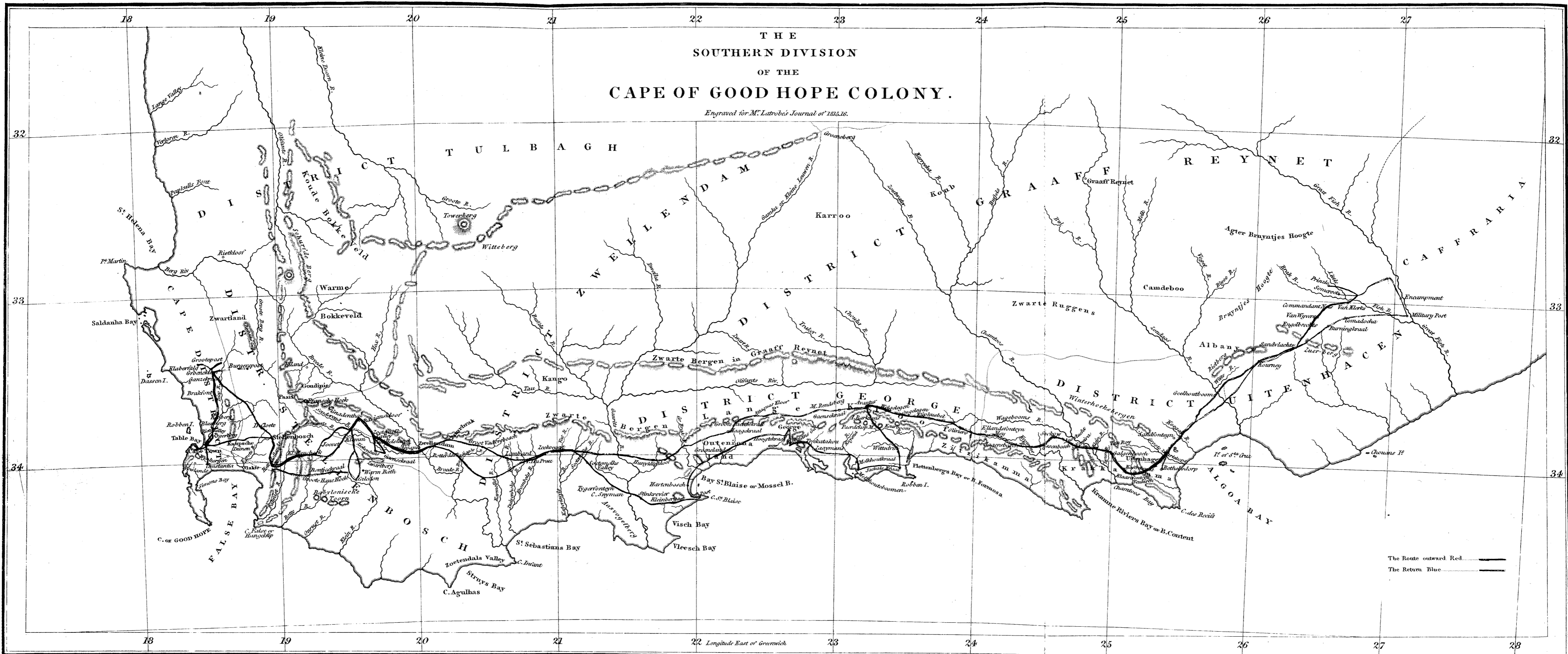




THE
SOUTHERN DIVISION
OF THE
CAPE OF GOOD HOPE COLONY.

Engraved for M. Latrobe's Journal of 1815.16.



The Route outward Red
The Return Blue

London Published 25th April 1818. by L. B. Seeley 269 Fleet Street

JOURNAL
OF A
VISIT TO SOUTH AFRICA,
IN
1815, AND 1816.
WITH
SOME ACCOUNT OF THE MISSIONARY SETTLEMENTS
OF THE
UNITED BRETHREN,
NEAR
THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

BY THE REV. C. I. LATROBE.

LONDON:
PUBLISHED BY L. B. SEELEY, 169, FLEET STREET,
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1818.

TO

MY DEAR CHILDREN,

CHARLOTTE LOUISA,
PETER, ANNA AGNES, JOHN ANTES, CHARLES JOSEPH,
BENJAMIN FREDERIC.

MY DEAR CHILDREN,

IT was at your particular request, that I wrote the following circumstantial account of my visit to SOUTH AFRICA. Knowing, how deeply interested you felt in every thing relating to your Father, and that the summary account of my proceedings, contained in letters, would not satisfy you, I was encouraged, under all circumstances, to persevere.

I did not then expect to be called upon to publish this Journal, which, though now given to the Public, I yet consider as dedicated to you. If its publication requires any apology, I am sure, that you will admit any that I can make, either for its style, its details, want of arrangement, occasional repetitions, or the freedom with which I have stated to you my sentiments and opinions on various subjects.

My official report was immediately sent to those to whom it belonged; but as you all delight in the success of the service in which I was engaged, I have introduced a pretty full account both of the external construction, and internal state, of a Mission of the United Brethren among the Heathen.

Receive it, therefore, as a mark of my paternal affection, and as a testimony of my gratitude to GOD, for having blessed me with children, whose filial duty, love and confidence, I have hitherto uninterruptedly enjoyed, and of whom I may cherish that firm trust, that they are not only MY children, but “ THE CHILDREN OF GOD, BY FAITH IN CHRIST JESUS.”

C. I. LATROBE.

P R E F A C E.

THE Directors of the Missions among Heathen nations, established by the Church, known by the name of *Unitas Fratrum*, or United Brethren, having been frequently requested by the missionaries at Gnadenthal and Groenekloof, near the Cape of Good Hope, to send a person, duly authorized, to visit those settlements, I was appointed to that service; and, on my return, delivered in an official report of my transactions. I have, however, been desired by many well-wishers to the Missions, and others, to publish the following narrative, originally written for the information of my family and friends.

ONE object of my visit was to assist in making some arrangement with the Government of the Colony regarding the security of the Missionary Settlements of the United Brethren.

THE beneficial influence of Christianity in enlightening and civilizing Heathen nations, of which the Mission among the Hot-

tentots at the Cape furnished the most convincing proofs, being generally acknowledged, Government had expressed a wish, that a third Settlement, under the superintendence of the Brethren, might be made in the interior; and condescended to give the necessary directions and powers for fixing upon a spot of ground, as yet unoccupied, and suitable for that purpose. On that account, it was desirable, that a journey should be made through the Colony, in search of a convenient situation, if existing circumstances favoured the undertaking.

THOUGH I felt myself insufficient for the execution of a commission so extensive, and so important to the concerns of our Church and its Missions, yet I ventured to accept the call, in reliance on the help of GOD, to whose service I count it the greatest favour, honour, and pleasure, to be enabled to devote all the powers of soul and body; and comforted by the conviction, that in all things, "our sufficiency is of GOD."

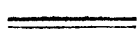
THIS Journal was written, as leisure or hurry, rest or weariness, quietude or interruption, or other contingencies and dispositions of mind permitted; yet always with strict attention to truth, and a desire to avoid misrepresentation.

THE drawings, from which the accompanying plates have, been executed, were all made on the spot, and I may venture

to affirm, that they are scrupulously exact in their outline, showing the character of the country, as far as I have penetrated into it.

I LAY no claim to those qualifications, which are required, if the only object of the journey be the improvement of science; but, being habitually attentive to subjects connected with geology, mineralogy, and botany, some account of them will be found in the course of this narrative, though I had frequent occasion to regret, that my acquaintance with them was not sufficient, to enable me to enter upon scientific description. To my friend, J. W. Burchell, Esq. I am indebted for the scientific names, added to the subjoined list. The best information upon these subjects may be found in the works of Sparmann, Barrow, Lichtenstein, Burchell, and others; nor will the Colony ever want men of ability, ready to explore its widely extended regions, while it is in possession of a Government, ever attentive, not only to the promotion of moral and political good within its own dominion, but to the distribution of the benefits of its discoveries to all mankind.

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