleared and partly stocked; and in January 1826, he had purchased a waggon and was going on prosperously. Another individual of this party, who came out in similar circumstances, lately purchased an estate in the vicinity of Graham's Town for 12,000 rix-dollars, and was not only in a condition to stock it, but to pay a considerable part of the price in ready money.

These, no doubt, are favourable cases, which cannot be expected very frequently to occur; but they show that the field of enterprise is open at the Cape, and that industry and good conduct will often elevate the most indigent individuals to a higher grade in society. In fact, not a few who went out in 1820 as actual paupers, (their deposit-

money being defrayed by their parishes,) are now among the most thriving settlers in Albany.

Of the 4000 settlers of 1820, fully two-thirds consisted of mechanics and labourers, and many of them not of the most useful description; yet the great majority, as has been already mentioned, were able to obtain high wages, and to improve their circumstances even during the greatest distress of the settlement. The greater part of these are now comfortably established in Graham's Town, or in other parts of the Colony,—while the agriculturists are distressed for want of servants.

In December 1823, Mr. Ingram brought out to Cape Town 352 Irish labourers, who in a short time obtained employment in that town or its vicinity, without producing any sensible effect on the rate of wages. Although the Home Government had defrayed the charge of the passages of these people, they had also entered into agreements to pay Mr. Ingram each a considerable sum of money, being three hundred rix-dollars for a male, two hundred for a female, and one hundred and fifty for a child; and this burden forms the

only obstacle to their speedily attaining a state of comfort and independence entirely beyond their reach in their native country. In future, it is to be wished, that care should be taken, that the poorer emigrants are burdened with no mortgage upon their labour beyond the expense of their passage.

After all these emigrations, such is the urgent demand for labourers, particularly in the eastern districts, that some of the English landholders of Albany have recently deputed one of their body (Mr. F. Carlisle) to solicit assistance from the Home Government, in this point, — pledging themselves, by a written engagement, to take into their service the number of seven hundred and eighty labourers, (including men, women, and children,) provided they be sent out at the expense of Government, and engaged to them for the term of three years, at the rate of 12*l.* each per annum, with provisions. This, indeed, scarcely amounts to one-third of the present rate of wages in that part of the Colony ; but the settlers argue, that three years' service, at this rate, will be but a moderate price for the labourer to pay for his

passage out to a country where his situation will be so much improved,—while the expense on the part of Government will not exceed 15*l.* for each individual sent, and would at the same time prove the most suitable recompense that could now be offered by the mother-country to those emigrants of 1820, who suffered most severely by the defective plan of their location, and the unexpected failure of their crops. The following extracts from a Report of His Majesty's Commissioners of Inquiry to the Home Government, dated June 1, 1825, contain some observations relative to this subject, which, proceeding from such high authority, must be considered at this moment as peculiarly important:—

“Notwithstanding the importation of so many European labourers into the Colony from time to time, the high price of labour has not hitherto been perceptibly affected.

“Mechanics and tradesmen of all classes, especially tailors, shoemakers, saddlers, bricklayers, upholsterers, coopers, sawyers, carpenters, and blacksmiths, meet with ready employment in Cape Town, and are in as great demand in the

country districts, where common labourers in husbandry continue also to receive high wages.

“ It is admitted by all persons, except those who derive subsistence from hiring out the labour of their slaves and prize negroes, that the importation of European labour has been beneficial to the Colony, as well as to those labourers who have been endued with habits of common industry, and the labourers themselves are in general well contented with their circumstances.

“ If his Majesty's Government should be induced to make advances for the transport and maintenance of labourers and mechanics from any part of the British dominions to the Cape of Good Hope, it would be satisfactory that these persons should understand that their industry would enable them to redeem the sums so advanced within a reasonable time ; and that no other deduction from their wages would be required than might be sufficient to cover the expenses of the voyage. If 15*l.* should be sufficient to provide for the transport of a labourer to the Cape, and that he should be entitled to redeem the charge by a deduction of fifteen to twenty-five shillings per month from

his wages, he would acquire the free disposal of his labour in twelve or twenty months; and in the same manner for each individual of his family who should be capable of service. For this payment the masters should become responsible to the local authorities of the district; and we think, that under the present circumstances of the Colony, and especially in that part of it where, on account of the prohibition of the employment of slaves, the wages of free labour are likely to continue high, a more punctual performance of the conditions of repayment is to be expected, than if the exaction of them was made dependent upon the interest of an individual.

“ If it is an object of importance to the British Government to extinguish the evil of slavery in the newly planted settlement of Albany, and to take away the many temptations to it that exist in that quarter, from the vicinity of the savage tribes on the frontier, it will not feel reluctance, we think, to incur the inconsiderable expense that we have proposed of one pound per head for every free labourer who may be induced to emigrate, as a compensation for the charge of their

superintendence. We have already described the advantages to the labourer with which the exemption from this charge would be attended ; and although the repayment of the advance for his passage would constitute a present deduction from the profits of his industry, it might be effected by such moderate instalments from his wages, as would not expose him to any severe privations.

“ We cannot omit to observe, that any facilities that His Majesty's Government may deem it expedient to afford to the British settlers in Albany, in obtaining the farther assistance of labourers from Europe, would be a seasonable relief to them after their late privations, and constitute a satisfactory indemnity for their early disappointments.”

These suggestions, I doubt not, will meet with due consideration in the high quarter to which they are addressed, and lead to such measures as, in the circumstances both of the Colony and the Mother Country, may be found most expedient.

The extent of the demand for labourers, and

the rate of wages, vary considerably in different parts of the Colony.

At Cape Town the Commissioners state that mechanics and useful tradesmen usually obtain from three to four rix-dollars per day, together with subsistence and lodging; and the common labourers, from a rix-dollar and a quarter to two rix-dollars, besides subsistence;—but that all of the latter class had not been able to procure regular employment at this rate; the hire of a slave or free coloured-labourer not exceeding twenty rix-dollars per month, together with subsistence and lodging.

On the eastern frontier the demand for labour is more urgent, and the wages higher. Mr. Carlisle, in his examination before the Emigration Committee of the House of Commons, has stated the average rate for artisans to be from ten to twelve shillings sterling per day, and for labourers from four to five shillings. This I should consider as rather a high average, although these wages are doubtless in some instances obtained. The price of labour would also inevitably be reduced by any considerable influx of that descrip-

tion of settlers, unless new capital should at the same time be attracted to the improvement of the Colony. But it would require a much more sudden and extensive influx of labourers than is likely to take place, to reduce wages below a moiety of the present average; and that, in my estimation, would still be a very competent remuneration in a country where subsistence (and especially animal food) is so reasonable.*

In whatever scheme may be ultimately adopted for promoting emigration to the Cape, I trust Government will be careful to make a due proportion of females an indispensable proviso. The evils of a neglect of this important circumstance have been disastrously experienced in more than one of our infant settlements; nor have they been altogether unknown at the Cape, where the illicit

* In the districts occupied exclusively by the Dutch colonists, the demand for European servants is much more limited than at the two extremities, where the English population predominates. The Dutch proprietors in the interior are generally inclined rather to postpone improvements than to pay such a high price for them. English artisans are, however, now found scattered among them even in the remotest quarters, and many have married into their families and settled among them.

connexions of Europeans with females of the coloured population has but too obviously tended to the degradation of both classes.*

I shall conclude this chapter with an extract from the pamphlet (already quoted) of my friend Mr. Pringle, which being written only for a temporary purpose, is, I believe, already out of print; and the author's opinions will, probably, not be considered unimportant on the present subject,

* I am by no means inclined to fall in with the system, too much in fashion now-a-days, of attributing crimes not to the ill-regulated passions of mankind, but to the temptations to which men are said to be exposed by the peculiar state of society, for which their governments are held answerable; but in a scheme like that of a great emigration, when a more direct interference with the details of society is exercised, a weightier responsibility falls, I conceive, upon the patrons of the enterprise. If men, unsolicited, think proper, from whatever motives, to expatriate themselves, or to follow a line of life subject to peculiar privations, or peculiar temptations, "their sins be upon their own heads;" but I cannot avoid protesting most strongly against colonization upon an extensive scale, whether by the transportation of convicts, or by the tempting of settlers by grants of land, where the great principle of Nature proclaimed by the Deity himself, that "It is not good for man to be alone," is for a moment overlooked; and I would appeal to the conscience of a Christian government how far it would be responsible for the enormities resulting from the deliberate creation of a state of society *repugnant to the order of Nature.*

when it is mentioned that he was the leader of the Scotch party, located at Bavian's River, the most successful, perhaps, of all the settlers of 1820, and is intimately acquainted with the general situation of the Cape Colonists, and the whole circumstances of the emigration.

“ With all the defects of this country and climate, I am fully satisfied that, in ordinary times, it is not a *worse*, but perhaps a *better* land to live in than any other British Colony. And however startling this opinion may appear, after all that has recently occurred in Albany, I believe a hasty comparison will discover it to be not so very preposterous as many persons may at this moment be apt to imagine;—for the fluctuating tide of public opinion appears to be now turned as unreasonably against, as it was formerly extravagantly in favour of South Africa. True, the Cape is exposed to droughts, rust, storms of hail, excessive rains, diseases in cattle, marauding Caffers, Bushmen, beasts of prey, serpents, and so forth:—but, after a pretty intimate experience of all these annoyances, I am convinced that they are not worse than others of a similar or analogous description

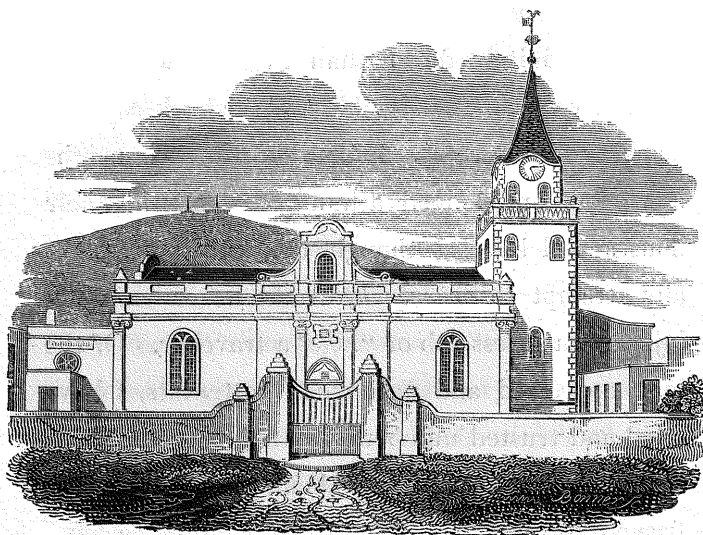
which prevail more or less in all new colonies. In New South Wales, for instance, they have also their droughts, deluges, and destructive hurricanes, which have more than once reduced the colonists to the verge of famine;* and in Van Diemen's Land they have the barbarous Aborigines, and the more barbarous "Bush Rangers," to destroy their property and disturb their quiet. They have, moreover, scarcely any other servants than convicts, and little society that is much superior. In Canada, again, they have an iron winter to endure and an endless forest to hew down; not to mention rattle-snakes, ounces, bears, treacherous Indians, and strifes and bush-fightings with brother Jonathan, to molest the tranquil happiness of a log-hut retreat from the troubles of Europe. A settler, in whose hospitable cabin I spent a night near the Kapp River, (in Albany,) and who had formerly resided some years in Canada, assured

* Mr. E. Curr, who has published a very sensible and impartial account of Van Diemen's Land, states, that in the year 1821, 50,000 bushels of wheat were exported from that island to Port Jackson. "This," he adds, "was a season of great scarcity in New South Wales,—a circumstance which, from one cause and another, has occurred about every three years since its establishment."

me, that he counted all the natural defects of South Africa, balanced by its mild and salubrious climate, as but slight, when compared with the appalling winters and woods of that colony. At Mr. Birkbeck's paradise on the Wabash, also, and its vicinity, it appears that they are not only scarce of water, like ourselves, but are afflicted with deadly swamp miasmata, which we here know nothing of,—besides “liberty and equality” servants, eternal litigations about rights of land, scalping back-wood Indians, and, worse than all, “rifling,” “gouging,” and “scalping” back-wood Whites.

“Here, on the contrary, whatever other evils we may have to complain of, there is certainly no danger of life, and little of property, except occasionally from the Caffers along the frontier line. And the Caffers, even under the least favourable points of view, are an honest, humane, and civilized race, compared with the red or white savages just mentioned. The African boors I know well, and can thoroughly estimate; and with all their faults, I do not hesitate to characterize them as a well-disposed and respectable class of men. Doubt-

less there are many unfavourable exceptions, though infinitely fewer than in Barrow's time ; but the very worst and wildest of the back-country boors, (and I have lived for years in their neighbourhood, and lodged a hundred times in their houses and hovels,) though they might occasionally attempt to *overreach*, would never wantonly injure, much less rob or "*rifle*" a traveller. Of the long oppressed and neglected Hottentots, I have tried and trusted numbers in the most unlimited manner, and never knew them purloin or make free with any thing,—with the exception, perhaps, of a little brandy or tobacco at a time of temptation ;—and I never saw them display any spirit of revenge, and seldom even of resistance, under the most severe and contumelious treatment. As for the slaves, they are (and necessarily must be) unhappy, debased, and dangerous in all countries ; but here they form but a moderate part of the population, and are fortunately not permitted to degrade the English settlements."



CHAPTER IV.

Retrospective and General Remarks.—Notices of some of the Plates and Vignettes.—Character of the Inhabitants of Cape Town and its Vicinity.—The Press.—Commissioners of Inquiry.—Wine-Trade.

IN the present work I have endeavoured not to fatigue the patience of the reader, by leading him over the beaten tracks of former travellers, and particularly of those of more recent date; and when I have been compelled to follow in the same paths, it has been my aim to select for him those

points of view, which, from lapse of time, or other causes, present a contrast to the aspect they wore when seen by my precursors. I have studied rather to supply what they have omitted, than affected, by blending their materials with my own, to give such an elaborate account of the Colony, as would require the united talents of the naturalist, the historian, and the statesman. I may, therefore, be excused from repeating the oft-told tale of the discovery of the "Stormy Cape," by the Portuguese Admiral, Bartholomew Diaz, in 1493, and the prophetic change of its name by his Sovereign; of its settlement by the Dutch under Van Riebeck, in 1650; of its increase by the arrival of the French refugees, upon the revocation of the edict of Nantes,—and its gradual rise to an important Colony; of its capture by the British arms, in 1795; its restoration at the peace of Amiens; its subsequent capture, and final annexation to the British dominions in 1806.

Were it possible to trace the gradual extinction of the Hottentots, as a nation, within the boundaries of the Colony, by the progress of European civilization and encroachment, the detail would,

unfortunately, not have even the charm of novelty to give interest to it. The same acts of rapacity and cruelty which marked the progress of the Spaniard in Mexico and Peru, and of the Englishman in North America, have merely been acted over again by the Dutchman in Southern Africa. The superior force, enterprise, and address, and still more, the dissemination of the worst vices of their conquerors, have produced their usual effects, —till the numerous tribes, whose habits are detailed with such disgusting accuracy by their matter-of-fact historian Kolben, and with so much poetic licence by the enthusiastic Vaillant, have been gradually driven from the kraal to the bush, or amalgamated with the general mass of the servile coloured population. Justice and humanity array our feelings on the side of the invaded people; and God forbid that I should palliate the violation of either of those sacred principles! But when we cannot approve the means, it is at least some consolation to find that the result has been the improvement of the frame of society; and I have seen quite enough of savage life to be con-

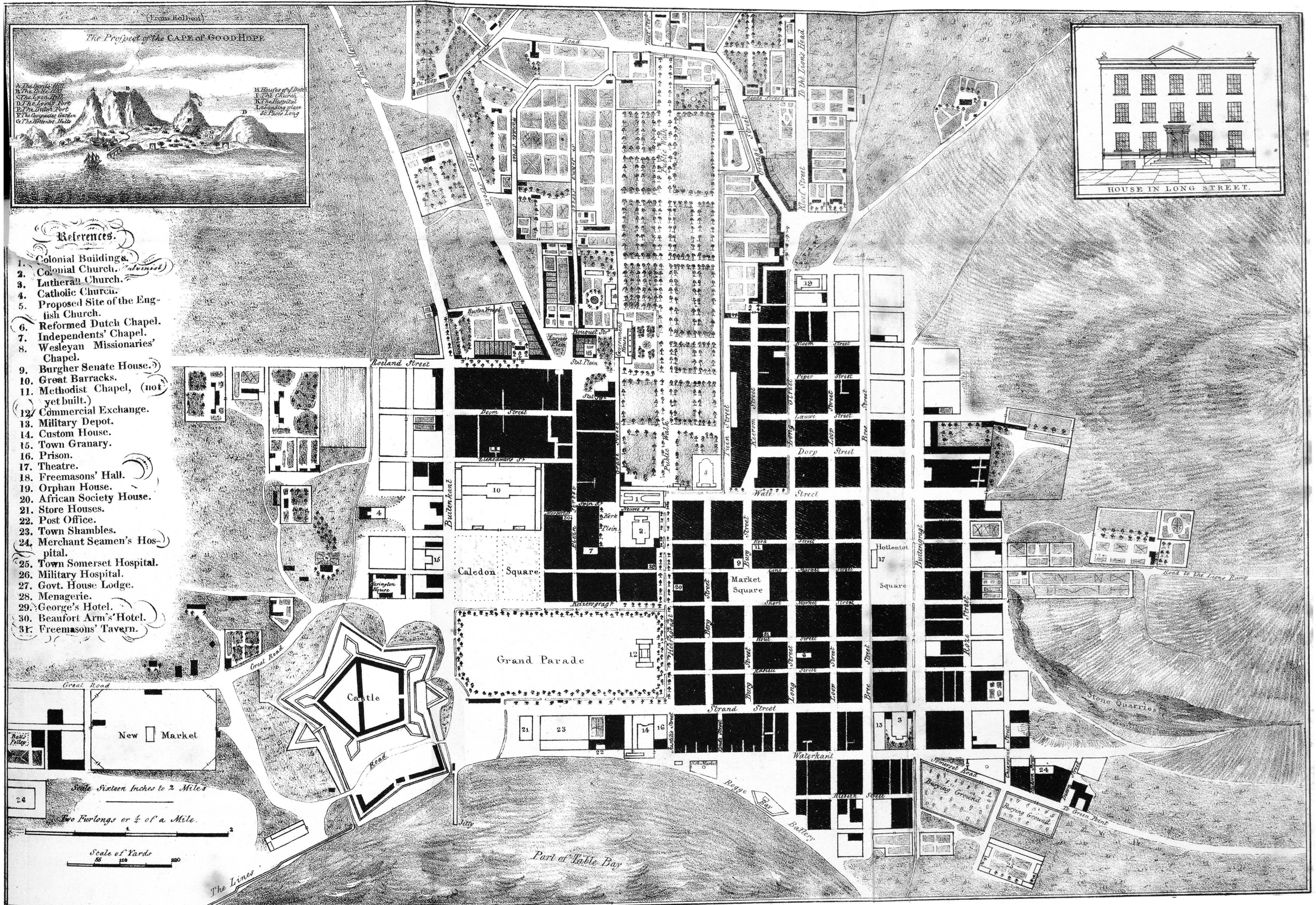
vinced, that for the Hottentot huts of Kolben's picture, the Hottentot square of my map is no bad substitute;—nor does Le Vaillant's truly French description of Pampoen Kraal raise in me the least desire to see that terrestrial Paradise re-peopled by its primitive inhabitants.

The natural history (and particularly the botany) of this Colony has had its full share of investigation, both in its former and latter days, in the works of Thunberg and Sparrman, of Lichtenstein and Burchell, though their remarks are by no means confined to these subjects; but it is in the well-known and valuable publication of Barrow that we are first presented with a comprehensive and statesman-like view of the Colony. The travels of the Missionary Campbell are chiefly valuable for the information they contain on the subject of the tribes beyond the colonial boundaries; but the work to which I feel most indebted for shortening my labours on my return from my *Country* travels is the publication entitled "The State of the Cape of Good Hope in 1822;" for all that I could say on the subject of the *Town* and

its buildings, of the people and their habits,* of the Colony in general, its Government and politics, has therein been so recently, and so very well detailed, that I may safely refer the reader to it as a generally correct view of the subject at the time it was written; merely noticing some circumstances of importance which have occurred since that period, and stating some points where my opinions do not quite coincide with those of the author.

Of the general appearance and topography of Cape Town I have endeavoured to give the reader a competent idea in the plates and wood-engravings inserted in different parts of the work. The frontispiece, and the view of the Commercial Exchange and Table Mountain, have been already mentioned in the preface. The plan of Cape Town (engraved on stone) is from an actual survey, and gives a most correct notion of the localities of the town:—in one corner is a small vignette engraving, showing the appearance of the

* A summary of the present population of Cape Town, of the Cape District, and of the Colony in general, will be found in the Appendix.



GEORGE THOMPSON'S PLAN OF CAPE TOWN AND ITS ENVIRONS.

Published Feb? 1827 by H. Colburn, London.

town in 1709, taken from a plate in Kolben's work, and which forms an amusing contrast to its present appearance;—in another corner is a view of my residence and house of business, which gives a very good idea of the respectable class of houses in Cape Town, with the exception of its being one story higher than usual. As a representation of a country seat of the superior class of Dutch inhabitants I have given a view of the house of D. Van Reenen Esq., situated about six miles from Cape Town, on the Newlands road,—than which few houses are better known, both to occasional visitors, and to the inhabitants of the Colony,—the owner of it uniting the frank hospitality of the old Dutch colonist with the enterprising spirit of modern times.* A drawing of Newlands, the country residence of the Governor, and a wood engraving of a small marine villa at Camp's Bay,† occasionally occupied by his Excellency, are also given; and these, with the vignettes of the Calvinist Church,‡ and of the Lighthouse at Green Point, altogether afford a very fair criterion of

* *Vide* page 110.

† Page 256.

‡ Page 232.

Cape architecture, to which the Observatory now erecting will form a splendid addition.

Of the habits and customs of the Cape-Dutch in Cape Town and its vicinity, I need only say they are becoming every day more decidedly English, and, of course, less like the picture drawn of them in the recent work above-mentioned; though, very probably, when seen from the elevated point of view which the author is supposed to hold in Cape society, his delineation of them may be a very natural one. But to those whose more humble situation in life has placed them in closer contact with these people, it will be a matter of regret if they ever so entirely change, as to lose some of their present characteristics. They are a frank and hospitable, and at the same time a prudent and thrifty race; and however vulgar the notion of buying and selling may be, such habits are surely more fitted to promote the interests of an infant society, and therefore less obnoxious to ridicule, than that supercilious affectation of gentility, which not unfrequently hides beneath its aristocratic garb as much avarice and meanness as

can be found in the most sordid "*smous*" of the Colony. Whatever may be a Cape-Dutchman's love of money, and whatever trickery may be imputed to him in its acquisition, I believe there are few Englishmen of business who have not lost infinitely less by their dealings with them, than with their own more liberal and dashing countrymen; though, in justice to England, it may perhaps be remarked, that the brightest examples of the national character for steadiness are not always found in her colonies. I am, indeed, rather inclined to think that the least reputable transactions of the Cape-Dutch community have been brought to light rather in their official, than in their commercial society; and therefore I have some consolation in reflecting on the great improvement that must take place among the Dutch civilians in process of time, if they keep steadily in view the examples of integrity and disinterestedness set them by their English associates in office,—however much the love of money may prevent the trading part of the community from emulating the high character usually ascribed to

the English merchant ; an example of which (according to this author) is far from being set them by the English traders of the Colony, whose inflated pride, luxury, and extravagance, form so prominent and facetious a feature in his portraiture of Cape society. I cannot also but wonder that a sensitiveness to being rallied on his political degradation, which we should admire in an Englishman, should be added to the catalogue of the *faults* of the Cape-Dutch character. As a matter of pecuniary calculation, they have rather gained than lost by their political exchange ; so that, "mix their motives" as you will, it would seem that there is at least one point upon which the Cape-Dutchman's avarice is not the paramount feeling.

It is not my intention to extend my travels into the thorny regions of Cape politics, but it can no longer be said that "Politics have no field in South Africa large enough for an Englishman." The establishment of two weekly independent newspapers has opened a theatre for political contest, which would never have been found in the tame official columns of a Government Gazette ; and the

combatants appear to have set to on both sides without flinching. The measures of government are now as thoroughly canvassed as could be desired by the staunchest advocate for freedom of political discussion ; and this, it is to be hoped, will insensibly produce some of those beneficial effects which the same system has diffused throughout the British empire. Were the conduct of the Colonial Government, however, to be the only matter of discussion in these journals, their general utility would be infinitely less than I think it promises to be. The heat of political animosity, which, from temporary causes, has made newspaper reading at the Cape more fashionable than it would otherwise have been, must insensibly cool ; and the editors will have to trust to subjects of a less exciting, though perhaps of as useful a nature, wherewith to interest their readers ; and from the experience we have had, there does not appear to be any deficiency of talent either in the editors, or the occasional contributors to these papers, which should make us despair of seeing the various subjects to which a newspaper is open, treated with judgment and propriety. *News* must

often be scarce in a place like the Cape, and therefore when the few subjects of local interest and fashion are disposed of, and the advertisements, prices current, ship news, &c. inserted, there will still remain a considerable space to be filled with literary, or other interesting matter, which would probably never have fallen under the observation of the casual reader through any other channel; and upon the skill with which this part of the business is conducted, will depend much of the success of the rival journals. Whether the advantages of a free press in a Colony are to any great extent counterbalanced by corresponding evils, I leave others to discuss; but like many other moot points between the new and old schools, whatever becomes of the theory, the practice is established, and the freedom of the Cape press appears fixed upon a tolerably secure basis.

Another circumstance of still greater moment was the arrival, in July 1823, of his Majesty's Commissioners, J. T. Bigge, and W. M. G. Colebrooke, Esqrs., invested, by letters patent under the privy seal, with "full power and authority to inquire into all the laws, revenues, regulations,

and usages prevailing in the Colony, and into every other matter in any way connected with the administration of the civil government, the state of the judicial, civil, military, and ecclesiastical establishments, revenues, trade, and internal resources thereof ;” and the same document requires “ the Governor, and all and every officer and minister within the Colony, to be aiding and assisting in the due execution of the Commission,”

Had their means of inquiry been confined to these official sources, and had it been conducted during the quiescent periods of the olden times, their task even then would have been no light one, though committed to hands whose patient and laborious spirit of inquiry entirely fitted them for the office. But arriving, as his Majesty’s Commissioners did, at a time when the recently imported English leaven was fermenting the whole mass, their labours must have been increased beyond all measure by the quantity of volunteer information poured in upon them. Nor was their situation, from this cause, less delicate than laborious, abounding, as the Colony did, from the peculiar circumstances of the period, with com-

plaints, not only of the system of government, but of those who administered it, which they could neither shut their ears against, without violating the spirit of their commission, nor listen to without encouraging the newly raised spirit of resistance to a Government now no longer considered as of paramount authority.

Did not the history of both ancient and modern republics show us how compatible with their own boasted freedom is the practice of the greatest tyranny over others, we might feel some surprise, that from a country which laid the foundation of her own liberty at the expense of so much blood and treasure, should have emanated a system of government so despotic as that of the Dutch Colonies, where the gallows,* the branding-iron, and the whipping-post, appear to have been the common methods of enforcing subordination amongst the lower classes; while fines, imprisonment, and arbitrary banishment, secured the authorities

* Two of these erections appear to have existed in former times. Whether there was constant use for both of them I know not, or whether they were only placed as a terror to evil-doers.

against any annoyance from the more elevated ranks. That under such a system those possessed of influence should abuse it to their own emolument, is nothing wonderful ; and, accordingly, we find peculation in all its shapes the besetting sin of those in power, and the most abject submission to every thing bearing even the shadow of authority, the characteristic mark of those placed without the official pale ;—while the meddling and monopolizing spirit of a trading company, seeing in its own immediate profit the only end of government, frequently interfered in many of the more important transactions of private life.

That the mere transfer of such a *system* to English hands, however it might mitigate its brutality, should entirely put an end to its less revolting abuses, was hardly to be expected ; to administer it without blame would have required, according to Pope Gregory's pun, “ *Non Angli sed Angeli ;*” and, consequently, we may suppose, that the Commissioners must have been occasionally mortified by the discovery of such evil fruits as a tree so corrupt, as I have been describing, could not fail

of bringing forth, into whatever soil it might have been transplanted.

To the suggestions of the Commissioners may probably be attributed the recent change in the form of government, by the appointment of a Lieutenant-Governor, (the more immediate object of whose attention is to be the administration of the newly settled territories,) and of a council consisting of Sir John Truter the Chief Justice, Sir Richard Plaskett the Colonial Secretary, the second in command of the forces Lieutenant-Colonel Daniell, Lieutenant-Colonel Bell, W. Bentinck Esq. Auditor-General, and J. W. Stoll Esq. Receiver-General; the chief civil and military officers of the Colony.

To the governed, this can scarcely fail to be of advantage; while to any Governor it must be satisfactory, as a means of diverting from him much of that popular odium, which is too apt to attribute to the personal feelings of a chief magistrate, measures which may arise from a totally different source. Other changes in offices of less moment will, doubtless, take place; but, though far from

feeling indifferent to the nature of the Government under which I am destined to pass some considerable period of my life, I must confess I look with much less interest for that part of the Commissioners' Report, which may embrace those subjects popularly denominated "Politics," than I do for that portion of their labours, which will doubtless refer to the internal and commercial resources of the Colony, which they have had so good an opportunity of thoroughly investigating. On their view of these subjects hinges much of the future welfare of the Cape. Their recommendations of any improvements may probably be followed up by the British Government with the same benevolent and judicious spirit, which dictated the formation of the Commission ; and surely never did any unhappy settlement more require the kindly and fostering hand of the parent country than this Colony, whose misfortune it is to form no component part of the great "Interests" that are accustomed in England to unite for their common benefit or protection. Tamper with the rum, sugar, or slave population

of the least of our American Islands, and the whole "West India Interest" is in arms. The philanthropy of the "East India Interest" is equally alive to the benefits to be derived from the free-labour cultivation of the tropical productions. Whether as to meal or malt, the carcase or the fleece, the "Agricultural Interest" takes especial care that rents shall not be lowered by any undue pressure upon the farmer or the grazier;—while from Exeter and Leeds, from Manchester and Glasgow, Belfast and Dundee, to Norwich and Macclesfield, Birmingham and Sheffield, the cheap loaf, and a fair protection of our Home Trade, is the united watch-word of the "Manufacturing Interest." The long-cherished pride of our maritime superiority generates in every English heart the strongest sympathy when any evils threaten the "Shipping Interest," however much cheap freights, and universal freedom of commerce, may be applauded by the thorough-bred "Mercantile Interest," of the new school. Amidst the din of such conflicting demands, sometimes too unreasonable to be complied with, and their advocates too powerful to be silenced, it is less

wonderful that the feeble voice of this isolated Colony should so faintly strike upon the deafened and distracted ears of ministers, than that they should have done her all the justice that more powerful claimants on their favour would permit them to do.

This has been strongly exemplified in the recent measures adopted with respect to the staple produce of the Colony—its WINES,—wherein the *Colonial* interests of the Cape cultivator have been sacrificed to those of the *foreign* wine-grower, in a way which would not have been tolerated in a contest between the Colonial spirits of the West Indies, and the foreign spirits of France or Holland. At a period when universal war made it doubtful how long we might be able to procure from our enemies, or our allies, a cheering glass to alleviate our troubles, it seemed good to His Majesty's Government to open at least one resource for our drooping spirits by giving every possible encouragement to the growth of wine, "to make glad our hearts," within our own territories; and accordingly, "by a Government Proclamation, issued 19th December, 1811, the

cultivators and merchants of the Colony were directed to the subject of the wine trade, as a consideration, of all others, of the highest importance to its opulence and character ;” and such proclamation, after authoritatively demanding from the settlement a serious and lively attention to their interests, promised “ *the most constant support and patronage on the part of Government*, and that no means of assistance should be left unattempted to improve the cultivation, and every encouragement given to honest industry and adventure, to establish the success of the Cape commerce “ *in this her great and native superiority*.” This proclamation was followed up by the appointment of a Wine Taster and Examiner of Casks,—by the repeated publication of the best advice and information as to the best method of culture and the management of the wine,—by the offer of *premiums* to those who planted most largely, and those who produced the best wines,—by a promise that the old channels of this trade should be re-opened, and new ones found,—and by a variety of regulations, all evincing strongly the lively interest which Government took in promoting this

trade, and which were fully ratified by the Act of July 1813, admitting Cape wines to entry at one-third the duties on Portugal Wines.”*

The effects of these measures fully answered the expectations formed of them; the Colony rapidly advanced in wealth from the ready sale of its surplus produce, and additional property has since been embarked in this trade to the extent of at least half a million sterling; while, in England, the wine drinker of moderate means, driven from the use of the higher class of foreign wines, as well by their increased and increasing prime cost, as by the high rate of taxation, found in the equally wholesome, though perhaps less palatable produce of our Colony, a medium between the entire desertion of his accustomed habits, and a resort to the less gentlemanlike system of grog-drinking.

That the extension of the Colonial system to this new species of wine should give umbrage to those whose “craft was in danger” from its introduction, will excite little surprise; and conse-

* Memorial to the Treasury in 1824.

quently Cape wine has ever been marked out as an object of execration by the "Foreign Wine Trade,"—its quality traduced, and the dangers of frauds upon the revenue pointed out to Government with a dexterity which, coming from a quarter so practically conversant in the "tricks of the trade," could not but be perfectly convincing. The consequence of this organized hostility was, that when the duties on foreign wines were lowered nearly one half, and the Cape duties left at their old rate, the interviews between the Cape merchants, and those with whom the power of relief rested, very much resembled the parley between Yorick and the mendicant Friar—"But the *best reason* of all was, I was *predetermined* not to give him a single sous."

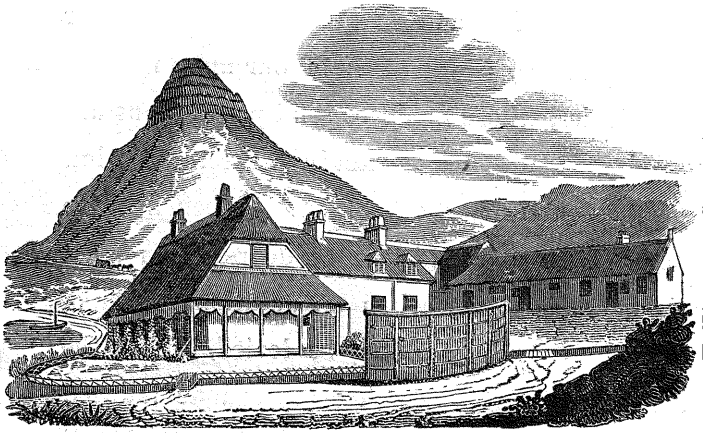
The palpable cruelty of prematurely withdrawing a protection which at once depreciated the value of each person's property, who had been *tempted* to invest it in this now proscribed article, to the extent of at least one-third, drew forth from the Colonial Department, highly to the credit of their humanity, very strong remonstrances upon the subject. But it had become

a Treasury question; and *there* its insignificance amid the press of the more important matters affecting the enormous revenue of Great Britain, could not procure for it the same favourable attention; and the decision, which was attended with such fatal consequences, was lightly justified, both in and out of Parliament, by sarcastic remarks upon the wretched trash under consideration, or upon the iniquities of adulteration, to such an extent, that the rank fiery Sherry, the acid north-side Madeira, the meagre Teneriffe of former days, were no longer to be found at the taverns neat as imported. Whether before the introduction of Cape wine any method existed of at once defrauding the revenue, and adding to their own profits by the mixture of ingredients more pernicious than the juice of the Colonial gr ape, is best known to "the trade;" but they have been sadly libelled from the days of the "limesack" of Falstaff, to the modern times of sloe-juiced Port, if the introduction of Cape wine has been the first thing that has led them into temptation.

As to the intrinsic bad quality of Cape wine, as

furnishing a reason for driving it out of consumption altogether, I must contend that it is yet premature to form a judgment. The only well-founded complaint I have ever heard of it is a certain earthy flavour, disagreeable to the English palate, in a great part of the wines (for some are entirely free from it); and in regard to the causes of this, there is such a diversity of opinions, of which a long course of practical experiments can alone determine the correctness, that the space of about a dozen years (during which short term only, has any attempt been made to discover a remedy) seems scarcely sufficient to enable us to come to a fair conclusion. That the praiseworthy efforts now making by his Excellency the Governor, the Commissioners of Inquiry, and other leading persons of the Colony, to promote the improvement both of its wines and spirits, by the establishment of a committee, consisting as well of gentlemen of the highest chemical attainments, as of those who have long been extensively engaged in the practical details of the trade, will in a reasonable time be productive of favourable results, I have no doubt. In the mean

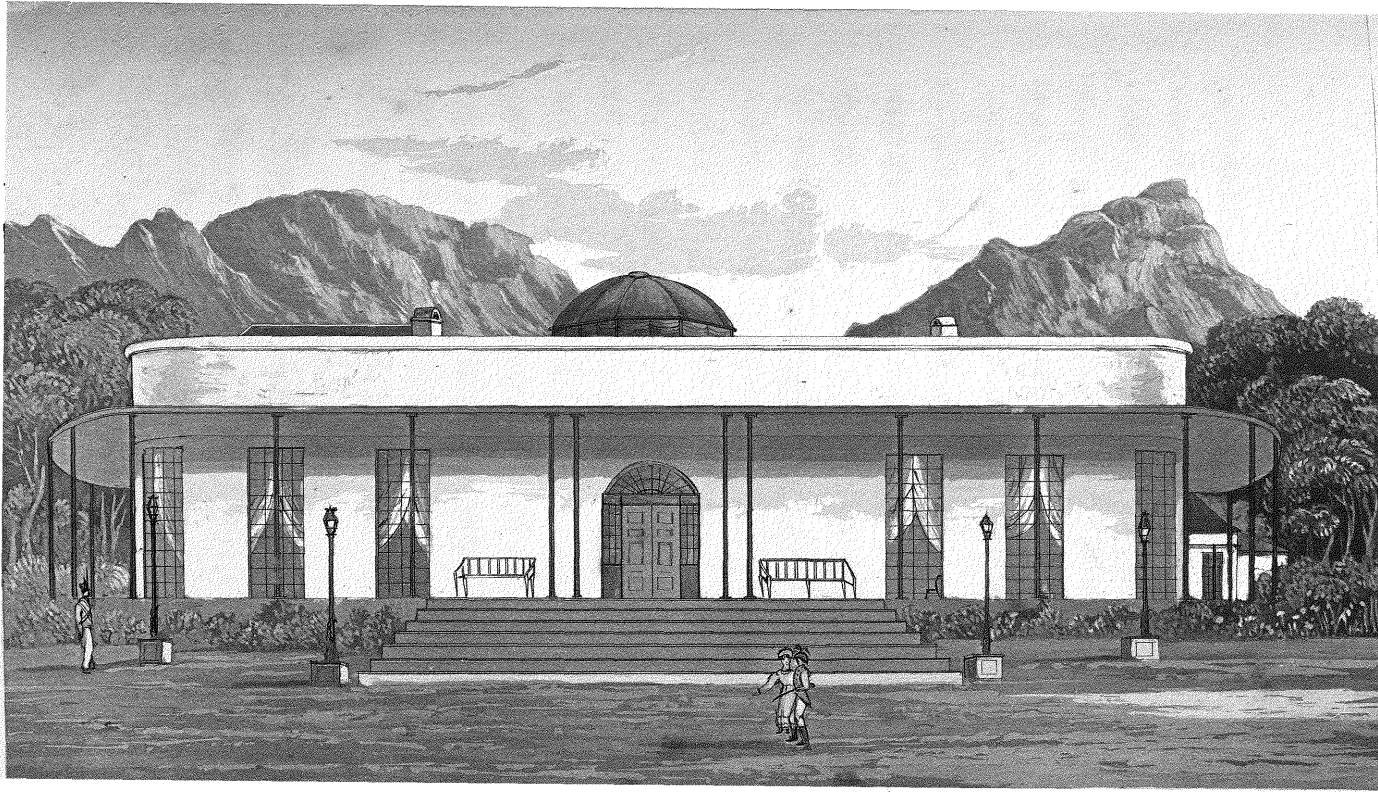
time the Cape of Good Hope has at least as good a claim to a full and adequate protection to her staple produce, as any other of our more influential colonies, whose liquid or solid productions are forced upon the home market by protecting duties. The loss of property has already been but too considerable, and still farther depreciation must take place in 1830, when an additional duty of *twenty-five per cent.* is to be levied, unless the Lords of His Majesty's Treasury can be induced to reconsider the question.



CHAPTER V.

The Corn Trade,—Currency,—and Banks.

IN the general review of the Laws of the Customs, in 1825, for which every commercial man has so much reason to feel grateful to those who undertook so laborious and invidious a task, the Cape, mainly through the exertions of its agent, T. P. Courtenay, Esq., M. P., received its due share of consideration ; and its produce, with *one* exception, obtained the protection in the home market, to which, as a British Colony, it was entitled ; but, with respect to this *one*, the apprehended op-



G. Thompson Esq. del.

NEWLANDS.

London. Publ. by H. Colburn. Jan. 1827.

position of another great "Interest" stood in the way of her just claims. It will be remembered that, as an encouragement to agriculture in our North American Colonies, their wheat was, in 1825, admitted to entry in England at a duty of 5*s.* per quarter. No reason could be adduced in support of this measure, which did not apply with equal force to the admission of grain from the Cape; while one principal argument against it,—viz. the smuggling of corn from the United States into Canada, could not possibly apply to the Cape, as there are no adjacent foreign settlements from whence it could be sent there. Still, though nothing can be more chimerical than the fear of Cape corn producing any serious effect upon the distant and extensive markets of Great Britain, the Cape was not of sufficient weight to put to hazard the intended benefit to the more important Colonies of British America, by attempting to include her produce in the same Bill. I am too sensible of the good will towards the Colony, of those with whom it would have rested to bring forward the measure, as well as of the difficulties they have to encounter in every the slightest approximation to

a more free trade in corn, to presume to censure their decision of postponing to a future and more favourable opportunity, the extension of this benefit to the Cape. The narrow escape of the Canada Corn Bill, perhaps, fully vindicates the correctness of their judgment. I only mention the circumstance to show that, powerless as this Colony is, those who are best inclined to serve her, cannot always do so in opposition to more powerful claimants.

No favourable scale of duties, however, can be productive of much benefit, till an alteration of system takes place in the Colony itself, where the trade in corn has hitherto been in a situation which must, so long as it continues, not only preclude it from becoming an exporting country, but occasionally subject it to those seasons of scarcity, sometimes approaching to famine, under one of which it is at the present moment smarting. The Burgher Senate annually procures a return of the quantity of corn on hand in the Colony; and having ascertained from the population returns the number of mouths to consume it, a proclamation is issued by the Government,

stating what quantity (if any) may be exported before the next harvest. In consequence, no one grows more than he is likely to find vent for in the home-market ; for what merchant would be at the pains of procuring a regular foreign market for an article, which, after all, he finds himself precluded from sending, except now and then in dribblets, by these paltry regulations? The upshot of all this is, that whenever a scanty harvest occurs, instead of the corn grown for exportation being kept in the Colony,—by the high price it would naturally command in the home-market,—the vacuum is obliged to be filled up by ruinous importations of foreign corn. Were the exportation of corn at all times free, and were the English market open to it at a low duty, it would stimulate the farmer to produce, and the dealer to speculate in purchasing, a quantity which he could generally get rid of, at something like a remunerating price, for shipment to England,—should the home-market, and the nearer and more profitable export-markets of the Mauritius, St. Helena, and Brazil, be glutted by an over-supply.

As to any danger of the Colony being in want

of bread from the export of too large a quantity of its grain, I must confess myself to be very sceptical, and shall continue so till I find the Colony without wine for its home consumption, from the great encouragement that has been given to *its* exportation ;—for whatever has been advanced, and I think very rashly, as to the incapacity of the Cape for producing corn abundantly, it appears to me that there is very little more danger in the one case than in the other. At any rate, as the old system has not had the effect either of producing regular prices, or of averting occasional scarcity, it might be worth while to try the effect of a new one ; and, let what will happen, we can but resort at last, *as we are now doing*, to the harvests of Europe and India.

The final arrangement of the long agitated question of the paper currency of the Colony, is too remarkable an event to be passed over in silence, though I am far from intending to tax the patience of my readers by entering into any lengthened discussion.*

* Those who wish to see this matter minutely discussed, cannot do better than consult a pamphlet written by Lieut.

It may be desirable to inform those who are not familiar with this subject, that the colonial paper rix-dollar of the Cape, first issued by the Dutch East India Company in 1781, was declared to be equal to forty-eight full weighed pennies of Holland, (about 4*s.* sterling,) and which, under all its fluctuations, has generally been considered to be its *nominal* value.

At the period of the first British capture in 1795, the amount in circulation was

Rix-dollars 611,276—The balance of the issues and repayments of various sums issued for the public service.

Rix-dollars 680,000—Which has been issued as a capital to the Lombard Bank, and by it lent to the public on mortgage.

Together 1,291,276 Rix-dollars.

Whatever may have been the fitness of this sum

P. Warden Grant, of the Hon. East India Company's Revenue Survey department, published at Cape Town,—a work highly creditable to the colonial press.

for the circulation of the Colony under the Dutch Government, the sudden and large increase of the business it had to perform, in consequence of the influx of so large an additional population as the British forces, appears to have suggested to Sir James Craig the expediency of increasing the nominal amount, rather than incur the loss of issuing Treasury Bills at a discount;—and consequently a farther issue of

Rix-dollars 25,000 took place for the public service ;

8,000 for purchase of rice during a season of scarcity ;

165,000 additional capital to the Lombard Bank :—

In all, 495,000 rix-dollars issued by the British Government during their occupation of the Colony. This large increased issue, though perhaps required for a temporary purpose, appears to have exceeded the demand for a permanency, and had the effect of depreciating the currency to the extent of twenty or thirty per cent. when Lord Macartney checked any farther fall, by granting Treasury Bills at twenty per cent. premium; and when

the Colony was restored to the Dutch at the peace of Amiens in 1803, a full equivalent for such part of the currency as had been issued for the purposes of the British Government, was paid in military and naval stores.

No reduction, however, appears to have been effected by the Dutch Government; but in 1804 the whole currency was entirely recalled, and a new paper issued, which is said to have amounted, at the capture by the British forces in 1806, to about 2,000,000 rix-dollars, of which 845,000 was Bank capital. That this was a far greater nominal amount than was required for the diminished circulation of the Colony, after the retirement of the British garrison, is evident from the rate of exchange and the price of bullion during the period of the Dutch re-occupation,—bills on Holland being sometimes at a premium of 160, reducing the rix-dollar to little more than 1*s.* 6*d.* sterling, and it being no uncommon circumstance for those who wished to take away bullion from the Colony, to give ten and twelve rix-dollars for an English guinea, or two and a half and three rix-dollars for one Spanish dollar.

That a conquering government should intend to bind itself to redeem at 4*s.* sterling, a currency so depreciated as this, seems very improbable; and any pledge to "uphold its value" would seem to imply little more than a promise not to depreciate it by farther issues. The assertion of the rix-dollar having risen nearly to par, *upon the faith* of the British proclamation, in 1806, seems hardly well founded; the expenditure caused by the presence of so large a military and naval force as that which captured the Cape, together with the increased freedom of trade, would have been sufficient to produce this effect upon a currency whose nominal amount continued stationary; and its subsequent depreciation, without any alteration with respect to the "pledge," is a proof that its quantity, and not the public confidence, was the criterion of its value.

Between 1810 and 1814, another 1,000,000 was issued through the Lombard Bank. The evil consequences of thus adding 50 per cent. to the nominal amount in circulation, though sufficiently apparent in the following years, were materially checked by the very high value to which the wine

of the Colony was raised, by its admission at low duties into the British market, as well as by the great impulse which was given to the trade and agriculture of the Colony, by the detention of Buonaparte at Saint Helena; and it was not till his death, and the departure of the garrison from thence, and till the operation of peace-prices upon every article of European import as well as of colonial produce, was fully established, that the evil effects of this measure were entirely developed. The value of the rix-dollar gradually sunk in exchange, till in the year 1825 it appears to have reached its lowest point of depression, viz. below 1*s.* 5*d.*

On the 6th of June, 1825, an ordinance was published by the Governor in council, stating that "His Majesty's Government had determined to establish the British currency as the circulating medium of all the colonial possessions of the crown; and had farther been pleased to order and direct, that the British silver money shall be a legal tender in this Colony in discharge of all debts due to individuals and to the public, at the rate of ONE SHILLING AND SIXPENCE for each

rix-dollar, and so in proportion for any greater or less sum;" and ordering, in consequence, that tables should be printed, stating the relative value of the paper rix-dollar, and the lesser proportions thereof, with British money; and that all public accounts should be kept, and all contracts made for the public service, in pounds, shillings, and pence, from the 1st of January, 1826.

In the same Gazette it was announced by the Commissary, that Treasury Bills would be granted at the rate of one hundred pounds for each one hundred and three pounds, paid in at the rate of one shilling and sixpence per rix-dollar. The promulgation of these measures caused, as may be supposed, no small sensation in the Colony, both amongst those who had been speculating upon the matter as a question of political economy, and those whose speculations were of a less disinterested nature.

Entirely to justify, upon any sound *theory*, either the excessive issue of this currency, or the neglect of recalling it gradually, when its evil consequences had long been so apparent, is impossible; the former may, perhaps, be *palliated* by

the consideration, that during the same period, the sanction of the greatest names and the highest authority was given in England to the false system of *her* depreciated currency; and it is too much to expect that the Governors of a Colony should have been "wiser in their generation" than the ruling powers at home. The continuance of the system can only be defended by the same kind of rhetoric, that was opposed in Parliament by an honourable member (to whom, singularly enough, the Cape dissentients in 1825 have entrusted the advocacy of their cause,) to the sound logic of Mr. Huskisson, in his speech on the Bullion Report, in 1811, when he so ably illustrated those unchangeable principles of honesty and common sense, which, through evil report and good report, he has at last had the satisfaction of seeing triumphantly carried into practice,—and brought to the support of his own arguments the opinions of some of the most acute reasoners of former days. "The country," said the honourable member, "is in such a fictitious state, as to every part of its political economy, that she cannot go on with a circulation adapted to legitimate purposes: to

talk in such a situation, of the theories of Locke and Newton, is not less absurd than the reasoning of an honourable gentleman, last night, who carried the house back to the days of *Moses*."

I shall therefore merely advert to the *practical* effects of this measure, and endeavour to show that if an immediate settlement of the currency, as a part of a general colonial measure, had become necessary, the *mode* fixed on is less objectionable, than at first it appears to be.

This arrangement has been compared to a composition of seven and sixpence in the pound with the creditors of the Government: I cannot see it in this extreme point of view. The value of the Dutch 2,000,000 rix-dollars, for so I cannot help calling them, was depreciated to a metallic value of from two shillings and three-pence to two shillings and sixpence, before the British 1,000,000 rix-dollars was issued, (certainly no good reason for making bad worse,) the premium on Treasury Bills being twenty-five per cent., reducing the *nominal* value of the rix-dollar to three shillings. These Treasury Bills were paid in the currency of Great Britain, then depreciated twenty-five per

cent. more ; a circumstance which appears to have been generally overlooked in discussing the value of the rix-dollar ; and I believe that a comparison of its price with the Spanish dollar will not show a very different result. I cannot, therefore, see why it is imperative upon the Colonial Government to pay four shillings in the *reformed* sterling coin of Great Britain, for what, when issued, was not worth half-a-crown,—and to call upon all debtors either to individuals or to itself, (and the Government, through the medium of the Lombard Bank, is creditor for nearly two-thirds of the whole currency,) immediately to pay their debts at this extravagant rate. This would be so striking a hardship, that in the quarters from whence the greatest opposition has arisen, it has been suggested, (totally abandoning the *principle*,) that an immediate calling in of the whole of the currency, at two shillings or two shillings and sixpence, would have been a very satisfactory arrangement :—doubtless it would have been so, to those long-sighted persons, who had been laying up rix-dollars in store, or selling goods at unusually long credits, at low prices, in the expectation

that the Government, whose attention, they expected, had been called to the subject by His Majesty's Commissioners, would take some such step as this before the day of payment came round. But what was to become of the unfortunate debtors upon recent contracts, forming *by far the greatest bulk of the Community*, when called on to pay one-third more than they had bargained for, without any increase in the value of the commodity they had purchased? and how would it have saved the credit of the Government with the theorist, to whom the payment of a dividend of fifteen shillings would have been as great a scandal as a payment of five shillings in the pound? In fact, no measure, the operation of which, in raising the value of the currency, would not have been as gradual as the depreciation, could have been resorted to, without causing as much mischief in the rise, as had been created in the fall.

It appears to me that the entire change in the denomination in which accounts were to be kept, and contracts made in future, afforded an opportunity for the *gradual* redemption of the rix-dollar; and I regret, as well for the sake of indivi-

duals, as of the Government, on whom so much odium has been attempted to be cast, that nothing of this kind was resorted to. The Government might have issued an entirely new British currency, either in silver or paper, upholding its value, as it now does, by the issue of Treasury Bills, at a premium to cover the expenses of transporting bullion ; all previous contracts might have been ordered to be paid in rix-dollars ; the final redemption of the rix-dollar, at four shillings, fixed for a distant period ; and a *gradually increasing* scale might have been calculated of the prices at which government would, at all times, previous to that period, either receive or issue the rix-dollar against the new currency,—taking care to calculate these rates so as to form an inducement rather for the early bringing in of the rix-dollar, than for its being kept back. I am inclined to think that this would even have been preferable to the issuing of debentures, bearing interest, in exchange for the paper currency, as has been suggested, both by the intelligent editor of “The State of the Cape in 1822,” and by a commercial gentleman in his proposals to Govern-

ment; as it would have enabled those holders of rix-dollars, who cannot, or will not understand that any thing short of receiving four silver shillings for one paper rix-dollar is a fraud upon them, to realize at some period their notion of a rix-dollar; and at the same time it would have enabled those who know the value of compound interest, to take advantage of the present payment. It is true, that by these means eighteen or twenty years might have elapsed before the rix-dollar was finally disposed of; but most of the hardships that a more sudden rise might have caused would have been avoided, and the good faith of the Government would have been esteemed by the most prejudiced as untarnished. The settlement of this question at the time it took place, prevented, I have little doubt, a still farther decline in the value of the rix-dollar, which would have been caused by the announcement *at the same time*, of the unfavourable change of duties on wines in England; and though some cases of very great individual hardship can no doubt be shown, I am satisfied on the whole, that *if an immediate settlement was necessary*, the price at which the rix-

dollar was fixed, was *practically* the least injurious to the community at large.*

In arguing this question between debtor and creditor, it is painful to me to differ from so highly respectable a body as the "Capitalists" of the Cape, or to appear as an opponent to those who enter the lists as the champions of the "widow and orphan;" but I cannot help suggesting that the hard-working man of little or no capital, who was trading upon a stock of goods, or had purchased a farm or a house upon the strength of his credit and industry, was as much entitled to protection against an increase of the value of the rix-dollar, as the Capitalist was against its decrease; and I can see no reason why the widows and orphans of the past generation should be benefited at the expense of those who are now bringing up children, and may possibly leave *them* orphans, with a property diminished by the effects of another sudden fluctuation. In what I have stated

* Since the above was written, I have seen the report of the Commissioners of Inquiry, published by order of the House of Commons, 26th May, 1826, which, I am happy to observe, coincides in a great measure with the view I have taken of the subject.

on this subject, and which I really do with the greatest diffidence, after the able way in which the question has been handled on both sides, I have at least the satisfaction of having given a disinterested opinion. From the nature of the business in which my house is engaged, we scarcely ever owe money in the Colony; and it would have been very pleasant to me to have collected many thousand pounds of book debts at so great an advance on the rix-dollar as has been talked of, if it could have been done without the ruin of our debtors; but I fear, like most other selfish schemes, it would only have proved to be another illustration of the fable of the Goose and the Golden Eggs.

Before the decision of Government became publicly known, a plan was matured in London, by a gentleman of great experience in the mercantile affairs of the Colony, for the establishment of a bank at Cape Town, one of the operations of which was to have been to facilitate a redemption of the colonial currency; but His Majesty's Government not having found this co-operation necessary to their arrangements, this part of the

plan fell to the ground, and it was afterwards confined to the formation of a corporate bank, upon the solid basis of a metallic currency. The capital was proposed to be raised in shares in England, and at the Cape; and it is to be lamented that such an accession of capital as would have flowed into the Colony by this means, has been withheld from it by the want of success in England, where the scheme was scarcely developed before those events took place which gave people full employment for their money nearer home; and at the Cape it seems not to have met with that encouragement which was anticipated by its projector, either from the Government or the public. The utility of some such establishment is, however, so apparent, that another project has emanated from an association in the Colony itself, founded upon principles equally sound, and which has the public opinion greatly in its favour. The minor details would be uninteresting to general readers, and the following abstract of the prospectus will be sufficient to explain its principles:—

“ It is proposed to raise by subscription the capital sum of 50,000*l.*, in 500 shares of 100*l.* each,

and to give an additional support to the credit of the bank, by unexceptionable security in the title-deeds or mortgages on estates, or fixed property, to the full amount of each and every share,—such securities to be deposited, at the time of payment of the first instalment, in the custody of trustees to be elected by the proprietors, whereby every share will be composed of 100% in money, and the like amount in landed security ;”—“ no person to hold more than twenty shares of the stock. The bank is not to engage in any kind of trade, or be connected in any kind of agency for the buying and selling of merchandize, or fixed or moveable property ; but its business is to be confined to the discounting, at the discretion of the Board of Directors, if approved, promissory notes and acceptances at a date not exceeding three months ;

“ The discounting the acceptances of the Vendue department ;

“ The giving credit on cash accounts, under unexceptionable security, for a period not exceeding three months, on the Scotch banking principle ; and—

“ The issuing and circulating notes to a prescribed and limited amount, payable on demand in the legal currency of the Colony.

“ The bank paper issues shall not exceed the sum of 100,000*l.* sterling ; or the amount of the capital and security to be issued in notes of not less than one pound for the present, payable on demand in the legal currency of the Colony.

“ As security to the public, there will exist at all times, *besides the responsibility of the proprietors,*

“ The capital stock of 50,000*l.* ;

“ The securities in the custody of trustees, equivalent to 50,000*l.* ; and further,

“ The promissory notes, vendue acceptances, and other available securities and choses in action, received in lieu of the paper issues, constituting a value which, under a direction subject to the half-yearly inspection of every proprietor, must be considered ample and undeniable security.”

Whether the capital required can be conveniently abstracted from other profitable employment of stock by the monied inhabitants, and whether in a country where so great a proportion of the

real property is already under mortgage to the Government, landed security can readily be found in the same hands to give the required additional security, seem to be the only reasons why its success need be doubted; and it is satisfactory to know that half the sum has already been subscribed by substantial people.

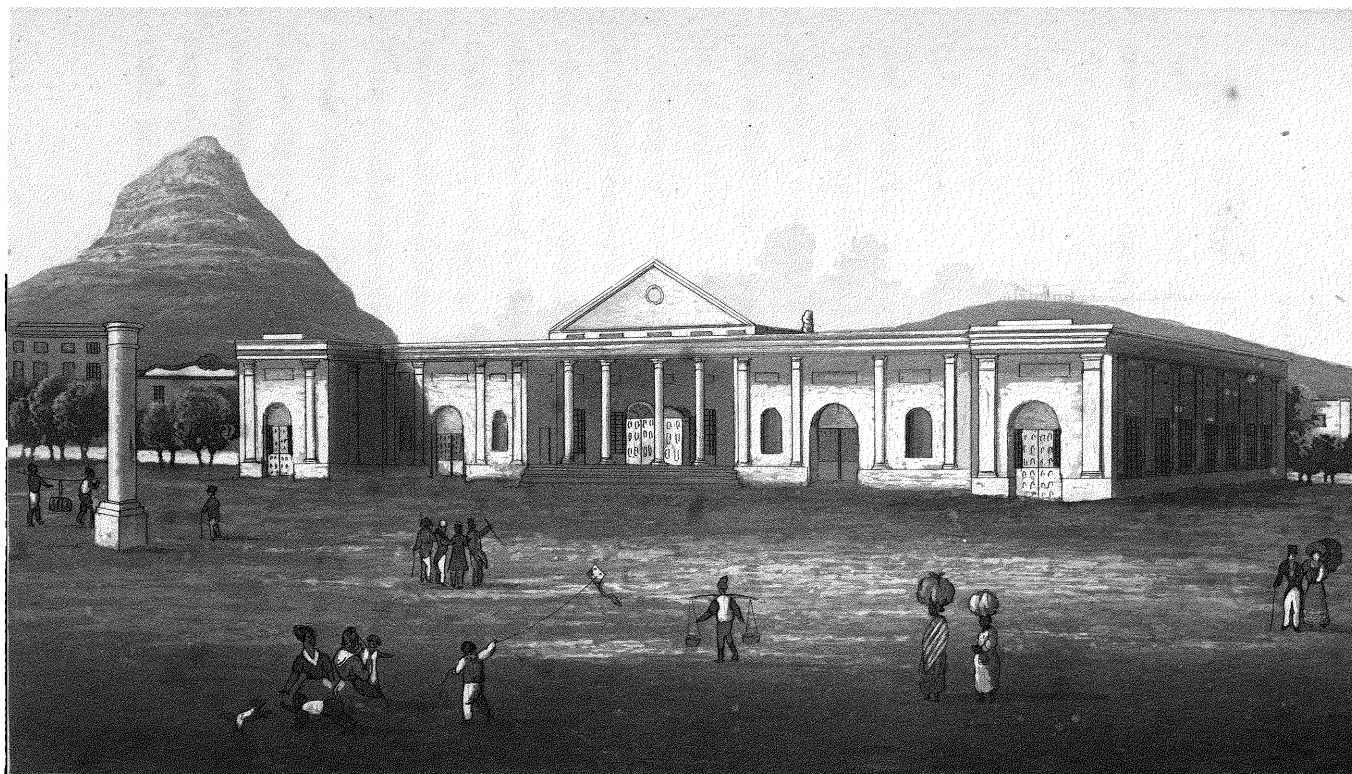
Independent of the benefits which would be derived by the owners of moderate sums of money, who would have an opportunity which they now want, of *securely* placing out their money at interest, where they could receive it back at pleasure, and of the facilities offered to the trading part of the community by cash accounts, an establishment of this kind would contribute more than any thing else to a regularity in the payment of bills and notes of hand, the non-payment of which, when passing through the hands of a board of directors, would be felt by a tradesman as a dishonour, and if he had an account with the bank, as destructive to his credit,—which, at present, is looked upon as no more compromised by a *faux-pas* of this kind, than by the temporary delay of the payment of an open or unadjusted account.

We need not, I believe, in *any* Colony look for that high tone of commercial feeling for which London and our large commercial cities are celebrated, but any approximation to it is highly to be desired.

CHAPTER VI.

Commercial Importance of the Colony.—Natural Advantages and Obstructions.—Wine Districts.—Corn Districts.—Native Free Labourers.—Exportable Produce.—Whale and Seal Fisheries.—Trade with the Caffer Tribes.—Notices respecting Raw Silk, Salted Provisions, &c. &c.

THE importance, and even the absolute necessity, in a military point of view, of the Cape of Good Hope being held by Great Britain as an outwork of her Eastern possessions, has been so clearly pointed out by a gentleman eminently qualified to appreciate its value, as well as to impress its importance on others, that I should deem it impertinent to add any thing to what the reader will find in Mr. Barrow's standard work. I will therefore proceed to consider its commercial importance, which I think has been much underrated.



G. Thompson. Scy. del.

COMMERCIAL EXCHANGE.

London. Pub. by H. Colburn. Jan. 1827.

That the Cape, if enjoying all the benefits of a free port, would become an emporium to which many of the nations to the westward, and particularly the rising states of South America, would resort for a supply of eastern produce, bringing in exchange the productions of their own country, its geographical position renders highly probable; and as applications are now making in a quarter where suggestions for the extension of British commerce are seldom made in vain, there is little doubt that this important privilege will ere long be granted to the Colony.

Times of profound peace, however, and that improved rapidity of commercial communication which has brought distant nations so much nearer each other, and enabled them to carry on a direct trade, are, perhaps, not very favourable to an early increase of the commerce of the Cape as an emporium; and the more so, as it would require a much larger portion of British capital to be diverted into that channel, than is likely to find its way there. I shall, therefore, rather consider the capabilities of the Colony for carrying on a direct trade with the mother country, and with the

other markets to which its commerce is opened,— and its fitness for a station of refreshment for ships trading to and from the East Indies, and for vessels engaged in the southern fishery, and in the distant voyages to the colonies of New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land.

The principal circumstances which *appear* to militate against the agriculture and commerce of the Cape, are the large quantity of sterile, uncultivated land within its boundaries, and the want of navigable rivers for the conveyance of its produce to the ports of shipment, as well as of secure harbours for the shelter of the shipping which resort there. Nature, however, provident in all her works, has not failed to find a means of transport for the commodities of most of those districts which she has not doomed to irreclaimable barrenness, or to a pastoral state; and the finest parts, both of the Colony, and of those countries which will, probably, in the progress of civilization, be added to it, lie so contiguous to a sea-coast of six or seven hundred miles in length, on which a vessel scarcely ever finds herself on a lee-shore, as greatly to supply the want of inland naviga-

tion ; while the extreme cheapness of land-carriage, and the general excellence of the roads in the Colony, render the conveyance of produce, from the interior to the coast, much less expensive than would be imagined at first sight.

If the reader will cast his eye over the map, he will perceive that within a line drawn from the junction of the Cradock and Gariep rivers southward nearly to the Sneeuwberg, and from thence following the line of the Nieuwveld mountains to the westward and north-west, as far as Hantam, and from thence to the sea, following which to the mouth of the Gariep, and from thence along its course eastward, which seems to form the natural northern boundary of the Colony,—nearly the whole of that enormous tract is totally unfit for the subsistence of any considerable population. The great inclined plain, leading from the Nieuwveld to the Gariep river, is subject to almost continual drought ; and the mountain ranges, and their immediate vicinity, though admirably adapted for the pasturage of cattle, are yet quite unfitted for the subsistence of any but a pastoral and partly wandering race. In addition to which,

the hungry lands of the Bokkeveld, Roggeveld, and Great Karroo, comprehend a large territory not included within this line. No produce is, therefore, likely to come from these districts, except such as possesses, within itself, the power of locomotion.

The principal wine districts, the produce of which, notwithstanding all that has been said against it, will still, I trust, maintain its rank as the staple commodity of the Colony, lie within a distance of thirty to forty miles from Cape Town; viz. in the Stellenbosch district, along the skirts of the chain of Hottentots' Holland Mountains,—the wine farms beginning at Hottentots Holland, and continuing through Stellenbosch, Banghoek, Franschehoek, Drackenstein, and the Paarl, to Waggon-maker's Valley. And though the roads are bad, lying chiefly through a deep sand, and require eighteen oxen to convey two leaguers, of 152 gallons each, occupying two or three days to perform the journey, yet, considering the cheap rate of carriage in that country, they are still sufficiently near to Cape Town to establish that beyond competition as the wine port of the Colony.

The other parts that produce the wine, are the skirts of Table Mountain, Constantia, and its neighbourhood, Houts' Bay, and Tiger Berg. These latter places chiefly produce the favourite wines, such as Hock and sweet Muscadels, while the more distant farms above-mentioned, produce the common wine, denominated Cape Madeira and Pontac. The extension of this species of cultivation to other districts of the Colony, after the late severe check upon its prosperity, is, I think, for the present at least very doubtful.

The principal corn districts are, the Blue-Berg, Koeberg, Zwartland, and Twenty-four Rivers, all in the Cape district; the produce of which comes chiefly by land to Cape Town, though capable of partial transport by sea, at least from the districts in the neighbourhood of St. Helena Bay. These are at present the principal granaries of the Colony. But the greater part of the districts of George and Swellendam are equally capable of producing corn abundantly: the soil is well fitted for it, and the rains which fall in the season of its growth along the whole eastern coast of the Colony, do not render irrigation so indispensable in

the process of agriculture, as it is to the northward of the chain of mountains which intercept the refreshing showers brought by the south-east wind.

For the ready conveyance of grain to a distant market, the Breede River, which falls into the sea at Port Beaufort, and is navigable for vessels of two hundred tons, furnishes abundant means as far as respects the district of Swellendam ; while Mossel Bay is a sufficiently secure place for shipping the produce of such parts of George as are capable of growing corn.

Nearly the whole of the district of Uitenhage is also well suited for the successful cultivation of corn : and the Zwartkops River, which falls into Algoa Bay, furnishes a means of inland water-carriage for nearly fifteen miles from its mouth. The district of Albany, though under present circumstances so much better adapted for grazing, could yet, were the rust extirpated, and external demand to arise, undoubtedly furnish a very considerable surplus quantity of grain. And the country along the coast between the Fish River and Keiskamma, as far as I can judge from per-

sonal inspection, as well as from the reports of many intelligent persons who have visited it, is equally well, or better adapted for the purposes of agriculture. There are, therefore, no impediments that I am aware of, except the restrictions on the corn trade, already alluded to, and the want of a labouring population to cultivate the ground, which prevent the Cape from producing corn in superabundance. How the latter impediment is to be speedily got over in the Dutch districts, I do not see very plainly. The settlement of British emigrants there by Government, is not practicable to any considerable extent; because the whole country, except some small tracts already noticed, is in the possession of the boors; and the increase of the population, unless a large spontaneous influx should take place from Britain, must be very gradual. The readiest means which occurs to me for a farther supply of labour, (provided there be no prospect of obtaining it from Europe,) is the receiving into these districts as indentured servants or apprentices, refugees from the Bechuana and Caffer tribes. Above a thousand fugitives from different nations have already been received into

the districts of Somerset, Graaff-Reinet, and Albany; and pressed as the border tribes now appear to be by the weight of those behind them, there will perhaps eventually be no alternative, but either their entire destruction between the British force on the frontier, and the savage invaders behind, or allowing them to be peaceably scattered through the Colony on some plan that will secure at once their general usefulness and their good treatment. From whatever cause it arises, whether from the redundancy of the population, in consequence of the stoppage of the slave trade on the north-east coast, or from the conquering chiefs of that quarter driving the weaker tribes to the south-west, certain it is, that the southern tribes are pressed upon from the north by a weight which they cannot withstand; and as such events as the irruption of the Mantatees may again, ere long, not improbably recur, it is desirable, if possible, to turn this evil to some good account. The details of such a measure may be safely left to the consideration of the Colonial Government, but that humanity dictates, in the event contemplated, some steps to be taken to prevent

the extermination of the tribes on the border by military execution or *savage* massacre, is sufficiently apparent.

Every reasonable expectation may be formed, that the population so introduced will be found superior to a *slave* population. At least this has hitherto been the case with the prize apprentices, who not only look upon themselves as a caste superior to the slaves, but are so esteemed by those in whose service they are. It is true, they are generally settled in and about Cape Town, and it is probable that the dispersion of the native refugees at a distance from the check, both of authority and public opinion, would operate unfavourably upon the conduct of the *master*, upon which, in most situations of society, either amongst slaves or freemen, much of the good or evil conduct of servants depends. But even the obstinacy objected against the Dutch boer, would not be entirely proof against the gradual amelioration which is taking place in society; and I am inclined to think, that no evils could arise which bear any comparison to the wretched fate these

poor creatures are probably doomed to, unless something is done for their relief.

The importation of Chinese settlers has been advised, and no doubt these industrious people would be in many situations a great acquisition ; but it seems very doubtful, whether they could be induced to serve as agricultural labourers to the boors. I have always understood that they have thriven best on allotments of land tilled for their own emolument ; and here the same impediments present themselves, as with regard to English settlers ; viz. the best lands are already allotted. As artificers, mechanics, and domestic servants, they would be highly useful in Cape Town, and the smaller towns. But I much doubt whether any emigration, conducted on a large scale, would not fail, from the same causes that were fatal to an experiment of the same kind at Trinidad.

A country so prolific in flocks and herds as the Cape, cannot but furnish a large supply of hides and skins ; and these have accordingly, of late years, been a considerable article of export to Great Britain. The quality of the hides is in fair estimation, and the sheep and goat skins fur-

nish a highly valuable material to the leather-dresser. This, from the nature of things, must be an increasing article of export, and capable of extension, by barter with the native tribes, till a higher state of civilization induces home manufacture to a greater extent than is now carried on. But in the article of wool the Cape is as yet far behind our Australian Colonies. The Cape sheep, it is well known, is covered rather with hair than wool; but its adaptation for its native climate, and the use made of the fat of its tail, render the Dutch farmers, who at best are not very fond of innovations, averse from changing this breed for one possessing the valuable property which the native sheep wants. Consequently, the experiments in introducing the Merino breed have chiefly been confined to the Government farms and a few places in their vicinity, where, though neither pains nor expense have been spared, the success has been far from encouraging. The wool appears to have degenerated, and from the nature of the country in which the experiments have been tried, it has been found so much clogged with sand, and with small decayed vegetable sub-

stances, as greatly to deteriorate its value in manufacture. This I am fully aware of, having sent home some wool, esteemed of good quality, which lost above half the weight in washing, and produced a cloth of about twelve shillings per yard in value, which I sold at the Cape, and the result paid me little more than five per cent. on the capital. Whether a greater share of success will attend the exertions which Captain Stockenstrom, the Landdrost of Graaff-Reinet, is making, yet remains to be seen. In Albany there are some Merino sheep; I believe the flock of Major Pigot is the most extensive, and I understand promises to succeed very well. I am, therefore, not without great hope, that, ere long, wool will furnish a more important article of export from the Colony than it has yet done; and I think the sheep in the eastern provinces will not be so much annoyed by the sand as in the Cape district.*

* Since the above was written, I have learned that these favourable anticipations are likely to be realized. Some of the wool sent home from the eastern districts, (which, with the Sneeuwberg and Nieuwveld, are the best sheep-walks of the Colony,) promises to be of a better quality than any hitherto raised near the Cape, and holds out the cheering prospect of this important produce becoming, ere long, one of the staple exports of the interior.

Dried fruits are cured at the Cape in some perfection ; and raisins, which form so valuable an article of commerce from the Mediterranean, ought, and probably will, under the protecting duty they enjoy, form a larger article of export to England than they have yet done. These, and some other fruits, have been sent in considerable quantities to St. Helena, the Mauritius, New South Wales, and Van Diemen's Land, and in these channels the trade in them will probably increase ; large quantities of them are also sold to the Indiamen as sea-stores. The extreme richness of the grapes, and probably some want of skill in the preparation, greatly limit their consumption as dessert fruit in England ; but for the purposes of cookery none better can be found. Were the proper mode of curing raisins better understood at the Cape, there can be no doubt of success in this branch of commerce,—for whatever may be said of its wines, the grapes of the Colony are of the finest quality.

Argol, the quality of which has improved of late years, and the quantity of which might probably be a good deal increased, is another second-

ary article of export. Aloes are exported in large quantities. This drug is capable of production to a much larger extent than there can be any demand for, till some other use than a medicine for cattle be discovered for it. The plant grows wild, and is not, like the finer aloe of the West Indies, an object of cultivation. Its manufacture is so simple that any sudden demand is easily supplied.

These are the principal products of colonial industry which have hitherto been considered fit articles of export to England ; and certainly it does not appear to furnish such a list as might be expected from its situation and climate. It may be questioned, however, whether it would conduce to the prosperity of the Cape, to divert from its natural channels that labour and capital which have proved beneficial, for the sake of producing a variety of articles, which, though suited to the *climate* of the Colony, are yet unfitted to its other circumstances.

The tea of China, the coffee of Java, the cotton of India, the tobacco of America, together with a long list of the productions of the southern countries of Europe, might all, it is believed, be suc-

cessfully cultivated in different parts of the Colony. But it is not from these sources that the early prosperity of the Colony must arise, any more than from the iron, the copper, and other minerals which it is known to possess.* No one can be more averse than I am from throwing a damp upon the enterprising spirit, without which, no country can attain prosperity ; but I am of opinion, that the articles I have just enumerated, are rather to be expected from the vigour of a maturer age, than from the infancy of the Colony. It may seem strange to use this term after a colonization of nearly two hundred years ; but when it is considered, that the settlement is but just emancipated

* Copper is known to exist in abundance in Little and Great Namaqualand. According to the reports of the missionaries, native iron is to be found in the same quarter in considerable blocks, a circumstance I had but little faith in until I discovered that it was also found in that state in Siberia and Senegal. The mineral most likely to be first in request is that well known to exist on the Van Staade's River, between the Camtoos River and Algoa Bay,—being a rich vein of silver and lead. If it be true, as currently reported, that coal has been found on the Kromme River, not far west from Van Staade's River, it is possible, that ere long, some attempt may be made to work it. The acquisition of coal mines would, indeed, be invaluable to South Africa ; they would furnish the means of smelting her ores, and supplying her steamers.

from the leading-strings of commercial monopoly, it will not appear to be ill applied.

There is another species of cultivation, and that a valuable one, which has been suggested by the editor of the "State of the Cape in 1822," of the favourable result of which I entertain no doubt,— I mean that of the silkworm ; and I am happy in the prospect that an attempt is now likely to be made, under circumstances which render its success highly probable. The white mulberry attains to the highest degree of perfection ; the climate is precisely suitable to the worm, and a population well adapted for the tendance of these insects, is to be found in the Hottentots. It requires, in fact, nothing but a very few persons skilled in the art of winding the silk from the cocoons, to instruct others, and a proper set of machinery for the purpose, to insure the most perfect success. It fortunately demands no such very large capital to start upon, as might deter individuals from embarking in it, if a public company formed expressly for such purposes should decline the undertaking.

The whale fisheries on the coast, which have

hitherto furnished an export to England, I am sorry to say, have become less productive in each succeeding year; and this trade, unless it is capable of being conducted on very different principles than the mere taking of the whales that come into the bays, is soon likely to be of little value to the Colony. At present, I think that agriculture forms a more profitable investment for the capital of the resident at the Cape; and the merchants generally connected with England, have their means otherwise engaged. South Sea whaling expeditions are carried on upon those principles of partnership between the owners and the crew, that they can only be settled on the ship's return *home*; and an absence of two or three years from England is quite as long as a seaman would generally be disposed to bind himself to. Whenever there is surplus capital among the Cape residents, this may be undertaken, I think, with great advantage, but not till then.

The seals which are caught on this coast afford skins of but indifferent quality, and these are likely rather to diminish than increase in quantity. The fish that swarm off the banks of the Cape,

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are entirely neglected as an article of foreign trade, though there is abundance of salt to cure them. Perhaps the most profitable and extensive markets for this kind of produce are to be found too near to the fisheries of Europe and of North America, to admit of a successful competition.

To the export of articles to England, which I have already mentioned as the produce of the Colony itself, may be added the ivory, gum, and ostrich feathers, which form a lucrative branch of commerce between the settlers and the border tribes ; being chiefly obtained in barter for beads, buttons, and articles of small comparative value. This trade will probably be found susceptible of considerable increase, both in the quantity and the variety of the products, when a more unreserved intercourse takes place between the traders and the natives. It was formerly restricted by law to an annual fair at Fort Willshire, from a laudable desire to afford protection to those employed in the trade ; and though this is now extended to a market twice a week at the same place, yet the thirst of gain causes a continued violation of the rules laid down by government, and neither the

preventive service of the troops on the border, nor the dread of ill treatment from the natives, deter some adventurers from entering the forbidden country in the prosecution of so profitable a trade. Limited as the intercourse is, it must still, ere long, have some effect in civilizing these tribes; and they have already property of sufficient value in their herds of cattle, added to the products I have mentioned, and to others that may yet be discovered amongst them, to give an equivalent for such articles as new wants may render desirable to them.

The cheapness of the cattle purchased from such neighbours as these, as well as the increase of their own flocks and herds in a country so well adapted to pasture, may prove to the inhabitants of Albany the source of a lucrative trade in the curing of salt provisions, which has been begun with some prospect of success, both with respect to its cheapness and good quality. I can speak of this from experience, having supplied some homeward-bound Indiamen with beef cured at Mr. Nourse's establishment, at the Kowie, which was so well approved that the com-