

## THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT.

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The Government of the Cape Colony is entrusted to a Governor and a Parliament of two Houses—the Legislative Council, consisting of 23 members, and the House of Assembly, numbering 79 members. Responsible Government was first introduced in 1872.

The Cape Houses of Parliament are situated at the lower end of the Avenue and are considered the most handsome buildings of the Colony. They were erected in 1886, at a cost of £220,000. The external measurement is 264 feet in length, by 141 feet in breadth, with a height of 60 feet, the basement from the ground to the main floor is executed in granite brought from the Paarl, and the rest of the building is constructed of red brick, relieved by a series of pilasters, and window-dressings in cement—the whole being designed in the Renaissance style.

There are two large porticos, one facing the Avenue, and another Grave Street; there are also smaller ones facing East and West. The principal entrance is in Grave Street. Passing through a small entrance hall, the visitor has to the left and right the two debating chambers; leading from this is the vestibule (see illustration); it is a lofty hall, much admired by visitors, its sides and ends are ornamented with coupled columns and pilasters of green marble supporting a small gallery giving access to various offices. Close by is the Library, a handsome apartment furnished in teak wood, with galleries, the shelves being filled for the most part with works of reference for the use of both members of the legislature. Leading from the vestibule are two long corridors which lead to the various offices of the officials, with reading, refreshment, smoking, and billiard rooms. On the upper floor above these are the Committee rooms.

The basement is composed of offices used by the officials of the Colonial Secretary's Department, in which also are the fireproof vaults for the safe custody of records.

The Parliament meets once in each year, the session being usually held between the months of May and August.

The rules of procedure are for the most part the same as those adopted by the British Parliament. The journals and proceedings are made and recorded in the English language, but since 1882 debates and discussions may be conducted in English or Dutch. Members are paid an allowance for their duties, provided they do not exceed ninety days in any year; those who reside in Cape Town and neighbourhood receive one guinea per day, the country members receiving £1 15s. per day, which in many cases forms their chief source of income. The members of the Legislative Council must be over thirty-one years of age, and are elected by popular vote the same as members of the House of Assembly, the only difference being that with the former a property qualification is required, viz., the possession of immovable property to the amount of £2,000, or

of movable and immovable property to the value of £4,000. The Chief Justice is *ex officio* President of the Legislative Council, and members are called "The Honourable" during their term of office. In the House of Assembly the Speaker is chosen from amongst its members, and the present occupant, The Hon. H. H. Juta, Q.C., was elected to that office in April, 1896. The Houses of Parliament were erected by Messrs. Bull and Sons, of Southampton, and are surrounded by beautiful gardens, enclosed by a strong iron railing of graceful design.

## THE HEALTH OF THE CITY.

Dr. Fuller's supervision of the health of the town commenced on March 10th, 1893. In his annual report to the Corporation for the year ended 30th June, 1896, he states as follows: The estimated population of 57,500 under review is composed of 27,700 Europeans, and 29,800 coloured. The death-rate for the year is 37·8 per 1,000 of the population for all classes, or 8·4 per 1,000 greater than that of the previous year. The European death-rate was 27·5 per 1,000—that is, 4·6 of our increase; while the coloured was 47·4 per 1,000—that is 12·0 per 1,000 in excess of the previous year. We thus see that the great increase in the death-rate is very largely accounted for by the enormous coloured death-rate during the present period under consideration.

	1895-6	1894-5	1893-4
Death-rate per 1,000 of total population	37·8	29·4	27·6
Death-rate per 1,000 of European ...	27·5	22·9	22·0
Death-rate per 1,000 of coloured ...	47·4	35·4	32·6

The great bulk of this enormous increase is to be accounted for by the widespread and fatal epidemics of measles and whooping-cough which raged during the earlier months of the present period. These epidemics were responsible for 428 deaths in the period under review. Of these, 107 were Europeans, and 321 coloured. Of the 428 deaths from measles and whooping-cough we can only take 376 as accounting for the great increase of deaths, seeing that 52 deaths occurred from the same causes in the previous year. This leaves an increase of 154 deaths still to be accounted for. Looking at the columns under phthisis and other diseases of the respiratory organs, we have here 120 deaths more than in the previous year, this increase probably being the direct cause of the conjoint epidemics of which I have spoken. We also have to note an increase of 22 in the deaths from Typhoid Fever during the year. The deaths due to diphtheria and croup show a diminution of 19 in this year, as compared with the previous.



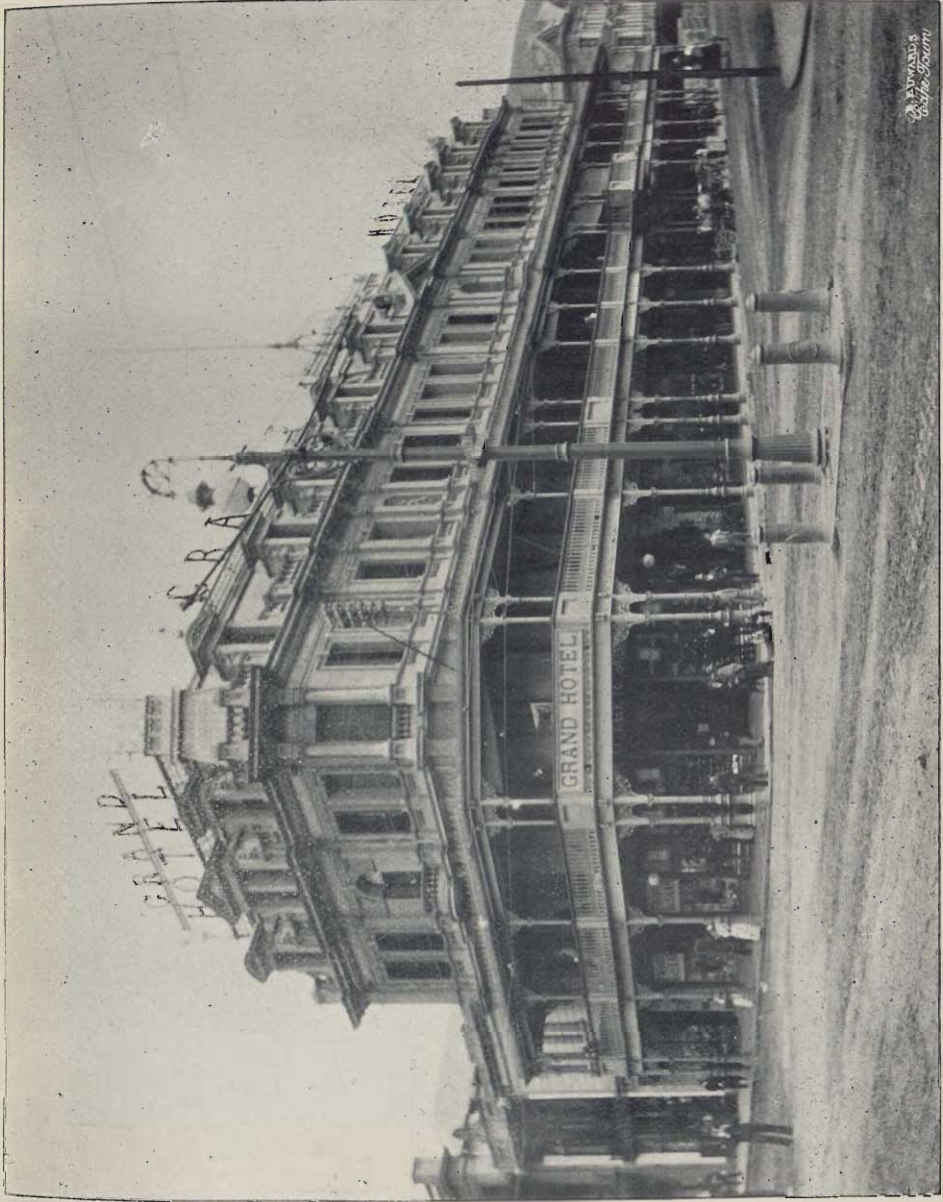


Photo. Gov.

THE GRAND HOTEL, STRAND STREET.



THE DINING ROOM, GRAND HOTEL, STRAND STREET.

EXHIBIT 3  
*Edith Turner*



## THE GRAND HOTEL.

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This edifice is most conveniently situated, being directly opposite the Adderley Street Railway Station of the Cape Government Railway. The interior is a marvel of luxury, and every improvement, from the grandest of lounges and brightest of lights down to the very culinary appurtenances, has been taken advantage of. European visitors can now rest assured of as much comfort and elegance as is obtainable in London or Paris, and the stigma that has so long rested on the Colony's hotel accommodation is now removed.

Apart from a public bar at the corner of St. George's Street and Strand Street, where grilled steaks and chops can always be had, the ground floor is let off in shops, and the hotel proper is not reached until arriving at the first floor. Opening into Strand Street, however, there is a grand entrance hall, the floor of which is in mosaic, the centre design being the arms of the Colony. Beyond the glass swing-doors is the grand staircase and a comfortable lounge.

On reaching the first floor attention is at once drawn to the Moorish Bar, which is a superb piece of decorative work. Close by is the billiard room, measuring 44 feet by 19 feet. Those having the slightest affection for the fascinating game can hardly spend an hour in the room without that affection increasing. It contains two of Messrs. Thurston's best tables with handsome fittings, and is furnished with four large moquette settees. Large windows permit of the room being adequately lighted during the day. The tables are lighted by electroliers. In addition there is a special lavatory for visitors to the billiard room and dining room.

There are some splendid rooms on the first floor, and their height is 16 feet 6 inches. The dining room is superb in every way, and its dimensions are 45 by 31 feet. This, like several of the other large rooms, has a mahogany coloured dado of Lincrusta Walton work, running round it, and a salmon-tinted and gold wall-paper above. The furniture is walnut, upholstered in crimson plush. Diners sit at separate tables, so that all requirements in this direction are provided for. For public dinners there is room to seat no fewer than 250 guests, and in this way the hotel will be quite an acquisition. There is also an ante-room for private dinner parties. In lighting the tables a new feature is introduced in the shape of electric lights fixed to the table, the wire being connected through the floor.

Luxurious in the extreme is the drawing room. The prevailing colour is old gold and brown. Elaborate electroliers with tulip-shaped globes impart the necessary light, and the furniture, in order to harmonise with the whole, is upholstered in old gold frieze velvet. The grand piano is a charming-toned instrument, and the velvet-pile Axminster carpet the very acme of comfort. The mantle-shelf in this room is especially worthy of notice. Expertly carved walnut predominates, and in the electro-brass work are set porcelain tiles

containing an Italian design. Adjacent to the drawing room is a suite of rooms, specially built and decorated for any magnate who might require them. Every detail in the way of decoration has been studied with charming effect.

A large amount of discretion has been shown in erecting a splendid balcony promenade, 350 feet long and 12 feet wide. It also is lit by the electric light.

The second floor contains bedrooms and private sitting rooms, and the third floor bedrooms only. Here again the furnishing is exceedingly good. The bedrooms are splendidly furnished, the suites (marble-topped washstand, wardrobe and dressing-table) being polished ash or walnut, and the mirrors bevelled, whilst Axminster carpet covers the floors. The walls are also handsomely papered, and every room has its own electric bell and electric light. An electric lift, manufactured by Waygood, carries visitors to the various floors. In order that the domestic staff shall be properly organised, a head housemaid has been placed in charge of each floor.

Few hotels can boast of embellishments superior to those possessed by the Grand. The pictures, which are as a rule framed in gilt or oak, include oil-paintings, sketches, French chromos, engravings, etchings and water-colours, and the ware and ornaments in many charming and artistic designs, includes Majolica, Sevres, Dresden, Italian and Japanese. There are also many beautiful examples of bronze work, figures and floral. The carpets throughout the rooms, staircases and passages, are Axminster.

Every precaution has been taken to successfully cope with an outbreak of fire. On each floor is fixed forty feet of hose which can be attached at a moment's notice to the main. In a case of emergency or urgent necessity, tanks holding two thousand gallons of water can be used. The sanitary arrangements are also extremely good, and the bath and lavatory accommodation are all that could be desired. The servants, both male and female, are provided with splendid quarters, quite apart from the hotel, including special bath and lavatory conveniences. The kitchen is situated on the top floor, and it contains almost every modern appliance for preparing food. Gas will be used throughout, and the stoves are large enough to cook for as many as a hundred persons at a time, exclusive of grills. As the dishes are ready for the table they are dispatched to the dining-room by a reversible lift. A first-class French *chef* has charge of this department, his assistants being a second and a third cook, a vegetable cook, and a sculleryman. The scullery has received every attention also. It contains all kinds of conveniences, and a plate-rack that will hold five hundred plates. A good feature is a special sink for kitchen slops.

Extensive alterations are in course of progress in St. George's Street, where an additional wing is being built. This will give increased accommodation for about fifty more guests, and will contain the usual number of bed rooms and sitting rooms, besides a fine balcony.



The aggregate cost of furniture is no less than £7,000, the cutlery, silver, linen and crockery having been specially made for the hotel, which is without question one of the best appointed in the Colony. The wants of visitors are well cared for by the proprietor, Mr. J. Cavanagh, who is ably assisted by several members of his family.

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## HOSPITALS.

The hospitals of the Cape Peninsula are:—The New Somerset and Old Somerset, the Woodstock Cottage Hospital, the Lock Hospital, the Military Hospital, the Wynberg Cottage Hospital.

### THE NEW SOMERSET HOSPITAL.

This is a large building designed and built under the direction of the Public Works Department. It has a very pretty appearance when seen from the bay or entering port. It is situated within spacious grounds, which have been laid out, and the trees, which were planted a few years ago, are now assuming reasonable proportions. The building is divided into three sections, with turrets, a new wing having been added lately. One of the features of the hospital is the children's ward, the walls of which have been decorated by members of the South African Drawing Club. Although there are thirteen wards of various sizes, the accommodation is not considered sufficient to meet the wants of the city. The electric light is used all over the building, and the wards are named after various colonial notabilities. The chief medical officer is Dr. Parsons. The annual vote from Parliament for the support of this institution is about £10,000.

### OLD SOMERSET HOSPITAL.

This building was erected in 1818. It is the form of a quadrangle about 350 feet square with long low buildings on each side, the centre being laid out as gardens. All the buildings were originally one storey, but another storey has been added on several portions. It has not an attractive appearance from the outside, but is nevertheless comfortable, and the occupants—chiefly chronic sick and old persons incapacitated from work—appear to lead a cheerful, happy existence. To most of the blocks is built a trellis verandah covered with vines which in the summer time, form an agreeably cool resort for the old people. A large Recreation Hall has been erected for the entertainment of the inmates during the winter evenings. It receives an annual vote from Parliament of about £10,000.

### THE MILITARY HOSPITAL.

Is situated near the beach of Table Bay, and is used exclusively by the military.

**THE WOODSTOCK COTTAGE HOSPITAL.**

This is an admirable institution erected by public subscription, and is situated on the slopes of the Devil's Peak. It is intended to meet the requirements of the suburbs for accidents and cases of serious illness. Chief medical attendant, Dr. Hewat.

**THE LOCK HOSPITAL.**

Is attached to the Town Prison in Roeland Street for contagious diseases. There is also a Lock Hospital at Simon's Town.

**THE COTTAGE HOSPITAL, WYNBERG**

Erected by public subscription, and serves a large district. It is situated near Wynberg Camp.

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**THE LION'S HEAD.**

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On the right, facing Table Mountain, are the Lion's Head and Signal Hill. The latter is also known as the Lion's Rump, the whole mountain is supposed to bear some resemblance to the figure of a crouching lion. The Lion's Head is a high peak rising about 2,100 feet above sea level. Its sides are covered with the beautiful silver tree, whose satin-like leaves are preserved, and used as bookmarkers and souvenirs. In olden days, the watchers at the block house used to daily climb the mountain, and signal the approach of vessels. There are still traces of chains which were used by them in climbing to the summit.

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**LOST PROPERTY.**

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There is a Lost Property Office under the control of the Cape Government Railways, situated in Strand Street. Articles found in the streets are usually held by the police until claimed by the owners, or after a specified time are sold by public auction. Precautions against thefts in cabs are now adopted by the police taking the registered numbers of cabs passing the Dock gates, and entering or departing from the Railway station.

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**LIBRARIES.**

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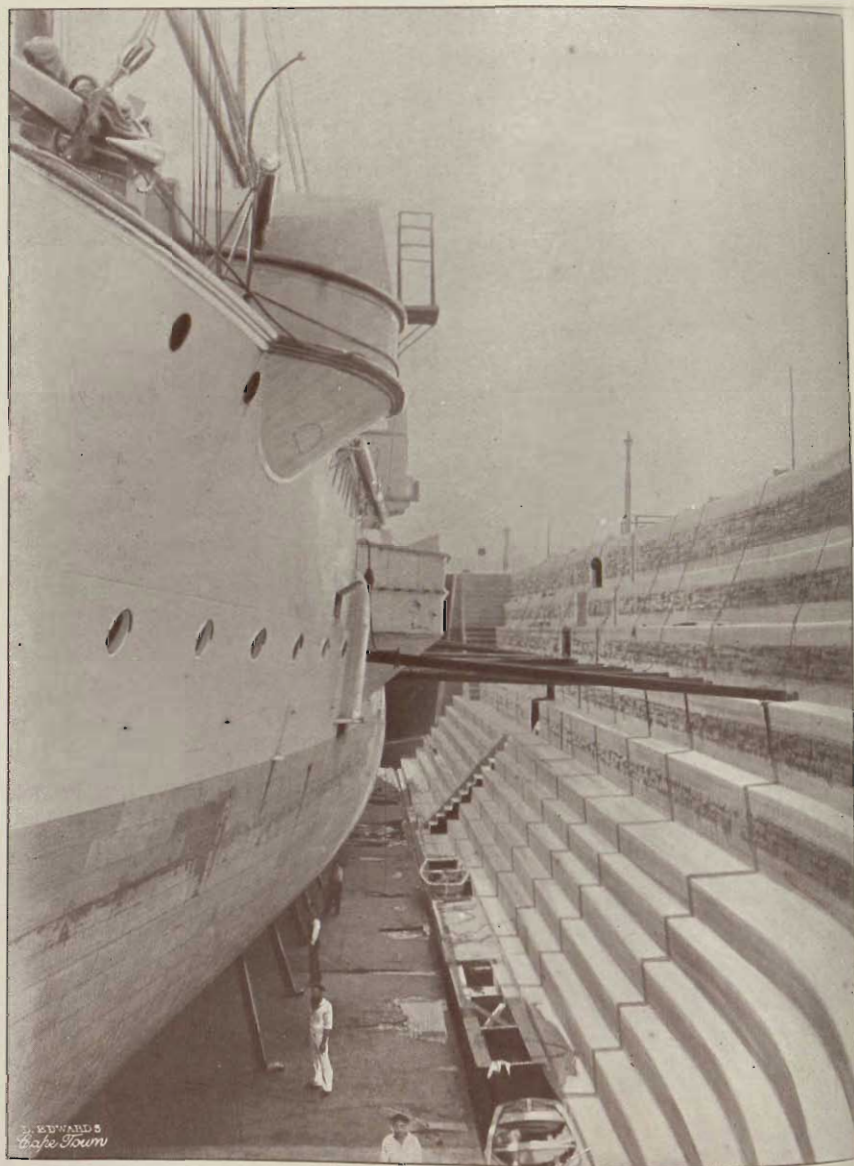
**THE SOUTH AFRICAN PUBLIC LIBRARY.**

On the right hand side of the Avenue opposite the Houses of Parliament is situated the South African Public Library, which has long been recognised as one of the finest institutions of the Colony.





THE PREMISES OF THE UNION S. S. Co.



THE GRAVING DOCK.



The building which was opened in 1860, is in the Grecian style of architecture, and contains a Museum at the one end and a Library at the other, but in a few months time the whole will be devoted to the use of the latter as a new museum has been built in the Gardens.

It was first established in 1818 and at that time a special tax on wine coming into the Cape Town market for its maintenance was imposed, this was afterwards withdrawn, and the institution had to support itself by voluntary subscription. The circulation of books was commenced in 1829, and the Library itself used to be in a side wing of the Commercial Exchange. In 1862 it received an annual grant from Government of £600 with additions of £1,000 and £500 at a later date.

The institution now contains about sixty thousand volumes, embracing every branch of science and literature. There are three special collections, which are much valued, namely the Dessinian collection, the Grey collection, and the Porter collection. In 1761 Mr. Joachim Nicholass van Dessin bequeathed to the Colony about 4,500 volumes, with some manuscript and paintings. This was the nucleus of the Public Library.

The Grey collection, presented by Sir George Grey, a former Governor, consists of several rare manuscripts on vellum or parchment, many of which are very handsomely illuminated. Amongst this collection is a Book of Hours, which belonged to Margaret de Valois; two valuable Dante manuscripts, one of the very earliest copies of "Roman de la Rose," a Hebrew Bible of the 13th century with Moorish embellishments, and facsimilies of two very old maps. There are also several early printed English books and works upon the native languages of Africa, Polynesia and New Zealand. There are about five thousand books belonging to this collection. The Hon. Mr. Porter, who was at one time Attorney-General for the Colony, and who was most popular during his residence in Cape Town, was asked to sit for his portrait, after a large sum of money had been subscribed for that purpose. This he declined to do, and the funds were then devoted to the purchase of books for the South African Public Library.

The Library Hall is a fine room, about eighty feet long by forty broad, well lighted and fitted with galleries and recesses, which are lined with bookshelves and books. Facing the principal entrance are three oil paintings, the centre is a portrait of Prince Alfred (now Duke of Coburg) as a midshipman, taken soon after the time that he visited the Cape in 1860. That to the right represents the landing of Van Riebeeck in Table Bay, and the other the landing of the Portuguese navigator, Bartholomew Diaz, at Algoa Bay, both being the work of C. D. Bull, a former Surveyor-General. In 1881 an experiment of opening the library on Sunday afternoons was tried, but failed. Since 1893, however, the introduction of the electric light, and a grant from the Town Council to assist in its maintenance, the opening of the institution in the evenings has been successful, and there is now a good attendance.

The Library is open to the public as follows:—

April 1st. to August 31st., 9 a.m. to 4.30 p.m., and 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. September 1st to October 31st, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. November 1st to January 31st, 9 a.m. to 5.30 p.m., and 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. February 1st to March 31st, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

THE CAPE TOWN CIRCULATING LIBRARY.—28, Castle St. contains over two thousand novels, which are lent to readers at a charge of 3d. per vol. by subscribing 1/- per month.

RAPHAEL'S CIRCULATING LIBRARY.

There are also public libraries at Woodstock and Mowbray.

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## LIGHTHOUSES.

### MOUILLE POINT LIGHTHOUSE.

is situated in latitude  $33^{\circ} 53' 56''$  S., longitude  $18^{\circ} 24' 26''$  E., and was first used in the beginning of 1865. The light (a fixed red one of the sixth order dioptric) is forty-four feet above high water, and is visible about ten miles off. It cost £800.

### GREEN POINT LIGHTHOUSE

was constructed at a cost of £1,917, the first light being shown in January, 1865. It is situated in latitude  $33^{\circ} 54' 4''$  S., longitude,  $18^{\circ} 24' 3''$  E. The light is white of the third order dioptric, flashes at an interval of ten seconds, and can be seen at a distance of thirteen miles in clear weather.

### ROBBEN ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE

is situated in latitude  $33^{\circ} 48' 52''$  S., longitude  $18^{\circ} 22' 33''$  E. It is erected on the Minto Hill, near the south end of the island, the tower being about sixty feet in height. The light (which is a fixed, white light of the first order) is placed at an elevation of 154 feet above high water, and in clear weather can be seen from a ship twenty miles away. The cost of its construction was £5,220, and the first light was exhibited in January, 1865.

### DASSEN ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE

was erected in April, 1893 on the highest part of the island, near the south end, in latitude  $33^{\circ} 26'$  S., longitude  $18^{\circ} 5' 15''$ , and is a cylindrical structure rising to the height of 90 feet. The light is a first order, 920 m/m, double flashing, half minute dioptric, with focal plane 155 feet above high water level, and it is visible in clear weather a distance of twenty miles.



## CAPE POINT LIGHTHOUSE.

An iron structure, thirty feet high, is on the southernmost extremity of the Cape Peninsula, known as Cape Point, at a height of 816 feet above high water. The structure is in latitude  $34^{\circ} 21' 12''$  S., longitude  $18^{\circ} 29' 30''$  E. It has a revolving white light of the first order, catoptric, showing a bright face for twelve seconds every minute, and can be seen in clear weather at a distance of thirty-six miles. The light was first exhibited in May, 1860.

## ROMAN ROCK LIGHTHOUSE.

takes its name from the rock on which it stands in False Bay. It is placed at an elevation of 54 feet above high water, and is in latitude  $34^{\circ} 10' 45''$  S., longitude,  $18^{\circ} 27' 30''$  E. The light is a white one of the second order catoptric, and shows a bright face for a space of twelve seconds every half minute. It was first exhibited in September, 1860.

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## SOUTH AFRICAN MUSEUM.

A new building has just been erected in the upper portion of the Botanic Gardens for museum purposes only, at a cost of £19,000 exclusive of fittings. It has a frontage of 155 feet, with a depth of 120 feet, and provision has been made for future extension. The frontages are faced with Saldanha Bay stone.

The old Museum will now be occupied as a reading room in connection with the public library.

## MUIZENBERG

May well be considered the pleasantest of Cape watering-places. It rejoices in a splendid stretch of sand shelving down so gradually into the sea as to make bathing perfectly safe as well as delightful on account of the warmth of the water. During the intensest heat of the summer season here may be enjoyed mornings and evenings of invigorating freshness, while the crowded and well-kept beach, with its gaily dressed ladies and happy romping little ones, testifies to the temperate nature of the climate during the remainder of the day. It is also remarkable that during the winter when the suburbs are damp and chill, at Muizenberg bright summer weather and balmy breezes are the rule. There are several good hotels, boarding-houses, and several furnished houses for the reception of visitors, with which are connected bathing-houses, which are extensively patronised from early morning until midday.

Good fishing may be enjoyed by the angler from the rocks of the neighbouring village, Kalk Bay, within three minutes' railway journey of Muizenberg Station. Close by is the fisherman's landing place, and every morning their white sails may be observed between 9 and 10-30 a.m. gradually approaching the shore, while a line of carts will be drawn up in the road in care of the Malay and coloured fish sellers awaiting the arrival of the boats. A crowd of villagers and visitors also collects around the centre of operations, for here fish may be purchased fresh from the ocean—now the only, as well as the best way of obtaining it, as the carts refuse to sell until they reach the suburbs of Cape Town, where, as well as in the Metropolis itself, better prices may be obtained.

A pretty little church is also situated at the entrance to the village. It is approached by a lych gate, and is perched upon rising ground. It is prettily decorated inside, and its bright Church-of-England services, and well-trained local choir, reflect the greatest credit upon all concerned.

There is also a Roman Catholic Church at a short distance, which, if one may judge from the attendance of worshippers, fairly satisfies the needs of that community.

There is an hourly train service to and from town. Land is in great demand, and several plots have already been bought for the erection of private seaside residences, many of which are already in rapid progress.

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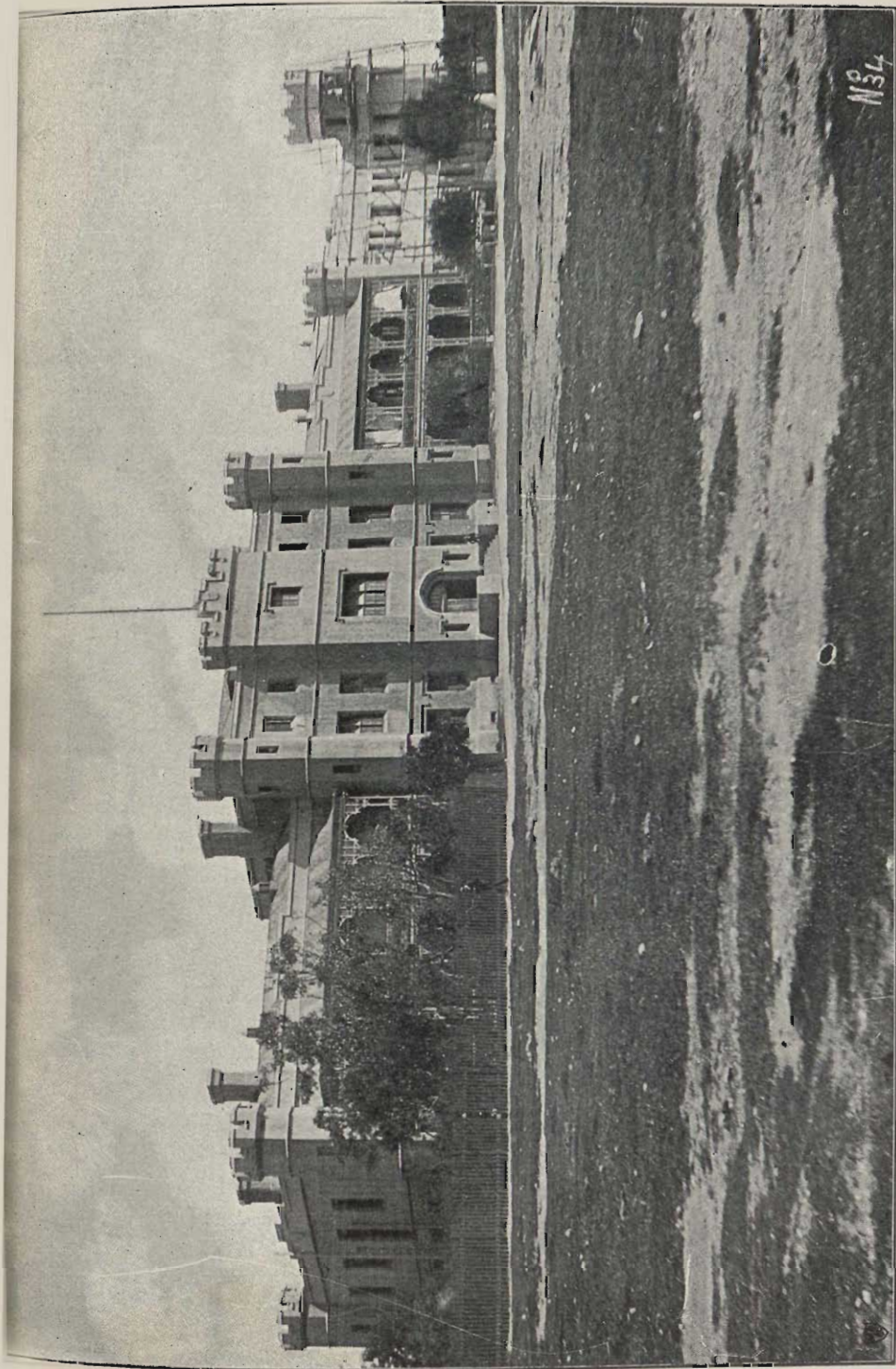
## THE INTERNATIONAL. BON ACCORD HOTEL.

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“The International Bon Accord Hotel” is an ideal residence. It is situated in the nearest and best inhabited suburb, known as “The Gardens,” upon high ground, affording a lovely panoramic view of the Metropolis and Harbour, and yet far removed from the noise, heat, dust, and smells, to which the lower portion of the town is subject, and is within ten minutes' walk of the principal business thoroughfares and places of amusement—amongst these may be enumerated the Good Hope Hall, where weekly Promenade Concerts are held, and the Government Avenue, a fashionable resort, where a Military Band plays at stated intervals. The Hotel is also near to Government House and the Houses of Parliament. It is under the personal management of the proprietor and his family, who make every effort to secure the comfort of their visitors. The Tariff is exceedingly moderate, and special terms can be arranged for prolonged visits.

Visitors to Cape Town who are non-residents at the Hotel, are recommended to take a walk during the afternoon or evening to the grounds and gardens, where seats are provided under the shade of trees.





Photo—Horsfall.

SOMERSET HOSPITAL



Photo—E. H. Short.

THE DEVIL'S PEAK.