

The shivering beggar with affrighted look,  
Whose weakened senses the loud tempest shook,  
With eyes aghast and trembling hand implores  
The scantiest meed of kind compassion's stores.  
Behold a wretch whom the blind fates attend,  
The child of anguish and misfortune's friend !  
In all the woe-spun garb of sorrow dressed—  
Earth, his hard couch, and poverty, his guest.  
View him, while hunger, with bemoaning cries,  
And humble language pleading, courts supplies ;  
While want, expiring, rears her drooping head,  
And, in despair, solicits every aid—  
View him, while in the gasp of death, alone,  
Calling on Heaven, he cries—" Thy will be done."

Come, then sweet harbinger of grateful ease,  
Queen of the expansive heart ! Come—and appease  
The deep-felt cries of agonising grief,  
And save a brother with thy prompt relief,  
Grant to a wretch like this thy kindred aid—  
A wretch, in sorrow's sable suit arrayed.  
Impress this sentiment on every mind—  
" I am a man, and feel for all mankind."





## CHAPTER XX.

AT East London, as well as elsewhere, great distress was being felt by the bigots, at the want of support to the religious conventicles. I could have sympathised with them, if they had expressed their surprise at the want of a deep, true, religious feeling of the positive kind for the guidance of humanity; but simply to deplore that their churches were empty, was most contemptible on their part. The promenading to church of a Sunday to inspect each other, and gossip away the time, and in some cases worse, was a specimen of folly one found oft repeated. At this time, complaints were made of the "giggling" in church. If the laughing was indulged in to express contempt for the mummeries, forms and ceremonies, carried on, it might be excusable, although in bad taste; but if, as in one case, it was only to cover the lecherous apes that stare at and ogle the girls in what should be a sacred house; then I protest against such profane levity. I was informed of one, whose father had been sent over the seas for bestiality, who with such a fact staring him in the face, misconducted himself like a Mephistopheles in "Faust" by cozening and leading astray, pure and innocent girls. If these goats will not take warning, then society must, for its own protection, and especially of the young and weak, adopt the American method of depriving these wretches of their power to do harm. Inside or outside, churches must not be desecrated by such wretched misconduct.

The above jottings completed, I hastened to bed and rest, in anticipation of my next day's journey on the sea. Early in the morning, on the tug, I came in contact with the wild

man of Kok-stad, on the railway and on the ship. He was awfully big, impudently staring at the ladies, and otherwise showing rudeness. But there; in this he was no worse than any of his brother magistrates. It is monstrous, that these young men should be placed in such responsible positions, holding as they do, the liberty of both "white" and "black" in their hands. For want of years and wisdom, they used their power arbitrarily in so many cases, that at last the natives, headed by Gangelizewi, his sons and headmen, with their people, requested that all magistrates, with the exception of the chief magistrate at Umtatu, be removed. The Tembus stated that they had suffered more wrongs and injustice from the magistrates, policemen, and others near the magistrate—*missionaries, traders and magistrates clerks*—than was bearable. They admitted that at one time they had their tribal wars, and that it was better for one supreme head to guide and govern them, and look after the interests of the different tribes; and if a good magistrate was placed at the head, he would be able to stop many evils, at the beginning, or before they became widespread. With the white man came the knowledge of a mouthful of potatoes, of wheaten bread, of the way to feed horses to make them strong, and to improve their stock. Therefore they wish to be under the heads of the English people, instead of remaining the victims of the changing policy of a Colonial Government, that filled up all responsible positions with their friends, to such an extent that it was said that the Transkei had become the out-door relief land for the imbecile and incapable relations of the ministry; just as the responsible positions of the Crown Colonies are the out-door receptacle of the incapables of the governing classes of England. Get a troublesome poor relation, pack him off to the colonies to the disgust of the inhabitants is almost played out in England; and the time has now arrived, when it must be stopped in our Native Reserves. The natives must be allowed their own liberty; they, like the people of the Old World, have had too much governing, or rather, let me say, badgering, to their mental, physical and material injury. The peculiar particular wild man of Kok-stad was no worse than

his predecessor, who by his hasty temper and want of dignity so disgusted the natives and Griqua, that, in haste for a supposed injury, they rushed to arms, determined to rid themselves of what they considered a monster and a fool. Passing on through Griqualand East at that very time, on my way through Kok-stad to the colony, I had full opportunity of seeing his stupidity.

I have in my "History of the Free State," when drawing attention to the migration of these Griquas, under their Chief Kok, given an account of that awful time to me, when we were besieged and attacked within fifteen miles of Kok-stad, and that time of horror to me and others would never have been experienced but for the folly of this chief magistrate. I well remember, while in the town, witnessing a specimen of his hasty military temper. A native messenger, who like myself, was a stranger to the town, and all persons therein, desiring to know the house of the magistrate, by a singular circumstance solicited information from the chief magistrate himself. The surprise of the man can be imagined, when in taking the letter, he found himself turned round and kicked on his back parts. In disgust he asked the reason for this, and was then told, for not taking his hat off when addressing him—the mighty one—the chief magistrate. Now this oversight was perfectly excusable, from the fact that the magistrate had on at the time no symbol of office to denote who he was. I was informed that there was nothing strange in this proceeding; that he hobnobbed, and then swore at the Griquas in his own Court-house, until, instead of being honoured, he was held in contempt by all. But what can be expected of men who, while presiding in a "Native" court of justice, sit with their hats on, and smoke in the Court-house, instead of showing manliness, dignity, and even-handed justice, dealt out without temper or prejudice. It is for the want of these qualifications that the "white" Governors stink among the natives, and until wise, aged, men are appointed, who can carefully and fairly judge between man and man, there will be a continued feeling of contempt for "white" magistrates. While passing over the sea, the now notorious missionary, Shaw, passed us on his way to

parade as a martyr before the English public at Exeter Hall. These missionaries put on an indignant tone when they are interfered with in their gathering up of all they can lay their hands on among the natives. Men who come in contact with the natives and the missionaries, know full well their mode of getting rich, siding with native faults in opposition to Government, and those in authority. There is nothing wonderful in the attack of the French in Madagascar. If England was justified in destroying Alexandria, in defence of her rights, as the Government conceived them, *i.e.*, the necessity of keeping open their future water-way, the French were right in removing those who stood in their way; and if a Shaw will make a show of resistance, he must expect opposition, and even removal for the time being, to prevent more mischief. As a fact, the religious missionary is getting an out-door nuisance, constantly stirring up ill-feeling, and he is now openly called a curse to the natives. By teaching all natives that they are of one blood, and that they have never-dying souls to save, without giving any good reason (the fact is that they cannot give any idea of the entity they call soul quality) is causing all the trouble. They know no more than the spiritualistic churches and others pretend to know, of spirit. They will tell you it has no substance, and waste valuable time in discussing metaphysical questions totally unappreciable by the native, instead of teaching how to take advantage of all machinery that will improve their lands, and benefit them materially.

In China, India, and in fact in all our colonies, and other parts of the world, among all nations everywhere, the pampered missionary of the day, is a cheat and a hindrance to good conditions, and is known as a fraud, both upon those who support him in his "Fatherland," and those among whom he settles. Shaw's treatment, which he fully deserved, if all is true, gave him an opportunity for a long holiday, and to pose as a martyr, and to state how he was starved. The stupid tale may bring tears to the old ladies in their second childhood, and young unthinking maids; but to men, it is simply disgusting. That they should get supported, and have at times the opportunity of creating ill-feeling between

two nations who, for the sake of common humanity, and the interests at stake, for future generations on the Continent, would otherwise live in amity, peace and good-will for all time to come is disgraceful; and men, either of the Church of Rome or the Church of England and other religious bodies, should discontinue giving support to such men, who live under such false conditions. The view that *Truth* takes of the incident is so true that I cannot but give it, to show that others see the facts of the matter in the right light.

“There is great irritation in the Paris press upon the Shaw affair, and the late Admiral was sadly in error to glorify a comfortable missionary by a little privation and detention. Many of these self-expatriated gentlemen lead lives of ideal pleasure, if they have the tastes of the naturalist and botanist, so their talk of loss of society and distance from civilisation is offensive nonsense. They get monthly mails, and we have seen photos of their lovely chalets perched on charming sites. The difference between their lot and that of old-time emissaries to the heathen is most striking, while some visit Europe every five years to fan the zeal of supporters, and to recruit from tropical lassitude. We know of one in Cape Colony, who, from dealing in petty stores, has become the owner of a great saw-mill, cutting up thousands of noble yellow-wood trees, costing him nothing but felling and hauling. We fear he never planted to repair the loss. This person was a Sunday-school teacher, sent out free of cost, and ignorant of the Kaffir tongue.”

*Truth* is very sarcastic on this subject. The paragraph writer says:—“Although Admiral Pierre seems to have been a man of small discretion, I wait to hear the French account of Mr. Shaw's arrest before feeling indignant at it; for there are generally two sides to every question, and experience has usually shown that this is essentially the case where missionaries are concerned. One of Mr. Shaw's complaints is, that when on board the ship, he was only given the fare of a common sailor. In the old days, when missionaries really incurred dangers and privations, they thought themselves lucky if they did not become the fare of a savage, and it is a signal instance of the change which has taken place in their

mode of viewing their position, that one of them should be whimpering because he was forced to be satisfied for a week or two with food that was good enough for mere common sailors. Amongst missionaries there are doubtless many excellent and self-sacrificing men; but missionary labour has now become a profession, like any other. A good many of these professionals make money by trading, in addition to their salaries, and render themselves dangerous nuisances by mixing themselves up in the temporal affairs of their flocks."

In a second paragraph the same writer continues:—"It is stated that Mr. Shaw has come home to demand compensation, and that he thinks about £5,000 would be a proper amount. What he might fairly claim, if he can show that he incurred losses through the improper conduct of the French authorities, is precisely the value of what he has lost. For a missionary to ask to be indemnified for having been arrested, imprisoned for a short time in a French man-of-war, and given the food of a sailor, and thus endeavour to make a good thing of the incident, is a most wondrous view of missionary labour. Who can suppose that St. Paul would—had he been able to appeal to a court of law—have asked for a good round sum for having been given forty stripes save one, and have retired from business on the proceeds of his flogging."

At last, I was delighted to get off a vessel of steam, for her power of steam had to raise the same by coal, and to choke out the passengers, and to shake out the health of the body by the constant vibration of the screw. Thanks to the true priesthood of men—the philosophers and scientists, the day is dawning when coiled up electricity will propel us on in a quiet way over the land and through the deep. Truly then all Nature's paths will be paths of peace, and all her ways enjoyable; and when all our cooking is done by solar heat, then will out-door life on Nature's carpet be an Eden indeed; but not to bring, as some people believe, perfect rest for life, but made enjoyable by fulfilling the work of life, and reaping the results of the labour of those who have gone before, and in reality lived for others; thus making the religion of humanity with all its positive knowledge and facts, subservient to man in the future. Then may the Millenium

be expected, and the prolonged life made happy, and no fear of the future, as now, for all things will be possible to them that love Nature and Nature's laws.

After two days of starvation on the sea, and once again on *terra firma*, in the old Belgrave Hotel, I enjoyed my meals immensely ; and really it is almost pleasant to go without for a season, to feel the keen enjoyment of eating when down-right hungry. Marvellous had been the change in one year in Durban. Verily the inhabitants are determined that it should vie with some of the cities of Australia ; for what with their paths paved with stones, brought a distance of forty miles, their sandy roadways macadamised and made hard with steam rollers, their new lights all over the city, and their private buildings. The new Town Hall may be said to be largest in South Africa, and when finished and replete with all the adjuncts, a hall indeed for the Natalians to be proud of. As far as I could ascertain, no expense was to be spared to make Durban the envy of all Africa. I here took the opportunity of sending to the council the following letter, to guide them in the future :—

“How to build Public Waterworks, Railways, Tramways, Breakwaters, Harbours of Refuge, and other Public Works throughout Natal, without the burden of interest or taxation.

“To the Mayor, Council, and Citizens of Durban.—Gentlemen.—Having the pleasure of a visit to Durban, I am informed by your fellow townsmen, that you sadly need a much better and larger supply of pure water, and that if arrangements could be made for making an aqueduct to supply the town with water, also the construction of a breakwater and docks, and a complete system of railways, much advantage would accrue to your town and to the colony generally. Many persons have drawn attention to the inadequate supply of water in your town, also to the want of a properly constructed breakwater and docks for this port, and have at various times urged upon the public to demand that such works be carried out. True it is, that a large sum of money has been spent both in waterworks and for a breakwater ; but after all the outlay the quality and quantity of the water is not equal to the demand.”



Many schemes have been propounded, and plans submitted to the public, in the hope that something would have been done ere this. Plans have been submitted to bring water from your rivers and other places, where it was known that large quantities of water could be procured; and undoubtedly, one of these plans would have been carried out but for the want of means.

Allow me to suggest that the following plan be adopted :— Supposing the estimated cost of the breakwater, docks, and waterworks to be five or six millions of pounds; let an application be made to Parliament during the next Session for the loan of the same in notes of £1., free of all interest, such notes to be issued and marked for the express purpose of building and making your public works. The notes so issued to be *legal tender* for all taxes and payments in the colony, just as the present Colonial notes are used. The notes so advanced to be paid away to the men who now own the present waterworks, breakwater, and land that would be required to enlarge and complete the same; also to the men who would make the bricks, the iron work, the wood work, and, in fact, to all, for material and labour used in such works. It is not for want of material or men that the works are not done. We know that there are millions of tons of clay, sand, and chalk ready to be made into bricks; millions of tons of iron and wood ready to be used for such purposes; and, as regards men, your every-day knowledge can testify that there are hundreds of surveyors, brickmakers, bricklayers, carpenters, ironworkers, excavators and others, wanting and asking for work, who would be only too glad to assist in the building up of public works that would add to the comfort of your town. When the whole of the notes so advanced were paid away, and you in possession of the waterworks, docks, and breakwater, you would be enabled to charge for water supplied, and the use of the docks at the rate of 5 per cent. over and above the cost of wear; and then, with this 5 per cent. call in one-twentieth of the notes so advanced, so that in the course of twenty years, the whole of the notes would be redeemed out of the income of the works. After the redemption you could reduce the charges, or continue the

same, and thus provide an income for local purposes, instead of the present charges levied on the town. These works must be made, and as representative men of Durban, I beg of you to take the matter in hand for the advantage of the people, and the reduction of local taxation. Let there be no delay. Prove by your actions that you are the wise men of Natal, elected for your business-like qualities, and your desire to serve your fellow-citizens. You now have an opportunity to carry out a great work, adding to the comfort and happiness of your colony, and to immortalise your names as benefactors of the human race. Let the future prove you are the men equal to the task, and—

In our distress with legal tenders chase  
 All fear of want from Labour's hardy race ;  
 Bid aqueducts be formed to bring the rills  
 Of purest water from the neighbouring hills ;  
 Bid dams expand where youth may safely float ;  
 Bid deepened streams the health of towns promote ;  
 Bid harbours open, public works and ways extend ;  
 Bid temples worthier of Art and Science ascend ;  
 Bid the broad arch the dangerous flood contain ;  
 The mole projected break the roaring main.  
 Back to her bounds ; the subject sea command ;  
 And roll obedient rivers through the land.  
 Lastly, let Government such wages give  
 On public works that all may toil and live ;  
 Then all who toil will find life pass along  
 Happier, sustained by labour than by wrong.  
 Then will our honest workers be better fed—  
 No workhouse test nor destitution dread—  
 And all around them rising in the scale  
 Of Comfort, show that Humanity's laws prevail."

## RAILWAYS AND HOW TO CONSTRUCT THEM.

DEDICATED TO THE GOVERNOR AND MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT  
 IN NATAL.

GENTLEMEN.—For reasons best known to your constituents, you have been elected to fill one of the most honourable and responsible positions in the colony. Much has been done to improve the cities and ports, in the making of roads, and last, but not least, the construction of some few miles of railway.

So far as the work done is concerned, I have no desire to complain; but as regards the work to be done in the future, and how the work shall be done, I take this opportunity of suggesting. It must be a painful fact for you, while passing from your constituencies to the metropolis, to commence your duties in the future Parliament, to have so many bad roads and annoyances to encounter, owing to the want of a proper system of railways throughout the country. I can quite comprehend that you would alter all this if you could only meet with some well-devised plan, providing for a thorough net-work of railways up to the Free State and the towns, by means of loop lines, also showing how the means could be found to carry out the same. Believing this to be your position towards the public, I make bold to show you by what process the railways can be most economically and effectually attained.

In the future construction of railways I would urge the following plan:—That, in the event of Parliament being satisfied that additional railroads were required, the estimated cost, in the form of £1 notes, be issued by a bank created for the express purpose; such notes to be legal tender for all taxes, debts, rents, &c., throughout the colony; the notes to pay for all material in the colony and for workmanship. Thus, if the railway to the Diamond Fields, with all the connecting loops to the large towns and villages, was estimated to cost, in materials and workmanship, £10,000,000, that sum should be created in £1 notes to construct the same. That when the line was in working order, a charge upon the same to be made that would enable the Government, after allowing for the cost of wear and tear, to call in 5 per cent. of the £10,000,000 so issued. By this process the whole of the £10,000,000 would be cleared off in 20 years, and the line absolutely free from all constructing charges, and then leaving in the care of the Colonists a property worth £10,000,000, upon which, if they felt so disposed, a charge could be made that would provide an income to meet the expenses of Government, without resorting to the wretched system of imposing custom and other petty dues, that only burden the people, and add to the cost of com-

modities, and prevent all those engaged in such collection adding to the productions of the colony.

Cost in the future must be the limit of price in all our Colonial concerns ; and when we take into consideration the report of the Railway Commissioners of 1865, who proved it was possible that in England coals could be carried at 1d. per ton per mile, including the taking back of the empty trucks, and still leave a handsome profit ; and further, that a train capable of travelling a distance of a mile, containing 500 passengers, would only cost on an average 2s. per mile, thus enabling passengers to travel at the rate of 12 or 16 miles for a penny.

I believe it would be possible, under a proper system of construction of railways in this colony, for goods to be carried at 6d. per ton per mile, and passengers at 6d. per journey of 12 or 16 miles, and then leave sufficient to allow of the 5 per cent. for the redemption of the original capital advanced.

Fortunately for Natal, its sugar industry is in its infancy, but as years roll on it must be the sugar manufactory for the whole of the Cape Colony, the Transvaal, and the upper interior country ; and then, what with its facilities for the carrying trade far up country, it will virtually hold the key to all the East interior trade in its hands, as Cape Town is destined to become the mouth, and like a new York for all the Western trade, directly its line of railway is open to Kimberley, and, finally, on to the far interior to meet some well-known trade route to the Upper Nile. In my own view of things, the Midland and Kaffrarian part of the old colony is likely to undergo a falling off in all its business, unless it at once secures its inland trade by a systematic agricultural extension, which can be so easily arranged by means of irrigation, as just shown by its Bedford and Wijk dams and reservoirs completed by the Scanlen Government ; making it possible for thousands of acres to be utilised for wheat and other produce.

Much of Natal and the colony is lying waste for want of its "upper water" being held back until required. There are any number of mountains at hand to be scattered by

dynamite and removed to the rivers, to form walls to keep back the waters; but at present no statesman to undertake such recuperative works of utility. All these up-country districts could produce all the corn in quantity, as now imported, and thus save, to the extent of at least three-quarters of a million of money, and in exchange for its sugar, sent up land and bringing down its corn from Basutoland and the Transvaal, which undoubtedly, under English agriculturists, would prove the granary of South Africa. The absence of birds and no fear of rust in the districts, would make all this possible to achieve when Natal and the colony boast of statesmen who know how to inaugurate a vast system of irrigation as they have in India, China, and in Italy; and if such enclosures and water arrangements were made in Africa as here shown in Italy and Australia, all would be well if based upon the legal tender notes, that I have so often drawn attention to for public works construction.

#### IRRIGATION WORKS IN ITALY.

The irrigation system of Italy is probably the most complete in the world, although it is constantly being increased; and it forms a part of the elaborate system of defence against floods, necessitated by the conformation of the Northern Provinces. According to the latest official statistics, the irrigation canals of Piedmont alone give 125,550 gallons per second, distributed over 1,340,000 acres; and those of Lombardy 95,355 gallons per second, distributed over 1,680,400 acres. These great works have not been, comparatively speaking, expensive. The Cavour Canal, constructed within the last few years, draws its supply from the river Po and Dora Baltea. It gives a flow of 29,200 gallons per second, waters nearly 40,000 acres, and cost £1,600,000, about £32,000 per mile. It was constructed in four years, and measures are now under consideration for increasing its outflow by 5,300 gallons per second. A smaller canal, subsidiary to it, gives 18,540 gallons per second, and cost £24,154 per mile. The largest canals are the Cavour, and its subsidiary canal, just mentioned; the Muzza, Aghans, and Naviglio Grande.

The smaller of these gives 13,000 gallons per second. Below this point the canals become very numerous, and interspersed all over the country. These canals are not only used for purposes of irrigation, but also to supply motive power, by which again the water is raised to districts lying upon a higher level. On the steep slope of the Dora Baltea, not far from Turin, three canals (the Torsa, Agliano and Rotho) flow parallel to each other, at different levels, while the water is used at the top of the hill, sixty-two feet above the highest of them. The arrangement adopted is as follows:—A stream of one hundred and fifty-four gallons per second is diverted from the Torea Canal and carried down the hill in a leaden pipe, until it meets the Agliano Canal. Here it is pumped up to the summit level by eight pumps, worked by four turbines, driven by a fall of water taken from the Agliano Canal and allowed to flow down into the Rotho. By joining this latter it is used for irrigation, and thus not a drop is wasted. The great principle of Italian engineers is to work on a large scale, thus attaining at the same time efficiency and economy, and avoiding constant alterations and additions; and it is by such means that the extraordinary fertility of Northern Italy is produced and maintained.

*The Sydney Morning Herald*, in calling attention to the last report of the chief inspector of stock, says, it contains some remarkable statements, which would be suggestive of comment under any circumstances; but are peculiarly worthy of consideration at a time when the land law is under review, and a radical change has been projected. The statements in question relate to the improvements made in the pastoral districts. In the matter of fencing it appears that there are now only 1,288 runs, that are open or unenclosed, whilst the enclosed runs number 8,802; and the number properly subdivided is 5,689 against 4,403, partially subdivided. The number of miles of fencing is estimated at 920,000, which, at an average cost of £51 per mile, represents an expenditure of £46,920,000. There are, according to estimates 9,475 dams, representing, at an average cost of £101, £956,975; there are 15,858 tanks, which, at an average of £180 5s., have cost £2,858,404 10s.; and there are 2,195 wells, which, at an

average of £307 10s., have cost £674,962 10s. Thus we have a total outlay of £4,400,342 for water supply and storage. These figures, the *Herald* points out, show plainly enough that the expansion of our pastoral enterprise, and the increase in our pastoral wealth, are not due solely to the beneficial influences of unassisted nature. Nature has been bountiful enough to provide the foundations for this enterprise; but the estimates given above point to an immense expenditure of energy and capital in overcoming adverse conditions, and turning the natural resources of the country, and such advantages as soil and climate offer, to good account. It is estimated by the *Sydney Morning Herald* that of the £88,000,000 advances of the whole of the Bank of Australia, £55,000,000 have been lent to graziers, from £10,000,000 to £15,000,000 to agriculturists, and about £20,000,000 to the mercantile community.

Natal, like all other parts of South Africa, is in a frightful collapse in trade, and a scarcity of money since the close of the Zulu and Transvaal wars. The most outrageous infringement by Disraeli, Freer & Co., the Tory charlatans, on other people's rights was inaugurated under a Tory government; but there, it is the old, old plan of the Tories to create some foreign divergence so as to ignore all home improvements and advantages.

To bring about another war, is the ardent desire of many of the contracting, loafing inhabitants of Natal; and it may be truly said that they prayed earnestly, and gave, on the quiet, big subscriptions to keep up the war spirit. Not that they hoped to be in the battle, for they belonged to the class of bully warriors that believe in running away, but not even to fight another day, for fear of losing the continual pay that they fancy John Bull can give out. Such prayer is their *body's* sincere desire, expressed far, far more earnestly than anything they utter in their conventicles. In such "houses of call" they know there is not much that is tangible, while lending to the Lord is now a very doubtful investment, and to be continually paying men to remind them of their temporal Lord, in Heavenly speculation, is not conducive to profit. Although they go to their Sunday public

“Go” meeting, to advertise their respectability, and to meet their fellow hypocritical respectables, and to enable them to assist in carrying out a little discipline and order, men are prepared, as in France, to sacrifice a little time every Sunday to accompany their wives and their families to their different churches. But as to feeling in their hearts any love for the unreal thing, as taught in our churches and chapels of the day, is to suppose that we are going back to the dark ages created by the church, instead of to the day of religious and scientific light of the future. Inquisitions and thumb-screws, and walling up alive, and dropping water upon the head until madness and torture ends all, is past ; although the inclination is still good among the clergy of all denominations, and I fear even among the sisters of these pretended self-made eunuchs. Fortunately the records of these men and women are to be found on every library shelf to guide and warn the inquirer.

While cogitating upon these things, I heard some vile discords at the back of the hotel, and to my annoyance found it proceeding from a so-called Kaffir House of God. Let it be known by its real name—the bigot's home of men. Now in the next century, when we poor ones of this are gone-buried, or burnt by the new process of cremation, for the sake of the health of all, this last mode of being again dissolved into the natural state must be adopted, even if it is, as one religious fool in Bloemfontein maintained that it was, a heathen idea. Poor man, he could not think of loving anything heathen. Why his whole religious system is one vast heathen compound of fraud, yet to be exposed and removed. Then churches and other places of worship could be turned into houses of science and entertainment, to fill the hearts of all with one continual feast of reason and enjoyment. What a smile of pity the future generation will give, when they read of the silly doings amongst us moderns, when they know we taught the Zulu and Kaffir to sing hymns to the greatest humanitarian of by-gone ages, but with the colouring of parsons and priests, so that his real human nature was entirely lost sight of, to enable them to *pose* him as the son of the Great I Am—the maker of this unknown, and ever to



be unknown universe. Man in the future will be able to conquer Nature in many of her forms, by working and storing up all her powers on this earth; for with man's modern power of machinery, there will be nothing impossible to him, and if the priest would at once set himself the task of showing all this to the native, and thus help him to master all nature's arrangements; to live a happy, full, and contented life, we could credit him with something good. To sing to the power of man, the conquests he has made by his observation, and to compose more hymns as he still invented and progressed, would indeed prove good and beneficial; for let who may say to the contrary, I know, for uttering these thoughts, there will be many who would stone, hang or crucify me, if they dared or could, without being responsible for my removal. Believe me, the same spirit is abroad, "Away with———as of old, when they hung up in the orthodox manner on a cross, the gentle Jesus, who would have reformed his age. There will be nothing impossible to man, for *all* rivers will be used to make *all* plains blossom like the rose, and the hills to be the constant grazing grounds for his cattle, if he remains carnivorous—for with improved powers of electricity and lifting water, the very hills will give forth sweetness at all times.

It makes one sad, and almost mad, at men wasting their time and health in the unattainable, when nature demands to be utilised in all countries and climates. When the material wealth, combined with all sanitary arrangements are carried out, men will not in countries where the native dwells desire John Bull's soldiers, and what at present is more important, John Bull's gold to help them on. Seeing the everlasting prospect of production *ad libitum*, and by a proper means of exchange, tokens or money, an everlasting consumption *ad infinitum*, they will only require a local or universal police to guard the individual and collective property of the country or the world. While I recognise the community principle of all wealth for future national purposes and municipal governments for all town and local works as described in "How to Construct Works of Public Utility," I do not desire, nor will it be possible, to destroy all the individual

ownership of movable property and heir-looms, the production of one's own hands, or purchased by one's own honest means. Such will always be a delight, and a passion; but this will grow in union with the desire of all to add to the interests of the community, based upon the gifts and the good of all, by the use of all, for the delight and benefit of all. Then, indeed, as a matter of economy the sword will be turned into a reaper and pruning-hook, and the other weapons of murderers into the mowers of nature's gifts, and then, and only then, pray, as many will to the contrary, will peace and goodwill be possible among mankind, and Christ's true mission be recognised. Nature must be used, and it must be seen that the farmer, as below described, is the true son of nature for the benefit of all.

#### THE FARMER.

The king may rule o'er land and sea,  
 The lord may live right royally,  
 The soldier ride in pomp and pride,  
 The sailor roam o'er ocean wide,  
     But this, or that, whate'er befall,  
 The Farmer he must feed them all.

The writer thinks, the poet sings,  
 The craftsmen fashion wondrous things,  
 The doctor heals, the lawyer pleads,  
 The miner follows the precious leads,  
     But this, or that, whate'er befall,  
 The Farmer he must feed them all.

The merchant he may buy and sell,  
 The teacher do his duty well,  
 But men may toil through busy days,  
 Or men may stroll through pleasant ways,  
     From king to beggar, whate'er befall,  
 The Farmer he must feed them all.

The farmer's trade is one of worth,  
 He's partner with the sky and earth,  
 He's partner with the sun and rain,  
 And no man loses for his gain,  
     And men may rise, or men may fall,  
 But the Farmer he must feed them all.

The farmer dares his mind to speak,  
 He has no gift, or place to seek,  
 To no man living need he bow,  
 The man that walks behind the plough,  
 He's his own master whate'er befall,  
 And king or beggar he feeds us all.

God bless the man who sows the wheat,  
 Who finds us milk, and fruit and meat,  
 May his purse be heavy, his heart be light,  
 His cattle and corn, and all, go right,  
 God bless the seeds his hands let fall,  
 For the Farmer he must feed us all.

LILLIE E. BARR.

All this will be admitted by the advanced guard of humanity, but as I write not to the whole, or those who know, I fast, and cry out as one in the wilderness the facts of those whose boots I am not worthy to make clean.

The citizens of Durban, with a boldness commendable, requested the loan of £300,000 for improved public works, but such is the fear of a lifetime of interest to the modern taxpayer, that they in haste recoiled from the suggestion; but had they known how to construct the same, as indicated in the previous letters that I addressed to the "Fathers of the City" of Port Elizabeth, when I first landed in South Africa, and which I again sent to the "Fathers of the City" of Durban, they would, if carried out, have given satisfaction to everybody.

Now the letters but express in one or two instances what my more comprehensive work on Public Works shows. Now let all ask themselves one important question—What constitutes money?

Let our readers ask themselves, seriously, what a piece of money is—or what is a bank note? Let them recognise that either is but a symbol or token, to be used between man and man in exchange for each other's services or goods. Bear in mind that silver and gold are the result of labour, and if struck with a certain die it bears a certain recognised value. If, therefore, gold and silver are the result of labour, and are used as a medium of exchange for any given quantity of commodities, why should not the man who labours to make bricks,

or doors, or saucepans, be competent to have a symbol-note of his toil, which he could use to purchase for himself and family the necessaries of life, without the intervention of the gold discoverer? The holder of the labour-note could freely purchase an equivalent amount of services or produce of some one else; and this process would be continued until the labour-note had returned to the original issuer, when it would be cancelled, having fulfilled its functions as a representative money medium.

Then the whole trouble will be got over—with railways, breakwaters, and water supplies; and then, instead of relying, as now, upon an accidental discovery of brackish and a limited supply of water from a brickfield, your rivers, by a systematic arrangement, by gravitation or lifting, could supply all towns near or far, and the fear of being involved for ever in debt banished from the midst of all the people.

It was with sadness that one looked upon some of the new structures, more especially the new theatre and the cheap run-up houses in the front, close to the old and new disease-creating cemetery. The town has grown so amazingly during the last ten years that the living are now in the skirts of the dead, certainly without any harm to the inhabitants of the graves, but a constant source of contamination to the living, so that instead of the dead being useful as assistants to the growth of all fruit and other trees, they are a constant danger in their death. I am not so commercial as to sell my grandparents, but when it is remembered that one professor has estimated that if the bodies of the 80,000 persons dying annually in London alone, were calcined, the ashes would be worth £500,000 a year, if sold for growing purposes; it does become a question in this age, if it would not be well to adopt the principle of cremation, and use the remains for beautifying all our gardens, and assisting our agriculture in its development, rather than our graveyards, as now arranged, should be the birthplace in death of all kinds of diseases to the constant danger of the living. For ground at a low price being near this death out of death-creating spot, the builder had erected a house of laughter and amusement, starting with some considerable means, but not counting the cost after spending

£9,000, he was at last compelled to fall in the hands of those Jew thieves on the way-side, the money-lenders, who stripped him of all, and took the full benefit of all he had invested. He is now wandering the wide world over, hoping for the good Samaritan to bind up his commercial wounds, and set him once more on his way, in hope, if not in rejoicing.

The construction of this "home of resort" was a public Boon to the Durbanites, and, as a matter of fact, as much needed as Boon's necessities of life. To show up the past tragedies of life, and how to avoid the tragedies of the future. The building of this theatre was indeed a tragedy to its constructor, ruined by a money market and interest over which he had no control. Now this individual tragedy would have been impossible if it had been built by *municipal legal tenders*, for, however we may disguise the fact, the outcome remains, that the constructor was ruined, and such failures are not uncommon, bringing on many a heart-disease. Now the buying up of land and erven, for speculative purposes, must ever be a snare and a curse to individuals. The fact of being able by such trickery to take out of your neighbours pockets a something for which you have given nothing, creates a savage idea. To take advantage of your neighbour, say what we may, men who make this their business, are no less pick-pockets than the common foot-pad. In encouraging this feeling they but impress their low grasping natures in opposition to all that is ennobling, until their children are as much the respectable *looking thieves of the mansion*, as the *swellsman* of the past highwaymen clique, the *blacklegs* of our racecourses, and public robbers of to-day to be found in the centres of our so-called civilisation. But while I regret this builder's mania and outcome, I must also deplore the use that our stages are applied to, and must again protest against our actresses making themselves so common on the public stage. It lays them open to become the paramours of well known natural sons of Earls, simply on the principle, that they having money, the outcome of other men's labour, are prepared to shield and "protect" in a colony, while they have conjugal relations waiting in vain for them in England. If men are unwisely matched, let them be martyrs, until they can bring

about a wise system of divorce. I can quite understand men being yoked to some modern Zantippe, or Virago, as if to a living corpse, who to know is a misfortune, and to encourage, a crime. No true woman is such when poverty or misfortune overtakes a man. If men in moments of weakness form alliances, let the matter be quietly conducted; but that men should ally themselves when married to a public dancer or caterer is to expose nastiness, and encourage public immorality in open forms. All who know how truly the stage can be utilised as a public teacher of all that is ennobling and pure, must regret that the gentle sex should be open to such temptations. If it is necessary for our women and the daughters of England to take parts on our stages to illustrate more forcibly the characters to be portrayed, do not let them do so until they can enter into the bonds of affinity, and be for ever after respected and dignified mothers, to the honour of all men and the glory of all women. I am not desirous of being narrow in my views of marriage. There are times and conditions when it would be wiser for a man to have more than one wife, when naturally it would be more decent to have two, and certainly a delicacy; but at no time without proper considerations on the part of society to the arrangements. Men and women, if they desire the privileges, must also show that they are willing to perform the duties, and the responsibilities must not be forgotten. The impossibility of having a family may be a misfortune to a most loving pair, without the desire of parting company, but to both it might be a source of comfort, if the man could marry a second wife, who would become as much honoured, and who might be the mother of a family that would bring joy to many a homestead, and thus destroy the desire to be led astray, as some men are, when not with their families, away from children and other physical conditions. Say what we will, no home is complete without children, and that within a few years after married life. With such fathers love is a spontaneous thing. A true typical Englishman of the old fashioned kind, his courtesy is of the old world, so too, his strict, stern integrity, bold and fearless as a lion, he never knows when he is beaten—right down in earnest about all he does—hearty

and merry—tender-hearted in real distress—a loving husband and a good father—but a terrible foe to hypocrisy and vice. To *such* children are as blessings. Then again, what but our tyrannical conditions towards women prevents her from ceasing to add to her family number, or choosing the father of her children? It was considered no shame to our Greek grandfathers and grandmothers, who recognised that only the best should have children. Many a true natural woman wishes long for the position of maternity, and but for the fact that our laws only look upon women as the chattels of men, so to speak, and the living property of some man, they would not hesitate to become mothers of the noblest thing in creation if they could do so under dignified conditions to themselves or their offspring who would maintain them at their own cost, and in no case trespass upon the rights of others; but with the fullness of women, would consider themselves blessed among women. Why, *Turkey* sets us a pattern, which is superior to our so called Christian example. There the son of a bond-woman is equal to the son of a free-woman. Not that I believe in women being in bonds, but the principle is recognised that no natural, dignified act is disgraceful, but rather ennobling, enabling all to fulfil their natural functions, as best suited to themselves, for it must not be forgotten that marriage is but a conventional arrangement. Nature knows of no such conditions, for the convenience and for the preservation of all children; but under the natural condition there would be no less a desire to preserve human life. I am not an advocate for promiscuous passion, lust and outcome, and prefer monogamy; but there are times when polygamy is a natural accompaniment, and therefore deserves the earnest consideration of our future legislators; and let it not be forgotten that I urge these changes in all earnestness for the true liberty of the subject, and the truest morality, if found to be conducive thereto—anything otherwise to be altered; but let no false shame or lust outcry at these suggestions; ignore the fact that marital conditions must be looked into, and worked out for the future satisfaction of all concerned, and if not at the present, the future must solve such important considerations.

THE STRUGGLE OF EXISTENCE.—Struggle, often baffled, sorely baffled, down as into entire wreck ; yet a struggle never ended ; ever will bear repentance, true, unconquerable purpose, begun anew. Poor human nature ! Is not a man's walking, in truth, always that—"a succession of falls ?" Man can do no other. In this wild element of a life he has to struggle onwards ; now fallen, now deep-abased ; and ever with tears and repentance, with bleeding heart, he has to rise again and struggle again still onward. That his struggle be a faithful, unconquerable one ; that is the question of questions. We will put up with many sad details if the soul of it be true.—*Carlyle, in "Hero-Worship."*

CONSTRUCTION IN DESTRUCTION. — The great objection urged against me by my opponents is that I am constantly tearing down and never build up. Now, I cannot for my life see why any one should be charged with tearing down and not rebuilding, simply because he exposes a sham or detects a lie. I do not feel under any obligation to build up something in the place of a detected falsehood. All I think I am under obligation to put in the place of a detected lie is the detection.







## CHAPTER XXI.

DURBAN I have described in my first "jottings," therefore that subject can be dismissed, with a few remarks on the inlet and outlet of Natal. It will always hold its place, and as years roll on, must increase, and therefore the more reason for its improvement in every shape and feature to preserve health to all who will of necessity visit it.

With full municipal powers, all will be well in Durban and Natal, and with the permanent tie still more strengthened from Downing Street, nothing more can be desired. The Cape Colony knows now to its cost that it may have, what is called responsible government, at too great a cost to the colonists.

After viewing the market, indulging in its varied fruits of bananas, pine apples, lognots and oranges, all of which were plentiful and cheap, with its Coolies, quiet, frugal, but treacherous for its salesmen, and natives, big and good-humoured for porters. Hotels and public-houses numerous, and I regret to add, well frequented, and much money spent and time wasted in consuming Hollands gin. It is related as a fact that one ship was there discharging cargo, consisting entirely of gin, the Natalians maintaining that for preservation of health, they are compelled to counteract its bad water with the European liver-killer. The harbour, the only natural one on the coast at present used, men good, bad and indifferent as at all ports, and one can admire the indomitable business-pluck that has reared on a sand flat so large a house of commerce, and struggled against the natural obstacles presented by its bar, with so much courage and success.

Natal is known as the garden of South Africa, and it is to

some extent a truth, but it has great drawbacks to white men from its intense heat. Natalians are very proud of the fact that their railway was the first opened in South Africa. There are very few Dutch families in Durban, or its suburbs; they are to be found in the up-country. Kaffirs are here used for domestic work. Big strapping fellows, dressed in white, or the colours of a jockey, tenderly nursing babies in long clothes, or pushing the perambulator and helping in household work. Natal being in want of gentle reliable labour at all times, finding the Kaffir unwilling or unsuitable for field work, sent to India for Coolies, and there are now thousands in the colony.

My landlord, desiring to delight me, took me for a long ride past the splendid botanical garden, and all round the high ground, called the Berea; and the fact that this hill has been laid out in dwelling-plots, commanding a splendid view of the sea, city, and the shipping, makes it the resort and dwelling-hill of all the well-to-do merchants of the town. It may be considered the Durban health-lung of the coast. In the winter months it is said that the climate of Durban and Natal in general, is simply perfect, but woe-betide the delicate individual in the summer months. In Durban and elsewhere in the colony, the same bitter feeling towards the outcome of missions exists, and it is generally felt that all the money and labour that are spent in violent efforts for conversion, is a waste of means, and would be better applied among the white pagans and heathen of the Old Country. The Christian Kaffir is held to be no improvement upon the pure and simple Zulu, neither has Christianity improved the dignity or honesty of the Indian Coolie.

In nine opinions out of ten you will find colonists denouncing what they call missionary Kaffirs in no measured terms, and there must be some grounds for so sweeping an opinion. But I feel persuaded that if missionary enterprise devoted itself more to the inculcation of the necessity of work and labour, as the end of a useful life, in lieu of the Scriptural theories of man's equality, the result might be more satisfactory.

Having rested from my labours, I spent a few hours with a

most intelligent man engaged with a merchant, that I had to buy from, and who I trust to know intimately in the future. He was like many others that I had met, who hunger and thirst after life's knowledge ; but alas, there seems no one capable of uttering those truths, and working out those modes of action that would give life a chance, and not only drive dull care away, but make the future more hopeful. The uncertainty of life, and the means to prolong it is the gradual killing of thousands. Here was a young man better off than myriads, yet at an early period of his existence, though blessed with a nice home, a young wife, and apparently all to make life full of happiness and contentment, weighed down with grief and woe, because with our unfortunate conditions of civilisation the future had a dark colouring ; for although he had in his thoughtfulness assured his life, for the benefit of his wife and family, the fact remained that many offices had failed in the past to fulfil their engagements, and thus perhaps all his generous sacrifices might be of no avail. It was so in my own case. For eight long years I paid my premiums to the Albert Assurance office, which (so said its directors), after many years of unrivalled success, failed to keep its engagements, and brought ruin to hundreds, while the manager, amassed through his trickery, a fortune out of the deceived assurers. By such means I was robbed of £80. Since then one knows how unwise it is to risk anything in such societies. The same applies to most of the benefit societies throughout the United Kingdom. They will take the premiums, knowing all the time they are receiving money under false pretences, and in face of the warning of the late Mr. Tidd Pratt. After such an experience, who can recommend a private assurance or insurance company ? Let pressure step in, ruin and misery follows. Government assurance offers full security for all, and it is but right that men should make provision for their families in and under all circumstances. With Government Assurance we shall rid ourselves of the host of directors, and all other officials engaged in securing to themselves the wealth of the producers. Many pleasant hours we spent in discussing various subjects of general interest, and what was beginning to be felt of vital

importance to Natal, the question of the Transvaal Gold Fields turning out a success. I only wish they may get it; one thing is certain, that at present, it is in most cases necessary to spend £8 to £10 to get one ounce of gold. Let the public fully realise that many a Gold Company has failed in the same part, and that the present companies are mostly being run by unprincipled frauds, of the past, and notably by the Benjamins of questionable fame, and last, but not least, the Emma Mine Jew Fraud Grant, commonly called the *Baron* and other virtuous descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the old champion liars and tricksters of their race, and they will comprehend the kind of speculation they are asked to embark in. In my later "History of the Free State and Transvaal," I intend giving such facts and statements as will open the eyes of the blind, and give the world another proof of how the Jew can borrow without ever thinking of repaying. This man most earnestly assured me that, for truth, honesty, and general good behaviour, the merchants and townsmen always preferred the raw Zulu to the Christian rascal and the wretched, lying, "plenty-sick excuse me" Coolie; the difference being so marked, compared with the living animal of a Kaffir, that it was delightful to contemplate that the labour question might yet be solved if the same plan was adopted of reserves and locations as in the old Colony. In Natal the clean aspect of the native, the absence of the red-blanket foul-smoking Kaffir women in the streets, made the meeting of the one tolerable, compared to the dirty half-dressed in old clothes and hats that won't fit, and the filthy habits of smoking and expectorating of the Gaika Galeka, who seem more like demons of a pandemonium out for a walk, in comparison to the Zulu, and the plan was preferred in Natal rather than allowed by the responsible Government of the colony. Taxation without representation must ever be tyranny in a conquered country, but the connection between the old Mother Country and her colonies ought not to be sundered too hastily. The constant need for the struggle of existence does not allow men to devote sufficient time for the settlement of all questions. A paternal care of all with a firm unflinching hand, is the one thing needed for fair play between "white

and black." Self-government for boys is a sign of weakness in a parent, and that self-government is a snare and a mistake for young communities, has been felt by the most thoughtful in the old colony; and it never would have been carried out but to enrich a few colonists and government officials who bribed the supporters of the past. Alas, the bribery of some destroys the possibility of the many; and as a result, war, debt, famine, pestilence, disease, dishonour and death, as in the old Colony, the outcome of a prigg, until at last in despair a Scanlen premier must go home over the sea, not as a victim to the wrath of the people, but to victimise the English money-lender once more, and to gull John Bull into believing that all he says is as true as the gospel. Cetewayo and his nowhere flight, and the possibility of a favourable answer to the prayers of the war party being received—of course at the expense of the English taxpayer—were the main topics of the Durbanites. Another glut of gold to enrich them was the hope of these thousands. Cetewayo had no one to blame for all his misfortunes after his restoration, but for the folly of his head men, or his own want of wisdom, he deserves all the after consequences; and to prove this I here reprint a memorandum from the late Blue Book, that has escaped notice, but which bears most forcibly and ably on the situation.

Sir T. Shepstone's views, as expressed in London four months ago, will be heartily endorsed by all colonists.

"Cetewayo's object is evidently to render the arrangements under which he has been restored incapable of being carried out, by so agitating the minds of the people as to prevent their placing any confidence in the intentions of the Government. He knows that unless such agitation is immediately commenced and vigorously prosecuted, the contentment of the people will, later on, deprive his efforts in that direction of much of their chance of success. He is also fully aware that by keeping the country in an unsettled state, he gives force to the argument that will be used in his interests, that such a condition is the consequence of the whole of Zululand not having been placed under his rule.

"I regard the state of things in that country, disclosed by

Sir Henry Bulwer's despatch, as the result of a deliberately adopted plan, which in Cetewayo's view is capable of attaining its object without recourse being necessary to acts of positive aggression; it is calculated so to unsettle and weary the minds of the people, as to induce them eventually to prefer his rule, with all their objections to it, to the continual apprehension which his declarations and threats must cause, in the absence of any visible sign of the protecting arm of the Government among or near to them.

"The success of the scheme under which Cetewayo has been restored, which I believe to be self-adjusting and self-sustaining, depends very much upon the firmness shown by Her Majesty's Government, even to the exhibition of force, in insisting for the first year or two upon the terms of it being fully carried out; any sign of weak intention at first will cause the loss, not only of the confidence of the people, but of control over them, and of the revenue to support their Government, which should be derived from them.

"I see no reason, except the feeble assertion of authority at first, why Zululand should ultimately cost the Imperial Government any treasure, or why all necessary expenditure in firmly establishing the arrangement that has been sanctioned there should not be repaid; but a rule that neither inspires confidence, nor commands respect, cannot ensure revenue.

"It was unfortunate that it became necessary to withdraw all Her Majesty's troops before the reserved territory was more permanently settled; that that territory must, however, be settled, and firmly ruled on the principles proclaimed to the people, and that Cetewayo's aggressive conduct must be checked, if only to prevent disaster to Natal, is beyond doubt.

"I am inclined to think that a message to Cetewayo, firmly declaring the determination of the Government to maintain the conditions on which he was restored, would produce a good effect; if this proved insufficient, a second message accompanied by the movement of some troops in Natal towards the border, or even into the Reserved Territory, would, I think, be necessary to show the determination of the

Government, and give confidence to the people ; but it seems to me to be clear that any further delay in the practical assertion of its authority by Her Majesty's Government will in the end entail consequences much more serious than need be apprehended now.

“ It will be desirable, should such messages be sent or action taken, that they should be formally communicated beforehand to the native headmen in the Reserved Territory, in order that they may fully comprehend their meaning.”

After one of the most vapour-bath like days it was ever my lot to spend in Durban, although I was assured it was the normal condition for months, and that without such the sugar interests of Natal would be a failure, I sallied out for a walk in the middle of a dry thunder and lightning storm to get cool, if possible, in the open air. Such storms are so common that no one takes any care to avoid them, but how the population exist under such heat is a marvel to me. The constant tropical heat with the Indian Ocean vapours must be most detrimental and destructive to European life, and calls forth all sorts of means and appliances to counteract. Certainly by the skill with which Durban is lighted up, the clean walks and wide promenades, give the town all the appearance of a well-to-do city of the west, and one could only hope that nothing will be left undone to add to its beauty, comfort and general arrangement in the future. Had I been one of the distinguished men of note, I should have called upon the Mayor for a cooling draught from the public stores of city paid-for wines to have made the walk more enjoyable ; but belonging to the unknown, I had to content myself with my cogitations instead. I finally turned into rest, feeling content with myself and all mankind. Up with the sun, and for a long walk, which finally brought me to the fruit market, once more to invest in a box of pines, to send on in hopes of its safe arrival in the Colony, where, thanks to a friend, it arrived in due course, to the delight of my family and friends. Another quiet walk over the Berea, and I can quite understand, with all the disadvantages, the love the Durbanites feel for their city, and its surroundings which give such a delightful, constant panorama of its docks and shipping. All round are to

be seen the most elegant villas to be imagined, sheltered in the rich tropical woods. As Nature made the scene, and when the trees are in flower, it must, with all its rich colouring, appear a perfect Eden to all. To a dweller in a dried-up country atmosphere, the whole aspect, with its rich foliage, its ever lovely tint of green, was most refreshing to the eyes, and one felt that one could enjoy the scene for ever, and drink deep draughts of Nature. The atmosphere was laden with so much humidity that I always seemed as if I was walking in a Turkish bath; not a thing on me seemed dry, and they felt perfectly unbearable, and I felt how delicious it would have been to be fanned by an Indian to cool one and keep off the mosquitoes. The dinner-bell called me once more to action, to enjoy a refreshing repast, although I was annoyed by sitting opposite to one of those unfortunate tall corn-stalks, in the form of a man, who assumed the airs and the attitude of an epicure, though with the appetite of a gourmand, whose sole business seemed to be to feed his animalism. This was bad enough, but the loud swaggering talk of the man, and his impertinence in intruding himself into other people's conversation at a public table, and his views of the dignity and position of women, totally out of place, was infinitely worse. It is a sad thing that the youth of to-day are so deficient in that knowledge that would make them men, and command the respect of their fellow-workers.

After dinner I spent a most enjoyable evening with a friend, and with utter forgetfulness of the time of night, discoursed on many of the social, political and theological problems of the day. The following day being Sunday, and with time at my disposal, I wandered forth to note if the Churches were better than in the Colony. The architectural structures, while showing what man could do, was not the interesting part to me, but what was uttered. Inside the congregation of the Catholic Cathedral was a compound of poor whites, coolies, and blacks. All this to give the idea that all flesh, of whatever race or colour, should see the Lord. Most men fully know that the Christian religion is barren comparatively, when judged by the ancient religion of India or China. The priest in this house of man was but a mechanical chatterer, possessing no



power to charm his audience, which was small and unsympathetic, so I passed out, and called at the Wesleyan Church. Their building was a relic of pride and ostentatiousness. At one time it was never conceived that a Wesleyan could be excited over a building, organ, or style, as a true disciple of Wesley, in his worship; but all these outward arrangements are more important than the mouthpiece that stands before the people, and thus it happened that this organ and the player were of more consequence than the preacher and the company of the choir, an important factor in filling the chapel of—shall I say—worshippers of righteousness. I dropped in when the neatly dressed, well oiled, sleek looking preacher, so called, was reading about circumcision. I felt I could almost have cried out to the reader to explain what was circumcision, and I viewed with horror the possibility of a young maiden fresh from the country, starting up and demanding an explanation in detail of such an operation. It is something outrageous that a physical dissertation—and that a sexual one—should be openly read, and talked about in a public place of worship in the presence of mothers, men, youths and maidens, and, to give it more pungency, to give the opinion of a Paul on their holy day. Why, circumcision in its reality, would hardly be discussed in an assembly of Kaffirs, who believe in and practice the same. With disgust I bade adieu to the place, and passed on to the church, in time to hear the æsthetic sanctimonious Amelia, and would-be finished reader, going through the Litany, and calling upon a God to preserve them from the assaults of another God—the D.—evil, and the congregation drawing out that their good Lord would preserve and deliver them. I wondered if they were worth saving. O my! this God-created man-teasing Devil; well may they wish for preservation if all is true they say of him, and I pity from my heart those who are laid up by this Devil. I am thankful to say that he knows me not, and therefore personally I know not of his tricks. The reading of this man maddened me, when he informed the youth of both sexes that a child was born of a virgin. Why will they discuss such unseemly and indecent things? It might be all very well in private to pass an hour for the fun of the statement, but that it

should be publicly talked about in the presence of all, is a sign that clergymen and their audience can have no sense of decency or shame. One can quite understand why they, as of old, often turn their vestry-room into a temple of Venus, to allure the virgins in, and, to use the words of Goethe "in a maid, but ne'er a maid out went she." This is the explanation of so many scenes in vestries ; they are mistaken for Agapemones, and hence the after results. It would indeed be a blessing if what is asked for in the Litany could in some cases be acceded to, such as the uncharitableness, &c., against each other, but the idea in these days of asking the Lord to give grace to our nobility, so that they may act justly as in the fear of the Lord ; and is it to the advantage of all that the Lord God of Sabbaoth should preserve the Royal Family at an annual cost of one million pounds? Fortunately, in these days, we are not in every place bound to pay for this blessing which only becomes a curse to all concerned, which educated twaddlers from Oxford and Cambridge, in holy orders and white bed gowns, can testify to at all times. Thanks to the power of the past, the possibility of the Church monopolising the forum of the people, or even the so-called National Church, is drawing nigh its close, and the place that once knew them will soon know them no more, and then there will be a possibility for the worship of the true, and for the love of the fatherhood of God, and the brotherhood of man ; but until the imbeciles and unfortunates, that now, by fear, hold on to the fleshpots of their church are found out, and sent away to some useful respectable business, we shall have always such living monstrosities. After such a dose of the drivellers, I returned to my hotel, with a head weary and the heart faint, and prepared to consume the fruits of the season, so touchingly prayed for in the Litany. We had not finished partaking of the same, when the awful news arrived of the death of a gallant colonel, so called, as if it was possible to be gallant as a professional man-slayer, or bullet thrower of these days ; but the fact that he was human, and, while shooting game had met, with a horrible death, was enough for the moment to stifle all feelings of resentment against his trade of a human butcher, a trade upheld by the wealth-stealers. To be shot down as

a hireling—man, the noblest work of nature—to be bitten by a puff-adder, and to die in a few hours after in mortal agony, was shocking; and here the cruel fact remains, that all over the world there are species of destructive animals, that as far as we can see, are perfectly useless, and in no way add to the comfort of man or beast. It may be considered an impertinence to ask why such were created. We are told we are not to ask too much about what is written, but with a weakness to which I plead guilty, I ask what are they made for, and if the clergy can give us no answer, then they had better form themselves into a snake, reptile, and insect-destroying company, with full working commissions and powers to go all over the world; and if they once clear the world of all these abominable crawling things, and like a St. Patrick of Ireland, make a clean sweep of the whole, such a trick would give constant work for the clergy of all denominations, and society would not object to pay for it. I will do my utmost to secure them absolution, from some source not to be mentioned, for not continuing their usual work of wasting time, for this work of getting rid of the crawling serpents, and field devils, and perhaps the father of them all. Now this would be a noble company of martyrs called out for the work, but I fear that I shall pipe and call to them in vain. They have been engaged in useless work so long, that honest labour is by them forgotten; but I can assure them, that so long as these annoyances of life exist, there is no fear of their wanting work, and for which they shall be well paid, with this difference, that it will be for work done, and the results in the form of dead serpents and snakes, as a proof of their skill; and when the skins of the number slain are delivered, we shall feel, that we are on our way to good, when we can worship in our sweet fields of Eden without fear of reptiles, and the serpent who talked so wisely to our mother Eve in promising her that most desirable thing the knowledge of good from evil. Would that a little more such knowledge was imparted, whether by a serpent crawling upon his belly or his tail, or standing on his head. The attitude will be of no consideration, but the wisdom is all important to us who should be as wise as serpents, as harmless as doves,

and know good from evil at all times. O happy day, when with knowledge all our ignorance will fade away. Truly we then shall sing:—"O happy day to be on this earth of ours." To my joy and astonishment I here met the Spark of sparks of Natal, one of the first introducers of the sugar industry there, who had worked it out in a most satisfactory way, and in doing so was one of the lucky ones not overwhelmed by the banking interest. I shall ever remember his genial hospitality at Sydenham, a lovely spot, owned by this gentleman, to whom so much was indebted for the building up of their chapels and schools—the future Halls of Science for that district—and who was ever on his feet or horse, seeking to do good in his immediate neighbourhood—a perfect patriarch in his way upon all matters—a man with a large family of whom he could be justly proud, on Natal's account, and, although they were engaged in many of Natal's pursuits, had never given him trouble, or an hour's unrest. It was a treat, for with true English generosity, he drove me out in his handsome family carriage, and with a kindness entirely unexpected by me as a stranger, he pressed me to lunch with him and his family, and it was, indeed, a treat to spend a few hours in the midst of his musical family of daughters; and I did, indeed, feel that I had lost a treat in missing their anniversary, and not hearing their fine collection of songs, duetts, etc. Here they consider Natal as a Land of Canaan flowing with milk and honey—a delightful spot to live in, and I felt it so too, during those few hours of congenial companionship, and I, with reluctance, bid them adieu, to pass on and find out my old friend, Garbut, who also had fixed his home and family in that beautiful spot—Sydenham. At last, thanks to Mr. Sparks, I once more clasped the hand of my fellow-sufferer in the sudden attack made upon us five years before at Beest Kraal, fifteen miles on the Natal side of Kokstad; and, although I tried to disguise my voice, outline, face and business, he knew me at once, and with a joyful greeting once more called me his Boon; for with a sense of having done one's duty, I had forgotten and never realised at the time, that when surrounded by a horde of savage Griquas and Kaffirs, thirsting for our blood, we stood face to face with

their assegais, expecting them to be hurled at us, and with their stabbing weapons to see the women and children ripped up before we received our death-blow, to add to our agony prior to the usual torture inflicted upon men who fall into the hands of such savages. The contemplation of that awful period to this day brings with it a shudder of intense horror, when I, a stranger, simply passing on my way over the mountains for health, accidentally fell in with this party of three women, twenty-seven children and four men; and then surrounded with the farm inhuman-demons in the midst of one of the heaviest thunderstorms, with the rain in torrents, to flee away in haste into—at that time to us a city of refuge—Harding, the police town of Natal, and in mortal fear that the waggons would fall over in the wet, down the watery hills. We carried the little ones on our backs, and at last, wet to the skin, after walking over a distance of fifteen miles, with fear at our hearts for companions, expecting treachery all the way, we reached a place of rest for that first night of horrors. Up again early in the morning to reach our own haven of rest. It is not possible to describe such a time of terror. Every wood we passed we expected ambush, and—being deprived of our weapons of defence, and robbed of all our valuables—what we feared more than all, to fall victims at last to the savagery of the brutal natives. These fears were ours for many days after, while living in the open, and this flight was vividly brought to me by my friend Garbut, who congratulating me, said Boon should live to be called blessed for the sake of others, for had I not been there at that time, death he felt sure would have been the lot of all. For many an hour we enjoyed ourselves to the full. Here again it was my delight to spend the day in the company of his daughters, who were not only adepts in the art of housekeeping, but were splendid performers on one of Hamlin's best American organs. It was with regret that we at last had to allow the ladies to retire, to get that rest to enable them to fulfil their next day's labours and duties. Here I must pay my tribute of praise to the mother of these ladies for their management of their homes, and the musical talent of their children, making home a

house of continuous sweet sounds and conjugal harmony, as here described.

#### HOW MOTHERS USED TO DO,

We may live without poetry, music and art ;  
 We may live without conscience, and live without heart ;  
 We may live without friends, we may live without books ;  
 But civilised man cannot live without cooks.  
 He may live without books—what is knowledge but grieving ?  
 He may live without hope—what is hope but deceiving ?  
 He may live without love—what is passion but pining ?  
 But where is the man that can live without dining ?

And the noble army of martyrs once more echoes the question, where, oh, where? The answer cometh not, yet the inevitable is there with the three necessary evils, breakfast, dinner and tea to stare you in the face, and the provisions forthcoming and cooked.

#### USELESS EACH, WITHOUT THE OTHER.

As unto the bow the cord is,  
 So unto man is woman ;  
 Though she bends him, she obeys him,  
 Though she draws him, yet she follows ;  
 Useless each without the other.

These lines in "Hiawatha" express the natural relation of woman to man, and vice versa ; though some men are unwilling to admit that women are necessities in this world, and some women are loth to admit that men are necessities, yet the laws of nature affirm them, "Useless each, without the other ;" and the laws of nature have allotted each one a place in this life, and woman cannot fill man's place, neither can man fill woman's place ; both are needed in this world of ours. Woman's true and most noble sphere is home. There is where she can, if she will, do the most good ; for the hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that rules the world. What woman can aspire to anything higher than to be a good, true wife and mother ; that alone will absorb a lifetime and reap a rich reward. But then it does not fall to the lot of all to be wives and mothers ; still there are noble callings

for all such as have a will. Lady teachers are indispensable. Their's, too, is a noble sphere ; they are much more successful among young children than the sterner sex. There are numerous other callings where woman is really needed, and why not let her be satisfied with these, and let man attend to politics and so forth ?

If they could only understand how entirely they lose that sweet feminine grace, which is their greatest charm, and has ever had a mystic power to sway the hearts of men, how they step from their pedestal of delicate purity and tender love, which every true and upright man must admire ; how they despise and trample on the highest and deepest feelings of their nature ; exchanging it for a spurious imitation of what they can never become, namely, one of the sterner sex ; how they lay themselves open to ridicule and contempt ; surely they would not so cast away that priceless birthright which God has given them.

But in spite of all this, a woman, at the bottom of her heart, is still a woman. She cannot, do what she will, absolutely destroy her nature. There is a soft spot in her heart, and like the fabled heel of Achilles, if that vulnerable spot can be touched, then she is completely subdued. The great weapon to attack a woman with is love. I defy any woman to resist it. If she is perseveringly and persistently besieged by it, her resolutions melt like snow under a fierce sun, and she becomes again the loving wife. Let the husband be always the lover. That is a splendid method to adopt with a wife. You won her by love in the first instance. That love has constantly to be watched lest it lapses into indifference ; be again the ardent lover, and your wife, if she is a woman, cannot in the end resist it. Again, encourage her to form friendship with ladies of feminine and domestic tendencies. Woman is a creature of imitation.

#### HARRIET MARTINEAU.

THE world's great countrywoman, whose life of inestimable service has been impartially given to the Eastern and Western hemispheres, now receives from America a grateful memorial of what she has there done for humanity in its hour of extreme

need. Foremost among the literary names of her age stands that of Harriet Martineau ; but every one of her hundred volumes is more than a literary effort—it is a deed done by her for freedom, for human rights, or for the rights of woman, or for the brotherhood of every race, for education, for temperance, for the health of nations, for the hygiene of armies, for the true understanding alike of national government and domestic service, for the promulgation of truth ; as an author, a journalist, a publicist, a statesman, a philosopher, and a philanthropist in every department, in short, of human life. There is not now time even to read the list of her works, which cover every field of humanity the world over.

It is sufficient to say that every word is a seed cast far into the future. And all this long life time of devoted service has been given, in their earlier stages of progress, to enterprises which were met, as such undertakings always are, with a strenuous opposition on the part of those they were to benefit, to be hailed afterwards with thanks and blessings through all coming time.—MRS. LIVERMORE.







## CHAPTER XXII.

THINKING I should like to see the sugar manufactory in full operation, and one of the largest mills of the neighbourhood, we rose with the sun, partook of a first-class breakfast, and having with emotion, bid adieu to the wife of my entertainer, and his never to be forgotten family, Mr. Garbut led the way through one of the most lovely tropical valleys it had been my lot to go through and pass over. No wonder that the Natalians love the land of their adoption with an ever increasing love. I had but one constant regret, that my family were not with me to enjoy to the full so much lovely scenery, and that we could feel that it was indeed our own native land. And here let me say, the more I knew of Natal, and its inhabitants, the more I loved it; and it was with a sharp pain I felt I should so soon leave its manly-men, its lovely kind-hearted women, with their great open hearted hospitality to me at all times; and I felt that wherever my lot may be, or however varied the experience that I may yet have to pass through, the friendships I made and the happy times passed in Natal will never be erased from my memory. It was with the deepest interest that I watched and witnessed the process of sugar making, from the crushing of the cane until the crystallizing, and the final manipulation, completed the whole. But, apart from its manufacture, more delighted was I to know that the small farm system I had advocated in my "How to Colonize South Africa and by Whom," was the very plan for the development of the sugar and other industries of this part of the world. Five years before, I had been informed by a planter in Verulam, who had had fifteen

years experience, that all large estates were unprofitable to the so-called owner, and that the head planter only worked for the interest of the banker, commission agent, and all the other produce tax levellers, who in the modern form of the black-coated interest black-mailers, thrive at the continued expense of the ever working, struggling sugar-growers; and I felt when I looked at the heavenward reared structures called banks, and the large offices of the commercial agencies, that there was no mystery as to the cause of the impoverishment of the planters, to the enrichment of these modern highway-men. Plant, work, make sugar, and deliver it up, was the order and demand. Think of it, oh, ye workers! you shall just have enough to feed your pride as the sugar-planter, to keep your body going; your soul can be kept out of the hands of the robbers, for it is an unknown quantity, not to be appraised in the account; but the fact is now being realised that for the sugar industry to succeed, it was but necessary to have one large central mill for sugar-boiling and making purposes, and if the land was held and cultivated in 25, 50, or 100 acre lots, that it was a sure and certain income for all who worked, and then in the future the only hope was that a new set of sugar-farmers would spring up as in the case of France, when she was persecuted of old. Her great adopted son, Napoleon I., encouraged beet-sugar-making. He not only showed them how to grow the beet, but erected large central sugar-mills for the beet-receiving and sugar-making, which to this day is a standing memorial to this giant's genius. Would that the world had a few more such despots, if only to clear the ground of so many imbeciles, that are striving to get into the seat of the powerful. Then there would be hope for all, and satisfaction all round. It is now not only my opinion, but borne out by others, that if the sugar interest is not to be a failure, it must introduce the small farmer as the grower for the central mills, and an alteration in the coolie system, to make up a sure and certain hope of life to come for those who embark in its production. The banker may argue and denounce the truth of all this, but past experience is a sure and certain hope and guide, and for the sugar-growers to allow them-

selves to be ruled by such infamous and open man-labour plunderers, would be to allow Britons to be indeed slaves to the ruling classes, supported by the money-lenders and man-holders, not only of Natal, but of England. I but anticipate the thought of others, and it is because I am tired of seeing the ever-hoping—the ever-struggling—the hope against hope, that now envelopes the present planter that I write so strongly.

Wealth has been divided by a living writer into two classes—material and non-material. The first of these includes what usually goes under that name; but the second consists of those human energies, faculties and habits—physical, mental and moral—which directly contribute to make men industrially efficient, and which therefore increase their power of producing material wealth. This manual skill, intelligence and honesty may be included in the personal wealth of a country.

It is not necessary for me to go into the details of sugar-making; that can be got from many a source.

In a sketch of the progress and prospects of the colony, the circumstances of the sugar-growing industry is reviewed at length. We find that the plantations are entirely confined to a belt of land that lies at a low level, and within from a dozen to twenty miles from the sea. The main coast road, both northward and southward, therefore, runs through the heart of these plantations. The most suitable land, however, does not extend continuously throughout the entire length of the coast district, but is scattered in patches, which are capriciously intermingled with unsuitable tracts, and which, therefore, requires to be picked out with some technical knowledge and judgment. The cane, nevertheless, thrives quite as well upon the slopes of low hills as upon the actual plain. The chief localities that are engaged in the manufacture of sugar on the tract of coast north-east of the port are the Umgeni Valley and the Compensation Flats, the Umhlanga and Umbloti, Victoria and the Tongaat, the Umhlah, and Umvoti, and New Guelderland, beyond the latter river; and in the opposite direction the Isipingo, the lower Umkomanzi and the Umzinto and Ifafa districts.

Many of the mills that are now in operation in the colony are of large power, and of the most perfect construction and finish. There have been exceptional instances in which four tons of sugar have been made from an acre of cane, and there was a time when Natal sugar sold for £40 the ton. The average yield of the plantations at the present time is stated to be about a ton and a half per acre, with a price varying from £17 to £19 per ton.

The natives in some instances take to the work of the plantations, and make useful hands when they can be induced to apply themselves continuously and steadily; but they are so obstinately averse to engagements for prolonged terms of service, and are so capricious and fitful in their habits where labour is concerned, that it has been found absolutely necessary to introduce Indian Coolies, for the cultivation of the plantations. These Coolies are brought from Madras and Bombay under engagements for five years' service, and at the expiration of their term, are either sent back to India, or allowed to settle in the colony. There were nearly 4,200 Indian Coolies in Natal at the time of the last official return, and the sanction of the Secretary of State has recently been given for a material increase of their numbers.

The average yield of sugar upon thirteen well-managed plantations in Natal is found at the present time to be from one and a quarter to two tons per acre; the per centage of juice procured from the cane varying from 50 to 70; the density of the expressed juice by Beamue's saccharometer varying from seven degs. to eleven degs., and the quantity of dry sugar yielded from each gallon of juice amounting to from one ounce, to one ounce and four-fifths. The price realised for the sugar varies from £20 10s. to £21 15s. the ton, and the vacuum-pan sugar of one estate has realised £26 per ton. It has been remarked that plantations near the sea have considerably less dense juice than those which are situated further inland, the difference, being in extreme instances, so much that in one case 2,800 gallons of juice are required to make each ton of sugar, while in the other instance 1,700 gallons are enough."

"The great advantage that the sugar planter has hitherto

enjoyed in Natal, has been the comparative cheapness of land, and the presence of a certain amount of very low-priced native labour. The cost of land, as a matter of course, has always borne an inverse ratio to its distance from the port. An addition of thirty-five miles has hitherto increased the cost of transport of the sugar as much as £2 per ton. In the remote districts, towards the Tugela, or the Umzimkula, land on this account can be had for 30s. an acre, which would cost £5 an acre within a few miles of Durban. Sugar-land, has however, recently been sold within a few miles of Durban at prices varying from £13 to £22 per acre."

There is one notable matter brought prominently before us in connection with the general prospects and social character of the colony. We refer to the fact that since its settlement in 1840, the black population has increased eleven-fold—that is from 25,000 to 280,000, whilst the white population has increased rather less than three-fold—that is, from 6,000 to 17,000. Mr. Brook says:—

"It does not need any large measure of penetrative sagacity, or any very deep acquaintance with the past history of the world, to lead thoughtful observers to the conclusion that some great change is imminent in the social arrangements and conditions of the colony. It may fairly be held by philanthropic men that an opportunity of unparalleled interest and moment occurs in Natal, for the social experiment of the constitution of a prosperous society of mingled "white" and "black" constituents; but it is beyond all question that that experiment cannot, and will not, be tried under the existing circumstances of a large and ever-increasing horde of almost unprogressive barbarians, living indolent, unclad, and uneducated by the side of an energetic labour-loving, and super-eminently progressive Saxon race. By the mere natural progress of events, under such circumstances, one or the other of the antagonistic constituents must go to the wall. Either the small European contingents of the colonisation must be swallowed up in the mere physical black barbarism; or the black barbarism must move out of the way of the restless expansiveness of the white men; or again, this larger constituent must accomplish the still more desirable, but

infinitely more difficult task of abandoning its barbarism, and of becoming part and parcel of the industrial and civilised organisation of the community."

In the solution of this problem lies the whole future of Natal. Let us hope that a country so perfectly strewn with nature's gifts, will be wisely governed, and that, laying aside all philanthropy, measures will be devised to improve and raise the native population in the scale of society, by an intelligent and prudent direction of their industrial energies.

#### SUGAR IN NATAL: ITS PAST AND FUTURE.

By HENRY BINNS, M.L.C.

If I attempt to express an opinion as to who really introduced the first canes into the colony, I shall only take up an old and well thrashed-out controversy. Several small mills were at work before 1860; but it was in this year that planting and manufacturing assumed considerable proportions. In those old days planters worked cheaply. Their labour cost them little, and they were materially assisted by the prices obtained for their sugar. So long as the out-turn was less than the colony required for its own and the interior trade, prices were naturally high, and many of our early planters were very successful. An acre of cane was brought to maturity for far less money than it can be to-day; but the appliances for manufacture were faulty, and the waste enormous. A very marked change was visible as soon as the quantity made in the colony brought us into competition with the outside world, and the value of the ton of sugar was brought down to the export rate. Between 1860 and 1878 sugar-planting was carried on with varying degrees of success, dependent upon the seasons and the range of prices.

It was only, however, when the central-mill system came to be understood and appreciated, that the enterprise really gave promise of being the great success that it should be, and that, in the opinion of the writer, it will be. The system can no longer be considered to be in the experimental stage, when we have, as is the case during the present season, three or

four mills, each turning out 1,000 tons and over, and one turning out 3,500 tons.

Under the central-mill system the grower and the manufacturer each has his separate department to attend to. The various branches of a complete sugar estate constitute a huge concern, involving much oversight and hard work. The necessary capital to carry it on is very large, far beyond the means of the average colonist. The price of sugar is, and is likely to be, so low that the day for small mills is gone by. The cost of making a ton of sugar at a mill, where twenty tons or more are made in a day, is much less than it is in the small mill, where two or three tons only are made. In these days of severe competition with beet-root, which seems unaffected by any style of season, wet or dry, and the cultivation of which is increasing "by leaps and bounds," nothing but the most perfect plant of machinery will do for sugar manufacture. And good in its way, as much of our machinery is, there is not a plant here to compare with what is now being made for Queensland and other sugar-producing countries. The two objects to be attained are, to obtain from the cane the largest possible quantity, and to make the most marketable quality of sugar. This can only be done by a very expensive fabric, much beyond the means of private individuals. The grower for a central-mill is enabled to devote his whole time and attention to his cultivation; and although it is better to keep out of sight all names and figures, it can do no harm to say that almost without a single exception, the growers are where land is good, and their canes are crushed in proper seasons, prosperous and contented.

Now if, as asserted, the central-mills are paying the companies which are working them, and the growers for them are doing well, the next consideration is, what are the capabilities of the colony for extending the enterprise? We have, on the coast lands of Natal, as much good land as is capable of making a great sugar-producing country. In Durban county there are thousands of acres of splendid soil, between the Isipingo and the Umkomas, lying idle in the most senseless way. At the Umzimkula, there are again thousands of acres

of fine land on the banks of a river navigable for some eight miles from its mouth. What would be made of this district anywhere else but in Natal? In the Inanda Division of Victoria county, the cultivation is going far ahead of the crushing power, and unless a large mill is erected near the railway station very soon, between the Umgeni and Mount Edgecombe, there must be loss and disappointment to many of the growers. At the Tongaat river there is a great extent of fine chocolate soil, land as good as land can be. The owners have the means, and are keenly anxious to plant it; but they dare not cultivate because there is no certainty of a mill being erected. Between the Tongaat and the Tugela, there are at least three more places where central mills could be erected, with the certainty that there is an abundance of good land around them to grow enough to keep the mills fully employed.

Sugar cultivation and manufacture give occupation directly and indirectly to an immense number of people, European and coloured. To the north and south of Durban they will afford ample work for railways in the time to come. They require a great transport power, which the upper districts of the colony can supply. The cultivation can be carried on upon a small or large scale; it is as suitable for the small farmer, who can grow his patches of cane with shorter crops, as it is for the capitalist. How then is the increase of the sugar enterprise to be brought about? It is not within the province of this article to discuss this part of the question, but there is ample room for thought in it for the powers that be. And let them bear in mind this undoubted fact—that our large sugar-producing colonies are in the most comfortable financial position of any of the dependencies of Great Britain.

One great danger ahead of the planter he has the means of dealing with to a great extent. Year after year, the bush on the coast-veldt is being cleared off, and the thorn-trees from the lands further inland, and nothing or very little is being done to replace them. That tree-planting increases the rainfall, is no longer a matter of theory, and it behoves planters to attend to it before it is too late.



## PLANTING OF TREES.

The following, taken from a paper entitled *Forestry*, has been sent to me. The lines might have been written in South Africa by one who deplored the indiscriminate cutting of trees. As Natal is one of the States "whose forestry is in decadence," no apology is needed for calling attention to the truth of the subjoined lines:—

[How vital indeed is the importance of this great subject is clearly shown in the following lines, by Mr. Robert Bright Marston, the able editor of the *Fishing Gazette*. The lines represent what this world would be without the forest and stream.]

I had a dream, which was not all a dream !  
 A great State was a desert, and the land  
 Lay bare and lifeless under sun and storm,  
 Treeless and shelterless, Spring came and went,  
 And came, but brought no joy ; but in its stead  
 The desolation of the ravening floods  
 That leaped like wolves and wild cats from the hills  
 And spread destruction over fruitful farms,  
 Devouring, as they went, the works of man,  
 And sweeping Southward nature's kindly soil  
 To choke the watercourses, worse than waste.  
 The forest trees that in the olden time—  
 The people's glory and the poet's pride—  
 Tempered the air and guarded well the earth,  
 And under spreading boughs for ages kept  
 Great reservoirs to hold the snow and rain,  
 From which the moisture through the teeming year  
 Flowed equally, but freely—all were gone,  
 Their priceless boles exchanged for petty cash.  
 The cash had melted and had left no sign ;  
 The logger and the lumberman were dead ;  
 The axe had rusted out for lack of use ;  
 But all the endless evil they had done  
 Was manifest upon the desert waste.  
 Dead springs no longer sparkled in the sun ;  
 Lost and forgotten, brooks no longer laughed ;  
 Deserted mills mourned, all their moveless wheels ;  
 The snow no longer covered as with wool  
 Mountain and plain, but buried starving flocks  
 In Arctic drifts ; in rivers and canals  
 The vessels rotted idly on the mud,  
 Until the Spring floods buried all their bones.

Great cities that had thriven wondrously,  
 Before the source of thrift was swept away,  
 Faded and perished, as a plant will die  
 With water banished from its roots and leaves ;  
 And men sat starving in the treeless waste  
 Beside their fruitless farms and empty marts,  
 And wandered in the ways of Providence.

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Yet, how easy is the process of reproduction. Marvellous, indeed, are the recuperative powers of the vegetable world ; and kind Nature, who first gives us the countless germs of life we call seed, is ever ready and waiting to favour the efforts of the planter. It is all a question of energy and application, and method on the part of man. There is a good deal of individual action of this kind, although there might be much more ; but the question has long been too urgent in its importance for merely individual action. The States of the world whose forestry is in decadence must take up the question, for it will not brook much further delay.

#### THE NATAL COOLIE QUESTION.

A Durban correspondent writes of the Coolie question as follows :—“ Experience is every day proving, in the most glaring manner, that the whole Indian immigration scheme is a total and deplorable failure. Physically, the Indian is unfitted for the work required of him ; and morally, he is a danger to the well-being of the native. In the first place, it is beginning to be known here that the recruiting agents in India are so anxious to earn their bounty-bread, that they are only too ready, nay glad, to relieve the hospitals of patients, who are scarcely cured of their complaints ; and, secondly, they are constantly on the look-out for released criminals from the prisons. In many cases these people no sooner arrive on the sugar estates than they run away, as an intelligent man might expect from their previous career. The sick in hospital soon cause the planter so much expense and trouble, that he is not long before he gets tired and careless of them, so that their shamming patient is soon rewarded by finding an opportunity of escape ; and hiding in towns and villages where these people are now so numerous, it is difficult to apprehend