

I am aware that many will say : Is it your intention to make money for this purpose ? To this question I would decidedly answer, Yes. Money created in each division to enrich each division, governed and regulated by men of well known probity, such sums to be redeemed by the men holding such farms. And it must be remembered, that this representative divisional money so created, would not only be the means of giving the opportunity to the forty thousand men to work our untilled lands, producing all we needed for the sustenance of life, but also give employment to builders, wagon-makers, agricultural implement makers, furniture makers, and to all makers of useful things ; in fact, giving work to all to engage in all ways, making the necessaries and conveniences of life. And let it not be forgotten, that this money would eventually find its way into the hands of the surveyors and contractors, who would be enabled to engage a large number of navvies, carpenters, brickmakers and layers, ironworkers, and other mechanics, for making supplementary railways or tramways, as the feeders to our large towns, and thus open up all districts throughout the country, bringing about a closer union between the citizens and peasants, also in making waterworks that would supply our towns with pure water, cutting dams, and irrigating canals throughout the length of the land, creating artificial rivers and reservoirs, so that when we had hot and dry summers, the crops and cattle should not suffer, and our water supply in towns fall short ; making railways and sewers in all our towns, and erecting establishments to receive the excrements of our cities to be converted into [deodorised guana ; making water furrows along the banks of rivers, and where needed, building walls to protect the banks, so that the land alongside of our rivers could be utilised instead of, as now, creating fever and pestilence ; pulling down the worst parts of our towns, and rebuilding them on a good sanitary system ; building large schools with playground and gymnasium attached ; making cheap railways to carry lime, clay, sand, manure and the rich alluvial soils of our river banks to the poor lands wherever situated. Men, being employed on these useful works, would be the means of increasing trade throughout

the country, which would bring prosperity to all. Such would be the general gain that, where we have one merchant, we should have ten, for the production of large supplies of corn, wool, &c., would necessitate a constant exchange of Home and Foreign produce, for which they alone could form the medium. Kaffir trading cannot last for ever. Beads and brass wire denote a savage age, and to rely upon a trade that only supports barbarism is folly, sowing ruin broadcast among our community, bringing in its train, sorrow, misery, criminality, and many other evils that affect society. Therefore I believe, that such a system as the one here advanced, is the best to be adopted, and the use of divisional paper money, is the only sound way to secure labour for the cultivation of our lands. This money, based as it would be upon the wealth of the division and the future labour of cultivators, would bring about those arrangements that are so ardently longed for by all lovers of our Colony or State, so that in the future they may be the home of the free and the happy.

In our requirements bid legal tenders chase  
 All fear of want from Labour's hardy race ;  
 Bid aqueducts be formed to bring the rills  
 Of the purest water from the neighbouring hills ;  
 Bid dams expand, where youth may safely float ;  
 Bid deepen'd streams the health of towns promote.  
 Bid fountains open, public works and ways extend ;  
 Bid temples worthier of Art and Science ascend,  
 The dam, perfected, break the roaring stream,  
 And roll obedient rivers through the land.

Lastly, let Government such wages give  
 On public works that all may toil and live ;  
 Then all who toil will find life pass along,  
 Happier sustained by labour than by wrong ;  
 Then will our virtuous mechanics be better fed,  
 Nor constant anxiety, nor destitution dread.  
 And all around them rising in the scale  
 Of comfort, prove that humanity's laws prevail.  
 These are the riches that the State would secure ;  
 These are imperial works and worthy of kings !



#### CHAPTER XIV.

ON our way down we passed the celebrated Waterford experimental farm. All honour to the man who desired to help the commercial failure of a brother, and who did so much to show what is possible with a long ten mile water-race, and although *one*, and the public, cannot forgive him for his selfishness in closing up old roadways, and forcibly taking possession of a river supply, which fortunately a court of justice would not allow, on the representation of his opposite neighbours who had riparian rights also. This one act almost shows that a rich man has no conscience, when he thinks he has only the poor to deal with, as he had arranged to take the whole water supply for his own private use, but thanks to the public spirit of the neighbouring farmers, this wanton selfish act was not allowed to be perpetuated. This case gives another reason why all such works should be undertaken by public bodies, either municipal or divisional. The water race, and other agricultural machinery gave another lesson to the farmers of the district, in shewing what capital can do when utilised for nature's supply. Would that other merchants who make means would spend it in agricultural efforts. When once they do, then there will be hope for the colony. Until this rule is adopted, that all who make means should stop in the land that has enriched them, there will be little hope or effort made for the land to enrich all. The ordinary farmer trusts too much to nature, and as nature, at times, to show man's dependence upon her, forgets him, and at various times, ignore it as we may—cruelly so, there will always be poverty in our midst, side by side with the progress of riches. Theoretical men can often supply the means to ensure success, but these experimentalists and others must remember that it is to the sinews and brains of the practical man that large farming owes its success. Had

this been remembered by this gun-selling merchant, success would have crowned his efforts, and his Waterford experimental farm would have been the practical farm educational establishment of the Eastern Province; whereas now it is one more proof of how *not* to do it, as shown by a Member of Parliament, who at last, not knowing the cause of the failure, threw all up in disgust, to the discouragement of other and better efforts. This may be denied, but it is so true that nothing can alter the facts as portrayed. To show that in other parts of the colony success attends gigantic and well-arranged undertakings, I here, as this is an agricultural chapter, subjoin the experience of the Messrs. Van der Merwe.

#### AGRICULTURE.—WATER.—WEALTH.

“ HET VOLKSBLAD.”

When some months ago in one of our articles on Irrigation, we mentioned the fabulous profits made by Messrs. Van der Merwe on their Visch river farms in the north-eastern part of the Calvinu district, we wrote those figures with fear and trembling. However suitable our authority was, we knew that the statement would naturally be received with smiles of incredulity, and we were quite prepared to hear it compared to a story from the “Arabian Nights.” For our own satisfaction, we have since opened correspondence with Mr. Van der Merwe himself, who has communicated to us the following particulars, which will prove highly interesting to our readers.

Mr. J. N. Van der Merwe and Mr. S. W. Van der Merwe are the proprietors of the farms Brasenplaat's, Middle Hoek, Van Spruit and Bakoven, situated ten hours north-east of the village of Calvinu and about ten hours north of Amandel Boom. Their farms are watered by the Visch river, which lower down is called Rhenoster river, and still lower, Rect river. These rivers seem to spread over large plains and to form “vleien.” Mr. Van der Merwe estimates that an acre of about 14,000 or 15,000 morgen is thus flooded periodically. When the waters subside, this rich alluvial soil is sown, and last year Mr. Van der Merwe assures us, one single morgen yielded him £30, exclusive of the harvest, which he is now

threshing (naturally only a small portion of the 15,000 morgen is sown at present). We will quote Mr. Van der Merwe's own words "to make it clear;" he writes, "in December, 1882, when we had finished harvesting, another flood came down and inundated the lands. The grain which had dropped out on the lands sprouted, and now without having ploughed or sown we have again a crop standing quite as fine as the former one which had been ploughed. The calculation of £30, includes, therefore, only the first harvest in 1882. The soil is very rich and fertile, and can never be exhausted, for it receives five or six times a year manure and mud from other districts, some of the rivers having the length of about seventy hours. Last year we had several " stools " of wheat sprung from one single grain of seed, bearing more than 700 ears, being a foot in length. When the river has once flowed and moistened the soil, no more rain is required for the harvest, which is certain, nor would more water damage it, for the soil is damp and loose. We can plough from January to August. Pumps would be extremely useful here, for there are many wells, and a water hole two miles long and from six to ten feet deep, which seldom dries up, besides many smaller holes. On Middle Spruit there is a dam which is supplied from the river, from which the water is taken by pipes from the arable lands. We have also obtained permission from Government to take a furrow out of the Zak river, and this furrow takes the water to Backoven. We may also inform you that notwithstanding the severe drought, we sold chaff here to the value of two thousand pounds sterling, at 5s. the 100lbs." The further particulars given about the buildings, camps, kraals, and cattle and horses on these farms it is not necessary to repeat.

It will be remembered that we stated in the article to which we referred above, that these gentlemen had that year made £18,000. Mr. Van der Merwe has given no direct reply to our question whether this was a fact. But he does state that he makes two harvests a year, and that the produce of one morgen is £30; and the value of the two crops therefore £60 per morgen. It is evident, therefore, that these gentlemen would only have to cultivate 300 morgen if they are anxious

to pocket £18,000. Mr. Van der Merwe gives us yet another clue by which we can arrive at the amount of his profits. He says that he made £2,000 per year out of his chaff, which he sold at 5s. the roolb. He must, therefore, have had 800,000lbs of chaff; and our farmer readers who know how much grain is represented by 800,000lbs of chaff, can easily make the calculation, if we inform them that wheat sells in those parts at £2 12s. 6d. per muid.

If these figures given by the Messrs. Van der Merwe themselves are suspected, they being interested parties, we may add that their statements, and those of our informant are fully corroborated by another most reliable authority, Mr. Garwood Alston, Government Land Surveyor, member of the Irrigation Commission, himself a farmer, well acquainted with that part of the colony and with the farms in question. Mr. Alston informs us, that judging from his own personal knowledge, he had concluded that £18,000 must be about the value of the annual produce of those farms, and it had surprised him to see that the very figures at which he had independently arrived were mentioned in our paper. Only Mr. Alston takes this to be the amount yielded by *all* the farms along the Visch River, while we stated that those belonging to the Messrs. Van der Merwe yielded that amount. We hope to see the steps of the Irrigation Commission guided by Mr. Alston to these neglected and unknown Northern parts, and if he succeeds in this, we feel confident that that portion of the following Irrigation Report which relates to Visch River, will not be its least interesting chapter.

The popular doctrine is that agriculture is a slow way of realising a fortune. The moral of the rule given above, is, on the contrary, that in South Africa, with an abundant water supply, agriculture is a mine of wealth, and of sudden wealth. Irrigation measures, therefore, and not protective measures, will prove the salvation of the South African farmer.

Canada, the granary of the world, exports seventeen millions sterling agricultural produce. It has 8,000 miles of railway, and six months during the year the farmers have to suspend their labours. The new colony of New Zealand exports of the same produce over six millions, and has 1,300

miles of railway. We, with a climate not to be equalled in the world, with plenty of good soil, export in agricultural produce "nothing."

After this I will take the experience of the Agricultural Society, which exposes the facts and position of the colony.

#### AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

A special meeting of the Agricultural Society was held on Thursday morning for the purpose of deciding upon forwarding a petition to Parliament in order to obtain an Agricultural Department, either in connection with the Public Works Department or a separate and responsible office by itself. There were present on this occasion Messrs. Lourens, Van der Byl (in the chair), Sebastian Van Renen, R. W. Murray, A. Albrecht, L. H. Goldschmidt, W. F. Hertzog, H. G. Cloete, R. Stockdale, J. A. Faure and Dr. Smuts.

The secretary, Mr. F. J. B. Langeman, submitted the draft of a petition which it was proposed to submit to Parliament, requesting that an agricultural department should be formed, either in connection with the office of the Commissioner of Crown Lands and Public Works, or as a separate and responsible department of itself, and possessing its own Minister of Agriculture.

Mr. Sebastian Van Renen, in moving that the petition be forwarded to Parliament, submitted the following interesting statistics respecting the agricultural condition and productions of the colony:—

#### AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIONS.

The population was as under:—1856, 261,096; 1865, 496,381; 1875, 720,984.

The Agriculturists numbered as follows:—1856, 38,684; 1865, 74,674; 1875, 209,136; so that in 1875 the number of agriculturists was six times as large as that of 1856, and the results ought to show a proportionate increase. He subjoined statistics which show whether such was actually the case or not.

The area under cultivation was:—1856, 198,136 morgen; 1865, 217,692 morgen; 1875, 274,413 morgen. In this case

then the area cultivated had only increased to 274,413 morgen, instead of to six times 198,136 morgen.

**WHEAT.**—The area cultivated was:—1856, 73,908 morgen ; 1865, 95,558 morgen ; 1875, 88,985 morgen. This did not show to the advantage of agriculture in the colony. The number of bushels of wheat produced was:—1856, 994,273 bus. ; in 1865, 1,389,875 bus. ; in 1875, 1,687,635 bus. Thus, then, whilst the agricultural population had increased sixfold, the quantity of wheat produced was not twice as large in 1875 as in 1856.

**BARLEY AND RYE.**—The area under cultivation was:—1856, 19,093 morgen ; 1865, 27,828 morgen ; 1875, 34,079. The number of bushels produced was:—1856, 400,207 bus. ; 1865, 482,332 bus. ; 1875, 663,251 bus. In this item also, there was no increase corresponding to the increase in the agricultural population of the colony.

**OATS.**—The area under cultivation was:—1856, 54,164 morgen ; 1865, 47,063 morgan ; 1875, 54,169 morgan. In this matter, therefore, there was practically no increase in the area under cultivation.

The quantities produced were in 1856, 2,308,777 bushels ; 1865, 433,278, bushels ; 1875, 918,494 bushels. The amount for 1856 was evidently a mistake, for it was recorded that Albany and Bathurst produced 1,562,000 bushels alone, more than the whole of the colony put together. Taking the average, however, the amount would be for—1865, 740,365 bushels.

**MAIZE.**—The area under cultivation was in—1856, 16,008 morgen ; 1865, 23,683 morgen ; 1875, 62037 morgen. This showed a better increase, but one not corresponding to the increase of numbers in the agricultural population.

The quantities produced were in—1856, 192,643 bushels ; 1865, 324,707 bushels ; 1875, 1,113,007 bushels. This increase was a satisfactory one.

**PEAS AND BEANS.**—Area under cultivation was in—1856, 2,700 morgen ; 1865, 4,150 morgen ; 1875, 3,837 morgen.

The quantities produces were in—1856, 29,489 bushels ; 1865, 40,235 bushels ; 1875, 60,636 bushels.

**TOBACCO.**—Area under cultivation in—1856, 1,832 morgen ;



1865, 934 morgen; 1875, 1,243 morgen. This item, therefore, showed a very considerable decrease.

POTATOES.—Amounts produced were in—1856, 236,507 bushels; 1865, 189,053 bushels; 1875, 371,523 bushels. The increase in this instance was not a satisfactory one, as compared with the increase in the agricultural population.

DRIED FRUIT.—Amounts produced were in—1856, 1,431,343 lbs.; 1865, 3,914,127 lbs.; 1876, 2,672,761 lbs. With dried fruits, therefore, a considerable decrease was exhibited.

VINES.—The area under cultivation was—1856, 11,856 morgen; 1865, 7,643 morgen; 1876, 8,588 morgen. The area in 1856 could not be taken to represent the exact amount, because the people being in fear of taxation, would not give the true number of morgen being cultivated by them.

The amounts of wine produced were in—1856, 3,145,000 gallons imperial; 1865, 3,234,428 gallons; 1875, 4,485,546 gallons. Now, it would be said, that a mark of improvement was that the amount of wine produced from 8,588 morgen was much larger than that produced from 11,856 morgen under cultivation. Of late years more attention has been paid to the cleaning, pruning, &c., and more wine has been produced. Consequently the strain on the vines was increased, and unless manure and other requisites were called into force and utilised, that increase in the production would be made at the expense of the vitality of the brandy.

BRANDY.—The production of Brandy was—1856, 501,000 gals. imperial; 1865, 430,955 gals.; 1875, 1,067,832 gals.

HORSSES, CATTLE, SHEEP, &c.—Stock of Horses—The stock of horses was—1856, 138,947; 1865, 226,610; 1875, 205,985. Thus the increase as in 1856 was only 205,985, instead of being six times 138,947, the corresponding increase in the agricultural population.

STOCK OF MULES AND ASSES.—The numbers were—1856, 9,817; 1865, 24,279; 1875, 29,318.

CATTLE.—The number were—1856, 157,152; 1865, 209,307; 1875, 443,207. The draught oxen and others had numbered as follows:—1856, 291,234; 1865, 443,207; 1875, 689,951.

SHEEP.—The respective numbers had been as follows—1856, 4,828,039; 1865, 8,370,179; 1875, 9,986,240 woolled;

1856, 1,631,513; 1865, 1,465,886; 1875, 990,234 cape. The total number of sheep had been therefore—1855, 6,459,552; 1865, 9,836,065; 1875, 10,976,663.

GOATS.—The respective numbers were—1856, 1,266,593; 1865, 2,347,444; 1875, 3,065,202.

PIGS.—The statistics were as follows—1856, 35,069; 1865, 78,666; 1875, 116,738.

“The greatest improvements, therefore, had been in the number of mules and asses, and pigs. (Laughter). This was not the state of things which they, as farmers, ought to countenance and allow to go on without making strenuous efforts to avoid it. During the last twenty-one years they had gone back in agriculture to a very great extent; and if the results, as shown above, were put before any intelligent man in other countries, he would simply be staggered at the deterioration which had taken place. They had been impoverishing their soil to such an extent, that if things were allowed to proceed undisturbed for another twenty-one years, they would be in a far worse position than they were at present. Anybody who was at all conversant with the condition and requirements of the soil, could only come to the conclusion that in this colony agriculture was in a lamentable way. To remedy this state of things an Agricultural Department was as necessary as the air we breathe; for from the statistics it would be seen that, with an increased agricultural population the products of the colony had actually decreased. When the farmers of the colony appreciated the results obtained in other countries, and were willing to recognise and adopt the means whereby success was attained in those countries, then they would be roused to a sense of their position, and see how necessary it was to be more acquainted with the modes and improvements in agriculture in other parts of the world. He thought that the petition, which it was proposed to present to Parliament was a very good one, and he trusted that it would be well supported in the House by the many representatives of the farmer's interests in this Colony. He accordingly moved that the petition be adopted, and placed before Parliament by some member who was willing to represent their interests.”

The Chairman said that Mr. Van Renens' statistics were most interesting, but he would request those present not to run away with them altogether. It could not be expected that if the agricultural population of a country were doubled, the products should also be double. Thus, for instance, if a farm were divided into four parts, and apportioned out to four men, it could not be expected that the four parts should produce four times what the original farm as a whole produced.

Mr. Sebastian Van Renen : If one of our Cape farms be divided into four, and cultivated as it would be in other agricultural countries, it would not only produce four, but eight times as much as formerly.

Mr. Goldsmith said that it was not so much the lack of enterprise among farmers, but the prevalence of the drought, which caused the decrease in the products of the colony. He feared that for this very reason there would not only be no increase, but a decrease for this year. Farmers had tried to cultivate as much of their land as possible, but the droughts had frustrated all their efforts in this direction. What was wanted was a proper system of irrigation, and that was what the farmers were desirous of obtaining. The greatest enemy which they had to fight against was the drought, and had that not been in the way, the statistics would have been considerably more favourable than those that day submitted to the meeting. In many districts now the number of sheep and cattle was far less than in 1875 ; but this was due to the drought, and not to any lack of enterprise on the part of the farmers.

Mr. Seb. Van Renen, said that in other countries those who possessed no water, took means to obtain it by sinking artesian wells, and other modes, and where the rainfall was light, the farmers ploughed more deeply in the ground. In this country a great deal of the moisture was lost, simply in consequence of the crude manner in which the land was cultivated, and without the sun the produce would be far less than it is at present. Farming in this colony was conducted upon no proper systematic principle as in other countries, and therein lay the secret of the resources of the

colonial farmers. In this colony there were thousands and hundreds of thousands of "dips" of valleys of fertile soil bearing a vast quantity of moisture, which were left uncultivated, whilst the cry out was for immigration. It appeared to be the custom in the colony to speak as though Providence had reserved for them every possible draw-back. He would guarantee to say, that if the "dips" which existed in the country were only properly cultivated, there would be no further need to speak of irrigating the Karoo, or any other piece of country of that description. Other countries besides South Africa possessed their disadvantages, but with energy they could all be overcome.

Mr. Goldschmidt said that Mr. Van Renen spoke of the drought as one who had but recently come into the colony. Farmers in certain districts, who but two years ago, possessed five thousand sheep, could now only muster as many hundreds, and that in consequence of the drought. They must have rain in order to be in a position to plough their fields, and the want of that rain had ruined many a person, in spite of his own energy and perseverance.

Mr. Stockdale, in seconding the adoption and forwarding of the petition, fully endorsed the remarks which had fallen from Mr. Van Renen. He was deeply anxious to see the formation of an agricultural department, and the establishment of proof stations over the country. The wool from the colony had of late deteriorated in quality, and whereas it once could hold its own with any other in the wool-markets, now many large buyers refused to purchase it. This deterioration was due to the want of selection, and the delay in the importation of fresh blood. He should, therefore, be interested in the establishment of proof-stations and in stirring up the energies of the farmers to further efforts. One thing he considered was to be regretted, that no proper statistics as to the amount of rainfall over the country could be obtained. He considered that Government should instruct each field-cornet to forward the necessary information as regarded their respective districts.

Mr. Van Renen suggested the advisability of inserting a paragraph in the petition that the society would prefer to

have a responsible and separate agricultural department established, rather than a department in connection with the Office of Public Works and Crown Lands.

Mr. Murray said that it would be desirable to draw the attention of the Government to the necessity of the establishment of an Agricultural Department, leaving it to them to decide upon the mode of working, and the formation of the department.

The motion to adopt and forward the petition to Government was then submitted, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Murray thereupon moved that a copy of the petition be sent to all the Agricultural Societies in the Colony, with a circular asking for their hearty co-operation, by placing similar petitions before Parliament.

Mr. Van Renen seconded the motion, which having been agreed to, the meeting separated.

#### AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

We are quite prepared to hear that we are indifferent to interests of agriculture, because we are unable to join in the cry for an agricultural department, as the panacea for the acknowledged backwardness of this colony in agricultural industry. It is, we fear, too characteristic of this country to dash hither and thither, seeking in heroic remedies the improvement which we all have in our own hands, if we would but exert ourselves in our own interests. Now, it is confederation that is to set everything right, now a vigorous policy, now a South African nationality, and, latest of all, protection—anything but hard application—every man to his own business. Meanwhile, the whole colony has before it the example of enterprising men here and there, who, without any special dispensation of Heaven or Parliament in their favour, have planted and watered, or put up their machinery, and who reap the reward in fortunes which are the wonder and, sometimes we fear, the envy of their neighbours. If all colonists were equally enterprising, agriculturists would be too busy to think of an agricultural department. As it is, they are discussing the raising of the Franchise, when we would have them raise corn; and cultivating South African nation-

ality, while the poor land is waiting its turn for cultivation. We fully appreciate the difficulties under which farmers labour. They have to contend with droughts, just as European farmers have to struggle with floods, and want of sunshine; but in all plainness be it spoken, droughts are not answerable entirely for the state of things disclosed in some statistics which were laid before the meeting of the Agricultural Society yesterday. It is remarkable that in many cases those statistics showed a far greater falling off in agricultural products in 1875, as compared with 1856, than as compared with 1865. This real falling off applies to some cases in which there is a moderate increase in the figures; but in which that increase taken, in conjunction with the greater increase in the population, really means retrogression. The agricultural population was, in 1875, six times as great as it was in 1856; but the number of morgen under cultivation only rose from 198,136½ to 274,413. The quantity of wheat produced in 1875 was not twice that produced in 1856; and the product of barley only rose about one-half. In oats there was practically no increase; but in maize, which is chiefly cultivated on the frontier, there was a four-fold increase, even that not being commensurate with the increase in population. In tobacco we have positively gone backwards, 1,832 morgen being cultivated in 1856, against 1,243 morgen in 1875.

We need not follow the statistics before us into further detail, but one thing is plain from all of them—that, comparatively speaking, 1856 was the golden age of colonial agriculture. Now, they had no agricultural department in 1856; as would be the case on the supposition of the memorialists. These gentlemen are putting the cart before the horse—to use an agricultural metaphor. First, let us have some agriculture, and then it may be worth while to have a department to manage it. The ministries of agriculture in other countries have to deal with people whose every nerve is strung in the race of improvement, and who restlessly endeavour to make every inch of ground yield a return. Many of the purposes of a department have been fulfilled by the Press, which, at a cost of not one farthing to the public chest, has been for years telling the farmers what is done in other countries, and what

growths of untried plants would probably pay in this country, but with very little effect. The writer in the *Journal*, who has probably done more valuable service in this direction than any of his colleagues, has been rewarded lately by being informed that it is something like an impertinence for mere newspaper people to attempt to teach farmers their business. Let the proposed department be saddled on the country, and we should soon hear the same thing of that. What, it would be asked, do a pack of quill-drivers know about farming? By all means let the statistics in the Crown Lands Department be made as perfect as possible, and let the Government circulate any information likely to be of service to agriculture. Let the Press, too, go on in its despairing task of supplying information as to plants, stock, soil and culture; but do not let us have one more nostrum set up to worship, only to bring fresh disappointment. The chief aim of the department would be to serve, as an object of attack, when anything was wrong with agriculture, so that it would have an unenviable existence from its birth.

Then we have the experience of a Mr. Bertram, an old agriculturist, whose speech is golden, and who should stand at the head of any poll—the man and the measure in “one.” For the men of the future measures I feel it an honour to print the speech of Mr. Bertram, who has rapidly become a public favourite. He looks out upon the facts of colonial history, sees what races there are, and how these races must live side by side; and he recognises, with Adam Smith, that “little else is requisite to carry a State to the highest degree of opulence, from the lowest barbarism, but peace, easy taxes, and a tolerable administration of justice; all the rest being brought about by the natural course of things.” The last word we have to say on the eve of the election, is, give at least one vote to Mr. J. P. Bertram.

#### MR. BERTRAM'S SPEECH.

“Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—I have great pleasure in addressing you this evening. As you are aware, I am brought forward by a requisition of influential men—electors of this division. Had I consulted my own private feelings I should

rather have remained in retirement ; but coming from such an influential body, as this requisition did, and feeling at the same time, as I did, a sense of duty to my country, I thought that an opportunity like the present should not be passed by. (Hear, hear.) It may be the last opportunity I shall have of doing anything for the country, and our present political position being so embarrassed, it requires every man who has experience to come forward to its rescue. (Hear, hear.) I am highly honoured to have the opportunity of coming before you. I do not intend to give you any platitudes of political creed, or weary you by entering largely into dry details of political economy ; but, at the same time, it is only fair that you should know the qualifications of a man who ventures upon public life. (Hear.) An experience of past years in this country has certainly given me an amount of knowledge of the various nationalities and people inhabiting this part of the world ; and a candidate for the council, I conceive, should also be able to give you something of the evolution of events which has brought the country to this crisis. The body politic of this country you may divide into three elements. The first, or elder one, is the Dutch element. The country has been more or less influenced by that element from the beginning. The early settlers of that race were men, no doubt, who had come from that country where you find those men of strong purpose and iron will, who gave rise to the Dutch Republic of the Netherlands. That spirit has never once left the race that settled in this country. You find that even in their own government that spirit was evinced in opposition to despotism, or irresponsible rule ; and in the very outset of their settlement it was soon seen that it was impossible to repress that spirit, even by severe punishment and penal laws. This spirit was evinced from the time of their landing at Cape Point, and it grew in expansion as they wandered from that place further up country, in after time. However, we find that, as a body politic, though resisting anything in the shape of opposition or objectionable regulations, they were essentially law-abiding ; and the progress and civilisation which they brought with them survived through all the difficult circumstances and trials they were



surrounded by. However, as years rolled by, events happened that led to grievances. These grievances increased instead of decreased, and they were added to by the emancipation of the slaves, and the first Kaffir wars of 1835 and 1836. It was then that, *en masse*, they determined to leave this country and cross over the Orange river. I visited the Orange river myself shortly after that move, and for one thousand miles traversed over the country. I visited and went amongst these people in that condition of unsettledness, and thus became acquainted with them and their peculiarities of nationality. As they left the colony other communities were formed, and among the new comers, for a thousand miles from the Orange river to the Vaal, a regularity and civilisation existed, which was admired by the fragments of tribes then inhabiting that country. These early pioneers, as we see by the run of events, established, by the indomitable spirit they had in them, their republican system of government wherever they went—forming the Free State first, and finally the Transvaal State. These two are the outcome of the spirit which existed in these people—refusing to be governed by proclamations or irresponsible rule; and when this object could not be attained, they left their farms and homes and trekked further up the country in search of that liberty which they loved. This we may call the first phase of the political body in this country. The second phase you will find in the British settler. In 1820 they were brought out here. In them was found the germ of that freedom and representative government which they had left behind them in their native land. In course of time we find that they, too, resisted unpopular laws, which they found existing in a constitutional way. The country was then ruled by proclamations and by Acts of Parliament from home. But the men who came out from home—men like Robert Godlonton and others, still living—imbued as they were, with a spirit of freedom, would not have this. They went to work in an orderly, constitutional way, and agitated until they obtained, in the first place, recognition as citizens of the country. For in the beginning they were obliged to have passes just as the Kaffirs are now

obliged to have them. But they agitated until they obtained, step by step, their freedom, and, although under Dutch rule, they still kept on agitating until they succeeded in having their own cases tried, and justice administered in the English language—their mother tongue. But they did not rest there. They gradually obtained trial by jury; and next had judges appointed, so that they at last by degrees obtained what they enjoyed in their own native homes. The British settler became a factor in the political body of this country, and they have gradually increased in power as a political body up to the present time. About this period it was attempted by the home Government to make this country a convict settlement, and this aroused a fierce opposition, the agitation which followed bringing the two white bodies then in South Africa into unity of action. Upon this followed the granting of the Constitution with the Colonial Parliament, which has since advanced to the present stage of responsible Government. The third factor in this political body you will find in the coloured races. We may commence by calling them the barbarians found at Cape Point when the Dutch first came into the country. No doubt when the two races met differences occurred and collisions took place, in the course of which the inferior race became servile to the superior. It was so in the struggle between the native races themselves before the Dutch entered the country. The Hottentot became servile to the Kaffir, and so on. However, following upon the arrival of the Dutch the circumstances of the native races have become slightly changed. They were largely increased by a slave population, which was imported. After that, a Mahomedan population migrated to this country. Then again, the coloured race was further increased by the revolutions happening in the interior, when the Matabele tribe pushed on South, and devastated the Bechuana country, so that the remnants of the latter pressed in here, and became a servile race for the time. After that the wars of 1834 and 1835 took place, when we find the Fingo race figuring. They became a subject race for a time, until released from Kaffir thraldom by the British. Again we see further augmentations, when through wars and through

famine the Kaffirs were introduced as a servile race in the country. These remnants and amalgamations became thus part and parcel of the body politic of this colony, and although many of them have left again, and gone back to their own people, yet you will still find, by looking at statistics, that at the present moment the coloured races far outnumber the white inhabitants of both nationalities in all parts of the colony. Thus we have before us three distinct sources of population as it were ; three distinct interests, all to be governed and ruled by the Government of this colony, I am speaking of the colony strictly, not of the adjacent territories. The colony, as it is, we look upon as a part, an integral part, of the British Empire. South Africa, as a whole, we look upon, as under the protection of Great Britain ; and if the authority and power of her protecting influence were ever disputed by any foreign power, it would soon be found that the British Lion would appear upon the scene, to resist and overcome that interference. Thus, whatever notions may float before some people in this country of a great South African Republic, or Union of States, or Commonwealth, or other combination of power—all these matters are in the future. We have got to deal with this colony as an integral part of the British Empire, under its immediate protection, and all we have to do, is to consider the ways and means of advancing the welfare of the people inhabiting it. True greatness for this colony is the object we have to consider, and whatever the extent of the colony is, or whatever the peculiarities of those bodies politic may be, there can be no true greatness for this country without education. Education, I repeat, should be placed foremost before us as the prime factor in the future greatness of this country. The education of the masses—I would say the *moral* education of the masses, must be aimed at ; and in aiming at true greatness, we find at the very threshold an enemy opposing us which must be curbed and repressed. This enemy is here in our midst, and is one so formidable for opposition that it requires careful legislation to meet and curb him. I refer to the monster, drink ! that we find in this country. If by legislation, we can curb that monster, and raise the moral

tone of the masses, save ourselves from a pauper population, encourage the industries of the country, and, as far as possible, lead men to better themselves, we shall obtain a very great object indeed. By having this end in view, we can prepare for progress, and the progress of this country depends very much upon ourselves. As I say, it is by ourselves that legislation, just legislation, to meet the wants and requirements of the country must be secured, and the road to progress prepared. The native difficulty, in the minds of some, stands foremost in the way of true progress, and the experience of people tells us that that difficulty is a formidable one. I have often, however, differed from that opinion, for in the colony of the Cape of Good Hope I see no difficulty in the "Native" question. It is not for us to foster in this colony tribal conditions. It is not for us to foster in this colony the broken fragments, which, by past events, have been brought into our present crisis. No conquests are now necessary within our borders—none are necessary any where. The native inhabitants of this country are a broken race at the present moment; and by adjusting matters to suit the circumstances, by taking proper steps to prevent crime—to repress crime—we shall, I believe, succeed, ere long, in making the natives amongst us an honest and law-abiding people. We cannot do without them. They are the servile race now found in the country, and we want them for that purpose—to utilize what points of usefulness and industry we find in them, as it is our duty to do; and, therefore, I see no difficulty in managing the natives found in the colony, although they far outnumber the whites. I would, by just and human laws, govern them strictly; and thus meet the requirements of this country in every respect. I have had some experience now, not only of this district, but of the colony at large. Being a resident of a place thirty-six miles from this town, I think I may say that my position here has enabled me to see what the wants of the surrounding population are. Cases innumerable happen between master and servant; cases of theft happen daily; cases of assault happen daily; but there has been no way yet found of dealing effectually with cases of this sort; and it is surprising to me,

that in the years past, when so many members of Parliament were farmers, they never endeavoured to meet this great difficulty in which our farmers are placed. The farmer cannot, and will not, travel thirty or forty miles to seek a magistrate, if he has a wrong to redress. It is impossible for him to wait for the periodic court to do so, and therefore, he drops the matter, and continues to suffer under the grievance. In fact, I have looked upon this in so serious a light, and have so much considered the great injustice the farmer had to suffer in this particular, that I offered the Government to do the work of a magistrate gratis—seeing the wants of the population surrounding me. Then again I see in the “pass” system, a great swindle; for not only is it unfair to the farmer, but it is injurious to the native mind. I would have the present system done away with; still there requires some other system to be introduced in its place, but at any rate the existing state of things cannot be tolerated. Hundreds of cases of theft and other offences attributable to the “pass” Act, have come under my notice that ought never to exist in a civilised country. These are some of the experiences I can bring before you as to the rural population of the country. Now for the adjacent territories, and dependencies with which we have got to do. I would maintain the closest friendship with those men who have formed these States, or given them birth. Live in the closest friendship with them by all means, and whether this may be looked on as at all part of the policy of the future I cannot say; but there are facts patent before us that we must not ignore, and one of these are that the Free State may be looked upon as a model State. With regard to the native territories and dependencies adjacent to us, Basutoland may now be regarded as being by Act of Parliament practically independent of us. What the outcome of that will be, it is impossible for us to say at present; but recent events have forced upon our rulers the special importance of this matter. We were unable to do as we wished to do, and, therefore, the present state of things exists. Although some may think that there will be difficulties in the future with Basutoland, I cannot see why any such difficulties should arise. I have lived in Basutoland for a long time,

and I know the Basutos, their system of government, their social habits and customs ; and from my experience of them, I think that Basutoland may yet become a peaceable part of South Africa, and as it is without doubt a rich producing country. Before commerce became known there, the Basutos never required to cultivate their land, except once in every three years. But now that commerce has been introduced, and that it is their interest to do so, they produce as much as they can ; and I believe the future of that country will be a bright and great one, if we can maintain peace with them, and, as much as possible, leave them to themselves, for, as that obstreperous Chief Masupha has said, " It is impossible for the cattle and goats to live in the same kraal. The cattle," he said, " will poke at the kraal, and the goats will leap over." This is the native way of speaking and expressing their meaning of things ; and their language is sometimes both beautiful and expressive. Now we come to the Transkeian territories. There is a controversy now going on about this country, and we at present do not know what the outcome of it will be, but it is pretty evident that the existing rule introduced there cannot be continued. None of the elements of a continued native rule exist, and if you wish to rule the natives in a tribal or national condition, you must base your rule on their own native institutions. You must build upon those, and you must remember, that in governing a people like these, you come in contact with systems that have existed from pre-historic times—an acknowledged system of law and custom, which existed long before the British had their Constitution, Charter, or laws ; and, therefore, on coming into contact with these factors in the political body, you must go cautiously to work, to see how to build upon that basis, how to gradually introduce the germs of succession and assimilate the people to your own customs, and thus bring them finally under your system of rule. I am not going to find fault with past administrations, or the methods adopted by them of governing the natives. I believe they all aimed at what was right, and the best of us will fail in the effort to do right ; but I say deliberately, that we have never had a man at the head of affairs, who knew how to

grasp the "native" question, who understood much of this frontier, and therefore, to me it is not a hopeless case—that of the Transkeian territories—for I believe whether they remain dependencies of the colony, or whether as a Crown Colony they get transferred to the Imperial Government, there is a strong hope in the future. There is a people there, and when they once begin to admire our institutions, and imitate our customs, we shall find a population ready to consume and produce at the same time, thus adding very materially to the wealth of South Africa. In passing on to the question before us, that of the coming Parliament, I may remark that to my mind, the great work before it will be the arrangement of the financial affairs of the country. Besides that, all other questions sink into insignificance. We are on the borders of ruin. Our national debt, in round numbers, amounts to twenty-five millions. Other liabilities are creeping in upon us; and our position, financially, is such that every legislator is bound to use his utmost endeavours to prevent us getting further involved. We owe money enough at present—in fact, if I had a friend, a merchant, in a similar position, I would advise him to send in his papers without delay. Then, again, the next aspect of the financial position is that the revenue and expenditure must be equalised. It would be a very ruinous course of conduct for a man who had an income of £50 a year to spend £100. As with the individual, so with the State—the revenue and expenditure must be equalised. It is only by increasing our revenue that we can legitimately increase our expenditure; and if we are compelled to enter upon undertakings that involve the latter, the first thing to be done is to set about finding ways and means for that purpose. This brings us to the principle of taxation, upon which it is expected, I presume, that I should say a word. I think the necessaries of life should be brought as cheap as possible to the working man; and I hold that the luxuries of life should have to be paid for. Those who will enjoy them should pay for them. On this principle you can't go wrong, in whatever taxes may be imposed, and by following it I believe this country will be rescued from its present condition, and our financial position established on

a safe and sound basis. We shall establish our credit in foreign countries, and South African bonds will stand high in the English market. In conclusion, I may say that I am here to-night as a candidate to represent this circle in the Legislative Council. I have told you that I am willing to bring to the discharge of my duties an experience of more than forty years to give effect to my views; and, if elected to this honourable position, I shall devote my whole time to a conscientious discharge of my duty, and tending, as I hope, to the advancement of the welfare of the country. If not, I bow to the voice of the majority. I have had opportunities before now of entering upon public life, but, as you know, have refrained from doing so. The present seems to be the last given me, and I have found it a duty to respond to the requisition so influentially signed and presented to me; and thus I stand before you to-night as a candidate for the Legislature, and, as I said before, I now repeat, if elected, you will find in me a thorough working man, doing what I can as far as my ability and power will allow. (Loud applause, during which Mr. Bertram resumed his seat.)

Mr. Key, in fair play, thought that Mr. Bertram should answer the question—How it was proposed to equalize the revenue and expenditure?

Mr. Bertram: In the first place, I should revise the customs dues. They are at present very unequally distributed, and difficult of collection. It is much easier, for instance, to collect £10 per annum levied upon drink from Kaffirs than it would be to collect 10s. per hut. The £10 per year they will pay with pleasure, but the 10s. hut tax they look upon as a grievance. Thus we would simply be taxing a luxury, and would at the same time profit by it. I would lessen the tax on all the necessaries of life, so as to *enable the poor man to live*, and I would also retrench, so far as possible in the expenditure of the colony. An observant man will see waste and extravagance in almost every department of the public service. And as our prosperity led to extravagance socially, so our Governors followed in that wake, and I, personally, hold the view that this is one of the chief causes which has led to our present em-



barrassments. I may say that I am not in favour of an income tax. (Applause).

Mr. Leach asked if there was any special commodity that Mr. Bertram would put a tax upon.

Mr. Bertram: In the present crisis I am not for placing any more burdens on the people. What the future may bring forth I do not know, but the position of the country is such that we have not seen the worst of these hard times yet. We must bring the expenditure down somehow, for I believe we have not seen the worst of the bad times we are experiencing.

In reply to Mr. T. W. Edkins, who inquired what Mr. Bertram proposed to substitute for the "pass" laws, and who asked at the same time for a more perfect statement as to how Mr. Bertram proposed to govern the natives.

Mr. Bertram: I do not think I said I would totally abolish the "pass" system. What I did say was, that the pass system, as it now works, is a swindle on the country, and a grievance to the native mind. An instance has come under my own notice where a man came from Kaffirland, and is given three or four days to go to Tarkastad. He does not go to the place he got the pass for, but goes somewhere else. After securing as many as twenty endorsements on that pass, he at last turns up at Sterkstroom; all that time he has had ample opportunity of doing what he liked. The pass given him by Government officials was his protection in roaming about for crime, and under similar circumstances I have seen the work of crime go on myself. A proper pass system is a most difficult thing to establish, and if such a safeguard is ever to be established in this country, we must go to the very germ of the evil that is aimed at. At present the officers of this country have no check at all over the man to whom a pass is granted. He is licensed to roam through the country under circumstances which, if not supplied with a pass, he would be arrested as a vagrant by the police. As this law is at present administered, I maintain that it is a swindle on the farmers and the country, as well as being a direct encouragement to the native to commit crime. Now with regard to the government of the natives, all I say is,

that they can be managed. I have acted myself in the capacity of manager over natives in another part of the country, and I have ruled thousands of them in accordance with their own laws. But I have done more. I have, in addition to this, exercised a moral influence over them, and I will just give you an instance of the effect of that moral influence on a very critical occasion. It was during one of our wars I happened to be in a part of the country where the colonial troops were engaged in hostile operations against the Kaffirs. A small band of about one hundred of our men were on the march, and an army of about two thousand of the enemy were about to attack them. I went to the Kaffirs and dissuaded them from carrying their intention into effect, and they turned off without molesting them. (Applause.) Had I not interfered, nothing could have saved our handful of men from being annihilated, and there are some in this room to-night who can bear out the accuracy of what I say. (A voice: quite right, I remember the incident very well.) You must manage the natives on the great principle of justice and humanity. A native is, speaking of the average, a law-abiding man. He will bear and suffer, and if you only rule them in communities, and let them have some voice in the management of their own affairs, they are content and will do what is right. The bold spirits in the Dutch population won't submit to their own Government, nor would they at times listen to our English Government, although the utmost penalty of the law was imposed for disobedience. They love the management of their own affairs, and that privilege, as we have seen over and over again, they must get. There is a something in human nature that makes men like to have a voice in their own government. That principle is implanted deep in the human mind; and it cannot be rooted out. If you wish to put the Kaffir down by oppressive laws you will fail; but if you make them part and parcel of this Constitution, and give them a voice in the making of the laws, by which they are governed, then you will succeed in ruling them, and in keeping them a quiet and law-abiding people. (Applause).

After such speeches and the subjection of agriculture, I

print and draw attention earnestly thereto, with the greatest delight, feeling sure that this chapter in the book, if nothing else, will prove most instructive and interesting, and will well repay the time for reading, and be of immense advantage to all farmers and those who take a deep interest in Africa's future.

#### A TREK THREATENED.

Under this heading the *Cape Argus* reprints an article from the *Graaff Reinet Advertiser*, written because of a letter which appeared in the *Volksblad*, which sets forth that some of the farmers in the Uitenhage district see no alternative between ruin, as the result of bad government, and trekking to the Free State or the Transvaal, where taxation is light. In commenting on this letter the *Advertiser* writes:—"The whole coast-line, for a hundred miles inland, from Humansdorp to the Kei, is full of men having the very same complaints to make as the Matthews of Uitenhage, so that if the trek sets in at all (it is to be hoped that it will not, for it would be a great calamity to the colony), it will spread till that large tract of country is half depopulated." The whole coast-line, for a hundred miles inland, from Humansdorp to the Kei, "is a wide stretch of country," and we only wish it were "full of men," or even "full" of human beings, for then the country would be able to carry a heavy burden of taxation. The Western Province and the Eastern Province, though settled by different races, had as their first European inhabitants people who believed in (the then creed of Europe) being as far removed from each other as possible. The ideal man with them all was the European "lord," who lived in his solitary hall, or castle, and claimed as his own all the land his eye could rest upon. Hence every man wanted a large farm, and many farms; and the result is a sparse population—including all colours and ages—about half an individual to the square mile. Another policy (accepted in England long after the British settlers left it) has been adopted in America and Australia. There the idea of living close together has prevailed, and the average size of farms in those countries (not including the sheep runs), is only about one hundred acres; while in many districts the wealthiest farmers have

only about five hundred acres. The colony must, somehow or other, adopt the modern policy, and before the golden age dawns here, the desire to see one's neighbour only through a powerful telescope, must be got rid of. If the farmers, Messrs. Matthews and Sons, of the Uitenhage district, right-about, will only tuck, cut up their farms into small holdings, and sell them to new comers, neither the farmers nor the country will have occasion for regret.

But what we wish specially to observe is that the country from Humansdorp to the Kei, for a hundred miles inland, is not full of people having the very same complaints to make. In the Peddie district the farmers are well reported of. They have had rains, their early wheat is growing well, and their late wheat is nearly all sown under favourable conditions. In this district we also hear good reports of farming; stock has done well, and if there are any rich farmers in the world, they are the agriculturists of Kaffraria. We are often hearing that the poverty of South Africa arises from the want of water; but in the Briedbach Valley many farmers have neither water nor soil, and yet no prettier picture of tilled land is to be found in the world than in that valley to-day. These people make up for nature's niggardness by working the harder, and the gospel of hardwork must be accepted as they have accepted it. There is no advantage in putting all the blame on the Government, or on the soil, or on the want of water. Farmers in this part of the colony know very little about taxation. In King Williamstown just now rents are high, food is dear, and taxation is a about sixpence in the pound. The people here who are in difficulty, and who bear the weight of Government wastefulness, are the clerks and the working-men—all who have fixed salaries, and cannot by any labour or device increase their incomes. These are the classes who deserve sympathy, and for whom decreased expenditure should be demanded. The lords of the soil—the men who want to hold thousands of acres, and a railway station for their own private convenience—are too lightly taxed; indeed they do not know what taxation is. If the present wastefulness goes on much longer, they may learn something about a burden their friends in Parliament have loaded others with.

## MY NATIVE LAND,

I grudge not ; I to other men,  
 Their pride of birth or station,  
 Their glorious records of the past,  
 Grand deeds of house or nation.  
 In loving memory they keep  
 Their soldiers, saints and sages—  
 All rescued from Time's ruthless sweep,  
 Enshrined in history's pages.

They dream of home far, far away  
 Across the spreading ocean ;  
 I watched my country day by day  
 With tenderest emotion :  
 Her joys I share, her griefs deplore,  
 Her faults I fain would banish.  
 May peace and plenty be her store,  
 And every trouble vanish.

Though bitter trials of drought and war  
 Cast shadows drear and dark,  
 Stern perseverance shall prevail  
 And work shall leave its mark ;  
 Till in the future ranked among  
 The nations of the earth,  
 Her praises by her poets sung,  
 The dear land of my birth.

And when the mighty nations, who  
 Now flourish in their prime,  
 Shall pass the zenith of their pride  
 And downward shall decline,  
 Then Afric's land, the sunny South,  
 Shall upward climb to fame,  
 A household word in every mouth ;  
 Her once despised name.

AFRICANDEE.

Though the land of our birth has the first claim on our love, the land which sustains us, and where our lot has been cast, has the first place in our regard. If there ever was a time in the history of our land, which more than any other calls forth the earnest consideration of every citizen, that time is the present. The crisis resulting from false speculation, overdone merchandise, and the improvidence and neglect of past prosperity, has drained it of the everlasting

medium, and the consequent want of buying power has paralysed trade, while the severe drought and loss of stock has shocked the confidence and weakened the position of the back-bone of the country—its farming population; and, as if to crown all, the little hope which still animated us is in danger of being overcome by the dark cloud of pestilence which has come so near our border and threatens our very heart. All will, therefore, agree that the situation is earnest, and in accordance with its very extremity must be the trust, the care, the patience, the energy, the courage and the wisdom which all must display in the conduct of affairs, in order once more to regain and rejoice in a return of prosperity. May it please the Almighty soon to send a return of the tide, and to restore our wanted blessings; but it is when the tide is angry, and the ship is tossed about in the tempest, that the necessity is felt for having a tried and steady hand at the helm, and a cool and experienced head to direct its course.

There can be no question about the hardness of the times. Money is tight, produce is scarce, and the farming population have suffered immense losses in stock through the drought. It is at times like the present, that any plan for the amelioration of the difficulties under which the South African farmer labours is readily listened to, and eagerly seized. Unfortunately, however, advice will not surmount the troubles, and when things are as bad as they now are, nothing else can be offered. In times of prosperity, and when the Heavens yield a superabundance of rain, provision should be made for those years of drought and famine, which seem to come with a regularity, which ought to convince the most sceptical of the necessity for providing against the day when rain does not fall. Dams and the storage of water, fencing, improvement of stocks and boring, are matters which can only be attended to when the farmers are in good credit. When the merchant has to satisfy his hungry European or Colonial supporters, the farmers must “dub up” and when pushed, and the season has been an unprofitable one, he is very apt to remember this in times of plenty, and instead of investing his overplus coin in improvements, he puts the

money aside for the time of drought and famine. The farmer's stock is his trade capital, and anything which will improve his stock-in-trade and render it more merchantable must be a gain. The following is an inexpensive method, and although it could not be adopted this season on account of the absence of grass, it is to be hoped the farmers of South Africa generally will give it a trial. Highly successful ensilage experiments have been carried on at Dalzell (Scotland) lately. The silo is entirely above ground, the inside dimensions being 13 feet deep, 13 feet long, and 10 feet wide. The walls are of 13 inch brick-work, coated on the inside with cement plaster about half-an-inch in thickness. The floor is concrete, composed of cement and river gravel. To facilitate the emptying of the silo, a strong  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inch bearded door, inserted in one corner of the front wall, is made to open inwards, and the space on the front side is hermetically sealed by means of five-inch brick-work coated with cement plaster. The silo was filled on 16th July and four following days with grass grown in orchards and pleasure grounds, passed through the straw cutter, filled into sacks, and emptied into the silo, where the spreading, treading and ramming-down process was carefully carried on. About two pounds of common salt was distributed among each hundred-weight of chaff. When the silo was filled it was covered with heavy doors, over which was spread a covering of bran about four inches deep, and the whole weighted with concrete blocks, weighing altogether about two tons, equal to thirty-five pounds to every square foot of surface. A fortnight after being filled, the ensilage had shrunk by about one-third of the original depth. The doors, bran covering and weight were then removed, the silo again filled, and the doors covering and weight replaced. The silo cost £22. It has now been re-opened, and the cows are very fond of the ensilage.

Then we have tree-planting, which would help so materially to alter the conditions for the best, for everybody.

The great hindrance to profitable agriculture in the interior is the want of navigable streams, canals, roads and capital.

I venture to say that the want of "navigable streams" is the great, the crying want of South Africa; and that could

such (by some miraculous intervention) be introduced into the country to-morrow, its fortune, so to speak, would be made.

Unthinking persons, who cannot, or will not see beyond their noses, will tell you that "you cannot make a river." I am not quite sure that combined effort could not even do this; but suffice it to say that by promoting the culture of trees you can so improve your existing streams that they will become of the greatest possible value to the country, instead of being, as now in many cases, practically useless.

Tree planting, as a science, is now being carried on in various parts of the world. It is receiving great attention in Scotland, Ireland, and the Isle of man, besides Mexico and the United States. To no people is it of more importance than to the inhabitants of South Africa. They have abundance of good soil and a fine climate. Did they but systematically plant trees, and thus introduce moisture, South Africa would soon become an earthly Paradise.

It was between talking, waking and dreaming, that these thoughts and news, which make up this pastoral and agricultural chapter were woven and spun out, until we reached the station at which I had to alight to reach the home of my family, where, thanks to the usual forethought of my friends, who had not had sufficient time to make a new moon to light up my path, I found my way home illuminated by the light of paraffin, and then with a bound, I was welcomed by the partner of my life, and the mother of our three boys, after a long and tedious midnight journey of ten hours on the Queenstown railway, and with feelings of earthly joy at the prospect before one and an exhaustion easily to be accounted for, I once more fell into a deep sleep of nature.

## HOME AND HAPPINESS.

### HOME.

Home's not merely four square walls  
 Though with pictures hung and gilded;  
 Home is where affection calls,  
 Filled with shrines the heart hath builded;



Home ! go watch the faithful dove,  
 Sailing 'neath the Heaven above us—  
 Home is where there's one to love ;  
 Home is where there's one to love us.

Home's not merely roof and room,  
 It needs something to endear it ;  
 Home is where the heart can bloom,  
 When there's some kind lip to cheer it.  
 What is home with none to meet ;  
 None to welcome, none to greet us ?  
 Home is sweet, and only sweet,  
 Where there's one we love to meet us.

To see what trees will do in this country, one has only to visit the "Symons" plantation at Star Fort. No plants could have had more to contend against, but the locust tree shows that it is drought resisting—one of the best qualities in a South African tree.

Mr. W. J. Symons deserves the lasting gratitude of the community for this permanent industrial exhibition.

For another lesson on arboriculture, go to the Botanic Gardens and note the fine gum trees now being felled. The market price of firewood must be several pounds per tree, and no trouble has been taken to grow the trees. A few years ago—fifteen or twenty—the seed was put in probably by Dr. Peters.





## CHAPTER XV.

FROM a long refreshing night's rest I was awoke to the joyous sounds of my three coming men, who were delighted at the presence of their father. With a joy and gladness, unexpected from its fulness, I was met by my friends next day, and after a long rest I once more commenced a discussion, to my own delight, and I trust, to the advantage of my old friends. With all earnestness we discussed the important questions of the day, and the love that we bore the grand old country—England, who with all her faults and though distance parted us, we loved the more—England the home of true heroes, and the mother of philosophers; and we fully felt that *our* philosophy would compare favourably with that vile book "The Fruits of Philosophy"—that alas! for decency's sake, was made known to the untutored youth of both sexes in England, to the personal enrichment of its publishers, who under the pretence of maintaining the right of free printing, publicly sold it for their joint profit. We maintained that the statements, arrangements and suggestions it contained were now obsolete, and unfit for publication, and only advertised another book of the same kind, by a female pen, that could not in any way assist the great human family to lead a nobler, or a more moral life. Anything that is unnatural is to be condemned. All human reverence should be paid to nature's laws, and I feel assured, by positive practical experience, that any deviation brings its own future punishment. Perhaps this may be objected to by the High Priest and Priestess of the *modern precautionary school*, but as at the present time we have no Pope to fear among the Socialists and advocates of such an unnatural system, I need not be in any fear of their weapons of destruction; and claiming with them the liberty of free speech, and free printing, I hesitate not to express my views on this sub-

ject. Thanks to the land and money laws of monopoly in England, I ostracised and expatriated myself—and with a *delicate wife*—the outcome of natural laws. I felt it necessary to guard against and abstain from adding to the number of the living; and in so doing, led a most unnatural existence, which after sixteen years of wedded life, I felt was the greatest purgatory of our natural lives. In my early simplicity, and want of experience, I had urged my relatives to be careful in their general outcome, and one of my lady relatives writing, says “I feel that I have wasted the best years of my life in a most unnatural, unsatisfactory way, both mentally and physically. Had I a married life to go over again, I would lead it differently, and more naturally. I believe fully now, that once a deviation from nature properly used is indulged in, selfishness of mind and body steps in, the finest sympathies are obliterated, and the marriage bond, in most cases, is little more than tolerated. I can picture my life with my husband, having another and a better side than that it has or has had. Our lives have never been been *marriage* for eleven years past, and thus secretly dissatisfaction stepped in, although not perhaps owned, and in many cases where weaker minds than ours might be concerned, estrangement altogether might ensue leading perhaps to divorce, and ever after, loose and lustful lives, to the eternal disgrace of man, wife and children.”

The great struggle of life is, and must ever be, irksome, nay even tragical, while such monopolies exist of the natural wealth of the world that produces the wretched outcasts of our London, and of the mismanaged cities of the world, but far better would it be if those who under a scheme of restriction advocate bestiality, instead of total abstinence, if they were with no uncertain sound to demand the removal of those causes of poverty in the alteration of our land and money laws, and not with a sneer attempted to repudiate, because they do not understand the currency question. Those who do, or tell you that they cannot advocate nationalization of the land of England because that means revolution—of course to nationalize the land does mean a revolution in our land tenures, but that does not necessarily mean “heads-off” to the present

legal holders. Under a proper currency debenture land bond, redeemable in so many years, as arranged for in Germany by Stein and Hiedelburg, it is as easy as any other form of national legislation. Poverty is no disgrace, it is very inconvenient; but better poverty with a little and contentment, than that men and women should live in a mental and physical Hell, such as modern, so called malthusianism leads us in. While admiring all earnest workers for the common good, I cannot allow the advocates of bestiality, who in being ashamed of their own progeny, urge others of a better mould to reduce their numbers, but who in strengthening the hands of the enemies of the people, the land and money lords, who in securing the wealth of the workers, can impudently, seriously and legitimately add to the number of the people's foes. Does it ever strike these advocates of indecency, not Malthusians, that they are (who would be content and continue the confiscators) but playing into the hands of the confiscators, for ever and for ever if the population was kept by the world as at working number point? I not only feel indignant at the advocacy of a filthy bastard of a thing called Malthusianism, the original author advocated total abstinence, which, although a Rev. and a clergymen of the Church of England, he did not carry out, but the modern practice is an attempt to make sexual appetites enjoyable without its responsibilities, to the weakening of all the purity of life. I at times felt glad that I had no daughters; for what guarantee have we that with such a foul, filthy unseen practice, girls in all the purity and innocence of their virginity, should not be contaminated and ruined, by the mere breath of some varnished advocate of such abominable practices that make one shudder at the prospect? How are you with daughters can stand with such views practices and unresting and constant? I wonder that the land and money lords are not welcomed by many that advocate national reforms for fear that they belong to such a wing of reforms; and the sooner they all free themselves from such doctrines the better for all. I am no advocate of *h. t.* Nature is providential in her providence, "to the pure all things are pure," and in so doing, encourages us in our ordinary life, so that there is no excuse

for men, and less for women, to utter such indecent, disgusting conditions. If such practices prevail, and such preventive cures are adopted, we shall look upon every man as a Lot, and every woman as a Potiphar's wife, seeking physical gratification at the expense of all that makes life honourable, pure, and holy. Abstinence is not forcing our love upon another as a sacrifice, but only a sacrifice while done in love. Self-gratification at the cost of another may be conjugal tyranny of the worst and vilest form. I speak fully and strongly on this point, seeing such "fruits of philosophy" is the outcome of physical lust, which reduces the youth of our land from the path of innocence and virtue, and tends to discredit the advocates of reform who freely subscribe to such horrid theories. I do not value the company of reformers if it means that I must agree with them on this question, or surrender my individuality. Rather would I ostracise myself from such . . . In speaking my convictions I have done my best, but to secure full liberty to all I ask from the sects of all religions and the reformers of all classes on all subjects.

#### TRUST IN NATURE, AND DO THE RIGHT.

Courage, brother! do not stumble,  
 Though thy path be dark as night;  
 There's a star to guide the humble;—  
 "Trust in Nature, and do the right."

Let the road be rough and dreary,  
 And its end far out of sight,  
 Foot it bravely! strong or weary,  
 "Trust in Truth, and do the right."

Perish policy and cunning!  
 Perish all that fears the light!  
 Whether losing, whether winning,  
 "Trust in Truth, and do the right."

Trust no party, sect, or faction;  
 Trust no leaders in the fight;  
 But in every word and action,  
 "Trust in Truth, and do the right."

Trust no lovely forms of passion,—  
 Fiends may look like angels bright;  
 Trust no custom, school, or fashion;—  
 "Trust in Truth, and do the right."

Simple rule, and safest guiding,  
 Inward peace, and inward might,  
 Star upon our path abiding,—  
 "Trust in Nature, and do the right."

Some will hate thee, some will love thee,  
 Some will flatter, some will slight ;  
 Cease from man, and look above thee,—  
 "Trust in Nature, and do the right."

REV. N. MACLEOD.

Much was said on the Irish land question, and its land laws, and the robbery, year after year, of £400,000,000 of the agricultural wealth of England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales, and the general political economy of the present day ; but, as I intend later on to print the chapters I have prepared, which will be "Boon's Political Economy," and will supersede in the course of the next five centuries all the false treatises of the past and present so-called political economisers, I will not enlarge upon the subject more fully now, feeling sure, in a prophetic sense, that the facts contained therein will yet be the thought and action of the future ages. Of course my opponents in thought, thinking that they had a good joke at my expense, intimated that my up-country speculations and successes had made me elated ; to which I replied that I was proud of the views that I held, but not elated. For if the "midnight lamp," and the thoughts of the great dead of the past had given me light that others had not, I was not too proud to make it known to all, nor too selfish not to give them the source from whence I had culled my knowledge ; but as I understood the word "speculation," I was not in any way delighted, not having made a fortune, as I objected to speculation ; but I had worked like a slave, and toiled like a giant, in the hope of making known the truths that I had found at the well's bottom. Speculation, as now understood and practised in modern days, is but a form of forestalling, as the present cotton and hog-fat cornering was, and is only another form of robbery. Some men working with a certainty, at the expense of those who knew not, and who had no opportunity of knowing, and then being duped by the sharper, who congratulated himself upon his speculation in doing his neighbour so cleverly in the eye, and then boasted

of the shot he had made. But even this speculation upon the ignorance of the many, and forestalling of the gifts of nature to the enrichment of the manipulators must have an end. The serfs of old Russia, Poland, Germany, Egypt and England no longer submit to the skinning process, or being disembowelled, to enable the Seigneur to warm his feet on the body of his estate slave, as in France during the last century; and when the knife reaches below the concentrated *epidermis*, an explosion and an upheaval takes place; and when Jews and promises are burning, this all acts as a warning to others to desist from speculating and trusting to luck and "sharping" those who toil. All this is becoming intolerable, and whether Jew or Gentile, must be altered. The French, Prussians and English are long-enduring and suffering people, but they have had before now their revolutions and guillotines; and so sure as a Creator made little apples, or the rain to spoil and enlarge small potatoes, so sure will there be a removal somehow for the speculators of modern times if they do not cease plundering by Acts of Parliament, in land, houses and money, or any other cover that helps them in their power of exploiting the workers everlastingly. The process may be delayed, but it will not be put off indefinitely or for ever; and woe to those who have ears and will not hear, and those who have eyes and will not see, for in fear and trembling they will find that a Judgment Day has come, and a Deluge in their day, and that there is no room for them in the way of the righteous thoughts of a people speculated upon, until the burden was too great to be borne.

Thinking that one ought to see all, I took my wife to see the well-known play of "Ours." Now I make no pretence to any superior morality; I feel that I have very little of the angel in me, but a large quantity of old Adam; and if all is true, his tempter, the Devil. But for the sake of our youth of both sexes, I protest against much in the play. One could not fail to enjoy the jokes and repartee, as it is as impossible, at such a time, to restrain one's visible movements, as it is to refrain from eating if food is before one when hungry. And while it is good to show to advantage the scorn of man and

his contempt for the vulgarity and brutality of a wife that will not be satisfied, and who delights in dinning into his ears any silly fault he may have committed in haste, or in error, till at last he may state that, though he could command a thousand men, in no one case could he control a wife who would not be reasonable. I well remember the saying of a of a well-known lady writer, that it often surprised her that men were so forbearing, and that under such constant, intense provocation, they did not strike their women. The peculiar age in which we live produces many a "Virago" in upper and middle life, as well as in the lower. How often are men misunderstood by their wives and wives' friends, leaving out the everlasting mother-in-law, in the general quarrel when men with all nobleness act up to an ideal of duty, devotion and right? It is a sign of love if a man does not trouble a wife at all times with his troubles and misfortunes. The fact exposed in the play that men in the business of men-slayers are expected to keep themselves, a wife, and six children, including even twins, on one shilling and ten-pence a day, is a disgrace to any nation that keeps an army of mercenaries, and at slaughterer's prices. The theory that war ennobles, as well as brutalizes, is an old as well as a nineteenth century lie, which the governing classes know to be a lie, but which so few like to call by its right name. Fathers slain, wives made widows, children fatherless, for gratifying the vanity of ideas, after flags have been blessed by bishops of the peaceful Jesus, and the plundering propensities of the slaughterers. But while these and other facts are made known in the common manner, which is the rule on the stage, to draw attention to the infidelity and immorality of men and women, it is not calculated to strengthen the morals of our young people. No one can desire that these abominations should remain unknown or hidden; but, for decency's sake, let the audience be composed of *paters* and *maters*; and if stage lessons must be taught, let our youth hear nothing that they can degrade themselves by. Evil is always attractive, and needs no inducements or exciting to make its appearance, and when women and men in full force, mouth



these matters on our public stages and platforms, it increases rather than diminishes the evil.

With such thoughts I retired to rest. Up betime next morning for a stroll round the town, which during my last absence of twelve months had got the appearance of being awfully holy, if Church Road, with its tall spires pointing up heavenwards is a guide. May we dare to doubt that piety, holiness, and the worship of humanity and women are not on the increase in proportion? The modern desire for building churches with steeples is a craze of the age. Oftentimes it is evidence of the white surpliced sepulchres and the want of genuine Christianity within,—but what can we expect when the same question might be put to all now as put to Paul. What is Truth? and echo would reply, “not in those places made with hands.” Each place is built by the constant rattling of the begging box, and an appeal to the fears of men; in one case the unfortunate Hindoos and other native races of India, and the daily-robbed by England’s aristocracy, helped to build the Church of a Don, supported largely by the devotees of King, and to annoy with its steeple the opposition shop on the opposite side called the house of God, whose steeple was supposed to be all awry. This last was the outcome of a running up and down the colony with saleable Catholic indulgencies, and even to the Free State, by the modern *presto* of a confessional box. The anchorite and unnatural man, to collect the funds, to give it a holy flavour and fragrance, to buy some of its marble from Italy; the priest-ridden to induce some of its donors to expose their liberality, and to ask for the prayers of the faithful; to remember them, the givers thus asking for a public blessing for their public gift of a window, a kind of speculating upon the prayers of the faithful for their commercial success, positively asked for in memorials erected in their church, and thus the steepled opposition house that owes its parent-home to Rome begs publicly for blessings. What a mercenary example to be set by the so-called Universal One Church, whose priests of all degrees set the example of audacity. I have discussed this church and its past cruelties, follies and audacity, in my History of the Free State, from the oppor-

tunity the Roman Catholic Church mountebank money beggar Honey-Berry gave me, to expose the vilest machinery in existence for crushing out the man and womanhood of all ages. The other churches and schools built in the same year are constructed in such peculiar forms and ways that through fear I, a Positivist and a believer in the religion of humanity, dare not express, unless I desire to be stoned; and when such a vile deed of martyrdom was accomplished to be mourned afterwards; and as I cling to life with all its living and loving grandeur and enjoyable responsibilities, I would rather not expose myself to the spasmodic rage of the unthinking of all the sects that one meets with as we pass along in our cities.

It was quite picturesque to notice the buildings on all sides of the town; the seven-hilled city is wonderfully improved, and may it still continue to do so, notwithstanding its bad sanitary condition, and the burial of hospital and other filth in the grounds of the hospital; and although they may not now expose the used poultices and dirty linen of the patients, due to the carelessness of the servants, in opposition to the counsels of its venerable doctor, it may be fully expected, as time goes on, that all people under the run of such grounds will more or less suffer from typhoid and other fevers, due to the accumulated filth which has been laid in shallow pits for so many years past, in opposition to all sanitary demands to the contrary. When in the council of the town I had opposed all kraals, piggeries and other animal accumulations that existed, and also the want of proper earth closets, or other sanitary arrangements at the location, which in its then state, poured all its foulness into the Buffalo above the town to poison the water and inhabitants below; and although I wrote and explained my knowledge of the risk we all ran from such, including the foul skin-salting house of the largest merchant of the town in the front street of King William's Town, I was unable to do all I desired, owing to the vested interests of men who had property (which in these days of selfishness is thought of before human life) kept in a foul condition. The time has gone by when intelligent men are unaware that decomposing matter in kraals and elsewhere is death and worm-life giving, but the owners of such wealth are

enabled to slander and injure, ruin and subsidise others, to injure any man that dares to attempt to remove such foul places in the midst of towns in South Africa and England. Almost all the towns of Africa are built in hollows, and are necessarily unhealthy, and for years are gathering up a quantity of filth that ever afterwards gives work to *doctors* and *undertakers*. I noticed one large house built for its ostentatiousness, although in the front to be occupied by one of the third degree legal plunderers of the people, and the rear as a laundry to be kept by one pick-up-the-grass for the convenience of its height for a drying place. All this did not hinder the chance of this hill being seen with all its upper charms, surrounded as it was by other houses of, so-called, better-off men, and I did just wonder if, as in most towns of this part of the world, it was as true of other parts, that "Fools build houses and Wise Men occupy them." The out-doing is encouraged, and can only be explained on the principle that men and women wishing to be thought richer than they are, and judging by what one sees, commercial and other men have gone queer in the head by following some silly leader who led the fashion of having large houses and indifferent sanitary arrangements, so that when occupied, the ladies of the house run the risk of contagion and disease, because, while for its big shell and its internal fittings they run themselves into debt in so purchasing, and ignore cleanliness, that in a town like King, should be next to godliness, and with its now completed waterworks enables all to wash out and drain, and needs now but a well devised system of low level drainage, and the utilizing of such stercus and other waste material among the neighbouring farmers—not, as now arranged, to be washed down by rains and poured into the Buffalo; strewing out its muck all along its banks, and finally settling in a mass near Panmure, to be a future hotbed of epidemic, and then, when a whole household of victims have been immolated, and a worthy mother and wife is lost through an accumulation of waste and filth in a garden, to consider if it is necessary to prevent it. Why not at once utilize all waste material in the town, and, better still, the outside gardens, thus making it unnecessary for men to remove the cause of so many falling

victims to the effects of inhaling foul gases. "Prevention is better than cure," and the time will come when sanitary inspectors will compel the fact to be known, endorsed and carried out.

Kei Road, or Gleeson's Town, is one of the expected future towns of South Africa, but at this time in its swadling buildings. But as the town must be built on the hill, it offers advantages for health not to be found in any other part of Eastern Kaffraria. It has been my misfortune to pass through many towns like Bloemfontein, which, with the accumulated filth of years in its midst, can only be beds for propagating scarlatina, diptheria, typhoid, and many other diseases that go to make up a big bill to the advantage of the doctor and the undertaker. The filthy habit of plastering floors with kraal dung is one of the surest modes of creating disease, and explains in many cases the cause of fever in the up-country districts, and which finally help the clergyman to give some help and to have a hand in all that concerns the human population from birth to death. The want of perfect sanitary arrangements in all towns of South Africa is, as in all other tropical countries, and in England, the cause of the large mortality to be found throughout the land. The one great want at Kei Road is water; but even this could be got over, if they either sunk artesian wells in the adjoining kloof, or utilised the water from the little Kabousie, or even nearer—from the springs on a Mr. Featherstone's farm. The railway contractors were informed of this at the time of constructing the station, but with the usual pride of engineers, repudiated the information given by the surrounding farmers. Had they but acted on these suggestions, the position of a town at Kei Road Station would have been the means of bringing a large population to this well known open spot, with its exhilarating breezes from the sea. One person described it as at times so rich in ozone that it seemed to lift them up as they passed along; and again, from its peculiar hill position, giving a natural fall for sanitary arrangements, it offers special opportunities for persons of small means to live in peace and retirement; and would be, but for the red blanket Kaffir, and his dirty brother in rags, and the dressed-

up would-be Kaffir gentleman of Peel Town, the Kaffir location for all the cattle lifters of both sides of the Kei. This Kaffir town, with its miserable pastor, is the gathering ground for all the black rascals of the eastern districts. Its church is built from monies realized by the sale of stolen cattle brought into the place time after time, which is sold by the pastor—like unto the pastor of Wheatlands, near Panmure, who, upon being found out buying and selling the unholy thing called black cabbage-seed, a compound of charcoal and saltpetre, and who, upon being found out in his giving cover and selling the same to the murderers of the brothers Tainton, finally elected to commit suicide rather than stand before a jury to answer for his conniving at these Kaffirs and their diabolical tricks. Not that this man was worse than others. I don't know what the missionaries of other countries are, but, more or less, the South African incapables, who are of no use in England, are so imbued with the commercial spirit, that they, to secure the support of Kaffirs, will recommend the vilest as fit and proper persons to have guns and powder, which they can afterwards exchange for cattle from the raw Kaffir, so that they can keep the missionary, and if this is not sufficient, will even sell to them under another form any how to get support and means to call it their own. This explains how so many of these out-door South African relief parties are enabled to save and secure wealth, while disciples of the gentle Jesus, had nowhere to lay his head. O ye poor deluded ones, that subscribe for the heathen, who in their simplicity and nakedness are as happy as sucking doves, and are free from all the care or want that kills thousands in our European cities. It is not in Africa that the unnatural heathen are only to be found. Let the writer of the "Bitter Cry of Outcast London" testify. I am bold to say, that in no part of heathenland is want felt so keenly as by the wronged and working classes of all the cities in the United Kingdom.

Kei Road, with its neat little station, its small gardens, which with water could be made large ones, and its small thatched homesteads, with its ploughed up lands, with the lowing cattle wandering to its shady rivulet, for water and

to graze in its shady woods in the heat of the day. Sheep browsing on the hills, would remind one of the many little villages of England, but for the overgrown location of Peeltown with its accumulated filth and attempt at sanctity; but in reality the refuge of all the refuse of Kaffirdom, the plague spot, the home of call, and deposit of all the thieves of the neighbourhood, as every farmer could testify; and who at last in self-defence, shoot the rascals when caught in the act of stealing from their sheep-folds, and who feel that these two-legged rascals ought to be shot down as vermin, and who have learnt to their cost that the christianized thieves are the worst to deal with. The missionaries, here, as elsewhere, to receive their gifts, will pander to their vices, and even to their desire to secure the weapons of the white man, more especially if the missionary is connected by marriage, or interest with the official on the Bench, who grants permits; and to facilitate the removal of black seed that kills, but grows not, and sold as "Kaffir Bibles," to be stored up, until once more the time is ripe to turn upon the white man. But the missionary was so kind to them as to *pass them* by in the hour of danger and rebellion. One could admire some of these men who *now* make no sacrifice if they would or could teach the natives the advantages of labour, instead of helping them to ignore it, and in their stations to get married without means to multiply to the injury of all. Unfortunately the "Native" question is one of great difficulty, as now arranged for, but if managed from the vantage ground, I have shown in my "How to Colonize South Africa, and by whom," and with Kaffir Reserves, and a little management could be solved. The farmer does not want a large population in his districts, but requires a certainty of hired servants, if he is to be a successful man. Many an undertaking is nipped in the bud for want of reliable labour; and the want of this labour is mainly due to the attempt to place him on an equality, and to be with all his native improvidence rich, without labour; and to keep up his strength he continually steals from the white farmer, which breeds suspicion, violence, and at times shedding of blood, so much so, that in the time of Sir George Grey's Governorship, it was lawful to take the life of any Kaffir

found in the kraal at night, or fleeing in possession of his plunder, which was successful at that time in putting down stock-stealing. Such is the bitter feeling against the present stealing, that, as in several instances of late, when the Kaffir thief has been warned and required to surrender, and upon refusing, shot dead, the accused have been released, juries refusing to convict. Now much of all this would be prevented if natives had their own reserves apart from white habitation or influence. This is the only safety-valve in a large native occupation like South Africa; for, singular to relate, the same experience is not found in Africa as in New Zealand, Australia, America, and other native territories. The natives in those countries die out: but in Africa, notwithstanding drinking and all other conditions of destruction surrounding them, they positively increase, and in so doing, in the centres of the white occupants, steal without reserve. On the other hand, the merchant who lives upon trading desires a large dense population, and thus is diametrically opposed to the farmer, who desires large tracts of land for successful farming. Now even this could be got over if the plan adopted in Canada was carried out here, with locations and reserves totally in the hands of the natives; and then if the natives were to be found outside such limits, without passes, to wander on pleasure or business, to be punished either by fine or imprisonment; but at certain times to have liberty to meet the trader on their borders, for the purpose of exchanging their raw produce, and buying a fresh stock of goods. Thus each and all would feel that a limit and a line was drawn between the white and black farmer; but even this is quite impossible while the individual land-hunger is encouraged as it is *now*. The principal business of both farmer and merchant is to get possession of native lands; and more or less sedition is stirred up in the heart of the natives at gradually losing their lands, and then to be cut up in farms and building plots, on speculating conditions. This may be said to be the general origin of all native wars; for, singular to relate, the Kaffirs are, as a rule, a quiet pastoral people, but like all other native tribes, when the pressure of want and their greed is worked upon, they are hasty, and once having committed themselves

against the white man, the land-hungerers cry out, "root them out," to make way for those who, having urged and arranged for the contest, hope to get their share. But, alas! all this is only accomplished at the loss of many valuable lives, and the breaking up of families, and even at the expense of the English taxpayer, until John Bull asks himself upon what principle he must send out his son and his money to assist to crush out the natives. It is all very well for merchants, contractors, and would-be German generals to shout out "God save the Queen," and call upon her for help, when they know millions of John Bull's money will be imported to buy South African produce, and to pay native and other help to assist in the crushing out. I feel that, from a humanitarian point of view this is a crime against all, white and black. For a time all seems well; but the time comes when the crushing out having been done, the soldier or volunteer returns a broken man, demoralized in every way, no longer fit to be a perfect citizen, and always longing, after the wild scenes of camp life, instead of working at home for the benefit of his family and country, and in hundreds of cases simply becoming a miserable loafer, and a disgrace to his kind and countrymen, until the very Kaffirs look upon such with contempt, as the negro used to view the poor white trash of Southern America, and feel disgraced as a man, that such men should represent the conquering arm of great England; and, on the other hand, the shifty policy of public men again disgusts the Kaffir; for with the constant see-saw policy of would-be statesmen, they know not how to respect the Colonial rule; and they who can remember the regulations under a Governor representing England, curse the day when responsible government gave them into the care of colonial cabinets of incapables.

It gave me inexpressible pleasure to find a good school at Kei Road, and I felt that if it had the advantages of water, &c., that I have previously mentioned, it could be the home of a hundred boys for a school term, its exhilarating and buoyant atmosphere giving the scholars health and strength for their future. The township being but young, it could not boast of its cathedral nor its tabernacle, but of an earnestness worthy



of a better response, it could boast of its conventicles suited for churchmen, and non-conformists. I was assured that charity and good-will, with a full relish of a large dish of gossip, which with all honesty, no one feels too proud about. Well, well, human nature is the same, a little fact, and an immense amount of imagination, if not a perfect cure; it is a great remedy, for the destruction of gossip is full occupation. Evil finds some mischief still for idle hands to do. One misfortune of all small communities is the meeting of all in common at public schools. As an old earnest advocate of all on a common equality before the law, and full liberty to all who recognise the full rights of others; still there are those who feel more at home in their individual seminary than in a common school for all to sit in; and it is always an advantage if the school is large enough to sub-divide the scholars. A large room is always one means of creating better discipline; for the more a boy feels that it is better to obey, so that he may know how to command, is a great advantage to scholars and teachers. It keeps boys apart, who perhaps from loss of a father, or guardian, had fallen into bad company, and learned vile language, and who without knowing it become objectionable for others to come into contact with, and in their ignorance defy and insult their best friend—the teacher, and who fail to recognise the full value of education so beautifully described in the following stanzas:—

THE INCOMPARABLE PLEASURES OF A  
CULTIVATED MIND.

Oh ! blest of Heaven, whom not the languid songs  
Of luxury, the syren ! not the bribes  
Of sordid wealth, nor all the gaudy spoils  
Of pageant honour, can seduce to leave  
Those ever-blooming sweets, which from the store  
Of Nature fair imagination calls  
To charm the enlivened soul ! What though not all  
Of mortal offspring can attain the heights  
Of envied life ; though only few possess  
Patrician treasures or imperial state ;  
Yet Nature's care, to all her children just,  
With richer treasures and an ampler state,  
Endows at large whatever happy man

Will deign to use them. His the city's pomp,  
 The rural honours his. Whate'er adorns  
 The princely dome, the column, and the arch ;  
 The breathing marbles and the sculptured gold,  
 Beyond the proud possessor's narrow claim  
 His tuneful breast enjoys. For him the spring  
 Distils her dews, and from the silken gem  
 Its lucid leaves unfolds ; for him the hand  
 Of Autumn tinges every fertile branch  
 With blooming gold, and blushes like the morn.  
 Each passing hour sheds tribute from her wings ;  
 And still new beauties meet his lonely walk,  
 And loves unfelt attract him. Not a breeze  
 Flies o'er the meadow ; not a cloud imbibes  
 The setting sun's refulgence ; not a strain  
 From all the tenants of the warbling shade  
 Ascends, but whence his bosom can partake  
 Fresh pleasure, unproved. Not thence partakes  
 Fresh pleasure only ; for the attentive mind,  
 By this harmonious action on her powers,  
 Becomes herself harmonious : wont so oft  
 In outward things to meditate the charm  
 Of sacred order, soon she seeks at home  
 To find a kindred order, to exert  
 Within herself this eloquence of love,  
 This fair inspired delight ; her tempered powers  
 Refine at length, and every passion wears  
 A chaster, milder, more attractive mien,  
 But if to ampler prospects, if to gaze  
 On nature's form, where negligent of all  
 These lesser graces, she assumes the port  
 Of that eternal majesty that weighed  
 The world's foundations—if to these the mind  
 Exalts her daring eye—then mightier far  
 Will be the change, and nobler. Would the forms  
 Of servile customs cramp her generous powers ?  
 Would sordid policies, the barbarous growth  
 Of ignorance and rapine, bow her down  
 To tame pursuits, to indolence and fear ?  
 Lo ! she appeals to Nature, to the winds  
 And rolling waves, the sun's unwearied course,  
 The elements and seasons : all declare  
 For what the eternal Maker has ordained  
 The powers of man : we feel within ourselves  
 His energy divine. He tells the heart,  
 He means, He made us to behold and love  
 What He beholds and loves, the general orb