

The quantity of land occupied, as given in, amounts to 8018 morgen, or 16,036 acres ; but as land measuring is very little understood or attended to, this part of the *Opganff* may be considered as incorrect.

The consumption of Cape Town in the same year was,

	Head of Cattle.	Head of Sheep.	Leggers of Wine.	Muids of Wheat.	Muids of Barley.
Army	4562	22,812	2000	10,000	19,460
Navy	1810	9044	1000	6,000	
Inhabitants	5000	130,000	3000	16,900	10,000
Total consumption	11,372	161,856	6000	32,900	29,460

The following table shews the number of marriages, christenings, and burials in Cape Town for eight years.

Years.	Marriages.	Christenings.	Burials.
1790	130	350	186
1791	97	354	146
1792	174	360	144
1793	158	288	116
1794	211	308	111
1795	213	308	145
1796	249	257	168
1797	217	364	157
In 8 years	1449	2589	1173

Making 1416 the excess of christenings above burials in eight years. As all marriages must be performed in Cape

Town, the column of marriages are those in the whole colony. By comparing the average number of deaths with the population, it will appear that the mortality in the Cape district is about  $2\frac{3}{5}$  in the hundred. Of the slaves the mortality is rather more, but less, perhaps, than in any other country where slavery is tolerated. The number, as we have seen, in the Cape district, is 11,891; and the number of deaths, on an average of eight years, was 350, which is after the rate of three in the hundred.

With respect to the natural produce of the Cape district, what has yet been discovered is of little or no importance, except its fisheries. The wax-plant grows abundantly upon the sandy isthmus, but the berries are not considered to be worth the labour of gathering. The collecting of shells to burn into lime, and of heaths and other shrubby plants for fuel, furnish constant employment for about one thousand slaves. The great destruction of the frutescent plants on the Cape peninsula and the isthmus will be very severely felt in the course of a few years. The plantations of the silver-tree, on that brow of Table Mountain which is next to the isthmus, are experiencing the same destruction for the sake of a temporary profit; and so thoughtless, or so indolent, are the proprietors of the land, that little pains are bestowed to keep up a succession of young trees. No further trials have yet been made for coal.

## DISTRICT OF STELLENBOSCH AND DRAKENSTEIN.

Stellenbosch and Drakenstein, though one district under the jurisdiction of one Landrost, have distinct Hemraaden or Councils. After deducting the small district of the Cape, Stellenbosch and Drakenstein include the whole extent of country from Cape L'Aguillas, the southernmost point of Africa, to the River Koussie, the northern boundary of the colony; a line of 380 miles in length; and the mean breadth from east to west is about 150 miles, comprehending an area, after subtracting that of the Cape district, equal to fifty-five thousand square miles. Twelve hundred families are in possession of this extensive district, so that each family, on an average, has forty-six square miles of land, a quantity more than five times that which the Dutch Government thought to be extensive enough to keep the settlers asunder, and sufficient to allow the houses to stand at more than twice the regulated distance of three miles from each other. The greater part, however, of this extensive surface may be considered as of little value, consisting of naked mountains, sandy hills, and Karroo plains. But a portion of the remainder composes the most valuable possessions of the whole colony; whether they be considered as to the fertility of the soil, the temperature of the climate, or their proximity to the Cape, which, at present, is the only market in the colony where the farmer has an opportunity to dispose of his produce. The parts of the district to which I allude, are those divisions beginning at False Bay and stretching along the feet of the great chain of mountains, on the Cape side,

as far as the mouth of the Olifant's River. These divisions are,

1. *The Drosdy of Stellenbosch.*
2. *Jonker's Hoeck.*
3. *Bunge Hoeck.*
4. *Klapmuts.*
5. *Bottelary's Gebergte.*
6. *Saxenberg's Gebergte.*
7. *Eerste River.*
8. *Hottentot's Holland.*
9. *Moddergat.*
10. *Drakenstein* and its environs, consisting of
  - a. *Little Drakenstein.*
  - b. *Fransche Hoeck.*
  - c. *Paarl Village.*
  - d. *Dall Josephat.*
  - e. *Waagen Maaker's Valley.*
  - f. *Groeneberg.*
11. *Pardeberg.*
12. *Riebeek's Casteel.*
13. *East Zwartland.*
14. *Four-and-twenty Rivers.*
15. *Piquetberg.*
16. *Olifant's River.*

The transmontane divisions are,

17. *The Biddow.*
18. *Onder Bokkeveld.*
19. *Hantum.*

20. *Khamiesberg.*
21. *Roggeveld*, consisting of Upper, Middle, and Little Roggeveld.
22. *Neiuveld and the Ghoep.*
23. *Bokkeveld*, warm and cold.
24. *Hex River.*
25. *Breede River.*
26. *Ghoudinee and Brandt Valley.*
27. *Roode Sand or Waveren.*
28. *Bot River.*
29. *Zwarteberg.*
30. *Drooge Ruggens.*
31. *River Zonder End.*
32. *Uyl Kraal.*
33. *Soetendal's Valley.*

1. The *drosdy of Stellenbosch*, or the residence of the Landrost, is a very handsome village, consisting of an assemblage of about seventy habitations, to most of which are attached offices, out-houses, and gardens, so that it occupies a very considerable space of ground. It is laid out into several streets or open spaces, planted with oaks that have here attained a greater growth than in any other part of the colony, many of them not being inferior in size to the largest elms in Hyde Park. Yet, a few years ago, the most beautiful of these trees were rooted out in order to raise a paltry sum of money towards the exigencies of the parish; and paltry, indeed, it was, the very finest tree being sold at the low price of 20 rix dollars, or four pounds currency, and most of them for not a fourth part of this sum. For such a barbarous act the villagers, in

some countries, would have been apt to have hung both the Landrost and Henraaden upon their branches. How far they were suffered to proceed I cannot say, but I saw at least half a hundred of these venerable ruins lying in the streets.

The village is delightfully situated at the feet of lofty mountains, on the banks of the *Eerste* or First River, at the distance of twenty-six miles from Cape Town. In it is a small and neat church, to which is annexed a parsonage house with a good garden and a very extensive vineyard. The clergyman has a salary from Government of 120*l.* a year, with this house, garden, and vineyard, free of all rent and taxes, in lieu of other emoluments received by the clergy of Cape Town. The condition, therefore, of the country clergy is at least equal and perhaps preferable to that of those who reside in the town. Provisions of every kind are much cheaper; they have the advantage of keeping their own cattle; sowing their own grain; planting vineyards and making their own wine; and, in a word, they possess the means of raising within themselves almost all the necessaries of life. In addition to these advantages, if the clergyman should have the good fortune to be popular in his district, which, however, is no easy matter to accomplish, he is sure to be laden with presents from day to day. Nothing, in such case, is thought too good for the minister. Game of all kinds, fat lambs, fruit, wine, and other "good things of this life," are continually pouring in upon him. His outgoings are chiefly confined to the expence of clothing his family, and a little tea and sugar.

The establishment of the Landrost is still more sumptuous. He has the enjoyment of a salary and emoluments that seldom fall short of 1500*l.* a year; a most excellent house to live in, pleasantly situated on a plain at the head of the village, before which are a couple of venerable oaks, scarcely exceeded in England; and an extensive garden and orchard, well planted with every kind of fruit, and a vineyard.

Most of the grounds in or near the village are what they call *Eigendoms* or freeholds, though they are held by a small recognizance to Government, but they are totally different from loan-farms, which are the usual kind of tenure in the colony, and of which we shall have occasion to speak hereafter.

2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, *Jonker's Hoeck*, *Bange Hoeck*, *Klapmutz*, *Bottelary's Gebergte*, *Saxenberg's Gebergte*, *Eerste River*, *Hottentot's Holland*, and *Moddergat*, are small divisions surrounding the drosdy, and lying between it and False Bay. They consist chiefly of freehold estates, and produce wine, brandy, fruit, fresh butter, poultry, and a variety of articles for the Cape market, and for the supply of shipping whilst they continue to lie in Simon's Bay. They yield, also, a small quantity of corn, but this article without manure, or a better system of tillage, is scarcely worth the labour of cultivating so near the Cape, where they can employ the land to better advantage. The best farm at Klapmutz was granted in loan to Mr. Duckett, the English agriculturist, for the purpose of making his experiments, for the instruction of the African boors.

10. *Drakenstein* and its environs consist of a fertile tract of country, situate at the feet of the great chain of mountains, at the distance of 30 to 40 miles from the Cape. The whole extensive valley of *Drakenstein* is well watered by the Berg River and its numerous branches; the soil is richer than in most parts of the colony, and the sheltered and warm situation is particularly favourable to the growth of the vine and different kinds of fruit.

*a.* This subdivision of Little *Drakenstein* occupies the middle of the valley, and contains many substantial farms, most of them freehold property; in fact, the two *Drakensteins* and the next subdivision supply two-thirds of the wine that is brought to the Cape market.

*b.* *Fransche Hoeck*, or the French Corner, is situated in the south-east angle of the valley among the mountains, and took its name from the French refugees having settled there, when they fled to this country after the revocation of the edict of Nantz. To these people the colony is indebted for the introduction of the vine. The estates here are mostly freehold property, and produce little else than wine and fruits.

*c.* The village of the Paarl is situated at the foot of a hill that shuts in the Valley of *Drakenstein* on the west side. It consists of about thirty habitations disposed in a line, but so far detached from each other, with intermediate orchards, gardens, and vineyards, as to form a street from half a mile to a mile in length. About the middle of this street, on the east side, stands the church, a neat octagonal building covered



with thatch ; and at the upper end is a parsonage-house, with garden, vineyard, and fruit-groves ; and a large tract of very fine land. No attention seems to have been omitted by Government in providing comfortably for the country clergy. The blocks of granite, the Paarl and the Diamond, that overhang this village, I have particularly noticed in the first chapter of the first volume.

*d. e.* Dall Josephat and Waagen-maaker's Valley are two small dales enclosed between the hilly projections that branch out towards the north or upper end of the valley of Drakenstein ; the best oranges, as well as the best peaches, and other fruit, are said to be produced in these dales ; and the wines are among the first in quality.

*f.* Groeneberg is the largest of these projecting hills that run across the northern extremity of the valley, and the soil is productive in fruit, wine, and corn.

The whole valley, comprehending the above subdivisions, is comparatively so well inhabited, that few animals, in a state of nature, are now to be found upon it. Of hares, however, there is no scarcity ; and two species of bustards, the red-winged and the common partridge, and quails are in great plenty. The *Klip-springer* antelope, and the *reebok* are plentiful in the mountains, and *duykers*, *griesboks*, and *steenboks* not very scarce among the hills towards the northern extremity of the valley. The inhabitants are also annoyed with wolves, hyænas, and jackalls, which descend in the nights from the neighbouring mountains.

11. *Paardeberg*, or the Horse Mountain, so called from the number of wild horses or zebras that formerly frequented it, is a continuation of the Paarl Mountain to the northward. The produce of the farms is chiefly confined to wheat, which, with a sprinkling of manure, or a couple of years rest, or by fallowing, will yield from fifteen to twenty fold. They cultivate, also, barley and pulse, but have few horses or cattle beyond what are necessary for the purposes of husbandry.

12. *Riebeck's Casteel*, or the Castle of Van Riebeck, may be considered as a prolongation of the Paardeberg, terminating to the northward in a high rocky summit. It took its name from the founder of the colony having travelled to this distance from the Cape, which is about sixty miles, and which, in that early period of the settlement, was as far as it was considered safe to proceed, on account of the numerous natives, whose race has now almost disappeared from the face of the earth. The produce is the same as that of the farms of the last division, in both of which there are as many loan-farms as freehold estates.

13, 14. *East Zwartland*, and *Twenty-four Rivers*. These two divisions consist of extensive plains, stretching, in width, from the Berg River to the great chain of mountains; and as far as the Picquet Berg, in length, to the northward. They are considered as the granaries of the colony. The crops, however, in Zwartland, are as uncertain as the rains, on which, indeed, their fertility almost entirely depends. In the Four-and-twenty Rivers the grounds are capable of being irrigated by the numberless streamlets that issue from the

great chain of mountains, in their course to the Berg River. Many of these, in their progress over the plain, form large tracts of swampy ground that have been found to produce very fine rice. Wheat, barley, and pulse are the principal articles that are cultivated in these two divisions, but they have plenty of fruit, and make a little wine for their own family use. Should the Bay of Saldanha, at any future period, become the general rendezvous of shipping, these two divisions will be more valuable than all the rest of the colony.

15. The *Picquet Berg* terminates the plains of the Four-and-twenty Rivers to the northward. Here, besides corn and fruit, the inhabitants rear horses, horned cattle, and sheep. And from hence, also, is sent to the Cape market a considerable quantity of tobacco, which has the reputation of being of the best quality that Southern Africa produces.

16. *Olifant's River* is a fine clear stream, flowing through a narrow valley, hemmed in between the great chain of mountains and an inferior ridge called the *Cardouw*. This valley, being intersected by numerous rills of water from the mountains on each side, is extremely rich and fertile; but the great distance from the Cape, and the bad roads over the *Cardouw*, hold out little encouragement for the farmer to extend the cultivation of grain, fruit, or wine, beyond the necessary supply of his own family. Dried fruit is the principal article they send to market, after the supplies, which they furnish, of horses, horned cattle, and sheep. The country on each side of the lower part of the river is dry and barren, and for many miles from the mouth entirely uninhabited. A chaly-

beate spring of hot water, of the temperature of 108° of Fahrenheit's scale, flows in a very considerable stream out of the Cardouw Mountain into the Olifant's River. And a bathing-house is erected over the spring.

All the smaller kinds of antelopes, jackals, hares, and partridges, are very abundant in the four last-mentioned divisions.

These divisions of Stellenbosch and Drakenstein, above enumerated, lie on the west or Cape side of the great chain of mountains, and comprehend the most valuable portion of the colony. The transmontane divisions of Stellenbosch are,

17. The *Biedouw*, which is the slanting side of the great mountains behind the Olifant's River, a cold, elevated, rugged tract of country, covered with coppice wood, and very thinly inhabited. The stock of the farmers consists of sheep and horned cattle.

18. *Onder Bokkeveld* is the elevated flat surface of a Table Mountain, whose sides on the west and north are high and almost perpendicular rocks, piled on each other in horizontal strata like those of Table Mountain at the Cape; but it descends with a gentle slope to the eastward, and terminates in Karroo plains. The grasses on the summit are short but sweet, and the small shrubby plants are excellent food for sheep and goats. The horses, also, of this division, are among the best which the colony produces, and the cattle, as is the case in all the mountainous situations, thrive very well. In

some of the valleys, where the grounds will admit of irrigation, the common returns of wheat are forty, and of barley sixty, for one, without any rest for twenty years, without fallowing, and without manure. In such situations the soil is deeply tinged with iron, and abounds with masses of the same kind of iron-stone which I have already mentioned.

The *Spring-bok*, or the springing antelope, once so abundant in this division, as to have been the cause of its name, is now but an occasional visitor, and seen only in small herds of a few hundreds. *Steenboks* and *orbies* and *griesboks* are still plentiful and large. The *korhanes* or bustards, of three species, and hares are so plentiful that they were continually among the horses feet in riding over the country. On the Karroo plains, close behind the Bokkeveld, are found the two large species of antelope, the *eland* and the *gemsbok*, but their numbers are rapidly diminishing in consequence of the frequent excursions of the farmers on purpose to shoot them; not so much for the sake of their flesh, which, however, is excellent, but for their skins alone.

19. The *Hantam* is a Table Mountain, rising from the surface of the Bokkeveld Mountain, on its eastern extremity, and is surrounded by a number of farms that receive a supply of water from rills issuing out of the base of the mountain. Horses and cattle are the produce of the Hantam, and the former have been found to escape a very fatal disease that is prevalent over the whole colony, by being sent upon the summit of the Hantam Mountain. The inhabitants of this division are liable to the depredations of the Bosjesman Hot-

the high water mark, several springs have spontaneously burst out of the earth, but for want of being properly opened, so that the water may run off freely, they are suffered to stagnate, and become, as might be expected from the soil and climate, a little brackish. All circumstances here are fully as favourable as at Madras, where the purest and best water is found close to the sea shore.

These considerations are so obvious, that I should have thought it unnecessary to have dwelt a moment upon the subject, were I not persuaded that a very general opinion prevailed with regard to the difficulty, if not the impossibility, of supplying the several bays of the colony with fresh water. I shall only suggest, as another conclusion, that may be drawn from what has been said, that the great depth of the commencement of the granite base below the surface may, perhaps, better account for the most considerable rivers of Northern Africa losing themselves in the sand, before they reach the sea, than by supposing the interior parts of this continent to be lower than the level of the ocean; a conjecture that has been held, but which strongly militates against the general order observed throughout the universe.

I have already expressed my doubts with regard to the Cape peninsula having originally been separated from the continent of Africa, according to the general opinion of writers, who, drawing their conclusions from a supposed retreat of the sea to prevail universally, have not given themselves the trouble to examine any further grounds for such a conjecture. The more I  
have

whose western front rises out of the Karroo plains behind the Bokkeveld, almost perpendicularly to the height of two or three thousand feet. Stretching to the eastward this summit becomes more broken into inequalities of surface, and rises at length into the mountains of Nieuwveld, the Camdeboo, and the Sneuwberg, which may be considered as one extended chain. The great elevation of the Roggeveld, and its being surrounded by Karroo plains, make the temperature in winter so cold, that for four months in the year the inhabitants are under the necessity of descending to the feet of the mountains with their horses, cattle, and sheep. The strongest and largest breed of horses in the whole colony is that of the Roggeveld.

22. *Nieuwveld* and *the Ghoup* are continuations of the Roggeveld Mountain, and join the divisions bearing the same name in the district of Graaff Reynet. They have lately been deserted on account of the number of Bosjesman Hotentots dwelling close behind them.

23, 24. *Warm* and *Cold Bokkeveld* and *Hex River*, are a chain of valleys lying close behind the great mountains, consisting of meadow-land abundantly supplied with water, and appear as if they had once been lakes. They are thinly inhabited, and every kind of cultivation almost totally neglected.

25. *Brede River* is to the southward of the Hex River, and extends to the borders of the Zwellendam district. It is productive in corn, and the part called *Bosjesveld*, or the heathy country, is favourable for sheep and cattle.

26. *Ghoudinie* and *Brandt Valley* are two small valleys close behind the *Fransche Hocck*, extremely rich, and well watered. Through the *Brandt Valley* runs a stream of hot water, whose temperature at the spring is 150° of Fahrenheit's Scale. With this stream several thousand acres of meadow-ground are capable of being flooded.

27. *Roode Sand* or *Waveren* is an extensive division behind the mountains of *Drakenstein*, and produces abundance of grain, pulse, fruits, and wine. The pass of *Roode Sand* is the only waggon-road into this division, and is distant from *Cape Town* about seventy miles. In this division there is a small neat church, and a very comfortable parsonage-house, with extensive vineyards, orchards, garden, and arable land; and contiguous to the church is a row of houses, the number of which has lately increased.

28, 29, 30, 31. *Bott River*, *Zwarte Berg*, *Drooge Ruggens*, and *River Zonder End* are interposed between *Hottentot Hollands Kloof* and the borders of *Zwellendam*; the chief produce of which is corn and cattle, with a small quantity of wine of an inferior quality, cultivated chiefly for the supply of the more distant parts of the colony.

32, 33. *Uyl Kraal* and *Soetendal's Valley* are two divisions stretching along the sea-coast from *Hanglip*, the east point of *Bay False*, to the mouth of the *Breede River*, beyond *Cape L'Aguillas*, comprehending excellent corn-lands and good grazing ground for horses. The smaller kinds of antelopes



are very abundant, as are also hares, partridges, and bustards; and towards the Cape L'Aguiilas are a few *Zebras*, *Hartebeests*, and *Bonteboks*.

The greater part of this extensive district, beyond the mountains, consists of loan-farms, as that on the Cape side is chiefly composed of freehold estates. The population and produce were ascertained from the Opgaaff list being taken on oath in the year 1798, and were as follows :

		<i>Population.</i>	
Men	- -	1970	
Women	- -	1199	
Sons	- - -	1845	
Daughters	- -	1818	
Servants and people of color		424	
			Christians 7256
Slave men	- -	7211	
Slave women	- -	3411	
Slaves and people of color		81	
			Slaves 10,703
To these may be added, Hottentots in the whole district, about	- - -		5000
Total population of Stellenbosch and Drakenstein			22,959

*Stock and Produce.*

Horses	-	-	-	-	22,661
Horned cattle	-	-	-	-	59,567
Sheep	-	-	-	-	451,695
Wine plants	-	-	-	-	11,500,000
Leggers of wine in 1797			-	-	7914
Muids of corn	-	-	-	-	77,063
----- of barley	-	-	-	-	32,872
----- of rye	-	-	-	-	2053

Quantity of land under cultivation in vineyards and grain, 19,573 morgen, or 39,146 English acres.

## DISTRICT OF ZWELLENDAM.

The district of Zwellendam is that tract of country which lies upon the sea-coast between the Breede River on the west, and Camtoos River on the east, and extends northerly to the second chain of mountains called the Zwarte Berg or Black Mountains. Its length is about 380, and breadth 60, miles, comprehending an area of 19,200 square miles, which is occupied by 480 families, so that each family, on an average, has forty square miles of land. This is more than four times the quantity assigned to each loan-farm by the Government. Except in the drosdy the whole district is composed of loan-lands, and may be considered to consist of the following divisions :

1. The *Drosdy* or *Village of Zwellendam*.
2. The *Country between the Drosdy and Gauritz River*,  
named according to the rivers that cross it.
3. *Cango*.
4. *Zwarte Berg*.
5. *Trada*.
6. *Mossel Bay*.
7. *Autiniequas Land*.
8. *Plettenberg's Bay*.
9. *Olifant's River*.
10. *Kamnaasie*.
11. *Lange Kloof*.
12. *Sitsikamma*.

1. The *Drosdy of Zwellendam* is situated at the foot of the first chain of mountains that runs east and west or parallel to the sea-coast, and is distant from Cape Town about one hundred and forty miles. It is composed of about thirty houses, scattered irregularly over a small but fertile valley, down the middle of which runs a plentiful stream of water. At the head of the valley stands the house of the Landrost, to which is annexed a large garden well stocked with a variety of fruits, and a spacious vineyard; the whole enclosed and planted with oaks and other trees. In the middle of the village a large church has lately been erected, which is the only place of worship in the whole district.

2. This division comprehends the whole tract of country that lies between the Gauritz River and the drosdy, and is

well watered by a number of streams issuing from the mountains, upon the banks of which the farm-houses in general are placed. The produce of these is corn, wine, and cattle, but few sheep; the whole district of Zwelendam being unfavourable to this animal, except the three following divisions.

3, 4, 5. *Cango, Zwarte Berg, and Trada*, are Karroo plains, situated between the first and second chains of mountains, but being well watered by the mountain streams, contain fertile patches of ground. The great distance, however, from the Cape, and the excessive bad roads, operate against an extensive tillage. On these plains are an abundance of ostriches, herds of *Quachas, Zebras, and Hartebeests*. Behind the first chain of mountains, in these divisions, are two hot springs of chalybeate water.

6. *Mossel Bay* division, sometimes called the *Droogeveldt*, or Dry Country, extends from the Gauritz River to the Great Brakke River that falls into Mossel Bay. The surface is hilly and composed of a light sandy soil, which, when the rains are favorable, is sufficiently fertile in corn. The only natural product in the vegetable kingdom, that is useful as an article of commerce, is the aloe, but the heathy plants along the sea-shore are more favorable for sheep than in the other parts of this division. The shores of the bay and the sea-coast abound with excellent oysters; and muscles are equally plentiful, but they are very large, and of a strong flavor; and the mouths of all the rivers contain plenty of good fish.

7. *Autinieguas Land* is the next division to Mossel Bay along the sea-coast, and extends as far eastward as the Kayman's River. The Dutch Government reserved to itself about twenty thousand acres, which is nearly half the division, of the finest land, without exception, in the whole colony, being a level meadow always covered with grass. The mountains approaching near the sea, and being covered with large forest trees, attract the vapours and cause a considerable quantity of rain to fall in the Autinieguas Land in the summer months. The overseer calculated that the land held by Government in this division was fully sufficient for the maintenance of a thousand horses, a thousand head of cattle, and for raising annually ten thousand muids of corn.

8. *Plettenberg's Bay* division begins at the Kayman's River, and continues to the inaccessible forests of Sitsikamma. The whole of this tract of country is extremely beautiful, agreeably diversified by hill and dale, and lofty forests. Within seven miles of the bay are large timber trees, and the surface is almost as level as a bowling-green, over which the several roads are carried. The peasantry, who inhabit this district, are mostly woodcutters, and they earn a very hard subsistence. The great distance from the Cape, being 400 miles of bad road, leaves them little profit on a load of timber, when sold at the dearest rate in the Cape market, so little, indeed, that they prefer to dispose of it at the bay for a mere trifle. Plank of thirteen or fourteen inches wide, and inch thick, may be purchased on the spot at the rate of threepence the foot in length.

The bark of several of the creeping plants in the forests might be employed as substitutes for hemp. The iron ores near the base of the mountains might be worked by clearing the wood, of which there is an inexhaustible supply. The timber is, undoubtedly, suitable for many purposes, notwithstanding the prejudices that have been entertained against it very undeservedly, and very ignorantly, because about one-eighth part only of the different kinds has ever undergone a trial, and these few by no means a decisive one. The climate is trying for the best timber; and English oak even gives way much sooner here than in its native country, by the alternate exposure to wet weather, dry winds, and scorching sun. Where such exposure has been guarded against, one of the slightest Cape woods, the geel hout or yellow wood, has been known to stand a hundred years without shewing symptoms of decay.

The native trees of the Cape are many of them of quick growth, and advance to a large size, but they are much twisted and shaken by the wind, and generally hollow at heart. Many, however, are perfectly sound, and every way suitable for balk, rafters, joists, and plank, but, I again repeat it, they have never yet met with a fair trial. The bay will hereafter be noticed, and also a harbour called the Knysna, which is in this district, and closer to the forests than even the bay itself.

9. *Olifant's River* runs at the foot of the second chain of mountains or the Zwarteberg to the westward, and falls into the Gauritz River. The soil is Karroo, and strongly tinged

with iron, and as in some places there is plenty of water, vegetation here is remarkably luxuriant. At each extremity of this division are hot springs of chalybeate water, the temperature from 98° to 110° of Fahrenheit's scale. The inhabitants cultivate the vine for home consumption, and distil from peaches, as well as from grapes, an ardent spirit. But the articles brought to the Cape market are chiefly butter and soap. The *salsola* grows here much more luxuriantly than I have seen it in any other part of the colony. The *mimosa Karroo* grows also along the valley, through which the river flows, to a very large size, and produces a great quantity of gum-arabic; the bark too is superior to that of oak for tanning leather. Small antelopes and hares are sufficiently plentiful, and the beautiful *koodoo* is sometimes shot among the groves of mimosas. Leopards, tyger cats, and different species of the *viverra* genus, as also the river otter, are not uncommon along the wooded banks of the Olifant or Elephant River.

10. *Kamnuasie* is a rough hilly tract of country surrounding a high mountain so called, situate between the Olifant River and the Lange Kloof. The inhabitants are comparatively poor and few.

11. *Lange Kloof* is the long pass which has been particularly noticed in the first Volume.

12. *Sitsikamma* commences at Plettenberg's Bay, and continues along the sea-coast to the Camtoos River. It is chiefly covered with impenetrable forests, on the east of which, how-

ever, there are extensive plains equally good for the cultivation of grain and the grazing of cattle. No direct road has yet been made through the forests along the sea-coast, so as to be passable by waggons, but the inhabitants are obliged to go round by the Lange Kloof. They bring little to the Cape market on their annual visit, except salted butter and soap. In the forests of Sitsikamma are elephants, buffaloes, and rhinoceroses ; and on the plains the large *hartebeest* and *koodoo* antelopes, besides an abundance of small game.

The population and produce of Zwellendam, as ascertained by the Opgaaff, taken on oath in the year 1798, are as follows :

<i>Population.</i>			
Men	-	-	1070
Women	-	-	639
Sons	-	-	971
Daughters	-	-	987
Servants and free people of color			300
		Christians	3967
Men slaves	-	-	}
Women slaves	-	-	
Slave children	-	-	
Hottentots in the service of the peasantry, on a calculation			500
		Slaves and Hottentots	2696
		Total population of Zwellendam	6663



*Stock and Produce.*

Horses	-	-	-	-	9,049
Horned cattle	-	-	-	-	52,376
Sheep	-	-	-	-	154,992
Leggers of wine made	-	-	-	-	220½
Muids of wheat reaped in 1797	-	-	-	-	16,720
——— of barley	}	-	-	-	10,554
——— of rye					

## DISTRICT OF GRAAF REYNET.

The district of Graaf Reynet extends to the eastern extremity of the colony. The Great Fish River, the Tarka, the Bamboosberg, and the Zuureberg, divide them from the Kaffers on the east; the Camtoos River, the Gamka or Lions' River, and Nieuwveld Mountains, from the districts of Zwelendam and Stellenbosch on the west; Plettenberg's Landmark, the Great Table Mountain, and the Karreberg, from the Bosjesman Hottentots on the north; and it is terminated by the sea-coast on the south. The mean length and breadth of this district may be about 250 by 160 miles, making an area of 40,000 square miles, which is peopled by about 700 families; consequently each family may command 57 square miles of ground, which is more than six times the quantity regulated by Government. Great part, however, has been occasionally abandoned on account of incursions made both by the Kaffers and Bosjesmans. The inhabitants, indeed, are a sort of Nomades, and would long before this have pene-

trated with their flocks and herds far beyond the present boundaries of the colony, had they not met with a bold and spirited race of people in the Kaffers, who resisted and effectually repelled their encroachments on that side. Their persecution of the Hottentots in their employ has at length roused this people, also, to make an effort for their former independence. Should they succeed, and it is their own fault if they do not, for it appears they are superior in point of numbers, and much so in courage, the whole or the greatest part of the district of Graaf Reynet must, in consequence, be abandoned by the Dutch African peasantry.

The boors of this district are entirely graziers; few attempting to put a plough or a spade into the ground; except in Zwart Kop's Bay, or in some parts of the Sneuwberg, preferring a life of complete indolence and a diet of animal food to the comfort of procuring a supply of daily bread, and a few vegetables, by a very trifling degree of exertion. In Sneuwberg, indeed, the depredations of the locusts are discouraging to the cultivator, as the odds are great he reaps nothing, while this devouring insect remains in the country. About the drosdy, also, they cultivate a little grain, which they exchange with the grazier for sheep and cattle.

The district of Graaf Reynet is entirely composed of loan-farms, and it is divided as follows:

1. The *Drosdy*.
2. *Sneuwberg*, consisting of three parts.
3. *Swagers Hoeck*.

4. *Bruyntjes Hoogté.*
5. *Camdeloo.*
6. *Zwarte Ruggens.*
7. *Zwarte Kop's River.*
8. *Zuure Veldt.*
9. *Bosjesman's River.*
10. *Tarka.*
11. *Sea-cow River and Rhinoscerosberg.*
12. *Zwarte Berg.*
13. *Nieuwveld and the Ghowp.*

1. The *Drosdy*, or residence of the Landrost, is a small village in the centre of the district, and rather more than 500 miles from Cape Town. It consists in about a dozen mud-houses covered with thatch. That of the Landrost is of the same description, to which are annexed a garden and vineyard; but the grapes here seldom come to perfection, on account of the cold blasts from the Snowy Mountains, at the feet of which the village is situated. The land is red Karroo, and uncommonly fertile where the Sunday River can be brought to flood it. I observed here seventy distinct stems from one single grain of corn.

Under the idea of civilizing the rude boors of this district, Lord Macartney made suitable provision for a clergyman, and the foundation was laid for a large church. Long, however, before the outer walls were built, they thought fit to expel the clergyman that had been sent down to them; and the building was only just finished when the English evacuated the place.

2. *Voor, Middle, and Agter Sneuwberg*, the near, middle, and ulterior Snowy mountains, may be considered as the grand nursery of sheep and horned cattle, particularly of the former. Of these many families are in possession of flocks from two to five thousand. Between the people of these divisions and the Bosjesman Hottentots there is a perpetual warfare, which is imprudently fomented by the former making prisoners for life of the children they take from the latter.

In no part of the colony are such immense flocks of the *springbok* as in the divisions of the Snowy Mountains. Five thousand in one group are considered only as a moderate quantity, ten, twelve, or fifteen thousand being sometimes found assembled together, especially when they are about to migrate to some other part of the country. The *bontebok*, the *eland*, the *hartebeest*, and the *gemsbok*, are also plentiful, and small game in vast numbers. On the banks of the Fish River are two wells of hepatized water, of the temperature of 88° of Fahrenheit's scale. They are considered to be efficacious in healing sprains and bruises, and favorable to rheumatic complaints, to which the great changeableness of the climate renders the inhabitants subject. In several of the mountains of this division are also found, adhering to the sandstone rocks, large plates of native nitre, from half an inch to an inch in thickness, but not in quantities sufficient to make it an object of attention as an article of commerce.

3. *Swaager's Hoek* is a small division within the mountains at the head of Bruyntjes Hoogté, tolerably well wa-

tered and fertile in grain, which, however, is very sparingly cultivated.

4. *Bruyntjes Hoogté* lies upon the banks of the Great Fish River, and is considered as the best division in the whole district for horses and horned cattle, and equally suitable for the cultivation of grain and fruits; but the enormous distance from any market holds out no encouragement to the farmer to sow more grain than is necessary for family use, and many of them take not the trouble of sowing any. The *bosch bok* and pigmy antelope are common in this district; and buffaloes and rhinoceroses haunt the thickets upon the banks of the Great Fish River.

All the disturbances of Graaf Reynet have originated in this division. Its proximity to the Kaffers held out an irresistible temptation to the boors to wage war against them for the sake of plundering them of their cattle; yet none of the boors are in better circumstances than those of Bruyntjes Hoogté. The very man who was most active in promoting a Kaffer war, according to his *Opgaaff*, had between 800 and 900 head of cattle, and more than 8000 sheep, all of which, in their late disturbances with the Kaffers, he very deservedly lost.

5. *Camdeboo* extends along the feet of the Snowy Mountains, from the drosdy to Bruyntjes Hoogté, and is chiefly composed of Karroo plains, which, however, are extremely fertile in the chasms down which the streams of the moun-

tains constantly flow. The oxen are large and strong, and the sheep little inferior to those of the Snowy Mountains. The beautiful animal the *gnoo* is frequently seen bounding over the plains of Camdeboo, and *springboks* and *hartebeests* are very plentiful.

6. *Zwarte Ruggens* is a rough stony tract of country to the southward of Camdeboo, very scantily supplied with water, and producing little except succulent plants, among which are two or three species of euphorbia. Few families are found in this division, but here and there in the neighbourhood of the Sunday River, which runs through it. The cattle and sheep are small, but generally in good condition, notwithstanding the apparent scarcity, I might almost say total absence, of grass.

7. *Zwarte Kop's River* is a fertile and extensive division, lying to the southward of the *Zwarte Ruggens*, and is capable of producing an abundant supply of grain, convenient to be delivered at a trifling expence at the bay, which I shall hereafter have occasion to notice. About fifteen miles to the westward of the bay are large forests of timber trees, near which there is every appearance of a rich mine of lead, as I particularly noticed in the former volume. I had occasion also to speak of the salt lake near the bay, and the plentiful supply of that article which it produces. Wax from the *myrica cerifera* and aloes might be furnished by this division as articles of commerce.

8. *Zuure Veldt* is an extensive plain country stretching from the Sunday River in Zwarte Kop's Bay to the Great Fish River, and is the same kind of good arable or pasture land as the plains of the *Autinieguas* division in Zwellendam, but it is now exclusively in the possession of the Kaffers, from whom, indeed, it was originally taken forcibly by the boors. The great chasms towards the sea-coast, that are filled with thickets, abound in elephants and buffaloes; and in the Great Fish River are, occasionally at least, a few of the hippopotamus or river horse.

9. *Bosjesman's River* joins the *Zuure Veld* to the northward, and is a dry hilly country without any verdure, except in the hollows. It is thinly inhabited.

10. The *Tarka* is a small division at the north-eastern extremity of the colony, almost entirely deserted on account of its proximity to several hordes of Bosjesman Hottentots. It was in the mountains that terminate this division that I found the drawing of the unicorn on the caverns. The *bontebok*, the *eland*, and the *gnoo*, are common in the *Tarka*.

11. *Sea-cow River* and *Rhinoscerosberg* lie to the northward of the Snowy Mountains, and consist of detached hills rising out of extensive plains, and are well covered with grass. All kinds of game are particularly abundant in these divisions, and there is scarcely a species of antelope within the limits of the colony that may not be met with here. The inhabitants are in a state of perpetual warfare with the

Bosjesmans, and are frequently obliged to desert this part of the country.

12. *Zwarte Berg* is a portion of the mountain of the same name in the district of Zwellendam, to which, indeed, this also ought properly to belong. Sheep and horned cattle are the chief produce of the farmers.

13. *Nieuwveldt* and the *Ghowp* are also portions of the mountains of the same names, in the Stellenbosch district, and extend from thence to the Sneeuwberg. They are occasionally deserted on account of the incursions of the Bosjesman Hottentots.

The Opgaaff list taken on oath at the drosdy of Graaf Reynet, in the year 1798, was as follows :

<i>Population.</i>	
Men	940
Women	689
Sons	1170
Daughters	1138
Servants, schoolmasters with their families	189
Persons of color and their families	136
	Christians 4262



## TRAVELS IN

	Brought forward,	Christians	4262
Men slaves	-	445	
Women slaves	-	330	
Slave children	-	189	
		Slaves	964
Hottentots in the whole district (taken in the Opgaaff)	-	-	8947
			14,173
Total population of Graaf Reynet			14,173

*Stock and Produce.*

Horses	-	-	-	-	7,392
Horned cattle	-	-	-	-	118,306
Sheep	-	-	-	-	780,274
Leggers of wine made	-	-	-	-	187 $\frac{5}{6}$
Muids of wheat reaped 1797	-	-	-	-	11,283 $\frac{1}{2}$
— of barley	-	-	-	-	5,193 $\frac{1}{2}$

TOTAL AMOUNT of the Opgaaff Lists of the four Districts, being the exact State of the *Population, Stock, and Produce* of the whole Colony (the British Army and Navy, and British Settlers not included) in the year 1798.

Population.	Cape.	Zwellendam.	Stellenbosch.	Graaf Reynet.	Totals.
Christians	6261	3967	7256	4262	21,746
Slaves	11,891	2196	10,703	964	25,754
Hottentots		500	5000	8947	14,447
Total	18,152	6663	22,959	14,173	61,947
Stock and produce					
Horses	8334	9049	22,661	7392	47,436
Heads of cattle	20,957	52,376	59,567	118,306	251,206
Sheep	61,575	154,992	451,695	780,274	1,448,536
Hogs	758				758
Wine plants	1,560,109		11,500,000		13,060,109
Leggers of wine	786 $\frac{1}{2}$	220 $\frac{1}{2}$	7914	187 $\frac{5}{8}$	9108 $\frac{7}{8}$
Muids of wheat	32,962	16,720	77,063	11,283 $\frac{1}{2}$	138,028 $\frac{1}{2}$
— of barley	18,819	10,554	32,872	5193 $\frac{1}{4}$	67,438 $\frac{1}{4}$
— of rye	529		2053		2582

## TENURES OF LANDS.

The Dutch Government having obtained a tract of country from the Hottentots, at first by purchase and extended afterwards by force, made grants of land to the settlers on the four following tenures :

1. *Loan lands.*
2. *Gratuity lands.*
3. *Quit rents.*
4. *Freeholds.*

1. The most ancient tenure is that of Loan lands. These were grants, made to the original settlers, of certain portions of land to be held on yearly leases, on condition of paying to Government an annual rent of twenty-four rix dollars. Every farm was to consist of the same quantity, and be subject to the same rent, without any regard being paid to the quality of the land. And though the lease was made out for one year only, yet the payment of the rent was considered as a renewal ; so that the tenure amounted, in fact, to a lease held in perpetuity. And the buildings erected on it, together with the vineyards and fruit groves planted, called the *upstals*, were saleable like any other property, and the lease continued to the purchaser.

When application was intended to be made for the grant of a leasehold farm, the person applying stuck down a stake at the place where the house was meant to be erected. The overseer of the division was then called to examine that it did not encroach on the neighbouring farms, that is to say, that no part of any of the surrounding farms were within half an hour's walk of the stake ; or, in other words, that a radius of about a mile and a half, with the stake as a centre, swept a circle which did not intersect any part of the adjoining farms. In such case the overseer certified that the loan farm applied for was tenable, otherwise not. And as it generally happened that the site of the house was determined by some spring or water-course, the stake was so placed that the circumference of the circle described left a space between the new and some adjoining farm of one, two, or more miles in

diameter. This intermediate space, if less than three miles in diameter, was considered as not tenable, and, consequently, if any person (willing to pay the established rent for a smaller quantity of land than Government allowed) applied for such intermediate piece of ground, his application was sure to be rejected. Whether the Government had any design of dispersing the people by such an absurd system, under the idea of keeping them more easily in subjection, I can't pretend to say, but it thought proper to encourage the continuance of the system, which is in full force to this moment.

The disputes about these stakes or *baakens*, as they call them, are endless; and partly through accident, but frequently by design, the stakes are so placed that, on an average throughout the whole colony, the farms are at twice the distance, and consequently contain four times the quantity of land allowed by Government.

The number of these loan farms registered in the office of the receiver of the land revenue, on closing the books in 1798, were,

In the district of the Cape	-	-	110
— Stellenbosch and Drakenstein	-	-	689
— Zwellendam-	-	-	541
— Graaf Reynet	-	-	492
			<hr/>
	Total		1832

Supposing each farm to consist only of the usual allowance, or a square of three miles the side, the quantity of land in all the loan farms will amount to 10,552,320 acres; and the annual rent they produce is about 44,000 rix-dollars, which is at the rate of about eight-tenths of a farthing an acre. Yet, moderate as these rents are, the Dutch Government could not prevent their running in arrears, the amount of which, at the capture, was upwards of 200,000 rix dollars. From the payment of this arrear they were excused by the British Government. Yet, nevertheless, they pay the small rent reserved so unwillingly and irregularly, that new arrears are every day accruing.

2. Gratuity lands are such as were originally granted in loan, but, on petition of the holders, in consequence of some supposed services done to Government, have been converted into a sort of customary copyhold liable to a certain rent, which, like the loan-lands, is continued at 24 rix dollars a-year. Such estates, except a few in Zwellendam, are at no great distance from the Cape, and, in general, are in a better state of cultivation than the loan farms. Their number, as registered in the Land Revenue Office, are,

In the district of the Cape	-	-	43
—— Stellenbosch and Drakenstein	-	-	46
—— Zwellendam	-	-	18
			107
		Total	107

3. The quit-rents arise from pieces of waste ground which, from their contiguity or convenience to an estate, have been

allowed by Government to be occupied by the owners of such estates upon a lease of fifteen years, on condition of their paying an annual rent of one shilling an acre. Before the expiration of the lease a prolongation of the term for another fifteen years is petitioned, and the renewal seems now to have become a matter of course. Of such grants there are,

In the Cape district	-	-	-	25
----- Stellenbosch and Drakenstein			-	10
			Total	<u>35</u>

4. Real estates held in fee-simple, and subject to no rent, are chiefly situated in the Cape district, or its vicinity. These are the choicest patches of land, and have originally been sold or granted to the early settlers in parcels of about 60 morgen, or 120 English acres. It is natural to suppose that lands held in fee-simple should be in a higher state of improvement than those held by any other tenure, and so, in fact, they are, though by no means brought to that degree which might be expected. A Cape farmer has no idea of bestowing much labor or employing his capital in the prospect of a distant profit. He is unwilling to plant trees, because he may not live to reap the benefit of them. Yet, in this climate, there is no great interval of time between dropping the seed into the ground and the growth of the tree. The oak, the stone-pine, the poplar, and the native silver tree, are all of quick vegetation. One *Van Reenen*, a brewer at the foot of the Table Mountain, on the east side, planted a wood of the silver tree twelve years ago,

on waste ground, from which he now supplies the town and garrison with fuel; and for which he refused the offer of between three and four thousand pounds as it stood on the spot.

Estates in the Cape remain but a short time in the same family. Their descent is seldom settled, as by the laws of the colony all the children are entitled to equal shares of the property at the death of the parents. The advantages to which primogeniture in some countries entitles, are here entirely unknown. Superior in point of equity, as such a rule must be acknowledged to be, the consequence of it is an indifference to all improvement of estates beyond what will be productive of immediate profit. The proprietor endeavours to enrich himself by lending out money, increasing his stock of slaves, of cattle, and furniture, or by purchasing other estates, but he rarely thinks of improving them. He is little ambitious of leaving a name behind him, or of settling any branch of his family upon the same spot that raised him to independence and affluence. Old *Cloete*, the late proprietor of Constantia, forms a solitary exception from this remark. Having raised himself from the situation of trumpeter of a regiment into affluence, his whole attention was directed to the improvement of his estates, which he divided among his children. His favourite Constantia he left to the son who bore his own name, and it is provided, in his will, that this estate shall descend directly in the male line to him who bears his Christian name, or collaterally to the nearest of kin to his own Christian name and a *Cloete*. The consequence of which is, that Constantia is the most improving estate in the colony.

There are, perhaps, few countries where property so frequently changes hands as at the Cape of Good Hope. Not only do estates go out of a family at the death of the parents, when they are sure to be sold in order to make a division of the property among the children, but there seems to be an universal propensity to buy, sell, and exchange. Of this the Government has taken the advantage, and imposed a duty of four per cent. on all immoveable property that is transferred from one person to another. Two-thirds of the property, disposed of at the Cape, is by public auction, on which the vendue master charges two per cent.,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. for Government, and  $\frac{1}{4}$  per cent. for himself; so that the duty on transferring an estate amounts to 6 per cent. upon the value. In fifteen sales, therefore, by adding the expence of stamps and writings, Government runs away with the whole capital; and I have been informed, there are instances, within the memory of many persons, of estates being sold this number of times. I myself purchased a small estate that, within the last eight years, has changed hands six times; paying thrice a duty to Government of 6 per cent., and thrice of  $\frac{1}{4}$  per cent., making a tax of 30 per cent. on the value of the property. It may be observed, that this rage for buying and selling makes the transfer and the public vendue duties two of the most productive branches of the public revenue.

## CONDITION OF THE INHABITANTS.

If the condition of mankind was to be estimated entirely by the means that were furnished for supplying an abun-



dance, or preventing a scarcity, of the necessary articles of life, and it must be confessed they constitute a very essential part of its comforts, the European colonists of the Cape of Good Hope might be classed among the happiest of men. But as all the comforts of this world are blended with their concomitant evils, as roses are placed on stems surrounded with thorns, so these people, in the midst of plenty unknown in other countries, can scarcely be considered as objects of envy. Debarred from every mental pleasure arising from the perusal of books or the frequent conversation of friends, each succeeding day is a repetition of the past, whose irksome sameness is varied only by the accidental call of a traveller, the less welcome visits of the Bosjesmans, or the terror of being put to death by their own slaves, or the Hottentots in their employ. The only counterpoise to this wearisome and miserable state of existence, is a superfluity of the necessaries of life, as far as regards the support of the animal functions, which all, of every description among the colonists, have the means of acquiring with little exertion either of body or mind.

A short sketch of the circumstances and resources of the several classes of the colonists will be sufficient to convey a general idea of their respective conditions. The 22,000 Christian inhabitants that compose the population of this colony may be reduced into four classes.

1. *People of the town.*
2. *Vine-growers.*

3. *Grain-farmers.*4. *Graziers.*

1. The free inhabitants of Cape Town, let their condition be what it may, are too proud or too lazy to engage in any kind of manual labor ; and two thirds of them owe their subsistence to the feeble exertions of their slaves. And for the better encouragement of this class of unfortunate beings, who otherwise could have little inducement to put out their strength or talents to the best advantage ; and in order to derive to themselves a certain fixed income from their labors, each slave is required to bring home to his proprietor a certain sum at the end of every week ; all that he can earn above this sum is for his own use : and many are industrious enough to raise as much money in a few years as is sufficient to purchase their freedom, and sometimes that of their children. The price of provisions and the price of labor bear no sort of proportion. Butcher's meat is only about twopence a pound, and good brown bread, such as all the slaves eat, one penny a pound. A common laboring slave gets from two shillings to half a crown a day, and a mechanic or artificer five or six shillings a day. Yet an European will with ease perform at least three times the work of a slave.

There is not, perhaps, any part of the world, out of Europe, where the introduction of slavery was less necessary than at the Cape of Good Hope. Nor could it ever have found its way into this angle of Africa, had the same spirit of Batavian industry which, to make room for its numerous population,

drove in the ancient limits of the ocean, possessed the minds of those who first formed the settlement. A temperate climate, a sufficiently fertile soil, a mild and peaceable race of natives, were advantages that few infant colonies have possessed. But although these advantages still exist to a certain degree, yet, such is the prevalence of custom, that the present inhabitants appear to be equally blind to them as their predecessors were. To encourage the native Hottentots in useful labor, by giving them an interest in the produce of that labor; to make them experience the comforts of civilized life, and to feel they have a place and a value in society, which their miserable policy has hitherto denied to them, would be the sure means of diminishing, and, in time, of entirely removing the necessity of slavery. Few negroes, in fact, were imported during the seven years which the English kept possession of the colony; and those few were introduced in captured ships, or by the roguery of two or three English slave merchants, or by special permission. The extravagance of the price which the farmer, by the increased demand and value of his produce, could afford to give, was too strong a temptation for the dealer in human flesh to resist. From one hundred to four hundred pounds sterling was the price of a choice slave in Cape Town; and it was by no means unusual to find from twenty to thirty, of different descriptions, in one house. Some of these, indeed, were artificers, and hired out at certain rates for the day, week, or month. The most active and docile, but at the same time the most dangerous, slaves, are the Malays. They are faithful, honest, and tolerably industrious; but so impatient of

injury, and so vindictive, that the slightest provocation will sometimes drive them into fits of phrenzy, during the continuance of which it would be unsafe to come within their reach. The revengeful spirit of a Malay was strongly marked by an occurrence which happened some little time after the capture of the settlement. Conceiving that he had not only served his master with great fidelity, but a sufficient length of time, exclusive of the several sums of money he had given him, to entitle him to his freedom, he was one day tempted to remonstrate on the subject, and to demand his liberty, which, however, the master with more harshness than was necessary thought fit to refuse. The following morning the Malay murdered his fellow-slave. On being taken and brought up for examination before a commission of the Court of Justice, he not only confessed the fact, but acknowledged that the boy he had murdered was his friend. Being questioned as to the motives which had led to the perpetration of so horrid an act, he calmly observed, that having considered the most effectual revenge he could practise on his master was not by taking away his life, but by robbing him of the value of a thousand rixdollars, in the loss of the boy, and another thousand by bringing himself, in so doing, to the gallows, he could not but exult in what he had done, as the recollection of the loss would prey upon his master's avaricious mind for the remainder of his life.

It is a circumstance not easily to be accounted for, that the Dutch should have given the preference to this race of men, of talents much inferior to those of the Hottentots, and

whose temper, always capricious, becomes on slight provocations cruel and revengeful. The negroes of Mosambique and of Madagascar are harmless and stupid on their first arrival, but soon become cunning and dishonest by intercourse with their elder brethren. In full possession of all the vices that must infallibly result from the condition of slavery, there is yet no part of the world where the domestic slaves of every description are so well treated, and so much trusted, as at the Cape of Good Hope. They are better clothed, better fed, and infinitely more comfortable, than any of the peasantry of Europe. Yet such are the bad effects which the condition of slavery produces on the mind, that they are incapable of feeling the least spark of gratitude for good and gentle usage, whilst, under the severe hand of a rigid and cruel master, they become the best of slaves. It may be considered as an axiom or self-evident truth, that such are and always will be the consequences of degrading man to the lowest of all conditions, that of being made the property of man.

The Dutch use little prudence or precaution with regard to their domestic slaves: in the same room where these are assembled to wait behind their masters' chairs, they discuss their crude opinions of liberty and equality without any reserve; yet they pretend to say that, just before the English got possession of the Cape, and when it was generally thought the French would be before-hand with us, the slaves who carried the sedan chairs, of which no lady is without one, used very familiarly to tell their mistresses,

“ We carry you now, but by-and-by it will be your turn “ to carry us.” The proportion of slaves to whites, of both sexes and all ages, in the town, is not more than two to one : but that of slave men to white men is near five to one.

The field slaves belonging to the farmers are not, however, nearly so well treated as those of the town ; yet infinitely better than the Hottentots who are in their employ. The farmer, indeed, having a life-interest in the one, and only five-and-twenty years in the other, is a circumstance that may explain the difference of treatment. The one, also, is convertible property, an advantage to which they have not yet succeeded in their attempts to turn the other. The country slaves, notwithstanding, are ill fed, ill clothed, work extremely hard, and are frequently punished with the greatest severity ; sometimes with death, when rage gets the better of prudence and compassion.

The bad effects that a state of slavery invariably produces on the minds and habits of a people, who have the misfortune to be born and educated in the midst of it, are not less felt at the Cape than in the warmer climates. Among the upper ranks it is the custom for every child to have its slave, whose sole employment is to humour its caprices, and to drag it about from place to place lest it should too soon discover for what purposes nature had bestowed on it legs and arms. Even the lower class of people think it would be degrading to their children to go out as servants, or be bound as ap-

prentices to learn the useful trades, which, in their contracted ideas, would be to condemn them to perform the work of slaves.

The management of the young people is almost wholly left to the slaves, and their education much neglected. The government made an attempt, but without success, at the establishment of a public school ; and the individual had no other ambition but that of qualifying his sons, by writing and accounts, to become servants of the Company. This body of merchants had a number of persons in their employ who were very ill paid. Their salaries indeed were insufficient to afford them a bare subsistence ; but it tacitly allowed them to negotiate for themselves. The consequence of such a system was what might easily have been foreseen, that each became a kind of petty dealer, and dealt very frequently and liberally with the wares and merchandize of his employers. Each had his little private shop in some corner of his house. The most paltry articles were in the list of their commodities for sale ; and those who ranked high in the government, and assumed a string of full-sounding epithets to their names, felt no sort of indignity in retailing the produce of their gardens ; not indeed avowedly, but through the medium of their slaves. In fact, the minds of every class, the governor, the clergy, the fiscal, and the secretary of the court of justice excepted, were wholly bent on trade. *Koopman* or merchant was a title that conferred rank at the Cape, to which the military even aspired. On this subject the ideas of the Dutch differ widely from those of the Chinese, who have degraded

the merchant into the very lowest order of their society. The Dutch have a remarkable propensity for public vendues. Not a day passes without several of these being held in the town both before and after dinner. And it is no uncommon thing to see the same identical articles exposed at two different sales on the same day. In fact, a vendue is a kind of lottery. A man buys a set of goods in the morning, which he again exposes to sale in the evening, sometimes gaining and sometimes losing. Yet all moveable property, on sale by public auction, is liable to a duty of 5 per cent.,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  of which the auctioneer is accountable for to Government; the remainder is for himself. I cannot give a stronger instance of the rage for vendues than by observing that in four successive months of the year 1801, the amount of property sold by public auction was 1,500,000 rix dollars, a sum equal to the whole quantity of paper money in circulation, which, indeed, may be considered as the only money, of late years, that has circulated in the country. In what manner, therefore, these articles were to be paid for is a sort of mystery, which, however, the declining state of the colony may long before this have sufficiently explained.

The better sort of people are those who are employed in the different departments of government. Many have estates in the country, and derive a revenue from their produce. Others again are a sort of agents for the country boors, and keep houses to lodge them when they make their annual visit to the town. These men are a sort of Jew brokers, who live entirely by defrauding the simple boors in disposing of their produce,



and purchasing for them necessaries in return. A boor in the Cape can do nothing for himself. Unaccustomed to any society but those of his family and his Hottentots, he is the most awkward and helpless being on earth, when he gets into Cape Town, and neither buys nor sells but through his agent. The emancipated slaves and people of color are generally artificers ; many of them support their families by fishing. During the whole year there is great plenty and variety of fish caught in Table Bay, and cheap enough for the poorest families to make a daily use of.

The leading pleasures of the inhabitants are chiefly of the sensual kind, and those of eating, drinking, and smoking predominate ; principally the two latter, which, without intermission, occupy the whole day. They have little or no relish for public amusements. They love not any kind of exercise but that of dancing. A new theatre was erected, but plays were considered to be the most stupid of all entertainments, whether the performance was English, French, or German. To listen three hours to a conversation was of all punishments the most dreadful. I remember, on one occasion only, to have observed the audience highly entertained ; this was at an old German soldier smoking his pipe ; and the encouragement he met with in this part of his character was so great, and his exertions proportioned to it, that the whole house was presently in a cloud of tobacco smoke.

There is neither a bookseller's shop in the whole town, nor a book society. A club called the *Concordia* has lately aspired

to a collection of books, but the pursuits of the principal part of the members are drinking, smoking, and gaming. Under the direction of the church is a library, which was left by an individual for the use of the public, but it is rarely disturbed either by the public or by individuals. In this collection are some excellent books, particularly rare and valuable editions of the classics, books of travels and general history, acts of learned societies, dictionaries, and church history. Books are rarely found in Cape Town to constitute any part of the furniture of a house. So little value do they set on education, that neither Government, as I before observed, nor the church, nor their combined efforts, by persuasion or extortion, could raise a sum sufficient to establish a proper public school in the colony; and few of the natives are in circumstances to enable them to send their children for education to Europe. But those few who have had this advantage generally, on their return, relapse into the common habits of the colonists, finding how unnecessary in this country are the exertions of body or mind for procuring a subsistence. I repeat, that if the measure of general prosperity was to be estimated according to the ease of procuring abundance of food, the people of the Cape may be considered as the most prosperous on earth, for there is not a beggar in the whole colony, and no instance of any person having suffered for want of the common necessities of life.

By habitual indolence, excess of food, and fondness for indulging in sleep, they become no less gross in their persons, than they are vulgar in their manners. A young lady described the Cape and its inhabitants in very few words: "*De*