

person over twenty-one years of age, of sound mind and unconvicted of crime. Each Commissioner to receive for his services a salary of £300 per annum. The said Commissioners to render a quarterly account to the Home Secretary, who shall at all times be prepared to give to the House of Commons and the public the full particulars of such lands.

2nd.—The Commissioners to have power to drain and make all the necessary arrangements to enable them to divide the lands into small Acre Farms; also to have the power to borrow a sum of National Notes, free from all interest, such notes to be legal tender for all taxes and purposes of trade; the notes to be used as a means of exchange to pay for labour, material and machinery in carrying out the above arrangements.

3rd.—The tenants of the farms also to be supplied with a sum of National Notes, free of all interest, to enable them to purchase agricultural implements, live stock, and all kinds of seeds, and to pay for the costs of farm houses and out buildings, and to purchase food, clothes, and necessaries for themselves and families for the first year. The said notes to be redeemed by the tenants out of their produce, at not less than one-twentieth per annum.

4th.—That the Chief Commissioner of Public Works be empowered to borrow a sum of National Notes to enable him to erect in all the large towns throughout the country large store houses, where the farmers can deposit their corn, and the producers of our worked-up articles their goods. When the goods and produce are deposited, the owners to receive their value in National Notes, thus enabling the producers to bring into existence wealth, *ad infinitum*, and the exchange medium facilitating consumption, *ad infinitum*, without the need of gold, and thus making it as easy to sell for money as it now is to buy with money.

5th.—The Chief Commissioner to have power to borrow a sum of National Notes, to enable him to purchase the dilapidated buildings in the metropolis and the large towns throughout the kingdom, such as is known as the fever courts, alleys and streets that breed disease among the

people, and to erect upon their sites large commodious dwelling houses, fitted up with bath rooms, and all the latest improvements, with public hall, library, washhouses and school-rooms attached; the rents to be paid at the rate of one-thirtieth per annum, to redeem the original outlay; the rents, after thirty years, to form a fund for local purposes.

6th.—The Chief Commissioner of Public Works to borrow a sum of National Notes to enable him to erect dwelling houses on the waste places near the large towns throughout the kingdom, for all classes of the community, and to enable those who work in the cities to live in the suburbs; he shall have power to make a railway to the said dwellings, and the charge for conveying passengers and goods on the same to be regulated by the cost of such line; and as it has been ascertained that it is possible to carry, after paying all expenses, five hundred persons over a distance of sixteen miles at two shillings a mile, the cost of each journey not to exceed one penny for sixteen miles; the notes borrowed to make these works to be redeemed out of the rentals of such works, at the rate of one-thirtieth per annum. And it is to be further enacted that when the fourth part of these sums is paid back into the National Treasury, that the same amount may be used for the purpose of making embankments to all our rivers, making of canals to convey the manure of our towns to the country, making of water-works, gas works, rail and tramways, and any other public work that will benefit the people; and that all these works shall be National property, no official on them to receive more than £300 a year for his services, and the superintendents to forward a quarterly statement to the Home Secretary, who shall publish the same in the public journals, so that all may know the full particulars of the National Property.

A MARKET BUILT FOR NOTHING.

“Labour, the source of all wealth, of all rent, and all interest.”

Daniel De Lisle Brock, Governor of Guernsey, was waited upon, Jonathan Duncan tells us in his pamphlet on the “Bankcharters,” by a deputation of the principal townsmen of St. Peter’s, who requested his countenance and assistance toward the erection of a covered market, much wanted in that

town. The Governor readily consented, and asked in what way he could assist them most effectually. He was told that the principal difficulty was to raise the required funds. The Governor replied that if that was the only difficulty he thought he could surmount it; but he would first ask if they had the requisite stores of bricks, timber, granite, and flags, but, above all, had they the skilled artizans and labourers required for the building of the market. They replied that there was no want of labour or raw material; that their difficulty was chiefly financial. "Oh!" replied the Governor (and let the name of Daniel De Lisle Brook be ever held in esteem for his enunciation of a great principle), "if that is all you want, I will, as Governor, sign, stamp, declare legal tender, and issue 5,000 Market Notes. With these pay for material and wages. Go to work and build your Market." The market was commenced. The first effects were to animate trade by the additional circulation for payment of slates, bricks, &c., and to increase the custom of the shops by the expenditure of the workmen employed on the market.

In process of time the market was finished. [J. H. has been on a pilgrimage to see it, when living at Jersey, and can bear witness to its convenience and completeness.] Stall rents became due, and were paid in these notes.

When the notes all came in the Governor collected them, and, at the head of a procession, with some little form and ceremony, he proceeded to the Town Cross, and publicly burnt them, by way of cancelment!

THE MARKET WAS BUILT FOR NOTHING.—Not exactly for nothing; the market cost labour, skill and material, and what else do any of the works of man require? What more do the Rivington Works or the Thames Embankment or Railways require but labour and material.

May 16, 1884.

JAMES HARVEY, Liverpool.





CHAPTER XII.

WHILE taking supper I met with an old colonist who, knowing that I had just arrived from Bloemfontein, chaffed me for living in a state where all the grass was blown away, and where all the wicked of the colonies went to dwell, and who laughed at the English, who comprised the bulk of the inhabitants of the capital of the Boer-Dutch Free State, for listening and allowing such false views as those contained in a manifesto, issued by the Colonial Hofmeyr, to be promulgated without contradiction. I smiled; being fully satisfied with my supper, I was in a humour to take all jokes. Now, this hotel meeting was only a letting off of steam. It pleased them, and hurt no member of the Africander Bond—a political confederation of the Hollanders and Germans of the Free State, who have an idea that, as Germany is too small, they must try and make a greater Germany outside. It pleased the stewards of the Bond to call the meeting, and particularly pleased the proprietor, who made a few pounds out of the gathering, the which he kept back instead of paying me for part of the material that graced the table, and which, as a true descendant of Moses, he of his own accord, having borrowed of me, and like the old Jew in Egypt, still owe the Egyptians and me, and I fear, for my sake, is likely to owe. The Volksblad charged Mr. Hofmeyr with insulting his fellow-colonists in a somewhat disparaging tone, making a comparison between them and their Republican neighbours. The comparison was simply intended to show that, being of one blood, and of one race, the Cape colonists who call themselves Africanders, are less patriotic than their cousins beyond the Orange River, owing to certain conditions which Mr. Hofmeyr hopes to remove. They don't want to fight, and they don't want to take the trouble to record their votes in parliamentary elections, because the official notices, or

unofficial appeals made to them in that cause, are framed in a language not understood by them. Here Mr. Hofmeyr is wrong, for readers of the *Government Gazette* will find intellectual food in Dutch and English. Mr. Hofmeyr seems to make his complaint, not so much on this ground, as the general denial of equal rights to use the Dutch language in courts and schools. The farmers speaking only Dutch, are discontented at being compelled to speak to a magistrate, at all events in court, through an interpreter, particularly when the interpreter happens to be a black or coloured man. This feeling of injustice and of unequal treatment thence derived, pervades their whole political life, and paralyses their sense of citizenship. The complaint may not be a reasonable one; nor can Mr. Hofmeyr be ignorant of the largely-increased political vitality awakened amongst Dutch-speaking colonists in consequence of the agitations of the last three years. We cannot believe, however, that Mr. Hofmeyr has given a wholly false representation of the opinions of his constituents, and it is certain that he meant no insult to them in the representation, whether true or false.

“Give the Dutch-speaking colonists equal rights of language,” Mr. Hofmeyr says, “and they will discharge the obligations of citizens as readily and as cheerfully as their kinsmen in the Free State.” Then another class of critics cry out that what Mr. Hofmeyr wants is to substitute the Dutch language for that of England, and to revolutionize our whole system of official correspondence and record. We confess that, reading the translation of Mr. Hofmeyr’s speech, we saw no trace of this subtle and mischievous design. Independently of the fact that this is a British Colony, there are many substantial reasons why the English language should hold its position as the official language of the country. If the Cape Colony ever ceases to be British territory, its new masters will settle the point for themselves, and, as its seaports at least would in that case be likely to have a succession of masters, the point would probably be settled, and unsettled, and settled again, with as much frequency as the recurrence of a revolution in a South American Republic. Meanwhile, however, the English language, being

secured in its supremacy, there is surely no shock to the Constitution in the concession of a greater latitude in the official use of the Dutch or Africander tongue. Unity of language is a condition of political unity very much to be desired; but it is by no means an essential condition. The introduction of the Dutch language into Parliament was opposed on the ground that every colonist, sufficiently educated to assist in making laws for us, can speak and read English; and, for a mere sentiment, it was a pity to confuse debate with the use of divers tongues. But the Dutch language having been admitted to equal rights with English in Parliament, it is absurdly inconsistent to cry out against its admission in divisional councils and magistrates' courts. Moreover, it is absurd to force the Dutch-speaking colonist to accept the English language as the medium of instruction in elementary schools, where the time spent by the child gives it no chance of becoming familiar with that language. Why should the child not be taught simple lessons in grammar, geography, history, and the like, in its mother-tongue? The alternative is not that English will be mastered, much less loved, but that the pupil will learn nothing.

This great concession having been made, it is silly to fret and fume about the smaller concession. We shall not induce the people to learn English one day the sooner by putting any kind of affront on their Dutch. On the contrary, by doing so we shall create or strengthen a sentimental hatred of the English language, and provoke an anti-educational covenant. Whatever the Bond may endeavour to do the other way, the English language will make its way as education extends, and the Africander, who has learned to read his own *patois*, will loathe the light food procurable therefrom, and long for acquaintance with a nobler literature. It is just a question of the survival of the fittest, nor shall we forward the solution a bit by artificial obstacles or restraints. The day is not past for the old coarse method by which the Dutch settlers of the Netherlands, under the East India Company, suppressed the language of the Huguenot settlers, who brought them some of their best blood. The admission of the Dutch language to Parliament inaugurated a new era

of conciliation. Every man who knew what that measure really meant recognised in it the thin end of the wedge. If it were wise or expedient to insist on unity of language in the colony, then was the time to make the stand. Those English who like their own language best, and desire its extension amongst our fellow-colonists of every class, will best gain their end by leaving the issue to the natural law, which regulates the survival and predominance of types, whether in the animal or vegetable kingdoms, or in the domains of thought and the source they spring from.

The following is the Text of the Constitution of the Afri-cander Bond and Farmers' Association, as adopted by the Congress recently held at Richmond :—

THE AFRICANDER BOND.

GENERAL CONSTITUTION.

Art. 1.—The Bond recognises no nationality, except that of the Afrianders, and deems all such to belong to the same who, of whatever race they may be, have the welfare of South Africa in view.

Art. 2.—The object of the Afriander Bond is :—The forming of a South African nationality by the promotion of true patriotism, as a preparation for the final destiny—a united South Africa.

Art. 3.—The Bond shall endeavour to attain this object by encouraging the Afrianders to assert themselves, politically as well as socially, as a nation.

Art. 4.—As ordinary member of the Bond, one may be admitted in accordance with regulations to be adopted by the respective provinces.

Art. 5.—The Bond shall be divided into provinces, one of which shall be established in each Republic, or State, and Colony of South Africa.

Art. 6.—The management shall, as far as practicable, be exercised by means of Ward Committees, District Committees, Circle Committees, Provincial Committees, and a Central Committee.

Art. 7.—The Central Committee shall consist of two repre-

representatives of each Provincial Committee, who shall remain in office until their several Provincial Committees shall have elected other representatives in their stead.

Art. 8.—The Central Committee shall meet at least once a week, in each province alternately, on a day to be selected by itself, and, as much as possible, at a centrally-situated spot, to be chosen by the representatives of the provinces whose turn it may be; but should these representatives not agree in their choice, then the Central Committee itself shall determine at which spot in the province in question it shall meet.

Art. 9.—The Central Committee shall watch over the general interests of the Bond, and publish a report of its doings, as well as of the general condition of the Bond, as soon as possible after the conclusion of each of its meetings.

Art. 10.—The Provincial Committee shall—

- (a) Provide for the collection, and, in consultation with the Central Committee, for the appropriation of all moneys under their charge.
- (b) Transmit a third of all moneys paid into their funds to the Central Committee.
- (c) Superintend the doings of the Committees subordinate to them.
- (d) Meet at least once a year, forward reports of their doings to the Central Committee, in accordance with the instructions of that body, and before separating appoint the day and place of their next meeting.

Art. 11.—Every Province may enact a Provincial Committee for the discharge of its functions, provided that its terms shall not be opposed to those of the General Committee.

Art. 12.—In consideration of the circumstances there existing, the Cape Colony shall be at liberty to organise a province of the Bond under the name of *Afrikaander Bond en Boerenvereniging van de Kaap Kolonie*.

Art. 13.—All elections of Committee Members shall take place by ballot.

Art. 14.—The Central Committee may, with due regard to

the opinions of the Provincial Committee, amend this Constitution.

Art. 15.—This Constitution shall be laid before every Branch of the Africander Bond in South Africa, and of the Farmers' Association in the Cape Colony, with the request to communicate their opinions thereon to the Central Committee, before the 26th day of September, 1883, and the Central Committee shall then be at liberty to amend the Constitution in accordance with the opinions so obtained, and shall thereupon promulgate the same.

NOTE.—It was proposed at Richmond by Mr. Du Toit that the words "With its own flag" should be attached to Article 2, and that the proviso of "European descent" should be inserted in Article 1. of the General Constitution. Both motions were rejected with an overwhelming majority, as was also a suggestion of Mr. Moolman's to charge the "*Bond en Vereeniging* with the care of our Volkstaal."

To enable my readers to comprehend the language question in its full importance I feel I cannot refrain from reprinting the thoughts of one of the best of colonial judges, and in doing so, I pay a tribute of gratitude to him for it, and this will be easily understood from the following :—

THE FUTURE LANGUAGE OF SOUTH AFRICA.

*By the HON. J. H. DE VILLIERS, Chief Justice of the
Cape Colony.*

What is the future language of South Africa to be? In speaking of the language of South Africa, I mean the language of the bulk of the population, including not only the officials, the mercantile community, the professional and other highly educated classes, but also the agricultural population and the labouring classes. Will the language of Holland, pure and undecayed, re-establish its supremacy? Or will it be the language of Holland as altered, or as some would say, corrupted, in this colony by contact with the language of Englishmen, Germans, Malays and Hottentots, and by the slow process of dialectic growth and phonetic decay, or will English prevail over both the former?

To most people the answer to these questions will appear a simple one. "This is an English Colony," they will say, "and, sooner or later, English must become the mother-tongue of the inhabitants." In arguing thus, however, they are apt to forget that the mother-tongue of a country cannot, like a worn-out garment, be cast aside, when it has served its purpose—that it takes many years before a strange language can be taught to the mass of the people; that it must take several generations before it can become familiar; old associations and prejudices will ever combine to assist the intruder. At the present moment, incredible as it may appear, there are still persons born, bred, and living, in the Highlands of Scotland, and in Wales, who do not understand, or even speak the English language. In Canada, a portion of the population still speak and understand French only, in some parts of Alsace the peasants, after a French occupation of about two centuries, speak only German, and in parts of Friesland, the language spoken by the rural population is wholly unintelligible to the inhabitants of some of the other provinces of Holland.

It is the peasantry who are always the most tenacious of a language, and it is the peasantry who constitute the bulk of our colonial population. Let me not, however, be understood as arguing the impossibility of one language being supplanted by another as the living and spoken language of a nation. If this were my contention, it would be unnecessary to say another word; for it would follow, as a logical sequence, that Cape Dutch, which is the language of the bulk of the people of the colony, will not, and cannot be superseded by any other. My object has rather been to show, at the outset, that the question which forms the subject of this discourse is not so easy of solution as some would suppose.

There have, undoubtedly, been instances in which a whole nation has adopted a foreign language to the exclusion of its own. In some cases the language of a conquering nation has entirely taken the place of that of the conquered; for example, the language introduced into England by the Anglo Saxons, and Jutes entirely dominated that of the

early Britons, who spoke a Celtic dialect; but in an incredible short space of time they adopted the language of Rome, together with her laws and institutions. In other cases the conquerors adopted the language of the conquered: the Franks, who were a Teutonic race, overran France after the fall of the Roman empire, and adopted the language spoken by the inhabitants as their own, retaining only a few Teutonic words, idioms, and phrases. For three centuries after the Norman conquest of England, French and English lived side by side, until, in the end, English displaced the language of the conquering nation. But we need not go far in search of illustrations: in the western districts of this colony the various dialects of the aborigines have already given way to Cape Dutch, and in the eastern districts they are slowly, but surely, retreating before the steady advance of English and Cape Dutch.

What is true of nations and tribes is also true of large bodies of immigrants who settle in countries where a language different from their own is spoken. The Huguenots, who fled from France after the revocation of the Edict of Nantes, towards the end of the seventeenth century, readily acquired the language of the countries in which they respectively settled, and their descendants, in most cases, lost the knowledge of their mother-tongue. The Abbé de la Caille, who visited the Cape for astronomical purposes, sixty years after the arrival of the French refugees, gives the following testimony derived from personal observation.

After describing the valley of Drakenstein, in the neighbourhood of which the Huguenots first settled, he says:—"In regard to these refugees, they preserved the French language, and taught it to their children; but the latter, being obliged to speak Dutch, partly because they transact all their business with the Dutchman and Germans who speak Dutch, and partly because they are either married or related to Germans and Dutch, have not taught their children French, so that as none of the original refugees are left, it is only their children who speak French, and they are all old. I have not seen a single person under forty who spoke French, unless he had himself come from France. I cannot, however, assert that

this is universally true ; but I have been assured by those who speak French that in twenty years time there will not be a person at Drakenstein who will be able to speak that language."

If instead of twenty years the Abbe's informers had said *fifty*, the prediction would most certainly have been correct. At the beginning of this century the knowledge of the French language was wholly lost among the decendants of the Huguenots, and if, at the present time, there are a few of them who understand or speak French, they may have acquired it from their French teacher ; but they certainly have not inherited it from their forefathers. It is clear, then that in this colony the native languages are doomed to perish, and that French will not revive ; but it is not equally clear which language will permanently take their place. Two or more European languages may for a time exist here side by side, but it requires no prophetic foresight to foretell that in the end one will displace the other. The question is which is it to be ?

Sixty years ago it was confidently predicted that Dutch—that is to say the language of Holland, which is distinguished from Cape Dutch (the language of the Cape)—would prevail. At that time, so far as one can judge from the scanty literature of the period, the antagonism between Dutch and English was at its height. The Dutch party considered it a mark of patriotism to speak and propagate Dutch. The English party, on the other hand, considered it a mark of loyalty to speak and propagate their own tongue. Gradually, however, the bitterness of feeling diminished in intensity, but it never wholly died out. When, at the end of 1825, the Dutch *Tydschrift* came to an end, the *English Chronicle* sounded a note of triumph in the following terms :—"Othello's occupation gone. Died, at the age of 365 days, *Het Nederduitsch Zuid Afrikaansch Tydschrift*, deeply regretted by the Antediluvians of the Cape and the descendants of Van Riebeck, whose writings the deceased deeply studied, and whose arms have lately been renewed over the town house of His Majesty George IV. The departed was of a peculiar disposition and temper, and, although nursed, dandled, and rocked

in the very cradle of Government and the sworn son of Great Britain, yet he never opened his lips in praise of her customs manners, laws and language." Amenities like these, so far from discouraging the advocates of the Dutch language, rather urged them on to greater efforts, and the deceased periodical saw the light again under a slightly different title. It was felt, however, that the corruption which the Dutch language had undergone was a serious obstacle to its general diffusion, and its supporters now strove to purify it of its adulterations, or, in other words, to restore the language of Holland free from the colonial alloy. As a first step towards obtaining this end a very learned professor undertook to write a work in which the barbarisms of Cape Dutch would be exposed and the people of this colony taught not only to read, but also to converse in good Dutch—a work, in short, which would have the miraculous effect of immediately substituting one language for another as the mother-tongue of the people. The idea was conceived in 1840. In 1844 the work appeared under the title: "The Dutch Language restored in South Africa;" but instead of fulfilling the ambitious designs of its promoters, it was an ordinary grammar of the Dutch language, with a paragraph here and there pointing out idioms peculiar to the Cape, and with an appendix containing a list of words used at the Cape, but not recognised as sterling in Holland. The preface, however, explains the alteration in the design. After stating that the object which the writer originally had in view was to restore the Dutch language in South Africa, he adds: "In writing this we cannot refrain from smiling at the very thought that we should, at the commencement of our undertaking, have persuaded ourselves that this was so much as possible. Three years and-a-half have since elapsed, and, during that time, we have observed so many fresh proofs of indifference in regard to the Dutch language, that we have altogether changed our opinion as to the possibility of further checking the evil. We have come to consider the language, to which we have been devoting our labours, as a physician does an incurable patient, whose worst sufferings may perhaps be allayed, whose certain dissolution may perhaps be retarded,

but of whose complete recovery there no longer exists the faintest hope." In the body of the work, however, the author admits (p. 28) that "the civilized classes are everywhere doing their utmost to get rid of the Cape idioms," and that the Cape vulgarisms, of which the book gives examples, are characteristic of the speech of the lower classes. He adds that those who speak grammatically are said to speak high Dutch, and that an Englishman who speaks Dutch always uses the vulgar tongue of the Cape.

From 1844 to the present time the indifference complained of by Dr. Changuion has been increasing rather than falling off, while, if he were still amongst us, he would no longer have the consolation of thinking that the civilised classes are forsaking the Cape Dutch dialect. On the contrary, he would find that what is wrongly called High Dutch has been almost altogether banished from ordinary conversation, and that even in the pulpit the younger generation of Dutch reformed clergymen do not always aspire to that grammatical accuracy which distinguished and still distinguishes the older generation of Dutch reformed clergymen, and which is still expected from a pulpit orator in Holland. Even immigrants arriving here from Holland gradually adopt our Cape idioms, and their children soon learn to converse in our soft and easy *patois*, in preference to their harsher mother-tongue. This may be owing to the very small number of these immigrants who come out to South Africa; but there exists no likelihood that a stream of immigration will ever flow from Holland large enough to have any influence upon the future language of this country. Judging then, from the experience of past times, and from the tendencies of the present, we may safely conclude that the present language of Holland is not destined to become the future language of South Africa.

No longer indeed do we hear of endeavours to restore the Dutch language in South Africa, but probably very few of us are aware that strenuous efforts are now being made in certain quarters to give permanency to the Cape Dutch dialect by recognising and adopting it as the literary language of South Africa. A journal, under the name of the *Patriot*, has been started, which professes to employ this language only,

and, I understand, that the promoters of the journal intend, before long, to publish a history of South Africa, and a translation of the Bible in the same language. If the object of the movement is to reach the mind and understanding of those to whom any other language is unintelligible, nothing can be more praiseworthy. But it appears to me doubtful, to say the least, whether there is any considerable portion of our population who are unable to understand correct Dutch. Corrupt as the Cape Dutch may be, I apprehend that those who would have sufficient education and intelligence to read and understand it, would also be able to read and understand grammatical Dutch. There can be no doubt that the wants of the Dutch-speaking colonists must, for a long time to come, be supplied by other than English newspapers; but I am not aware that the existing Dutch papers, which have hitherto been conducted with so much ability, fairness, and moderation, are unable to supply those wants; and their conductors certainly have not yet deemed it necessary to descend to the use of the Cape Dutch merely for the purpose of making themselves understood. Nor am I aware that the Dutch State translation of the Scriptures is unintelligible to any considerable portion of the Dutch-speaking inhabitants of the colony. The language of this version, like that of the English authorised version, and Luther's German translation is at once so simple and so pure, that it is difficult to believe in the necessity for another version better suited to the intelligence of the upper or of the lower class. Of course I am not now concerned with the question whether a nearer approach might not be made to the original in accordance with the suggestions of modern criticism, but merely with the question whether or not the language is intelligible.

The German Protestant still clings with fondness, not unmixed with pride, to the celebrated translation of Martin Luther, and would resent as an outrage on his sense of propriety any attempt to substitute for it a version in *Platt Deutsch* for the benefit of the lower classes. The Dutch authorised version has indeed undergone some alterations in spelling, and in some points of grammar, but in the main it still retains the language and grammatical structure which

were given to it by the painstaking translators appointed by the Synod of Dort in the year 1619. It has been reserved for our South African patriots to discover that there is a depth of simplicity, beyond even that which the Dutch version has reached, and that there exists a class of people in our midst whose simple minds and weak understanding cannot be reached without (if I may use the expression) levelling down the Scriptures to their standard.

For my own part I do not believe that the Dutch-speaking inhabitants of this colony have attained that stage of intellectual degradation ; but, even if they had, it would be a far more useful and noble employment to assist in levelling-up their intelligence than to suppress the only book which, by being universally read, still preserves amongst us a standard of correct, pure, and idiomatic Dutch. For scientific purposes, no doubt, it may prove useful to preserve evidence of the great change which the Dutch language has undergone by being transplanted from Holland to this colony. In the same way the promoters of the movement I have mentioned might do good service by collecting those bits of humorous and racy poetry in which the country abounds, and for which the language is not ill-adapted. But if the new South African literature is intended to arrest the spread of English, and prevent the importation of the Dutch, I am firmly convinced that it will prove a mistake, and end in failure. It is idle to expect that Cape Dutch will soon, if ever, become a literary language in the highest sense of the term, capable of competing either with Dutch or with English. Poor in the number of its words, weak in its inflections, wanting in accuracy of meaning, and incapable of expressing ideas connected with the higher spheres of thought, it will have to undergo great modification before it will be able to produce a literature worthy of the name. The force and energy which would be wasted in bringing the language into such a condition would be more usefully employed in appropriating that rich and glorious language, which is ready to our hands, as a literary language of the first rank.

The worst feature of the new movement is that it appeals to the patriotism of the colonists for support—as if patriotism

consisted solely in the extension of the customs of our forefathers, whether such customs are worthy of retention or not. Surely, it would be a more genuine patriotism to improve and elevate the mental condition of our countrymen, by opening up to them those vast resources of intellectual wealth which a study of English literature must reveal: and if any prejudices stood in his way, the true patriot would combat them at the risk of his own popularity, in order that his countrymen might not be left behind in the race after culture and mental improvement. In truth, it is a misuse of terms to speak of patriotism in connection with this subject. The French colonist of Canada or the Dutch colonist of the Cape does not love his own country the more because English or Dutch is his mother-tongue. The Australian, or the Canadian of English descent does not love his own country the less because English is his mother-tongue. The Americans, before the Independence, spoke English; but they, nevertheless, manfully asserted their rights against the Government and Parliament of Great Britain. When they had obtained their independence, their use of the English language did not prevent them from becoming one of the chief rivals of the mother-country. I have no fear, therefore, for the patriotism of South Africans, whether they be inhabitants of this colony or of the neighbouring states, if they shall cease to use a Dutch dialect as their mother-tongue.

All honour be to that country, physically so small, morally so great, which first introduced civilisation into South Africa. I often wish that her history were more studied here, especially by those who profess to look up to her as the model for our imitation. But it is unfortunately too true that the country, which was herself the birthplace of the religious and civil liberty of modern times, was the indirect means of establishing the grossest form of despotism in her colonies. If the statesmen of Holland had been immediately responsible for the good government of her colonies, I have no doubt that things would have been different; but the government of her East Indian possessions was entrusted to a trading company, which cared little for the moral, intellectual and material advancement of the inhabitants, so long as the Com-

pany enjoyed the monopoly of trade, and brought in a good return to the proprietors. The Cape of Good Hope, as one of the trading stations of the Company, fell directly under their sway. For a century-and-a-half they misgoverned this country to such an extent that the evil effects of their misgovernment are still perceptible. If you wish to have proofs for this assertion, let me refer you to the excellent lectures of that learned judge and true patriot, whose early death the members of his profession and the whole colony have not ceased to deplore; I mean the late Mr. Justice Watermeyer.

Certainly, our Dutch rulers gave very little encouragement to any language but their own. I have already mentioned the two causes to which the Abbé de la Caille ascribed the decline and gradual extinction of the French language among the descendants of the Huguenot refugees. He might have added a third, more potent than either. It was the firm determination and fixed policy of the Chamber of Seventeen, as the General Council of Direction of the Dutch East Indian Company was called, to allow the use of the French language only so far as it was absolutely necessary, and to prevent its spread altogether, and the local councillors at the Cape were not remiss in carrying out the wishes of their superiors. To the truth of this assertion the old records of this colony bear ample testimony; but I will content myself with a very few quotations. In the year 1701, the local council wrote to the Chamber, informing them that the French minister, Pierre Simon, was about to leave the Colony, and requested them to send out another minister in his place. The answer, addressed to Governor Vander Stel, and signed by all the members of the Chamber, is dated the 20th September, 1701, and runs thus:—

“We presume that the Rev. Pierre Simon will not leave the Colony until another minister arrives to take his place. One who understands the Dutch and French languages will be sent out by the Chamber of Amsterdam, not, as we understand it, with the view of preaching in the latter language, but only for the purpose of visiting, admonishing, and comforting those old Colonists who do not understand our language. By such means we may, in course of time,

succeed in having that language destroyed (the Dutch word is *gemortificurt*—mortified), and, as it were, banished from the place; and, with this object in view, you will take care that the schools shall serve no other or further purpose than to teach the youth to read and write in our language.”

After carefully searching the records, I do not find that any formal resolution on the subject was passed by the Council upon receipt of this despatch; but, in their reply dated the 3rd February, 1702, and containing a very interesting report on the social and financial condition of the Colony, the following passage occurs:—

“We will take care that, through the use of the Dutch language in the church and school at Drakenstein, the French language shall come into disuse among the members of the congregations, and thus, in course of time, be entirely rooted out; and this will the more readily happen, inasmuch as there are no longer any French schools.”

The council kept their promise faithfully, and lost no opportunity of discouraging, and even prohibiting the use of the French language. Thus I find that, in December, 1709, upon the receipt of a letter in French from a Consistory at Drakenstein, submitting the names of certain persons as fit and proper to be elected members of the Consistory, the council passed the following resolution:—“That the Consistory be informed that they shall not in future have to write letters to Government in the French language, but that it shall be done in Dutch only.”

From what I have said about the Dutch East India Company it seems clear that we owe but a trifling debt of gratitude to *their* memory; and such a debt as we do owe, we should but inadequately discharge by perpetuating a language which, in the ears of the directors, would have sounded more odious than French, and more barbarous than the English language itself. But I do not believe that it will be perpetuated. For several generations the two languages may live, more or less, peaceably side by side, but in the end the fitter one will survive.

Gradually the old prejudices against the English are giving way to more rational views. The youngest of us can pro-

bably remember the time when it would have been considered a species of sacrilege to propose that a sermon in English should be preached in the Dutch Reformed Church of this town, whereas we now find that an English service is held as regularly as a Dutch service. In many a so-called Dutch household English is the home language of the family ; and, as the rising generation grows up, this tendency may be expected to increase. In the capital of the Orange Free State itself, I am credibly informed that English is as frequently heard in ordinary conversation as Dutch ; nay, it has been confidently asserted by the chief Free State paper that English is spoken more accurately and more generally in Bloemfontein than in the capital of this colony.

When we refer to the literature imported into this country, we find that English books exceed in number all the rest put together ; and, in such country villages as have public libraries, English books constitute the great bulk of the collection. In the Bloemfontein library itself, which may be looked upon as, to a certain extent, indicative of the tastes of the reading public of the colony, English books outnumber the Dutch in the proportion of nine to one. Nor is all this to be wondered at : the practical usefulness of a language will always be the best guarantee for its diffusion. In the conduct of important mercantile transactions, and in the carrying on of official correspondence, the use of English has become well-nigh indispensable. Stern necessity, moreover, requires a knowledge of the English language from those who desire to serve their country in Parliament, or to practise in the law courts, or to become members of divisional councils and municipalities, or to become qualified for the office of justice of the peace, or to engage in the noble occupation of teaching the youth of the colony. But, independently of the practical usefulness of a language, its inherent richness and power will give it immense advantage over its poorer and weaker rival. It has been eloquently remarked by Donaldson, in his "Varronianus," that "a language is only dear to us when we know its capabilities, and when it is hallowed by a thousand connections with our civilization, our literature, and our comforts. So long as it merely lisps the inarticulated utter-

ances of half-educated men it has no hold upon the hearts of those who speak it, and it is readily neglected or thrown aside in favour of the more cultivated idiom which, while it finds names for luxuries of civilization hitherto unknown, also opens a communication with those who appear as the heralds of moral and intellectual regeneration." The truth of this remark is illustrated by the readiness with which the ancient Gauls accepted the language of the Romans.

It is, no doubt, true that the language of a nation is the product, rather than the cause of their mental qualities; but it is also equally true that the intellectual progress of a nation is mightily influenced by the character of the language which they use, whether they have inherited it from their ancestors, or adopted it from another race. "Men," says Bacon, "believe that their reason is lord over their words; but it happens, too, that words exercise a reciprocal and reactionary power over our intellect." Can the language of a people, then, be a matter of indifference to those who have their interests at heart? If it be true that our words exercise a reciprocal and reactionary power over our intellect, it surely is a matter of the greatest importance that they should be exact in their meaning, that they should be capable of dealing with a wide range of subject, and that they should not be deficient in the power of giving expression to the thoughts of great thinkers. Where qualities like these are wanting in the old language, but are abundantly present in the new, it is no presumption to predict that the former must yield to the latter. Ideas which were incapable of expression in the old language find ready admission by being clothed in the new. In the course of time the new language becomes interwoven with the daily life of the people, and, instead of being regarded as an intruder, becomes as precious to them as it is to those with whom it had its origin.

As an abstract proposition no one will doubt that it is good, in every respect, for a people that they should speak a common language. The occupations of life are so pressing, and the natural indolence of man is so great, that it is vain to expect that a large proportion of the population will be able to master two or more languages. So long, however,

as different classes speak different languages, no community of interest can permanently exist between them. With so many elements of discord existing in our comparatively small and scattered community, it would be a real advantage to this country if the antagonism arising from a difference of language could be entirely done away with.

At the present time, the question I have been discussing assumes more than ordinary importance. A vague yearning for a closer union of the disjointed fragments of the European population has come over the land. The desire for a confederation of the different States and Colonies of South Africa is gradually gaining ground. With some, the idea takes the shape of a dominion under the British Crown, with others that of a confederation of independent States. I am not now going to tread on the delicate and forbidden ground of politics; but this I will say, that whether we are to have a South African Dominion under the British flag, or a union of Independent States, under a South African flag, the advantages of a common language will be equally great. What the future will bring forth none of us can tell. Taken at our best, the range of our mental vision is so limited, that we oftener than not fail to detect the full operation of all those circumstances which are silently moulding the events of the future. Sudden catastrophe, too, will sometimes upset the most careful calculations; but considerations such as these need not deter us from studying the signs of the times, and bringing our knowledge and experience of the past to bear upon the probabilities of the future. Something is gained if we are thus enabled to prepare, and bid others prepare, for those coming events whose shadows we see dimly cast before them, and nothing will be lost if our anticipations should not be fully realised. Where it is found as a fact that the current of events is uniformly tending in one and the same direction, it may be our duty to do everything in our power to stem the current, or it may be a wiser course to accept what is inevitable; but it would be sheer folly to close our eyes to the existence of the fact.

Apply these remarks to the question with which I started. I have only to add that all the facts and arguments, which I

have to-day brought forward, appear to me to point to the conclusion that the time is still far distant when the inhabitants of this colony will speak and acknowledge one common mother-tongue; that it will, however, come at last, and that, when it does come, the language of Great Britain will also be the language of South Africa.

TRIUMPHS OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

Now gather all our Saxon bards, let harps and hearts be strong,
To celebrate the triumphs of our own good Saxon tongue;
Far stronger far, than hosts that march with battle-flags unfurled
It goes with Freedom, Thought, and Truth, to rouse and rule the world,

Stout Albion learns its household lays on every surf-worn shore.
And Scotland hears its echoing far as Orkney's breakers roar.
From Jura's crags and Mona's hills it floats on every gale,
And warms with eloquence and song the homes of Innisfail.

On many a wide and swarming deck it scales the rough waves' crest,
Seeking its peerless heritage—the fresh and fruitful West.
It climbs New England's rocky steeps as victor mounts a throne;
Niagara knows and greets the voice, still mightier than its own.

It spreads where Winter piles deep snows on deep Canadian plains.,
And where on Essequibo's banks eternal Summer reigns;
It glads Acadia's misty coasts, Jamaica's glowing isle,
And bides where, gay with early flowers, green Texan prairies smile:
It tracks the loud swift Oregon, through sunset valleys rolled,
And soars where Californian brooks wash down their sands of gold.

It sounds in Borneo's camphor-groves, on seas of fierce Malay,
In fields that curb old Ganges' flood, and towers of proud Bombay;
It wakes up Aden's flashing eyes, dusk brows and swarthy limbs,
The dark Siberian soothes her child with English cradle hymns.

Tasmania's maids are wooed and won in gentle Saxon speech;
Australian boys read Crusoe's life by Sydney's sheltered beach;
It dwells where Afric's southmost capes meet oceans broad and blue,
And Nienveld's rugged mountains gird the wide and waste Karroo.

It kindles realms so far apart, that while its praise you sing,
These may be clad with Autumn's fruits, and those with flowers of spring
It quickens lends whose meteor lights flame in an Arctic sky,
And lands for which the Southern Cross hangs its orbit fires on high.

It goes with all that Prophets told, and righteous kings desired;
With all that great Apostles taught and glorious Greeks admired.
With Shakespeare's deep and wondrous verse, and Milton's loftier mind,
With Alfred's laws, and Newton's lore, to cheer and bless mankind.

Mark, as it spreads, how deserts bloom, and error flies away,
 As vanishes the mist of night before the star of day !
 But grand as are the victories whose monuments we see,
 These are but as the dawn, which speaks of noontide yet to be.

Take heed, then heirs of Saxon fame ; take heed, nor once disgrace,
 With deadly pen or spoiling sword, our noble tongue and race.
 Go forth prepared in every clime to love and help each other,
 And judge that they who counsel strife would bid you smite a brother.

Go forth and jointly speed the time, by good men prayed for long,
 When Christian States, grown just and wise, will scorn revenge and
 wrong ;

When earth's oppressed and savage tribes shall cease to pine or roam,
 All taught to prize these English words—Faith, Freedom, Heaven and
 Home. J. C. LYONS.

Holding, as I do, the strongest views and feelings, due to my Saxon nationality and feelings, an inborn pride that it was the grandest thing to be born an Englishman ; but for fear that I might embue my fellow Saxon countrymen with too much pride and self esteem, I here subjoin the lesson and example set in the speech of England's Saxon Gladstone, so far as our language is concerned, that is so well known to be the commercial language of the day, that even the celebrated Pearl Andrews, of Boston, America, whom I here greet, and yet hope to see on the other side of the Atlantic, who for so many years has advocated a universal language, that I feel that he even must realize that naturally the Saxon language will dominate for all purposes all over the world during the next century, and that all people of all nations will consider no education complete that does not enable a dweller of any country to know English, as well as his own native tongue.

ENGLISH SELF-ESTEEM.

And now I will grapple with the noble Lord (Palmerston), on the ground which he selected for himself, in the most triumphant portion of his speech, by his reference to those emphatic words, *Civis Romanus sum*. He vaunted, amidst the cheers of his supporters, that under his administration an Englishman should be, throughout the world, what the citizen of Rome had been. What, then, sir, was a Roman

citizen? He was the member of a privileged caste; he belonged to a conquering race—to a nation that held all others bound down by the strong arm of power. For him there was to be an exceptional system of law; for him principles were to be asserted, and by him rights were to be enjoyed that were denied to the rest of the world.

Is such, then, the view of the noble lord, as to the relation that is to subsist between England and other countries? Does he make the claim for us, that we are to be uplifted on a platform, high above the standing ground of all other nations? It is, indeed, too clear, not only from the expressions, but from the whole spirit of the speech of the noble viscount, that too much of this notion was lurking in his mind; that he adopts in part that vain conception that we, forsooth, have a mission to be the censors of vice and folly, of abuse and imperfection among the other countries of the world; that we are to be the universal schoolmasters; and that all those who hesitate to recognise our office can be governed only by prejudice or personal animosity, and should have the blind war of diplomacy forthwith declared against them.

Sir, the English people, whom we are here to represent, are indeed a great and noble people; but it adds nothing to their greatness or their nobleness that, when we assemble in this place, we should trumpet forth our virtues in elaborate panegyrics, and designate those who may not be wholly of our mind as a knot of foreign conspirators. Now, the policy of the noble lord tends to encourage and confirm in us that which is our besetting fault and weakness, both as a nation and as individuals. Let an Englishman travel where he will as a private person, he is found in general to be upright, high-minded, brave, liberal, and true; but with all this, foreigners are too often sensible of something that galls them in his presence; and I apprehend it is because he has too great a tendency to self-esteem—too little disposition to regard the feelings, the habits, and the ideas of others.

I doubt not that use will be made of our present debate to work upon this peculiar weakness of the English mind. The people will be told that those who oppose the motion are

governed by personal motives, have no regard for public principle—no enlarged ideas of national policy. You will take your case before a favourable jury, and you think to gain your verdict ; but, sir, let the House of Commons be warned—let it warn itself—against all illusions. There is in this case, also, an appeal. There is an appeal, such as one honourable and learned member has already made from the one House of Parliament to the other. There is a further appeal from this House of Parliament to the people of England. But, lastly, there is also an appeal from the people of England to the general sentiment of the civilized world ; and I, for my part, am of opinion that England will stand shorn of a chief part of her glory and her pride if she shall be found to have separated herself, through the policy she pursues abroad, from the moral support which the general and fixed convictions of mankind afford—if the day shall come in which she may continue to excite the wonder and the fear of other nations, but in which she shall have no part in their affections and their regard.

WILLIAM EWART GLADSTONE.





CHAPTER XIII.

HAVING carefully looked into all the carriages at the station, and finally being assured by the occupants of one compartment that they would be kind to me, the orphan, I prepared for our midnight journey without fear. The bastard Pullman carriage gave us hope that a few hours' rest might be secured; but alas! such was the interest my fellow-travellers took in me, the fatherless one, that all such hopes were soon dissipated. They were most anxious to know from whence I came, and whither I was going, and anything else worth the knowing. So, with my usual fullness and generosity of soul, I did my best to acquaint them with my past disappointments, discoveries, and my future hopes in the fortunes of mankind.

Although I know England and her colonies suffer from much mismanagement, and are likely still to be crucified between the two giant thieves, land and money-lords, I know that remedies will be found as antidotes against our national dispair. The moral excellencies of the English nature will yet get rid of the demoralizing commercialism of the age. The climate of England is always calculated to give birth to heroes, if conditions are arranged for the production of the same. Remove the artificial surroundings, and the soundness of the nation will be uppermost. In the future a man will not be honoured in proportion to his *gold*, or worshipped for material ownership, but for his *manhood*, independent of his differing from other people in political, social, and religious economics. In the past, from her cottages, England has brought forth those who ruled her destinies, and, undoubtedly, from the same source will rise that genius which will do honour to her imperishable name. The physical, mental, and moral qualities of the English race cannot die out; for if the time must

come when the repression of all her best qualities has to be removed, even with force, against illegal, illegitimate assumption, the coming man will be there to show and lead the way. The future *Commonwealth* of England for the benefit of all—not as now, for the few—will come, strive who may to resist it: to think otherwise, much less believe otherwise, would indeed be the looking forward for *chaos*.

One of my fellow-travellers was a Bontebok sheep-farmer, who, relying blindly upon dame Nature, and having failed to arrange for a reserve supply of green Silo, or dried root crops, had, out of a flock of 4,000 sheep, lost over 1,500 through poverty and the continual drought—causing him to cut the throats of the new-dropped lambs and kids, in order to save the lives of their mothers. Thus, he feared, he should lose the whole of his stock, both small and large. I assured him that this was the condition of the Free State. A few showers passed over some narrow strips of country, but the grass was everywhere in an exceeding bad state. Travellers likened the appearance of the grass-land, all the way, to the transport road; and those who came down northwards said there was not a vestige of grass to be seen. The grass throughout the State had not been so thoroughly parched, and in such a miserable condition, since the great drought in 1862; many farmers were worse off now than they were then. The consequences up to the present had been disastrous; in fact, many men, who were considered to be comparatively rich farmers, were being gradually reduced to poverty and distress, through losses sustained by sheep and cattle dying by hundreds, and even thousands. The commercial outlook was something awful to contemplate. It was estimated that over 250,000 cattle, worth £1,000,000, had died out in 1883-4. It is, perhaps, remarkable to think that this should be the case, seeing that, as a rule, Summer gives such splendid grass on these lands near the sea. Why, it may be asked, do not the farmers arrange for hay and root crops? As a matter of fact, the farmers are too indolent. In the past, sheep grazing on the high lands was one of the most lucrative pastoral investments a man could embark in, but seeing that so much enclosing of land has taken place, it

requires men of thought, and a knowledge of position, to regulate the number of stock to the acre.

Times, formerly, have been so good to the old, fortunate settlers, who had farms given them with certain conditions, which—like the aristocracy of England in the holding of lands—have been ignored, forgotten, or evaded, and, in so arranging, became rich, and, in some cases, insolent, until they almost believed that *they* were the *backbone* and *aristocracy* of the country of South Africa. But, as a check to their future insolence and contempt of those who have not been so fortunate as to have 2000 acres given them by a paternal Government, they find that their lands will not secure them so much, or that their sons, through no fault of their own, cannot succeed, and, in failing to meet their creditors' claims, are but the victims of the over-stocking of their fathers' lands, who, having eaten up the whilom nourishment of the soil, expect their sons to prosper on such barrenness; and, finding they do not succeed, are inclined to be severe upon them; as if success were possible when the food on the lands has been so unfairly eaten up by their sires, to the ruin and disgrace of their offspring!

One farmer, whom I know intimately, after enriching his employer for twenty years, during which time he had gathered together a herd of 200 cattle and about 5,000 sheep, and, without knowing that in so doing he had over-stocked himself for the grass supply, and in the utter forgetfulness that this want of food would produce poverty and weakness, had thus prepared his stock for all kinds of disease, and, finally, death—in one attack of lung-disease he lost 150 head of large cattle, and, during the four years of indifferent grass and drought, lost 4,000 sheep, and consequently ruined ever after, and, in his latter days, had to become once more a wage-slave.

Now, to some extent, this might have been got over, but for the monopoly of the land. Land, the gift of a bountiful Nature, should not be the private property of individuals. One generation ought not to be replete in lands to the injury of the next coming into existence. The parting of public domains for a trifle, for the purpose of enriching a few, as in

America and Australia, must be discontinued. In Africa it is seen that a landless people must ever be a helpless and a degraded one. Fortunately no king, emperor, or sovereign, if they can measure the probable quantity of air and light, can regulate its supply, even if it could be charged at so much a cubic yard, although there is even now a danger—since engineers have found out the value of sun-light and force, and the advantage of wind as heat and motive powers—that land and money monopolists will endeavour to lay some embargo upon the use of the same, unless the people watch their future interests. The Creator of all never intended that air and light should be the sole private property of individuals, neither did He the land, the sea, and all that they produce, for any special persons, to the injury of after-comers, except those supposed to be born to the present holders—I say *supposed*, for in these days of lewdness, looseness, lust, and animalism, it is difficult to know who is who, if the divorce and other records of the aristocracy are to be taken into consideration. Of course much might be done to save stock if farmers would act upon the advice and help that could be given by experienced farmers and engineers, in watering lands with stored-up water in some parts of the colony. It cannot be ignored that it is a poor country which has to rely so continually upon artificial means to preserve its stock. Under the present circumstances of deforestation the lands must be watered, and that continually, if the present generation desires to hold its own, and keep the road clear for internal trade. Here—looking upon myself as another John preparing the way for the future Christs, to make all things possible—I print the views of a practical farmer, so that the colonists of all countries into which this book may find its way may have no excuse for not taking advantage of all information which tends to make their efforts successful in all departments.

THE SUBJECTION OF AGRICULTURE.

A LAY SERMON BY A FRONTIER COLONIST.

CAN nothing be done in the way of encouraging production still further amongst our farmers? In spite of many draw-

backs, our home-grown tobacco, wine, and brandy are slowly, but surely, pushing imported samples out of our markets; and the victory would be more complete, could our producers but be prevailed upon to take a little more trouble in the preparation of the articles. Similar success would speedily crown efforts in other matters, small perhaps individually, but, in their aggregate, neither small nor unimportant. The details have often been given of what the colony could save by the production, even for its own use, of many articles of daily need. When Mr. Froude drew attention to some of our very obvious shortcomings in these things, many of those who were his professed admirers, and who sympathized with his mission, retorted that Mr. Froude did but show his ignorance of the first principles of political economy in so reflecting upon us. It was urged that we did not produce these things because it paid us better not to do so, and because we produced other things. It was even said that our customs' revenue would fall off if we were not large importers! How were farmers, who sheared thirty or forty bales of wool, to be expected to harass themselves about milk, jams, and pickles? Such a reply, however, is not satisfactory. Mr. Froude was shown some of the international-exhibition-like stores of Port Elizabeth, and when he asked for a specimen of the country's manufactures, the obliging showman proffered a quid of Boer tobacco, and begged his acceptance of a Kaffir knobstick! One newspaper indignantly asked why the clerk did not show his employer's bales of wool to the anxious inquirer. But Mr. Froude doubtless thought, what a good many more think, that the country which imports almost everything, and exports only one thing, and that not a very valuable one, cannot be in a thoroughly healthy position. The reply made to Mr. Froude's criticism would be perfect, were there more amongst us whose time was fully spent in solid work; but so long as there is such a waste of time, and so long as lands on farms lie fallow, when they ought to be covered with produce, the reply is irrelevant. We cannot say otherwise of the reply than is usually made to those who urge upon sheep-owners food!—they say, "we may as well

throw up the game, because, in Australia and other parts, sheep do not require this, and we should be too heavily handicapped to be anywhere in the race." But so long as so little energy is shown, so long as so much time and so many opportunities are wasted, so long as all that is wanted, in very many cases, for the production of these Winter crops is the employment of time which is otherwise frittered away, we must say that the impossibility of raising Winter food hath not appeared.

Again, in agricultural matters in this country, it should never be lost sight of, that, on an average, one year in every four will be a bad one. No time should be lost, therefore, during good years. Every nerve and muscle should be strained to secure the greatest returns. As these pages are being written the whole frontier is being agitated over the failure of the mealie crop. By the middle of the year, it is believed that mealies will be at famine prices. "Never mind that," say many, "the scarcity will drive the natives to the railway works, and Mr. — will have another chance for his Budget by the extra importation of breadstuffs!" This is how we treat a great question; this is how we excuse our own improvidence!

The writer lately was at the farm of a man who, as the saying is, had been thrice ruined. Twice he had lost his stock, and had his house burnt in war; the third time, just as he thought it was well with him, his sheep died, and his farm became unfit for those animals. Then did he find much comfort in those trees which he had planted, and which are—aye—growing while men are sleeping, and sheep are dying. Only last season his orange-trees had produced 300,000 oranges for sale; he had sold them, and could have sold twice as many if he had had them. For several years, and with the help of his family, he had made large quantities of butter, and still larger quantities of jams from apricots, peaches, and Cape gooseberries. He was able, every year, to sell all that he could make, and, latterly, the demands were greater than with the utmost industry he could supply. In the matter of potatoes and wheat he found himself similarly situated. He was not coining money, to be sure, but he

was living in ease and comfort, notwithstanding his labours. There is room enough for many more to do the same thing; all that is wanted is a little knowledge, some patience, and "pegging away." We should soon find other lines in which producers could work with advantage. Why, for instance, should millions of lemons be allowed to rot in orchards, when their juice could be pressed out and shipped to England, as is done in other countries?

There is no more certain truth in connection with the practical politics of a country like Britain than that the foundations of its prosperity rests, not on the millionaires, but on the countless thousands who earn but five shillings a day, and who live on them too. How were the French peasants enabled to pay off Bismarck, but by bringing out the innumerable small hoards made by preserving and sugaring fruits, for instance, or by growing wine, which their less provident fellow-beings, in the Cape and elsewhere, have to buy from them? Yet, the French are not a mean, though they are a thrifty people. But we are, to a great extent, the spoiled children of fortune; the spirit of industry and thriftiness is not in the air above us, nor in the ground under our feet. From the horse-breeder who, rather than take market value for his animals, will let them die of bots in the Veldt, down to the cotter who, rather than let his ill-got-up hams go at less than a dollar a pound, will make an effort to eat them up himself, we are dominated by the idea of the *grande culture*. We are Conservatives, as "Omega" says, and we wish to remain so.

When we say that the spread of education amongst our people must be looked upon as an indispensable agency in the rehabilitation of agriculture, we shall doubtless be reminded that this is but another iteration of a well-worn platitude. And yet, when it is part of the problem with which we have to deal, to sharpen the wits of those who have some, and to give wits to those who have none to boast of, the necessity of encouraging education cannot be lost sight of for a moment. We all admit the necessity in theory, but in matters educational we are, practically, nearly all infidel. For, of the small value attached to education, we

have an undoubted practical illustration in the fact that, although, for the improvement of agriculture, we have had compulsory Fencing Acts, and Labour Acts, and even prohibitory Liquor Traffic Acts, all proposed and discussed, a compulsory Educational Act has scarcely ever been alluded to out of the four corners of official reports, and this, too, although few such compulsory Acts are so necessary, or have so much to recommend them.

One may go into almost any of our colonial towns with the certainty of finding that the persons who take a lively interest in backing-up the efforts of the Superintendent-General and his deputies, the teachers, are included in a very narrow circle. Our school committees, instead of having any such conception as that they are part and parcel of our national arrangements for maintaining, in its highest possible efficiency, the machinery of education, and for enlarging, year by year, the area of its utility, content themselves with seeing that the financial part of their trust is properly controlled. For the rest, *quieta non movere*, is the ruling principle. How far this lack of vitality in these committees is to be attributed to the blighting influence of that paternal and fostering care which, doubtless, would be pleased with nobler results, this is not the place to inquire; we may just say, in passing, that we do not view with unmixed delight the proposal to extend that same paternal and fostering care over "fresh fields and pastures new." But, be this as it may, it is quite evident that those who believe in the value of education, and who would desire to see their country rising in the scale of nations, must not relax in their exertions, and, on the contrary, must show even more earnestness than they have done. This must especially be seen to in our towns and villages, which, despite the well-meant efforts to establish country boarding schools, are likely, for some time to come, to remain the centres of "sweetness and light." A Superintendent-General may plant, and his inspectors may water as best they can, but it is only the continuous, kindly, believing, and resolute exertions of individuals more immediately concerned that can secure the increase.

Now, with reference to the particular subject under discus-

sion, there should be, in connection with every undenominational school throughout the colony, efficient provision made for instruction in matters agricultural. The supply of this desideratum ought at once to be firmly dealt with by every agricultural society. The only societies in the colony that look after particular wants, and that try to minister to them, are the religious societies; and if our agricultural societies limit their usefulness to yearly awards of prizes to the most successful producers—in nine cases out of ten the same men every year—they may just as well not exist at all. Their efforts, however, can only be valuable in proportion as they succeed in laying up life and food for future use, in the shape of raising up a generation qualified to deal with the difficulties that are accumulating on the path. Of that branch of knowledge, for instance, generally known as agricultural chemistry, how many of our farmers or their sons know even the name? What provision has any single society ever tried to make to meet the want? The soil is the farmer's raw material, yet how few of them know anything of its composition, or even its physical properties, on which the possibility of turning this raw material to the most profitable uses depends? When they dress their lands, how few even think what these dressings should and should not contain, for the realization of the end in view? How many, even of the rising generation of farmers, have ever heard of Liebig, or Boussingault, or Lawes, or have some idea of the nature of the services such men have rendered to the farmer's art? From the numerous jeers that have been thrown upon him, perhaps a few may have heard of Darwin! but this will have been in connection with his, of course, very silly and childish, or atheistic theory of man's descent; but along with the jeers, how many of our young men have ever heard of one good word for that philosopher's researches into heredity and breeding, which have simply laid all posterity under an obligation? How many of our farmers, we do not say have read, but have even heard of the "inter-marriage" by Alexander Walker, or have any conception of its value to the stock-breeder? In their ignorance of such authors and their works, is it to be wondered at that so

many of our flock-masters still believe that a particular breed of animals have dropped from the sky upon some favoured place beneath, instead of being the result of the conscious, intelligent, and persistent selective acts of men such as all may advantageously mimic, if they cannot carry to a forwarder stage? Or is it to be wondered at that they lose sight altogether of the importance of the truth, that a particular animal is just the sum of all the conditions it has undergone? In the branch of physiology, again, how few have a saving knowledge of the laws of life, knowing the laws by which animals "live, move, and have their being," understand the food deficiencies of particular pastoral areas, and in what direction intelligence must work for the supply of these?

So long as these and other grave defects exist amongst present and prospective members, agricultural societies may die of inanition, but need not die for want of work to do. The time has not come, neither is the foreshadowing of it to be detected, when agricultural societies may rest and be thankful. Young men who, as farmers' sons, otherwise, have obtained a practical knowledge of their profession, require a course of scientific study to brace up their intellect. This alone can remove that tendency to trust to the rule-of-thumb practice, which is so slipshod, and alone can free their minds from the deadening effects of those traditions of a time gone by, never to return, when the possibility of husbandry, in its widest sense, were vastly different from what they now are. This, then, is the work of the future for our agricultural societies; and no ordinary obstacles should deter them from undertaking it. And the objection cannot be raised here that the proposed method of elevation comes from without. Self-help is the best help, and the only help that in the end fails to demoralize. Agricultural societies consist mainly of farmers. These will enter with spirit into any measures proposed by members of their own class. Let the one or two leading minds that are to be found in every society therefore come forward boldly. Let them show that agriculture has yet a future before it in this Colony; let them show that they themselves have a living faith in the future,

not a languid and half-hearted faith. Then will our agricultural societies be worthy of the name. When their influence is perennial and all-pervading; when their life is something more than a meteor-like flash in the village sky, blazing for a moment, and then disappearing in the darkness, suspended animation, or death of another year.

And if, happily, our efforts to supply youths possessed of knowledge and intelligence should succeed, no efforts should be spared to retain these amongst the rank and file of our agriculture. For, although, as we have seen, the difficulties in the way of successful husbandry have been increasing year by year, we have not taken sufficient care to have the proper men to deal with them. Intelligent youths of farmers' families have been constantly drafted off into other spheres, where it was supposed their faculties could have better scope. Parents and guardians must cease to be guided by the delusion that any youth with a beggared brain is quite good enough to manage a farm. One cause of the subjection is, that we have all too long believed that agriculture is the refuge for the intellectually destitute. We must change our front, and instead of acting as if farms were paradises specially designed by a kind Providence for our intellectual failures, we must be persuaded that the proper management of a farm requires at least as much ability as any other mundane business. And there are indirect ways of bearing testimony to the subjection of the farmer as well as direct ones. As a class, the social amenities of farmers are very much overlooked. From responsible ministers who recommend newly-fledged shopkeepers by the dozen for the honorary justiceship of the peace, to the almost complete neglect of the long-tried and struggling farmer (and it is astonishing how such a man is helped or unhelped by a little notice or an apparent slight), down to the last new-comer from Europe, who sees in the farmer only a man whose tailor is not recently from Regent-street; we are all sinners by commission or omission in this respect.

We have all heard of the good old times when there were in every village a few hospitable and kind-hearted men, beginning, perhaps with the magistrate, who thought it no offence against "society," and who found it a real pleasure

to have a few farmers occasionally at their dinner table. The times have changed, new kings have arisen "who knew not Joseph;" but the stream of tendency need not be dwelt upon, lest the object of these few pages should be mistaken. Still, however, we think it would be better for all concerned, if those who affect the leadership of "society" in our towns and villages, were in more sympathising relationship with their neighbours the farmers. Madam may at first object that the talk during visits is too much "of bullocks;" but after all "bullock" may be made as interesting as the insipidities of the drawing-room, and the spirit of true courtesy that is woman's privilege, if latent for a time, will soon assert itself. In other countries, the farming and the town populations may move in distinct lines without much harm being the result, inasmuch as there are other agencies at work which counterbalance the evils attendant upon such a system. But in this country the compensating agencies do not exist; our farmers are very much isolated, and the effects of this isolation are unmistakable. Further, and we say it with regret, the opinion prevails very widely, and is not unproductive of harm, that a man loses cast by becoming a farmer. We were visiting lately at the farm of a young unmarried colonist, who had begun ostrich farming; his dwelling-house was an unpretending thatched cottage, on entering which we found ourselves in a kind of room, round the wall of which were several glass cases filled with stuffed birds, properly arranged and classified. Some mineralogical and geological specimens, a few books and maps, testified to their owner being a man of some culture.

This part of Cassandra, in social or political matters, is one that is generally tabooed; its occasional utility, however, must be admitted, and in all probability its utility would not be so very occasional were there not a very great difficulty, when the part is taken, in using people and things as though you loved them. In the following remarks, therefore, Cassandra shall be all but dumb, although to us at this moment there seems to be, in matters agricultural, a depression sufficient to excite the very gravest alarm, and a sickness "that doth infect the very life-blood of our enterprise."

For in a country such as this, in which manufacturing industries are conspicuous by their absence, and which affords to the generality of its people few possibilities of enrichment by commerce, whatever touches agriculture carries with it damaging influences that penetrate to the very depths of society.

It seems unnecessary to bring forward any evidence in support of the statement that our agriculture has been so touched. From the extreme West, where efforts are being made to improve wine-farming by the formation of companies with capital, to the extreme East, where a Cattle Disease Commission has been for some months pursuing its labours, the statement seems tacitly admitted. Indeed, it is so generally admitted that, though there are a few who, like ostriches in the fabulous tales of travellers, cover up their heads as if afraid to look things in the face, the talk in connection with these matters most frequently turns upon the means best adapted to stay further depression, and to promote recovery. Some believing that the case of agriculture is beyond recovery, have abandoned it, and have gone to dig for diamonds or for gold, or have turned their ploughshares and their pruning hooks into canteen glasses or yard measures. Some, more hopeful, seek for salvation in the direction of excise privileges here and elsewhere, or in Fencing and Scab Acts, in ministers of agriculture, and in professors of the veterinary art and what not. Others, again, look Eastwards for help from the nerveless Coolie, or demand it from our own Legislature in the form of a compulsory Labour Act, or of some other kind of class legislation. While, lately, a member of the Legislature itself has made a suggestion that a *deus ex machina*, in the shape of an already over-worked executive, should usher into being a leviathan agricultural society, whose heart should pulsate in Cape Town, whose covering fins should spread out over the length and breadth of the land, and whose tail should lash into activity the dreamy occupiers of the "morgen" and payers of quit-rent.

There are exceptions to every rule, of course. Here and there we find farmers who have held their own amidst difficulties neither few nor insignificant, just as we find a still

more limited number that have prospered. But, as a rule, our agriculturists do not prosper, and what is worse, large numbers of them have lost heart. Many are known to the writer who, say a dozen years ago, were cheerful, industrious, fairly prosperous men, living on unmortgaged farms, having comfortable homesteads, trim gardens, a mill perhaps, and well-kept, and well-filled folds; but who are now dispirited, falling behind with their payments, having mortgages pressing upon them like nightmares, their dwelling-houses, mills, and folds in a tumble-down condition, their gardens and lands choked with weeds, and their stock small in number, and miserable in appearance. Others, again, are merely farmers in name—owners, nominally, of a large tract of land; they use it for growing a few cart loads of vegetables for the market of the neighbouring village, or they use it as grazing for a few spans of oxen, with which they ride transport; or, doing neither of these, they have the last resource of cutting down the trees to sell as firewood. While, with reference to the few transfers of land that have been given lately by Europeans to natives, nothing further need be said than that these Europeans found that they could make more by placing the proceeds out at interest in a bank than by cultivating the ground, and that the land so parted with had a higher price offered for it by natives than by Europeans, for the evident reasons that the former had more money to offer, and attached more value to the investment.

On the other hand, people following trades or professions, mainly supported by farmers, have continued to do fairly well, although not so well as formerly. Plough importers, ploughwrights, and cartwrights still find no difficulty to speak of in earning something more than a living. Places of worship—from such ambitious and almost cloud-capped piles, as those of Cradock, to the unpretending but serviceable meeting-houses that dot our hill sides—have been built and paid for out of farmers' money; the pulpits are filled by men who live in comparative comfort from a similar source; doctors have placed their hundreds with their bankers; agents have placed their thousands, and wool-buyers their tens of thousands. The farmers alone have been growing poorer, have

been losing their capital, and are at least in as bad a condition as ever they were.

Meanwhile, the hopes of many well-meaning men, and of would-be benefactors of their species, have been rudely shattered. Responsible Government was soon to educate the peasant in the way he should go politically; still, however, talk about a change of ministers is as unintelligible as Greek, or sounds like treason in their hearing. Multiplied churches were to be the means of bringing the consoling and stimulating influences of religion and of culture within easier reach, but worthy members have found that thereby duties have devolved upon them in connection with the spiritual flock in too many cases incompatible with the well-being and the well-doing of the other flock. Doctors being placed as thick as blackberries, the sick were to be speedily healed, or those in pain as speedily relieved, the aggregate comfort of the community being thereby largely increased; but farmers have found that, for every pain cured by the doctors, a dozen have come in its place, and, worst pain of all, more money has had to be made to pay the fees. By the founding of new villages, and the subdivision of large into smaller districts, dispensers of justice were to be made more accessible to long-suffering masters; but, instead of these magistrates having become a terror to evil-doers, evil-doers have become a terror to them, while, if justice has been brought to every door, this has not been unattended by the escape of bread through the window. Schools were everywhere hailed as the means of bringing the one thing needful to the farmers' children, who were thus sure of becoming comforts and blessings to their parents; but, somehow or other, along with much reading and grammar, the boys did not acquire the knack of rearing lambs successfully, or adroitness in the management of *brandzichte*; while the girls, for the flimsy accomplishments of pianoforte-playing or flower-painting, have bartered a knowledge of the vulgar arts of butter or soap-making—boys and girls thus leaving their father and his old-fashioned mate to cope unaided and unsympathized with in their troubles. And, last of all, a plentiful crop of country shops, by supplying his neces-

sities in an economical and convenient way, was to spare the farmer much wear and tear of carts and harness in trips to the still distant town, and was to keep his domestics out of the way of such irresistible temptations as unmeasured bags of sugar and coffee ; but little wants kept growing upon the household, and when the wool was taken down to pay for them, the balance to credit was easily carried home ; while, by the same means, the opportunities of having a little refreshment, a gossip, and a pipe with neighbours, were so facilitated, that, in too many cases, shopping at the country store soon became the serious business of life.

Meanwhile, also, farmers' congresses and other cognate bodies, impressed with the conviction that the subjection of agriculture is caused by political evils, are exercised with the needed political reforms. Now, if farmers have any special disabilities traceable to errors in our political system, it is in the highest degree expedient that they should be discussed with a view to their being rectified, and we are free to confess that our political system is not so perfect but what some of the troubles of farmers may be justly attributable to such a cause. But, in these discussions, there has been a tendency to attribute to such imperfect adjustments a significance which, to thoughtful men in other classes, has appeared exaggerated and illegitimate, and which has too often diverted men's minds from truer sources of calamity. We remember, for instance, some weeks ago, listening to a farmer, at a farmers' meeting, speaking to a motion that a Minister of Agriculture ought to exist in this country. In the opinion of the speaker, almost every ill, past, present, or prospective, that agriculturists had suffered, or were likely to suffer from in this colony—from bad grass up to locusts and the dreaded Colorado beetle—could have been, and was indeed still to be removed or prevented by the appointment of such a minister. "But what is the use," said the speaker, "of my making known our grievances or our wants? We suffer from one overwhelming misfortune in this colony, and that misfortune is that we are "whites." If we farmers were only black—not painted black, for we are that, but born black—Government would soon take an interest in us ;

but as we are naughty "whites," we are nobody's children, and therefore uncared for." And, in addition to this, when they have met together as members, or representatives of a class, presumably therefore to deal with questions affecting them as such, farmers have shown some tendency to discuss questions which do not affect them so exclusively, but which concern them only in common with all the other members of the body-politic. In this way they have incurred blame as meddlers and busybodies; they have forgotten that the agricultural interest, large and important though it be, is not co-extensive with the State.'

In all probability much of the present depression is to be explained by the fact that agriculture in this country is in a transition epoch. This epoch is marked, on the one hand, by the passing of that period in which produce could be raised, or stock profitably kept, by the observation of a rude, simple and primitive method, in which rule-of-thumb practice was sufficient to ensure success; and, on the other hand, by the near prospect of another period, the characteristics of which are increasing difficulties in the way of maintaining production at its proper level, and the necessity of larger supplies of labour, capital, and intelligence, to make such production profitable. The problem for solution, therefore, seems to be of this nature, to maintain and even to increase production, with a gradually diminishing area suitable for our one industry of depasturing [sheep, with a diminished capital in the coffers of those who follow that industry,] their average intelligence being at the same time not higher than it was when the simpler and easier method was all-sufficient. And if this is the problem, it must at once appear that our situation is a very grave one. No adequate solution of the problem is here professed to be offered; for, rightly to handle it, there is need of a much greater ability than belongs to the writer. He will be content to throw out a few remarks, in the hope that others may be induced to reflect upon the question, and thus draw to the subject the interest and attention which it deserves. Into the merits of such suggestive restoratives as Fencing Acts, stringent Scab Acts, and Masters' and Servants' Act, &c., it is not proposed to enter. Readers of our Parlia-

mentary debates are already familiar with all that can be said about them. We believe that such measures, if not likely to be altogether barren of result in the present juncture, at all events have had their value over-rated; but we leave our reasons for saying so to be inferred rather than directly put. Nevertheless, it will not do to stand still with our arms folded and to allow things to take their course. The time may have come also when it is necessary that some views which have long been accepted should be reconsidered.

Is it sound policy, for instance, that so many of our farmers, and especially those who have but a small capital, should be the real or nominal owners, of large tracts of country? Doubtless, those who have command of a fair amount of capital, may be justified in working as large a concern as they can possibly acquire; but whatever opinion we may entertain on the expediency of large, as opposed to small holdings, it can scarcely be sound, that men with small capital should invest it in that land which has to be most mortgaged, at rates which are certainly high when we consider the value of the produce, in order to obtain money for the purchase of implements and stock. Such a system cannot be remunerative, unless prices should be much more favourable to producers than they have been. And there can be but little doubt that this system has been very disastrous of late, more especially in some parts of the frontier. Many, for instance, have in these parts lost all their sheep by disease, and with them have lost what may be called their working capital. Then, before any endeavour was made to find out the cause of the mortality, these have been replaced by others, or perhaps with ostriches or goats, and by means of money raised on mortgage. The new stock has again been carried off by a similar disease, and the farmers have been ruined; they have been victimised because they did not know what to do.

Granting that no one could have foreseen these disasters, which is questionable, with the experience we have now had, would it not be better for those who hereafter meet with such losses, at once to have their land divided into small holdings and sold, one such holding with a suitable grazing patch being

retained, which, with the capital thus raised, could be worked to the best advantage, until a season of prosperity set in again? There are hundreds, and perhaps thousands of natives who would gladly buy, and who can pay for such holdings; while, if there was an invincible dislike to selling, the holdings could be let for a time to tenants of the same class, and if we could but rid ourselves of some of our prejudices and suspicions, we should in all probability find that such an arrangement would be to the common advantage, for the Kaffir in his own country is not a bad agriculturist, and by mixing more with his "betters," he would improve more quickly, and would also all the sooner acquire tastes which would make him a more profitable member of the State.

Further, the cry is for increased population and for "white" immigrants; but what sort of "white" immigrants will be tempted to our shores if we have no land to offer them? One difficulty in the way of increasing the Frontier Armed and Mounted Police, is that when their time is up, there are no lands on which they can be located, and there is therefore the danger of the time-expired men swelling the ranks of the loafers. It is utterly impracticable and visionary—for that is the favourite word with the immovable routinists—for the Orphan Chamber, for instance, or for some large and well-organised land company, or even for the State, to select such holdings and to offer them to immigrants on easy terms.

Must we go on for ever living in a feverish dread of what old women of both sexes call organic change, and which they label "The way to madness"? The reply generally made is that there is no market for the produce. But has this country ever suffered from over-production? Would there be *more* or *less* comfort in the land if the prices of food were just a trifle lower all round? Besides, railways are costing us millions, and, surely, we ought to be able to do something more with them than to run a few bales of wool down to port, and to bring back a few more "notions." But how are we to produce in any abundance, when land-owners retain four or five times more land than they can manage,

when "white" agricultural labourers refuse to leave their own country unless they can, by so doing, cease to be labourers, and when our natives are indifferent about hiring themselves for service? Along the routes of projected railways no signs are visible of preparations for taking advantage of them. Further still, we hear it constantly said that the number of sheep runs, no longer fit to maintain sheep, is on the increase; yet their owners continue to work on in the old groove.

If we cannot change with the times, we shall certainly suffer the fate of all organisms that are too rigid and unyielding. Nature, like fire, is a good servant, but a bad master; and if she show signs of becoming dominant under one system, then that system must be changed, and more intelligence must be imported to cope with her blind and apparently purposeless agencies. Fortunately, for the future advantage of the colonists, the land question is yet in its infancy in this colony.

Thanks to the efforts of past Governments of England, the Cape Colony holds large tracts of land for future use and cultivation, which is all future gain, and upon its proper use will depend the future prosperity of the colony. Now supposing that, during the next twenty years, twenty millions of acres are let at an average rental of one shilling per acre, this would be equal to an income of £1,000,000 as a land revenue, which would free other commodities from a burden. If the lands were surveyed in all important districts, which would form barriers to any attempt on the part of the Kaffirs to subvert our power, they could be let out to agricultural men of England, and other parts of the North of Europe. Such men would realize that their future prosperity depended upon their individual industry, and instead of looking forward to the workhouse in which they might end their days, or for the help of friends in their old age; they would live and die in their own homesteads, regretted by their neighbours, and mourned by the Colony and the State.

If we take into consideration the evidence to be produced in those countries blessed with a large agricultural population, we find for the most part that they are contented, virtuous, and comfortable. France, Tuscany, Holland,

Belgium, and Lombardy are all cultivated on a system of small farms, and the produce from a given quantity of soil is greater in these countries than in England. Wherever the small farm system has been adopted, the fact is established that land is rendered more valuable in the hands of a man who cultivates for himself, than in those of a farmer, who has to pay wages for everything that is done. A man works on his own farm to far greater profit than when working for another. He works early and late. The industry of his family is no longer lost to the community. The youngest picks up weeds, fetches and carries, and all are made active and busy. Under such circumstances, it may be said that

"Children are blessings, and he that hath most,
Hath aid for his fortune and riches to boast."

One thousand farms, of one hundred acres each, means one thousand litters of pigs, thousands of milch cows, with milk, butter and cheese in addition. It includes thousands of broods of chickens, with no end of eggs. It means one thousand gardens, with potatoes and other vegetables; one thousand orchards, each yielding a surplus of food for the market. No risk of capital is involved, because no wages are paid. There are smaller chances for a bad crop in any season, in addition to the land being better ploughed and manured. There are hands on the spot to substitute a new crop for that which has not succeeded. No establishment of horses and expensive farming implements has to be kept up; and, although for a time there may be a little surplus to sell, the owner can make shift to live by his cows, his eggs, his gardens, and wait for better seasons. For proof, the Dutch in Holland are very heavily rented; the climate is far worse than in or at the Cape, because hard frosts compel them to winter food. Look at the Swiss; how comfortable with their little farms, how intelligent, how moral. It is, therefore, certain that all these advantages would be the lot of those who would occupy and work with will on our lands.

Mr. Nathaniel Kent, speaking of small farms generally on the Continent of Europe, and especially of North Germany, says that the state of that country is a proof that agriculture, when it is thrown into a number of hands, becomes the life of

industry, the source of plenty, and the fountain of riches to a country; but that if large farms are in the hands of the few, it must dishearten the rest, lessen produce, and tend to general poverty. "Give a man," said Arthur Young, many a long year ago, "the secure possession of a rock, and he will turn it into a garden;" and so it would be with lands out here. The country should be the nursery of our towns. From thence should come the energetic spirits, the genius, and the ambition. Sap the tree that puts forth this human fruit, and what is to become of us as a colony of shopkeepers? Storemen are all very well in their right place, but are not equal to the needs of a new colony. Let us have our large towns and villages and our manufacturing factories, but let us have our small farms likewise. The small farmer will form the backbone of our colony. They will then form our life's blood, our moral regulators, the guardian of our reason, the depositories of our principles, creating sound minds in sounder bodies. A colony, made up of all traders and storemen, cannot exist for many generations, without collapsing through the want of the base of all society. The fate of all ancient nations shows that, where they have neglected their lands, decay has followed. Then let us all do our best to increase our small farmers. They will form the true material of humanity, often a very raw material, but still the right stuff, pure in the grain, the right stuff to take on the polish of civilisation, with the tough fibre of their native forests and the vitality of the living oak.

In Europe, there are thousands who are asking and wishing for work. Let us so manage in the future that our idle lands, and the unemployed in Europe, may be brought together, to relieve the one, and enrich both. In my next, and the last, I will, with all due humility and modesty, propose a plan which I think would be advantageous to all.

It has been stated by many eminent men in this colony and in England, that if the Cape Colony were irrigated and cultivated, it would be capable of maintaining a population of over one hundred millions. If such could be the fact, the plan which I propose will not be considered Utopian or impracticable, but, if carried out, will be the means of providing work for thousands and millions of Saxons, and produce prosperity

among all classes in the colony. The following will show at a glance how so desirable an end could be obtained : First—An Act of Parliament should be passed, specifying that, on and after the 1st of January, 1884, all forests and untilled land, in each division, should be held and used for the advantage of such division. A Board of Land Commissioners should be appointed, who should have full power to survey and irrigate, let and hold for use, in behalf of such division, such land as they may from time to time select to be portioned out as hereafter stated. Where it might be necessary to pass through lands already occupied, for irrigation purposes, the owners to receive a bond for their value, to be called Land Debenture Stock ; the said bonds to be redeemed out of the future income from such lands. The said commissioners to be elected, two or four in each division, by every *white* man over twenty-one years of age, of sound mind, and unconvicted of any crime. Each commissioner to receive a salary of £500 per annum for his services ; and the said commissioners to render a quarterly account in the official paper of the division, so that the public might know all particulars respecting the land under their control. The land secured and surveyed, to be allotted out in farms of one hundred acres each, with proportionate commonage attached for grazing purposes clearly defined ; the tenants of such farms to be selected from the skilled labourers, lately introduced for public works, or from the time-expired members of armed and mounted police, or from selected agriculturists from the North of Europe, but especially from the agriculturist classes from England. The tenants of such farms to have means to enable them to build temporary homes, made of sods, or wattle and daub, for the purchase of necessary agricultural implements, live stock, and all the useful seeds suited to the colony ; also to provide clothes and subsistence for the first year ; to receive an advance of divisional notes, to be used for all legal and trade purposes, in each division. The notes so advanced, to be at the rate of one-twentieth every year, the tenants also agreeing to pay one-twentieth of their yearly profits to assist in paying all expenses of such division. Now,

supposing that the estimated cost for locating each man on a farm was as follows :—

Erecting Farm House and Sheds - - - - -	£75
For the Purchase of Live Stock, Tools and Seeds	£75
Clothes and Food, first year, and Sundries - - -	£150
Total	£300

This sum to be paid back by twenty instalments, the first instalment to be paid at the end of the second year. Now, if each division allot two millions of acres for this purpose, we shall secure, in each division, twenty thousand farms of one hundred acres each, brought into working condition at a cost of £6,000,000 of legal currency in the form of divisional notes, to be redeemed yearly out of the produce of the farmers, who would sell to pay their twentieth part annually. Now, if the same process be adopted in ten of the divisions in the colony or state, we shall have twenty million acres of waste land brought under cultivation, creating two hundred thousand farms, worked by a capital of £60,000,000 of divisional notes, such notes being legal tender for all trade and other purposes. Then, again, suppose that on each of these farms twenty-five acres were used for the growing of corn, and that only four bags were raised to each acre, that would give one hundred bags, which would certainly fetch £1 per bag, giving an income of £100 for corn alone, and this for all farms in the ten divisions, creating corn to the yearly value of £2,000,000, and then leaving each farmer seventy-five acres for the raising of cattle, poultry, fruit, vegetables, and other farm produce, such as butter, eggs, chicory, &c., which certainly might be estimated at £3,000,000, far exceeding the yearly value of our diamond and gold fields, creating a settled population living upon the fruits of the earth—a desideratum much to be wished for. Thus will be seen the advantage of the plan proposed, if carried out by such a system :—

Land brought under cultivation (acres) ...	20,000,000
Farms and homsteads created ...	20,000
Farmers and assistants increasing our population	40,000
Divisional Notes for buying and selling ...	£60,000,000