



THE
CAPE OF GOOD HOPE
A L M A N A C

AND
Annual Register,
FOR
1848.

CONTAINING A LIST OF
The Public Departments, Local Institutions,
AND VARIOUS OTHER
MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION
CONNECTED WITH
THE HOME AND FOREIGN TRADE OF THIS COLONY.



COMPILED, FROM THE MOST AUTHENTIC SOURCES, BY

B. J. VAN DE SANDT,

Late Superintendent of the Government Printing Office.



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PRELIMINARY.

Our object is utility—and therefore we introduce to the notice of the Public the Thirteenth Volume of our Annual Publication, or Book of Reference; and, in so doing, we again embrace the opportunity of recording our sense of obligation to the Civil Authorities, both in Town and Country, for their kind and ready co-operation in furnishing us with the necessary Returns, by which we have been enabled to publish at our usual time.—To the Public we are also indebted for their patronage, and trust, that the present Volume will meet with the same reception that has attended all the preceding ones.—To our Advertising Friends we are largely indebted, and hereby express our grateful acknowledgements for their support, because it is mainly owing to them, that we are in a position to publish this book at so low a rate, and hope, if they continue to support us in our labours, to proceed with the work, as hitherto.—To our worthy and indefatigable Surveyor General, (Colonel MICHELL,) we are indebted, and likewise express our thanks, for his kindness in furnishing us with an Engraving and Description of the new Light House now in the course of erection at Cape Agulhas, which will be found in the Addenda, and we trust, that this Beacon of Light may become the means of saving the Lives as well as the Property of many of our fellow creatures.

In the Addenda will also be found a Copy of LLOYD'S Instructions to their Agents, for the information of parties connected with the Shipping Interest, as also the new Tariff of Customs' Duties to be levied on all Goods and Merchandize imported into this Colony.

With respect to our political situation at the present moment, it does not become us to say much. We may, however, be allowed, merely to observe, that the appointment of such eminent men as Sir HENRY POTTINGER and Sir HARRY SMITH, to the governorship of the Cape, speaks volumes as to the good intentions of the Home government, and their sincere desire to promote the interests of the Colony.

Education and the light of the Gospel also are rapidly gaining ground. All the Free-schools are filled; all classes pour themselves into those houses, which alone supply the pure milk of civilization and refinement.

Churches and chapels rise in quick succession, and in the course of the year a new edifice has been consecrated for Divine worship in Cape Town; while two other churches are rapidly arriving at completion.

The spirit of improvement, which we have more than once had occasion to applaud, seems to gain additional vigor by its constant and wholesome exercise. Treacherous rivers and rugged ravines, those formidable barriers to commerce and communication, are silently but steadily changing their aspects, and the day surely is not far distant, when the entire Main Road between this and Graham's Town may be travelled over without danger to man or beast, either of being precipitated down a kloof, or drowned in a swollen river. In the course of January next the most stupendous work yet undertaken in the Colony will have been brought to a successful issue, and thrown open to the public use,—the Cradock's Pass. The advantages to be secured to the Colony at large, but to the inhabitants of one of its finest Districts,—George,—in particular, are incalculable; and it is therefore with pleasure that we perceive the just estimation in which the accomplisher of this grand undertaking is held by the people of George, as they publicly avowed in a Meeting held there on the

9th December last. The "Commercial Advertiser" of the 15th December, referring to some Resolutions adopted at this Meeting, remarks:—

"The people of George, with honest gratitude, have singled out for a mark of honor, that officer to whom, above all others, the colonists are indebted for the physical improvement of their country, and for the prospect of its indefinite extension. Mr. MONTAGU began by laying a broad foundation in a sound system of Finance. In the course of a few years, it may not incor-rectly be said, in the course of a few months, he reduced the monetary affairs of the Government to a state of perfect simplicity, and without imposing burdensome taxes, *paid off all its debts*—those debts which had for so long been pleaded as an excuse for inactivity, and which threatened at one time to seal the Cape down in irreclaimable barbarism. The formation of ROAD BOARDS, and the introduction of a system of CONVICT DISCIPLINE—as the instrument of physical as well as moral improvement,—the scheme already in operation for the construction of wharfs and other conveniences in all bays and harbours throughout the Colony, with the magnificent design of the Sea Wall in Table Bay, and other great and useful works, are due, it is well known, to the genius and resources of the same kind. And it is no small honor to the successive Governors under whom he has acted, that so far from manifesting any thing like alarm at the boldness of his measures, or a narrow jealousy at the prominence which his talents, zeal, and activity inevitably gave to his character, they have uniformly, up to the present moment, supported him with all the weight of their authority, and esteemed themselves, as well they might, most fortunate in having at their right hand so able, so disinterested, and so indefatigable a public servant."

And with reference to our state of health, the past year has not been characterised by any great degree of sickness, or by any particular disease, if we except the months of July and August. During the first of these months, several cases of congestive fever, marked by a typhoid type, and evidently contagious, made their appearance, and towards the end of the month, Bronchitis prevailed, with several cases of Croup. Cases of Cynanche Ulcerata also occurred, but this disease, so very fatal, was most successfully treated by

means of large and repeated doses of Carbonate of Ammonia, with Bark infusion, and touching the diseased parts freely with pure Muriatic Acid ; family pre-disposition to this disease was well marked. At the beginning of August, Bronchitis still continued, and became epidemic, with some slight modifications, traversing the whole Colony ; towards the 15th, it had nearly run its course, in Cape Town ; and by the 25th, had totally disappeared ; the mortality was trifling in proportion to the number attacked. During these two months the weather had been cold and wet, the S. E. wind prevailing,—the thermometer being 55 to 58° in the house ; but this temperature was from 10 to 12 degrees lower than during the corresponding months of the former year. Since then, the Town has been rather healthy, although the Epidemic has evidently called into existence several cases of Consumption, which otherwise, would probably have remained dormant. At present the season is particularly fine, and the rains which have lately fallen, make us anticipate a very abundant harvest of every variety of produce ;—and that peace and plenty may long be the blessings of the Inhabitants of this Colony, is the wish of one of the most devoted of their Servants

THE COMPILER.

Pro Memoria.—The Medical Tariff, which appeared in former numbers of this Publication, has been omitted this year, because it is understood, that, whereas that Tariff was adopted by mutual consent of the Medical Practitioners in 1830, it has now become in disuetude, and they therefore consider themselves no longer bound to those charges, but calculate their fees according to the emergency of the case and the circumstances of their patients.

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