The next division, Hope Town, is the most northerly in the Colony, and although created in 1858 is still very sparsely occupied. Its features are flat country with a few hills and occasional patches of camel thorn trees. To the eastward it is covered with short Karoo bush, affording good pastures; while to the north and west there are plains of red sand abounding in grass, mixed up with small shrubs chiefly the capoc or cotton bush. After rain the country has a most luxuriant appearance; but the annual fall is very small and uncertain, and periodical droughts of long duration are frequent. The water supply is principally from dams and wells, there being few fountains. The best farms have only about a morgen of ground under cultivation, and they are few. In consequence of this the inhabitants are dependent upon the lower districts for most of the necessaries of life, and as transport is costly, provisions of all kinds are generally high priced. There is a good deal of cattle-breeding, but sheep-farming is the principal occupation, the leading men being Messrs. H. du Plessis, J. W. Vermulen, J. du Toit, J. Bredenkamp, and G. Swegers. The average size of the farms is 4,000 morgen and their value about 2s. 6d. per morgen. Flocks of sheep generally range about 1,500. In 1865 the district had 278,000 merinos and 58,000 Cape sheep, and the clip of wool was 870,622 lb. Until within a few years ago, there was a great deal of squatting on the waste Crown lands, a poor inferior class of farmers living in tents and moving about from spot to spot as in the "Trek-veld." Now a large extent of these Crown lands has been leased. Since 1866, the quantity leased was over a million morgen, at prices giving a yearly rental of £8,000. On a great part of the lands, improvements are being made, especially in the construction of dams and the opening of wells. The capabilities of the district are in this manner being gradually developed.

Its great drawback is drought, which careful men provide against either by storing water or removing and reducing their stock on the approach of an adverse season. Hope Town is situated in a small valley or basin adjoining the Orange River. Its population is about 700 white and coloured. It contains a large Dutch Church, many well-built houses and stores, and has a considerable business, particularly in connection with persons trading over the boundary, who purchase merchandise, which they barter with the natives or settlers beyond, and bring in return ivory, skins, feathers, and other produce from the Interior. A little time ago, the value of the goods which passed through Hope Town for the Interior was £50,000, and the produce brought out was about £75,000. Diamonds of the first water have been found on farms in the district, at various places far apart from each other, as well as along the banks of the Orange River, from near where the Vaal joins it. These have all been picked up on the surface soil, generally by most ignorant people, and without any systematic search having been made. The spots where they have been found are known as Proberfontein, Rittlemahoo, Swemkuil, Remhoogte, Muishook, and other places. On some of them there are deposits of "river drift" as at Pniel and Hebron, while others have areas of soil corresponding to Bultfontein and Du Toit's Pan, and at twenty feet deep there is ground very similar to the Kimberley mine, in the adjoining territory of Griqualand West.

Colesberg adjoins Hope Town on the eastern side. It is a fine pastoral division. In 1865 it had upwards of half a million woolled sheep and yielded 1,592,702 lb. of wool, thus standing first in the production of that staple; Richmond being second, Cradock third, and Graaff-Reinet fourth. It embraces an area of about 6,000 square miles, comprising between 300 and

400 granted farms, averaging 4,000 morgen, and a good extent of Crown lands held under lease. The pasturage formerly was grassy, but now bush has spread in every direction, either entirely taking the place of the grasses, or forming the mixed herbage known as gebroken veld. This change is greatly attributed to the numerous flocks of sheep wandering about, making paths, in which when rain falls water flows as in so many little channels washing away the earth and destroying the grass roots. Inferior shrubs such as the "bitter-bush" are establishing themselves in these places, and may in course of time become predominant, although by a little care and trouble more nutritious varieties, such as the "schaap-bosch" might easily be propagated and maintained. Some of the farms have great capabilities, and large prices are paid for them. One property, Mr. Theunissen's, Oorlog's Poort, changed hands some years ago for as much as £15,000. The estates of Mr. Van Zyl, Buffel's Vley, and of Mr. Thos. Bedford, and of Mr. Maltitz, are also very superior, and in every respect well-equipped, all of them having extensive sheds for the protection of the sheep in winter, which in these northern parts is bitterly cold with keen frosts and snow. The district is watered by the Zekoe and Oorlog Rivers, both affluents of the Orange; but dams are constructed on most farms, and many have several of them. About two or three thousand morgen of land are brought under cultivation, and a considerable quantity of wheat, barley, mealies, oat-sheaves, and some wines and dried fruit produced. The crops, however, are frequently subject to injury from hail-storms, late frosts, and the ravages of locust. In the field-cornetcy of the Hantam, on the eastern side, horse-breeding is largely carried on, although frequently losses are sustained from the horse-sickness, which appears in an epidemic form from March until

May. The principal breeders are Messrs. Pienaar and Hermanus Van Zyl, whose studs supply many of the neighbouring districts. The value of farms, including buildings, averages about 12s. 6d. per morgen throughout the division. Crown lands occasionally adjoin private properties and some of them are hired at comparatively high rates from the convenience they afford of additional grazing or change of pasture. It is no uncommon thing too for flocks of sheep to be hired by young beginners, possessors of these lands. Such flocks sometimes range up to several thousands, and are classed according to their ages—one, two, or three years—the lessee returning the same number and class at the end of the term of lease, and paying an annual rent for them, usually at the rate of 1s. 6d. per head. Ostrich-breeding has been pursued very successfully for a long time past, some of the farmers, such as Messrs. Murray, Sluiter, Heathcote, and Maltitz, having enclosures of many miles in extent for their birds.

The town of Colesberg is about an hour's ride from the Orange River, near the base of a high conical hill, known as Coleskop. The locality is said to have been originally the site of a Bushman kraal. The streets and houses are crowded together in a narrow valley quite enclosed by the greenstone ridges which surround it. This gives it a very hot and arid look which is not belied by the reality. The Dutch Reformed Church of this place is a novelty in ecclesiastical architecture, being externally of octagonal form. In its present unfinished state, and wanting the fine spire of 150 feet high, originally designed to ornament it, it has rather a nondescript appearance. It has cost about £20,000 and more funds are required to complete it. The separatists from the Dutch Church, known as the "Doppers" have a very simple substantial church in the immediate neighbourhood. There

is also a Wesleyan Church, and an English Church, adapted in point of size to its small congregation. The houses and business-places of the town are pretty numerous, and there is a considerable amount of trade transactions with the adjacent farms, as well as with the people of the Free State, beyond the Orange River. At present this river is only passable by pontoons, one of which is situated on the direct road from Colesberg at Mr. Roos's farm, and another higher up at Mr. Norvall's; but funds have been granted by Parliament for the construction of a bridge across it, and plans have been prepared for erecting an iron structure of nine spans of 100 feet each. The spot selected for its site is half a mile above the first-mentioned pontoon. The extent of traffic here may be estimated from the fact that more than 3,000 wagons alone have crossed the river at this place during twelve months. There are two other townships in the Colesberg division,—Hanover to the south-west, near the boundary of Richmond, and Philip's Town to the west, and both of them bid fair at no very distant date to rival the chief town.

The district of Middelburg was formerly part of Colesberg and is still associated with it as an electoral division. It is situate between Colesberg and Cradock. Some years back when the notable Nimrod, Roualeyn Gordon Cumming, was at the Cape, this part of the country was in undisputed possession of springboks and wildebeestes, and was the scene of his first hunting exploits. Now it is dotted with flocks of wool-bearing sheep, farmers' dwellings, cattle enclosures, corn-mills, vineyards, and gardens, and numbers of reservoirs of water. On the estate of Mr. Distin, Tafelberg Hall, which comprises about 12,000 morgen, there is a very capacious dam utilised for driving a mill, and other purposes, as well as irrigating a large extent of arable land, vineyard, &c. This and the neighbouring properties of Messrs. Southey, Collet, Smit, and others are

all well-stocked with merino sheep, cattle, horses, mules, and ostriches. As a rule they are provided with sheds for lambing stock, dipping tanks, and every appliance for pastoral purposes. There are also two or three farms about 20,000 morgen in extent, the property of Messrs. J. O. Smith & Co., who have very fine flocks, including some from stock imported from Australia, under the excellent management of Mr. Vigne. In this district, too, there are many agricultural farmers, the lands along the Little Brakke River being capable of irrigation, and a very fair amount of grain is raised in ordinary seasons. The average value of land may be stated at £1 per morgen.

The town of Middelburg is well watered by a furrow led out from the river, and there are fine gardens contiguous to the dwellings. It is not a large place, but there are a number of stores which do a very profitable business, principally with the farmers. Many of the latter are "doppers,"—a section of the community, in appearance and manners somewhat of the old Puritan stamp, who regard the use of "hymns" in church service as very objectionable. They have a large place of worship, presided over by one of themselves, in opposition to the Dutch Reformed Church which has also a considerable following. Here, as in most of the inland towns, the church services draw together great numbers of the families from the surrounding country. It is creditable to the South African farmers that they consider their attendance on religious worship an imperative duty and they will travel many miles to perform it. The administration of the sacrament or "Nachtmaal" is the special occasion when they most assemble; then the towns are as crowded and lively as during a fair. Their solemn religious duties once discharged, a visit to the general stores and shops follow, affording them an opportunity of laying in a quantity of household supplies, and a very considerable and

lucrative business is carried on by the various merchants and dealers.

Next to Middelburg, is the important division of Cradock. Westward it is divided from Graaff-Reinet by the Wagenpadsberg, and other minor ranges of the Sneeuwberg; northwards it stretches to the higher plateau of the Bamboes and Stormbergen, and eastward it extends along the spurs of the Great Winterberg. Although the general aspect of the division is dry and sterile, yet for grazing it is excellent, and large flocks are depastured throughout it. The herbage is chiefly of the ordinary Karoo character, and in the hilly parts mixed with nutritious grasses. In 1865 the number of merino sheep was over 600,000, and the clip of wool 1,277,757 lb. The capability of the pasture is an average of one sheep per morgen. The soil throughout the district is deep and extremely fertile, suitable alike for grain, vines, or fruit, and only requires irrigation to yield abundantly. The vineyards in some instances are extensive, and quantities of brandy and raisins have been manufactured and sold in the district. There are numbers of reservoirs, and many powerful springs on some farms. These properties generally command very high prices; from £5,000 to £7,000, for a farm varying from 3,000 morgen and upwards is not uncommon, and there are many old established estates which could not be purchased for double these sums. The ordinary price of land, however, may be stated at 30s. a morgen. Among the largest holders are Mr. J. Trollope, Mr. John Collet, and Messrs. Mechau. The two first named have properties of from 25,000 to 27,000 morgen in extent. Mr. Collet's flocks number about 10,000, and are all first-class stock; his clip of wool, as well as that of Mr. Vermaak's, realizes exceptional rates. Formerly on several farms there were numbers of good horses, and as many as 120 have been pur-

chased out of an enclosure in one day; at present the only regular breeders are Messrs. Mechau and Louw van Heerden, although most of the farmers still keep from thirty to fifty horses each. Troops of cattle range from 100 to 200 head. The angora goat, which has lately been introduced, and ostriches, are becoming common,—flocks of the latter, numbering eighty to 100 being an ordinary occurrence, and lately as much as £100 to £150 has been given for full-grown birds, £40 for birds of fifteen months and £15 for three months' birds.

The town of Cradock is a large and thriving place. It is on the main trunk line from Port Elizabeth and Graham's Town to the northern districts and the Free State, and has recently been fixed upon as the terminus of the northern line of railway, now in course of construction from Port Elizabeth. At present it has by far the finest ecclesiastical building in the Colony. This is the Dutch Reformed Church, designed with handsome facade and steeple after the style of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, and constructed entirely of a beautifully dressed free-stone found close to the town. The clear dry climate of the district serves to keep the stone clean and unspotted as when first cut, and the finished character of the building renders it, in contrast with its surroundings, "a thing of beauty" as well as "a joy for ever." The church cost about £30,000, raised almost entirely amongst the farmers of the district, who also gratuitously contributed their labour in carting the stone from the quarry whilst it was in course of erection. Besides this building there is a neatly-finished English Church, Wesleyan and Independent Churches, schools, a library, and reading-room, stores, banks, newspaper office, hotels, and other institutions. The town is well supplied with water obtained out of the Fish River, some distance above, and brought in

by a water furrow protected by mimosa trees. This enables many of the houses, especially in the lower part to have excellent gardens and many trees with an abundant supply of fruit.

The Fish River has its source sixty miles higher up than Cradock at a place named Quagga's Hoek, 4,200 feet above the sea. In its course to the coast it drains an area estimated at 12,000 square miles, being fed by several considerable tributaries and in the rainy season it is a most formidable mud-charged torrent rushing along its rocky tortuous channel with a volume and impetuosity that render any attempt to ford it extremely hazardous, and at times altogether impracticable. Above Cradock, however, it is a comparatively narrow stream, capable as already stated of being led out for purposes of irrigation, and it has often been proposed to utilise it on a more extensive scale by the construction of a series of dams and furrows forming a chain of reservoirs at intervals from its source, and so effectually affording a check to the entire current. Works of such a character if carried out successfully would completely change the appearance of the country and largely multiply its productive and exportable capabilities.

In several parts of the district, there are valuable saltpans, yielding many thousand bags of salt each year. About two miles from the town are what are termed the "Baths,"—springs of splendidly clear water, strongly impregnated with sulphur. The water here is soft and admirably adapted for wool-washing, and there are establishments for that purpose in operation, belonging to Messrs. Flemmer, Cawood, and others.

The distance from Cradock to some of the outlying portions of the division is very considerable, in some directions being as much as twelve or fourteen hours'

ride on horseback. This has lately led to the establishment of new villages, and to the creation of a separate magisterial district under the name of Tarkastad. The new villages are Steynsburg and Maraisberg. The former was commenced in 1873 by the sale in erven of a property near to Mr. Louw Pretorius', on the flats between Middleburg and Burghersdorp, and near Kneehalter's Nek. In less than a year there were upwards of 130 dwelling houses and stores built, a church for one of the Dutch Reformed congregations completed and another in progress, and the business-places in twelve months, amongst other produce, received wool to the value of £26,000. The other village, Maraisberg, also on the plains, is about seven hours from Cradock, an equal distance from Middelburg, and nine hours from Burghersdorp. It is a central point for the farmers from Doorn Hoek, Bamboesberg, and Vlekpoort.

Tarkastad is situated north-east of Cradock, near to the Tarka River and the peculiar mountain peaks known as the Twee Tafels (Two Tables). It embraces the fine agricultural and pastoral district from the northern slopes of the Great Winterberg to the boundaries of Queen's Town and Albert. The township although as yet a small one numbers many substantial houses, hotel, stores, public offices, a commodious parsonage, and a new Dutch Reformed Church in progress. It is some distance from the Tarka River, but has a good supply of water from a strong and never-failing fountain. The farmers in the neighbourhood, like those of Cradock, are generally descendants of the old colonists, but latterly a number of English have settled amongst them. They have large flocks of sheep and herds of cattle. The wool purchased by the local storekeepers is now about 4,000 bales per annum.

VII. THE EASTERN DISTRICTS.

We leave the Karoo, as we cross the outliers of the Great Winterberg, and returning to the seaward side, enter upon what is by far the most beautiful part of the Colony—the Eastern Districts. These may be said to commence with the coast districts of Humansdorp and Uitenhage, stretch inland over the lower end of the Zuurberg up to Somerset, and thence extend in a line eastward parallel with the Winterberg, Katberg, and Chumie Mountains, to the old frontier boundary, where the Keiskamma River runs down to the Indian Ocean. The area of this territory is estimated at a little under 19,000 square miles, and it includes no less than twelve divisions, namely, Humansdorp, Uitenhage, Port Elizabeth, Alexandria, Bathurst, Albany, Somerset, Bedford, Fort Beaufort, Stockenstrom, Victoria East, and Peddie. In 1865 it contained a population of 130,500 souls. The conformation of the country is highly pleasing, and often very picturesque. Along the seaboard there are grassy hills and dales variegated with luxuriant copse or clumps of natural shrubbery; gradually rising above these, are bold krantzes or ridges, and undulating flats, occasionally covered with dense bush, reaching up to the mountain ranges, which are verdant and wood-fringed to their rocky crests. The soil in most places is adapted for agriculture, but the large extent of sweet grassy pasture, forming the richest sheepwalks, has naturally enough made wool-growing and cattle farming the favourite and most profitable pursuits. The clip of wool in these divisions in 1865 was 4,000,000 lb., and there were

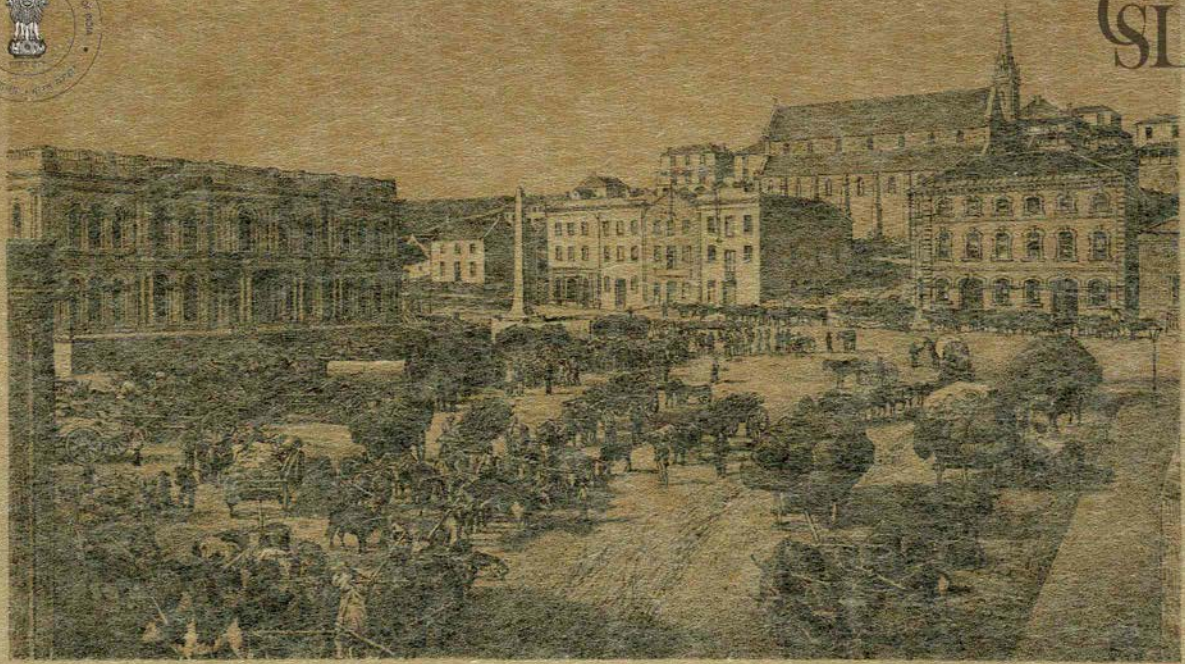
depastured—of woolled sheep 2,022,483; African sheep, 13,600; Angora goats, 39,850; common goats, 759,323, besides horses and cattle. The ground under cultivation was 84,410 acres, and the yield of wheat (exclusive of other cereals), 128,000 bushels, of which Humansdorp, Uitenhage, Alexandria, and Bathurst alone raised 100,000 bushels.

The chief port for these districts as well as for most of the midland territory, the Free State, and the Interior, is the indentation of the coast beyond Cape Recife, forming what is known as the harbour of Algoa Bay. Here, on what was a ridge of barren sand-hills there has grown up the town of Port Elizabeth, whose rise and progress conspicuously represent what colonization has accomplished and is accomplishing in South Africa. Fifty-four years ago, a small fortification and a few huts occupied by two or three traders and fishermen were the only evidences of life—a mere dot of civilization on the margin of a savage wilderness. Then came the flow of British immigration, dispersing over the country and developing production and creating Commerce, of which this, as the principal seaport eastward of the Cape, became "the golden gate." Anyone now arriving in Algoa Bay will find before him all the evidences of an enterprising, prosperous, and populous place. For two or three miles along the water-side and up the sloping hill ascending from it, and on the brow of the height above, there rise in succession warehouses, stores, manufactories, shops, offices, dwelling houses, churches, schools, hospitals, villas, and other buildings, of every description and variety of architecture.

The harbour is an open but safe roadstead, with good holding ground, and the loading and discharging of steamers and ships are very expeditiously done by means of lighters and surf-boats,

and large gangs of Fingoes and Kafir labourers. There are two landing jetties, where passengers may reach *terra firma* without the discomfort and danger which formerly attended debarkation, when the alternative was a leap into the surf or being carried in the embrace of nude aborigines. Close to the principal landing-place, in Jetty-street, is the Eastern Districts' Railway Station, and along the sea wall skirting the water's edge the lines of rail are laid which will shortly connect Uitenhage and the Midlands as well as Cradock and the Northern Districts with the port. Immediately above this is the central and business part of the town, forming what is known as the Main-street, extending from Market-square through Queen's-street, and Prince's-street to the Prison-buildings at the North-end. Nowhere in the Colony is there a livelier, busier scene than here, especially during the wool season, when the huge transport wagons, carrying from 6,000 to 10,000 lb. come in laden with bales of wool, skins, or ivory, to load up again with merchandise for the Interior towns and villages, as far even as the limits of the Free State and the Transvaal Republic.

Some idea of its aspect may be formed from the accompanying illustration, representing the Market-square, crowded with groups of dealers, vehicles, and animals, the produce wagons with their long teams of oxen being a prominent feature. The large building on the left hand is the Town-hall, of which Port Elizabeth is justly proud. It is a stately and commodious structure somewhat in the Italian style, but with a portico of Corinthian columns, and is said to have cost £25,000. The Borough Council Offices are there, as well as the Chamber of Commerce, the public reading-room and Library, and a small Museum; and there is a magnificent hall about eighty feet long by forty broad—undoubtedly the finest in South



TOWN HALL AND MARKET SQUARE, - PORT ELIZABETH, -1874

Africa—for public assemblies and entertainments. On the terraced ground above, there is St. Augustine's Roman Catholic Cathedral, of graceful gothic order, with tower and spire. To the right again are the offices of the agents of the Union Mail Service (Messrs. W. Anderson & Co.), and adjoining them the Magistrate's Court-room; while on the opposite side of the square are the Telegraph Office, the Post-office, and the large and well-conducted Phœnix Hotel. Along Main-street there are several very handsomely finished edifices used for business purposes, which would be creditable to any English city. The Guardian Insurance Buildings, the warehouses of Dunell, Ebden, & Co., W. Dunn & Co.'s, Mosenthal's, Deare and Deitz, Taylor & Co., Kettle's Emporium, and the new offices of the London and South African Bank, built of dressed free-stone, quarried from near the Zwartkop's River, are among the most imposing and ornamental.

The immense stocks and the amount of business transacted in some of these mercantile establishments unmistakably indicate the commercial enterprise and wealth of the Bay merchants. One of the largest stores is that recently completed by the old colonial firm of Messrs. Blaine & Co. Their premises have a frontage to Jetty-street, of over 200 feet, with a depth of 190 feet down Damant-street on one side and nearly 300 down Commerce-street on the other, and are three stories in height with cellarage below. The Jetty-street frontage is divided into three compartments, one being the counting-house, 104 feet by forty-three, fitted up with every convenience; another being the forwarding room, 120 feet by sixty-five feet, and the remainder being occupied as bonding stores, wool-pressing and engine rooms. The upper stories are apportioned for the different departments of the business,—one comprising building materials, such as

galvanized iron, deals, slates, and all kinds of fittings; a second provisions and oilman's stores; a third agricultural implements and general ironmongery; and a fourth Manchester and all sorts of soft goods, &c. In these departments, again, there is a sub-division of various articles, and the visitor may see in one, for instance, hundreds of ploughs, which are now greatly in demand by the frontier Fingoes and Kafirs; or in another, a large array of musical instruments, from which as many as 100 harmoniums and fifty pianos are sold off within a month or two. In the wool stores there is accommodation for 6,000 bales of wool, the average quantity in store during the season being 4,000 bales. Four double presses are constantly at work, and can press as many as 800 bales a day, the presses and machinery being worked by steam power, and hydraulic pressure in the form of an "accumulator," weighing thirty-two tons. There are also lifts and weighing machines, circular and upright saws, and lathes, and other appliances for repairing or making machinery for the wool-washing and other establishments. The machinery and buildings on the property are insured for about £40,000 and the stock for £80,000. Besides Messrs. Blaine's, there are other warehouses which, although not quite so extensive nor so well arranged, have equally valuable stocks, and whose branch establishments are spread throughout every district northwards and eastwards.

The population of the town is estimated at about 15,000, and the value of fixed property assessed at upwards of £1,200,000. Land and buildings in the Main-street and its neighbourhood have of late years increased in price to an unprecedented degree. The extent of ground available for business stands being restricted, sites which formerly sold for a few pounds now realize as many hundreds and in some instances thousands. The original erf or allotments at the

corner of Main and Jetty-streets exchanged hands prior to 1834-5 for a small cask of wine. Last year a tenth part of this block, having a frontage of about fifty feet, was secured by the London and South African Bank, as the site of their new offices, for £5,000. Another site more recently purchased by the Standard Bank, with about thirty-five feet frontage in the Main-street, also cost a like amount. In the adjoining thoroughfare of Strand-street, the inferior tenements which formerly existed are giving place to large goods' stores, and other buildings, and the Town Council have in contemplation further improvements in that locality.

The residences of the principal inhabitants, however, are on what is termed the "Hill,"—in contradistinction to the "town below." This is a flat table-land, on the terraced ground above the Main-street, the ascent of which is rather trying to the obese pedestrian on a hot day. Its aspect and surroundings are very pleasant and enjoyable, as the height is generally fanned by fresh cool breezes from the sea. Scattered irregularly over it are many fine mansions and pretty villa residences. There are also one or two handsome churches, such as the Scottish Presbyterian and Trinity Church;* an admirably managed hospital; a well endowed collegiate establishment, the Grey Institute; and a well regulated Club, where, after the labours of the day, the mercantile class usually congregate for relaxation, and courteously extend their hospitalities to visitors. On the open flat beyond the Hill, there is the attractive St. George's Park, laid out and planted by the corporation of the town some ten years ago and

* The Churches in Port Elizabeth number no less than sixteen, embracing Church of England, Wesleyan, Independent, Presbyterian, Baptist, and Roman Catholic places of worship; there is also a building used as a Jewish Synagogue, and a very tastefully designed Malay Mosque.

maintained by an annual vote of £500 from the local rates. It has most agreeable walks through avenues of trees, shrubs, and flowering plants, and is ornamented with a fine conservatory, rock-work, water basins, and grassy plots. The Park, like the Grey Institute, the Hospital, and the Town-hall, was originally created chiefly by the aid of the revenues accruing from the waste lands with which Port Elizabeth was liberally endowed during the Governorship of Sir George Grey. Part of these lands were some time ago sold in allotments for building purposes, yielding an annual quitrent revenue available for the maintenance of the local institutions. A portion of the park lands still remain unsold and as the town progresses their value will be greatly enhanced. There are at present no suburbs corresponding to Rondebosch or Wynberg, where the inhabitants can resort, although some localities such as Walmer, Emerald Hill, and the woody coast lands towards the Van Staden's River might easily be rendered very attractive in these respects. In their neighbourhood, are to be found many pleasant verdant slopes and patches of bush and clumps of trees, with cool freshening breezes from the sea, which naturally suggest a pleasant retreat from the "weariness, the fever, and the fret" of the Bayonian's incessantly hard-working life.

Port Elizabeth has been truly described by one of its writers as "a place of business—not of pleasure. The man who goes to reside there, presuming he goes for the reason which attracts nine hundred and ninety-nine out of every thousand, to get a living, must make up his mind not only to work but to work hard. A drone receives no mercy, be his status in society what it may. If he be a man of independent means people write him down as an ass for selecting such a spot for the enjoyment of dignity or ease. If he be dependent upon his physical or mental resources to earn his daily

bread, he soon discovers to his cost that sloth and apathy find no ready response there. If he be sober and industrious, and willing to work there is work of all kinds for him to do, and plenty of it if he goes the proper way to look for it." The amount of business done and the extent to which it has progressed may be gathered from the statistics of the port. These show that while forty years ago, the goods imported were only valued at £20,288, they amounted in 1872 to £2,447,280. The exports of produce in 1835 were valued at £33,000, and in 1872 they reached £3,137,400. Of the articles of colonial export contributing to this large increase, the principal one is the staple of wool. In 1835 the quantity shipped from this port alone was 79,848 lb. In ten years it increased to more than 2,000,000 lb. In 1855 it exceeded 9,500,000 lb. In 1865 it extended to nearly 30,000,000 lb.; and in 1872 it swelled to 39,396,927 lb.

Although, with the exceptions mentioned, the country about Port Elizabeth is very uninviting, stretching for miles over the dry plains known as the Bay flats, the adjoining divisions abound in beautiful vegetation and picturesque scenery. Uitenhage is only eighteen miles distant, and will shortly be almost within an hours' reach by railway. The town was described many years ago as "a pretty secluded spot, well laid out, and supplied with water from a spring in the Winterhoek Mountains, which gives 2,512,632 gallons in twenty-four hours. The consequence of this in conjunction with the salubrious climate and rich soil of the locality, is a profusion of fruits, trees, and flowers of the most luxuriant growth, adding considerably to the beauty of this part of the country." It occupies an area of one square mile, the streets are each a mile long, very wide and run at right angles with each other; the footpaths on either side are separated from the road by watercourses, and in most

places shaded by oaks which here attain a large and luxuriant growth. Originally each house had two acres or about a morgen of garden ground attached to it; but in the business centres, where the value of land has increased, the erven have been sub-divided many times. Caledon-street, now the chief street in the town, contains about thirty stores or offices, many of which are large handsome buildings, and are occupied by wholesale merchants and importers, who do a considerable trade with the farmers of the extensive district. In the same street are also the Standard Bank, Oriental Bank, Dutch Reformed Church, Anglican Church, Native Church and school-room, Malay Mosque, Public Library, Dutch Reformed Church school, Government school, Native Government school, town offices, gaol, court-house, Drosdty, three hotels, and several smaller shops, private residences, &c. This comparative concentration of trade to one street has caused the less populous parts of the town to fall into neglect; so that in winter it presents a rather dilapidated appearance; but in spring, when the numerous trees burst forth into leaf and blossom, and the hedges are covered with roses, the aspect of the place fully merits the description we have quoted, and the appellation "Garden of the Eastern Province" by which it was long known. A few years ago Uitenhage was famed for its two Botanical Gardens, then the property of Mr. Brehm and Mr. Dobson. These have been neglected lately, but that known as "Belham's" still possesses some of the rarest and most valuable plants, native and foreign, to be found in the Colony; the exotics having been imported by the late Mr. Brehm with a lavishness of money and trouble characteristic of an enthusiast.

Besides the churches already mentioned, there are two Native Churches under the London Missionary Society, two Wesleyan Native Churches, a Roman

Catholic Church, and an English Wesleyan Chapel, the latter a very handsome and commodious gothic building. In addition to the educational institutions already mentioned there is the first-class aided undenominational school and several boarding seminaries for young ladies. A sale of land granted by Government in aid of a building fund for the undenominational school took place recently, twenty acres selling for £2,500 and subject to a perpetual quitrent of £48 per annum. This money will be applied to the purpose of erecting spacious school buildings, masters' residence, &c. A water service is in course of construction for which the municipality are authorized by Act of Parliament to borrow £12,500.

Among the public institutions, &c, of the place are a Ladies' Benevolent Society, a Choral Society of nearly fifty members, two Good Templar Lodges, two Benefit Societies, Board of Executors, and a Library and Reading-room. Two newspapers are published, one in English, the other in Dutch.

During the last twelve years an important industry has sprung up in Uitenhage, viz., wool-washing. There are now ten establishments in the river Zwartkops, the soft and alkaline property of whose water render it peculiarly adapted for the purpose. The steam-machinery at these places is of the most costly and perfect description. From statistics recently collected we ascertain that £200,000 capital is invested in these establishments. The quantity of wool washed is about 200,000 bales per annum, the carriage of which to and from Port Elizabeth will form a considerable item in the traffic returns of the Port Elizabeth and Uitenhage railway, now nearly completed. These establishments employ, in addition to the extensive machinery, a great number of Kafirs and other natives at high wages. The result of this is that labour is very scarce and dear in Uitenhage, and

the business of the numerous canteen-keepers very prosperous.

There are two extensive saltpans near Uitenhage, one at Bethelsdorp, worked by the natives of the London Society mission station, the other at Coega, the private property of Mr. John Hitzeroth. The salt produced by the latter is of the very first quality; and the quantity appears inexhaustible, for although 40,000 muids per annum are taken out, there is no apparent diminution of yield.

The division of Uitenhage comprises an extensive area. It is broken by mountains—the Coega, Elandsberg, and Winterhoek, formed of Devonian sandstones and slates, rising one after the other; but the lofty peak of the Winterhoek, known as the Cockscomb, stands high above the rest, its summit commanding a glorious panoramic view northward even as far as the Sneeuwbergen. Along the coast and in the valleys, some of which are well-watered, there are good agricultural lands, while the mountain slopes are excellent for cattle-grazing. The number of draught oxen and other cattle maintained here in 1865 was upwards of 43,000 head. There were also 337,000 sheep depastured, and the clip of wool was 767,789 lb. The best sheep farms, however, are in the more inland parts of the district which have sweet grasses and Karoo herbage. The norsedoorn or euphorbia is at times found to be of value in some localities. There are several varieties of it, one the "bok-norse" being used for small stock and the "kars-norse" for all kinds. In seasons of drought it is fired, and from the long grass between it, readily burns. The plant is thus partially roasted and the thorns cleaned off. It is then greedily devoured by goats and cattle which not only thrive but fatten on it. The 'vinger-pol" is another succulent plant in use; it has great fleshy fingers growing out of a crown a foot in diameter. This is regarded as a nourishing food for

oxen and is used by carriers and others for that purpose, especially when the pastures are dried up. Aloes are plentiful and many of the natives find employment in the preparation of the drug, 40,000 lb. having been produced in 1865. The division has lately made great progress. The rateable property, which in 1870 was valued at £483,769, advanced in 1874 to £1,607,543. This includes the magisterial district of Jansenville. The increase is due chiefly to the great quantity of Crown land leased, and now bringing in a rental to Government; and also to improvements in the shape of homesteads, dams, &c., that have been made on many of the farms. Since 1869 the waste lands of Uitenhage surveyed and leased amount to upwards of 487,969 morgen, giving an aggregate rental of £9,447 per annum. There still remains a considerable extent unappropriated.

To the west of Uitenhage is the neighbouring division of Humansdorp, which is also agricultural and pastoral and contains some fine estates, one of the best of them being that of Zuurbron, the property of Mr. Metelerkamp. The township, distant about fifty miles from Port Elizabeth, is situated on a sloping plain overlooking the coast. About nine miles from it is Jeffrey's Bay, a safe but unfrequented harbour in the Bight of St. Francis, at a point nearly equidistant from the mouths of the Kromme and Gamtoos Rivers. Fish and oysters are plentiful there.

Near to Humansdorp is the Moravian mission of Clarkson, and the stations of Kruisfontein and Hankey, belonging to the London Missionary Society. The latter is one of the best establishments of the kind, kept in excellent order, and bearing evidence of industrial improvement. Several hundred morgen of land are under cultivation and irrigated by the waters of the Gamtoos River by means of a tunnel carried through the spur of a mountain at an expense of one or two thou-

sand pounds. Like other mission institutions, Hankey was originally formed as a sort of "city of refuge" where the natives could be gathered together, educated, and protected when necessary; but now they have arrived at that state that they can hold their own, and the Society with the sanction of the Legislature has arranged to divide and sell the lands in freehold lots to the most orderly amongst them, the condition being made in some cases that their lands shall not be alienated for ten years after their receiving title. This plan is regarded as certain to have a permanently beneficial result, as the best of the people may by the acquisition of property rise to a position of independence. Many of the natives both here and in Uitenhage are very well-conducted, possessing flocks of goats and horned cattle, and hiring lands from farmers and lessees of Crown lands on which to depasture their stock.

There are valuable forests in this tract of country, viz., the dense "Zitzikamma" and "New Forests," which are finely watered, and contain every description of colonial timber; "Klein River," situated at the back of Hankey and in detached kloofs along the Gamtoos River; and the "Oliphant's Hoek" Alexandria, covering an area of thirty-five miles long by two and three in breadth, but where with the exception of "sneezewood" the timber is inferior and water is very scarce. There is also "Van Stadens River" which supplies Port Elizabeth with firewood, but has no large timber left, and the wooded kloofs of the "Zuurberg." A fearful conflagration occurred throughout these districts in 1869. A destructive bush-fire, said to have originated from the barbarous system of "veld-burning," extended far and wide, even into the adjacent division of the Knysna, consuming homesteads, farm-stock, crops, forest game, and everything in its course. The damage to property was estimated at upwards of £16,000 exclusive of the forest burnt.

Eastward from Uitenhage the elevated belt of the Zuurberg Mountains run in an almost unbroken line towards Graham's Town. They consist of three or four separate ranges of hills, of rounded or gently-undulating contour, with deep wooded valleys intervening. Across this a splendid road is constructed which has of late been the great thoroughfare for wagon traffic between the northern districts and Port Elizabeth. As a work of art it is magnificent, and the beauty of the scenery throughout it is unequalled in the Colony. The course of this road is over the several hilly ridges or "neks" which are separated by valleys and kloofs, and its length following all the zig-zags of the ridges is fully twenty-four miles, although the distance from one side to the other as a bird flies would be scarcely more than eight. It is in crossing these "neks" or ridges that the peculiar character of the Zuurberg scenery is realized and seen to advantage. The poet Pringle was as strikingly impressed with it forty years ago as any vistor may be now. He describes it as far surpassing anything of the kind he had witnessed elsewhere, or formed a conception of from the accounts of others. "A billowy chaos of naked mountains, rocks, precipices, and yawning abysses, that looked as if hurled together by some prodigious convulsion of nature, while over the lower declivities and deep sunk dells, a dark impenetrable forest spreads its shaggy skirts and adds to the whole a still more wild and savage sublimity." The forest or rather jungle along the base of the range on the south-east side is known as the Addo (or K'Addow) bush; there are still throughout it a number of elephants and buffaloes, but their haunts are now being invaded by the shrill whistle of the railway, which runs along there between the Commando Kraal and Bushman's River stations.

Alexandria is on the seaward side of the Zuurberg,

between the Sunday's River and the Bushman's River. The township and seat of magistracy is inconveniently seated far away from the main road to Graham's Town, at the extreme south-east corner of the district, about eighteen miles from the mouth of the Bushman's River. A great deal of land is under cultivation—this neighbourhood being known as the "granary" of the East, and large quantities of cereals are raised, supplying the markets of Port Elizabeth and Graham's Town. The adjoining country, forming the districts of Albany and Bathurst, from the Bushman's River to the Fish River, is of much the same character. To the eye it has a most pleasing appearance, its hills and valleys richly grassy and covered with patches of shrubbery, far surpassing any ornamental parks. The principal produce is oats, either as hay or grain. Wheat and barley are also grown, but the crops are precarious, "rust" being common near the coast, although of late years an hybridised variety of wheat of a hard and flinty kind has been found to withstand the disease and answer admirably. Cotton has been tried, with favourable results, if labour could only be relied upon, and Indian corn, vegetables, and fruits can be raised to any extent. The pasturage everywhere is most luxuriant, often presenting the appearance of fields of hay, but, owing to its sour characteristic, it is generally only suitable for cattle, which attain to magnificent condition, many of the finest oxen employed for transport riding being grazed and supplied from this quarter. Small flocks of sheep are pastured, where formerly it was supposed they would not live, and although the increase has not been great, they have done tolerably well, and with proper selection and care they answer to a considerable extent. The hamlets of Bathurst, Clumber, Salem, and Sidbury, mark the locations of many of the early British settlers, while the village of Riebeek is the only one

representing the old colonists, and still maintaining its Dutch Reformed Church.

These districts are watered by several streams, and at the mouth of one of them, the Kowie, is the harbour of Port Alfred, where extensive works have been carried on for many years, to deepen the channel of the river and render it available for vessels of moderate draught and burthen. Originally the river debouched on the eastern side, and as far back as 1820, when the English immigrants were located in the neighbourhood, a brig of war sailed across the bar and anchored there, while parties of the settlers, with their wagons, passed over the ground on the western side, where at the present day vessels of eleven feet draught may float. The river was many years afterwards altogether diverted to the western bank by Mr. Cock, the proprietor of the land on that side, assisted by a number of settlers, who cut a trench through the sands and led out the stream, blocking up the old channel by sand bags and bush. Its suitability for a port was most enthusiastically urged upon the Government by Mr. Cock and his friends, who formed a company and contributed £25,000 for the purpose of carrying out the necessary works. The late eminent engineer, Mr. Rendell, was consulted and furnished plans for the construction of walls along the river to confine its course and increase the force of its current, so as to clear the bar at its mouth. The cost of these improvements, as carried on by the Kowie Harbour Company up to 1868, was over £100,000. Since then the Government have taken over the whole concern, the few original subscribers remaining having agreed to forfeit their shares, and now the works are being executed according to designs more recently furnished by Sir John Coode. The usefulness of the port has already been amply demonstrated by its trade, which is steadily increasing.

The number of vessels entered inwards in 1871 was twenty-two, and the imports £23,936, while in 1874 the vessels increased to fifty, and the imports to £131,450. The exports also advanced from £49,933 in 1871, to £101,191 in 1872, being double the amount of the previous year, and in 1873 they were £92,940. There is no doubt the trade will be greatly enlarged as soon as the coasting steamers make it a port of call.

At Port Alfred there is excellent holding ground for ships of the largest size at the outer anchorage, and it is never a lee shore, the prevalent winds being up or down the coast, enabling vessels to slip and put to sea at any time. There is a steam tug of twenty-five horse-power, and lighters, for loading and discharging at the outer anchorage, or for bringing vessels of moderate draught (nine to ten feet) into the river, to the wharves, a mile from the entrance, where stores, a bonding warehouse, and Custom-house have been already erected, and there is every facility for landing and shipping as in a dock. The large reach above the present wharves,—a basin three quarters of a mile in length—will, when dredged out to its original depth (thirty feet), make an excellent and commodious dock, which it is proposed to call "The Marie Dock." The river itself is navigable for small vessels for eight or ten miles, and for boats for upwards of sixteen miles, the scenery being exceedingly beautiful and picturesque, the banks wooded to the water's edge, varied in the upper reaches above the Mansfield with grassy slopes and high precipitious cliffs. The country, as far as Graham's Town, has lately been surveyed for a railway, and has been very favourably reported upon. There is every likelihood that if the desired improvement of the port is successfully carried out, the traffic will amply cover the interest on the cost of construction, as well as the working expenses of such a line.

Graham's Town, the chief town of Albany and the metropolis of the Eastern Districts, is about forty miles inland. It is situate in the basin of the hills, forming the extreme spurs of the Zuurberg, where the Kowie has its rise. Originally a Boer's farm, considered so poor as hardly to afford the means of existence to its occupant, and so badly supplied with water as to render it requisite to remove the stock at certain periods of the year, it was selected in 1812 as the site of a military cantonment for the English troops,—being named in recognition of the services of Col. Graham, then Commander of the Forces—and afterwards, in 1820, on the arrival of the English immigrants, it was chosen as the capital of what was termed the "Albany Settlement." From a sketch (preserved in the Albany Library), taken just before the arrival of the immigrants, in which every house is marked down and named, it appears that there were then not more than a dozen houses in addition to the military barracks. In the half century that has since elapsed both houses and population have increased many hundredfold, and other towns and settlements have been established as offshots by the Pilgrim Fathers of Albany.

Their history from the first is a story of trial and suffering, heroically borne and crowned with success. Placed on the extreme frontier, in close contact with a war-like race of savages occupying a country so densely wooded as to defy detection and elude pursuit—totally unacquainted with the climatic peculiarities and the varying character of herbage and soil—reverses came and succeeded each other with startling rapidity. The rust blighted all their corn, floods washed away their corn lands and cottages, and Kafirs murdered their herds and swept off their stock, till at length, after years of patient endurance, the whole settlement was overrun and every homestead burnt down and

destroyed, Graham's Town only escaping the universal ruin. Becoming thus suddenly the home of hundreds of settlers, the centre of a large war expenditure, and afterwards the head-quarters of the military and civil expenditure of the Province, its increase was steady and rapid. In a few years it formed the emporium of the frontier trade, sending off other towns and settlements in advance of it which contributed in turn to its own prosperity. In this way Fort Beaufort, King William's Town, Queen's Town, &c., were established.

"There's Graham's Town's calf" was the significant remark of a Kafir chief to his followers as they were travelling onwards at the close of one of the wars and King William's Town suddenly came in sight.

The frontier trade with the natives first began as "barter" at periodical fairs held soon after the settlers' arrival, first at the Claypits in Lower Albany, and afterwards at Fort Wiltshire—red clay, beads, and brass wire being the medium of exchange. This soon led to the issue of licences to cross the border and into the Interior, and to a settled trade at Graham's Town, the extent and importance of which may be estimated by the rapid increase of the commerce of Port Elizabeth, which was for a long time the only port of the Province. Direct trade with Europe which may be said to have commenced in 1830, doubled itself every five years for thirty years, until at the end of forty years it had increased forty fold, the returns in the first five years being £340,000, and during the last five upwards of £14,000,000 sterling. This steady advance in prosperity was not attained without numerous drawbacks and difficulties—the settlers' misfortunes and "grievances" also increasing steadily. Besides rust, floods, locusts, drought, perennial plunder, and periodical wars, there were other causes of chronic discontent,—the remoteness of

the seat of Government, and the absurdly small size of their locations, out of all proportion to the more inland farms, 100 acres being deemed ample for the newly-arrived immigrant to live on, and 6,000 acres not too much for the old colonists. Many left their locations in utter despair. Their press had been seized to prevent remonstrance or outcry, and appeals for relief and redress were made in vain. At length war unexpectedly broke out with great fury in December, 1834, lasting two years; and after another interval of pseudo-peace, during which the same causes were gradually ripening, was followed by another and fiercer outbreak in 1846; and a third, still more disastrous and costly, in 1852. Thrice has Graham's Town been virtually in a state of siege, its streets barricaded, its churches turned into places of refuge for the women and children, its whole population on Government rations, their flocks swept off by the enemy or appropriated by the Commissariat without compensation under martial law; and the citizens, who from age or infirmity were declared unfit for service in the field, doing duty as sentries or outlying pickets by night and patrols by day. Each Kafir war had its own specific panacea, which was warranted to prevent all future wars. The reprisal system—the soothing system—the subsidising system—each was tried in turn with the same result. All failed. The Kafirs were Kafirs still. Having no right of property themselves, all being vested in their chief, how could they be expected to respect the rights of property in others? Theft was a tribal virtue and chronic war the normal state of the nation—their only pastime in fact. The war of 1836 cost £300,000; that of 1846, near £1,000,000, and the last £2,000,000 sterling; and the losses of stock, &c., nearly £1,000,000 more, for which no compensation was ever granted. Yet Graham's Town prospered notwithstanding. From a mere military post with

barracks and a dozen houses in 1820, it had a population of 3,800 English in 1834, and of 8,000 in 1865.

Next to the environs of Cape Town, Graham's Town is now beyond question the most pleasant place of residence in the Colony. The approach from Prince Alfred's road, on the Kowie side, affords the best and prettiest view of its features, of which occasional glimpses are caught for several miles as the road winds round the spurs of the mountain. Suddenly above Fort England, the eastern half of the city starts into view—a picture quite English in its pleasing contrast of dark tree avenues, white buildings, neat gardens, and straggling cottages, with the soft green hues of the grassy hills.

From the Algoa Bay road, the first glimpse after emerging from "Howison's Poort" through the toll, is also striking and picturesque, especially in the early morning,—the sunlit town opening out slowly like an unfolding panorama as one winds round the edge of Goodwin's Kloof, covered with aloes, geraniums, cressulas, and other bright flowers, amid festoons of evergreens hanging from clefts in the rocks by the roadside, and the vertical cliff, over which a waterfall tumbles or trickles through mosses and maiden hair fern, just as the season will let it, into the kloof below, where the abandoned Cape Corps' camp is seen, with its lake-dam gleaming in the sunshine close to the dense mass of foliage known as "The Oaks," the old residence of Robert Graham, late magistrate, and son of the founder of the city. Beyond on the left, stretch the villa and gardens of Westhill and Oatlands, and St. Andrew's College, and Bishopsbourne, and the Oatlands Park, with its beautiful church and tall tapering spire, quite a gem of colonial church architecture. Near it St. Aidan's Seminary and astronomical tower, with the wooded "Lynx Kop" or sugar loaf, bounding the

distant view. Next come the Cathedral tower and central parts of the town, as you drive down the hill through the winding avenue of trees into Prince Alfred-street, past the Drosdty and barracks, to Wood's Hotel.

From the Queen's road, on the east, a more distant but most comprehensive view is obtained. The city is seen extending for a couple of miles along the lateral spurs of the mountain; its broad streets lined with trees, its houses interspersed with gardens; the Drosdty and Government-house, Botanic Gardens, and cemeteries conspicuous. The Cemeteries are the most ornamental and the most carefully kept in the Colony and the mortuary chapel erected over the grave of Armstrong, first Bishop of Graham's Town, the only one of its kind for burial services at the Cape. In this Cemetery, and on the Cathedral walls too, are monuments to the various persons of note, military and civil, who have lost their lives in the several frontier wars.

The main road from Kafirland, again, leads past the native locations, Kafir, Fingoe, and Hottentot, with their gardens of mullet and maize, and the native industrial institution and Kafir church.

There are 1,200 houses in Graham's Town, and twenty miles of streets well kept and gravelled, and 250 houses and huts in the suburbs. The principal streets are from 100 feet to 140 feet wide, with side walks lined with trees. The houses are of stone or brick, roofed with slate or iron, thatch being prohibited in all new structures. The principal buildings are of grey quartzose sandstone, easily worked and of excellent quality, hardening on exposure in some quarries almost to a quartzite. A valuable freestone for ornamental building is obtained from Bathurst and Southwell, whence also most of the lime is procured, from the tuffaceous crust overlying the tertiary

limestone. A plentiful supply of pure water is derived from the spurs of the Zuurberg close to the town, whence the Kowie springs issue, which, stored up in three reservoirs, holding 24,000,000 of gallons, is distributed over the streets through twelve miles of iron mains, supplying 600 service pipes or private leadings. In addition there are several public dams, private tanks, and a copious well-supply available in the lower parts of the city, where the rainfall percolating through the gravel to the retentive clay beneath is dammed up by the trap-rock of the valley. The natural facilities for drainage, lateral gullies, gravelly subsoil, and the steep incline of the valley and consequent absence of swampy ground effectually prevent miasma, and the sewage is nightly removed two miles to the leeward, and deodorised in pits with alternate layers of earth. Hence there are no endemic diseases, no fevers, save an occasional sporadic case from the neglect of the ordinary sanitory rules, none in fact but preventible causes of disease.

The military statistics prove it to be one of the healthiest stations of the British army; and the civil hospital returns give incontrovertible evidence of the same facts. Elevated a third of a mile (1,760 feet) above the sea, and distant from it about twenty-five miles in a direct line, the ozone-laden breeze from the coast reaches the mountain-top daily about three p.m., flowing imperceptibly over the Graham's Town valley. At one spot (called from the circumstance "Waai Neck"), at the top of the Howison's Poort, a perfect syphon-system of ventilation, a diurnal indraught from the sea is thus carried on in the calmest weather, the heated air rising from the plains below through the Poort over Goodwin's Kloof, the wooded seaward slopes of the mountain cooling it before it reaches the city. Thus the climate of Graham's Town is cooler, drier, and more temperate than that of

the coast-belt, where the heated current from the tropics sweeping round the L'Agulhas bank keeps up a higher and more equable temperature all the year round, just as the Gulf stream modulates the climate of Devonshire and the south coast of Ireland. One of the chief advantages of Graham's Town as a sanatorium, in addition to its elevated site, fine climate, pure air, and the absence of all local sources of disease, is the facility with which invalids can remove to a higher or lower level, to a moister or drier climate, as taste or the varying phases of disease may render desirable—to the soft warm balmy air of the coast, where no frosts are known, or the keen dry mountain air of the Katberg or Winterberg, 5,000 to 7,000 feet above the sea. When the railways are opened, the coast, or the elevated plateau above Cradock where chest diseases are scarcely known, may be reached in a few hours.

A suburban village, with extensive commonage rights, has been laid out and built upon along the mountain top above the city, which offers peculiar advantages in the treatment of chest affections and chronic diseases. Placed on the summit of the range, 2,100 feet above the sea, in the pure free air and bright sunshine, and sheltered by a belt of firs and eucalyptus trees from the prevalent winds, it commands an extensive view on all sides. On the north and east the blue Amatola Mountains, the "Luheri" of Pringle, the Tabindoda, and the Great Winterberg peak, bound the horizon. On the south and west the sea line is plainly visible from the Fish to the Bushman's River, interrupted only at intervals, while below, a thousand feet down, stretch the wooded undulating plains of Lower Albany. Adjoining Graham's Town, and on the main road to Port Alfred, it is thus within easy reach of the comforts and luxuries as well as the necessities of civilized life, and the pleasures of English society—

advantages most important yet too often overlooked or disregarded in the choice of a suitable residence for invalids. Of what avail to the unhappy consumptive with body and mind out of gear, is a healthful climate if shut out from the world and society, and from all sources of mental and physical enjoyment, in some Free State town or lone farm in the Karoo. Here pleasurable occupation and amusement suited to every taste, with sufficient inducement for out-door exercise—often as essential as medical treatment or pure air in cases of lingering diseases—are readily obtainable. To the sportsman the deep wooded kloofs of the neighbourhood offer abundant excitement. Antelopes of various kinds, the rhebok, blauwbok, and boschbok, with hares, pheasants, partridges are found close by; herds of buffaloes still haunt the tangled thickets of the "Kooms" and the Kowie bush; the stately koodoo is still to be seen in the Fish River bush; the duyker and oribie on the grassy flats near Bathurst, and the graceful gazelle of the Cape (the springbok), with korhaan and guinea-fowl on the plains towards Bedford and Somerset. To the angler the deep shady pools of the Kareiga, within a few miles, offer tempting attractions, and to lovers of the picturesque, those enjoyable picnic and boating excursions to the different watering places—the Kowie, Kasouga, and Kleinemont—afford in all seasons pleasing change and variety. Whilst to those of intellectual habits and literary taste, the various institutions of the city, its reading-rooms, circulating library, museum, and botanical gardens, are at all times accessible. By those fond of gaiety, no doubt the Assembly-rooms and spacious Albany Hall, with its balls, concerts, orations, lectures, and theatrical entertainments will be frequently patronised; as also the very attractive "riding parties," gallops, and carriage drives across the extensive flats near the

town. The city club and the various other clubs and societies for mutual improvement, and the cricket ground and commodious swimming-bath below the reservoirs, must also be mentioned. Invalids who have experienced the effects of both climates, assert that there is no comparison between the clear, dry, invigorating climate of this part of the Colony, and the warm, moist, relaxing heat of Madeira, which has hitherto enjoyed the monopoly of a sanitorium for chest complaints. Already the voyage from England has been reduced by steamer to three or four weeks, and when the wonderful curative effect of the Cape climate in such affections is more generally known, the claims of Graham's Town and its neighbourhood will no doubt be duly appreciated. By the telegraph wire and postal service, it is already in communication with every part of the Colony, and within a year it is hoped the submarine cable will give instantaneous communion with Europe and India as well. Then the pulse of the patient here may be felt at his home, 6,000 miles off, and the eager inquiries of anxious friends get immediate reply. This will remove much of the natural reluctance of the sickly and delicate to leaving "Home" and risking the imaginary horrors of even a temporary banishment to a distant and unknown clime.

In reference to religious matters, a point of importance in considering the status of social communities, every sect in the Eastern Districts has its headquarters in Graham's Town, excepting the Dutch Church, the community being exclusively English. It is the residence both of the Anglican and Roman Catholic Bishops, having in addition to St. George's Cathedral, four churches connected with the Church of England (St. Bartholomew's, St. Andrew's, St. Philip's, and Christchurch); one Roman Catholic Church (St. Patrick's), three Wesleyan, one Baptist,

and two Independent places of worship. There are about 1,000 scholars under education in the various schools and colleges, public and private, comprising the St. Andrew's College, St. Bart's and St. George's Grammar schools, a large undenominational school, the Kafir College, the Convent Free School and boarding school for girls, and numerous other private educational establishments. Amongst the charitable institutions of the city may be mentioned the Albany Brethren Society and Club house, the Foresters and Odd-Fellows' Societies, Two Masonic Lodges, and a Ladies' Benevolent Society. The Albany General Hospital, situated on an elevated site with extensive garden grounds, and capable of accommodating fifty beds, has a neat building attached for the treatment of mental diseases, and an extensive Provincial lunatic asylum is in process of erection on the site of the Fort England barracks. The two military hospitals and extensive military barracks, and Engineer, Ordinance, and Artillery buildings and officers' quarters are being gradually appropriated to other public uses. For ten years past, too, the city has been the seat of the Eastern Districts' Court, with attendant Judges, Solicitor-General, and a numerous bar. There are three local banks, the Oriental, Standard, and London and South African—all branches of English establishments, a Saving's Bank, several assurance and investment companies, and a Chamber of Commerce recently established. There is a Natural History Society connected with the Albany Museum, a Public Library containing between 6,000 and 7,000 volumes, with reading-rooms, in which most of the English periodicals and colonial newspapers are regularly taken. The Graham's Town newspapers in point of circulation and influence bear the same relation to the rest of the Province as does the metropolitan press to the English provincial press.

The soil of the Graham's Town basin is a rich clay loam derived from the trap rock *debris*, shales, and sandstones, and is highly productive; trees thrive everywhere by the roadside and in the streets, including the oak, fir, blackwood, gum-trees, and various indigenous trees. The public Gardens are picturesquely grouped on the slopes of the rocky hill below the reservoirs, the well-kept grass lawns and flower beds, shady avenues of oaks and handsome conservatory, being a favourite place of resort, and its nurseries and hot houses supplying most of the up-country homesteads and towns. The market gardens are numerous, and most English and tropical fruits thrive well; the orange, vine, guava, lime, loquat, peach, apricot, cherry, and strawberry grow luxuriantly, as do vegetables of all kinds. The Flora of the neighbourhood is particularly rich and extensive, comprising both the Zuurveldt and forest vegetation with that of the grassy plains and Karoo—a fine field for the botanist. Extensive surface deposits of valuable iron ore exist within three miles of the city on Woest Hill, unworked from the want of labour, transport, and fuel: although a careful examination of several tons, sent home to Bessimer for analysis and report, proves it to be equal to any ore known, for the purposes of conversion into steel. There is also an extensive deposit of hematite or "Kafir clay" a few miles down the valley, supplying national paint to the "red" Kafir in the "blanket" or "toga" stage of civilization. Fine ochres of various tints have been made from the Graham's Town shales; and the white clay used for fire bricks, tiles, and drain pipes at the brick kilns is a pure kaolin, equal to the best China porcelain clay,—biscuit porcelain and long-stemmed tobacco pipes of excellent quality having been made from it. Want of labour alone prevents successful competition with the imported article. Formerly

Graham's Town, too, had its cloth factory and hat factory, but it was found cheaper to import than to work up wool. A brass and iron foundry, steam mill and lathe, several tanneries, soap and candle manufactories, and coach and wagon establishments turning out 300 to 400 new wagons yearly, may also be mentioned.

Beyond Graham's Town, the country is broken by the valley of the Great Fish River, whose course is marked by the sombre ridge known as the "Randt," gradually falling away as it runs down to the level of the sea at Waterloo Bay. Although grassy pastures generally extend on each side, a narrow slip along the river is quite of a Karoo character, and upon it are some very fine sheep farms, the properties of Messrs. Currie, Bowker, G. Wood, Lombard, Nel, and others. Some portions, again, are covered with almost impervious bush, consisting of euphorbia, spekboom, and other succulent thorny plants, which in the by-gone war times were occupied by the Kafirs as a natural stronghold, whence they could surprise their objects of attack, or elude their pursuers. The Ecca Pass leads through this bush, forming one of the most romantic of frontier roads.

Towards the coast from the Fish River to the Keiskamma is the district of Peddie, which is considered as rather indifferent for grazing, and very dry even for agricultural purposes; but it is filled with a great number of natives, who cultivate Indian and Kafir corn, and garden produce. This is looked upon as a most suitable locality for the growth of cotton—the large population (about twenty-seven individuals to the square mile) offering facilities for gathering the crop, and it is possible that the natives themselves may, by the force of example, be induced to try and continue its cultivation. These natives are mostly Fingoes—the remnants of a scattered race, who were held in bondage by the Kafirs, but after the war of

1836 released and located in the Colony by the Government, since which time they have proved faithful subjects. They show much more aptitude than the Kafir to adopt European customs, and have already made considerable advance in civilization—many of them purchasing farms, owning wagons and cattle, engaged in transport riding, improving their flocks of sheep, using ploughs and other implements of husbandry, and raising wheat and oat-hay, besides the ordinary native crops.

The upper or more inland part of the country is the division of Victoria East—an undulating grassy tract, studded with mimosa bush, and very productive as well as particularly healthy for sheep and cattle. It extends up the Chumie Basin to the Hogsback Mountain on the ridge of the Amatolas, and includes the town of Alice, the Industrial Mission Station of Lovedale, and the small church-village of Aberdeen. A few farms in this district were sold for the first time in 1848; they averaged each about 1,000 acres in extent, and only realised the upset price of two shillings an acre. Afterwards, the contiguous lands were parcelled out, and granted to adventurous frontier men, on condition of permanent occupation. Now they have immensely increased in value. Here, also, there are several populous locations, where the Fingoes are making marked progress, and living on very good terms with their European neighbours. The number of native residents is roughly estimated at 8,000, and the live-stock owned by them is over 3,000 head of cattle, 10,000 sheep, 6,000 goats, besides horses and wagons.

To the left of Victoria East are the districts of Fort Beaufort and Stockenstrom, which, in respect of picturesque scenery, as well as of fertility and capability of production, are unsurpassed in the Colony. The heights of Gaikas Kop, Menzie's Berg

the Elandsberg, and Katberg form a bold back-ground, from which minor hills run out, enclosing charmingly beautiful valleys, verdant, wooded, and well watered. One of these, named Lushington, extends from Peffer's Kop to near Elands Post, the seat of magistracy for Stockenstrom. Another, and the most important, is that known as the Kat River Settlement, embracing an area of about twenty-five miles north and south, by about twenty miles east and west. This was once the home of the Chief Macomo and his tribe; and, after their expulsion for treason and disorder, it was set apart for the location of the aboriginal Hottentots, who were scattered about the country. It was mapped out into villages, named Hertzog, Balfour, Ebenezer, Philiptown, Buxton, and Fairbairn, and occupied by nearly four or five thousand Hottentots, with a few white inhabitants scattered amongst them. Although there were many individual instances of industry and progress encouraging to the philanthropic friends of the aborigines, still the district, as a whole, was never a prosperous one, and the part taken by many of the people in the rebellion of 1851 led to the breaking up of its exclusiveness as a national settlement. The forfeited properties, about 130 in number, were given to English and Dutch farmers, each having an allotment of arable land, varying from five to twenty acres, with grazing rights on surrounding blocks of commonage land. By this means a more well-to-do and energetic class have been introduced, supplying the place of masters and labour employers, which it would have been a wise policy to have adopted on the first distribution of the land. It is of this district the late Sir George Cathcart said, "There is no country in the world where a man with a family could thrive better if given an erf of half an acre, or one acre at most, with sufficient commonage for his cows, goats,

and pigs." There are also several forests along the mountains filled with timber of large size, and of the most useful description, open to the industry of any one for a trifling amount of license-money.

The mountain pass across the Katberg, and leading to the Queen's Town division, is very grand and picturesque. The road winds up along a shoulder of the mountain to an elevation of 3,000 or 4,000 feet, passing across emerald-green slopes, through bush and forest and rocky krantzes, and over water-falls and deep gullies, which make one marvel at the intrepidity and skill of the engineer who laid it out—the late Mr. A. G. Bain. At some points nothing can be more striking than to gaze upwards to the forest-crowned heights, and then to glance down into the yawning depths of still grander forests beneath. From the summit a magnificent outlook is to be had, and, according to the season of the year or the state of the weather, it changes from the picturesque to the wild and fantastical. We have visited it on a bright, clear summer's day; but it may be seen under different circumstances—such as in winter, when snow enwraps the heights in its white wreaths; or in dark storm, when loud thunders echo over the rocky peaks, and vivid lightnings illumine the yawning precipices around; and at other times, when the spreading vales below are covered with a sea of silvery mist, out of which the tops of the hills rise up like solitary islands on an expanse of ocean.

The Kat River, which waters these valleys, flows through a succession of beautiful glens to the open plain where Fort Beaufort lies, in an ampitheatre of hills. From a mere military post Fort Beaufort has become a town of considerable interest and importance, containing a number of handsome and substantial dwelling-houses and stores, and extensive barracks buildings. The streets are lined with the Indian lilac,

or syringa-tree, and there is a central public garden, worthy of imitation in every village in South Africa. The "Grove," as the garden is termed, was the work of the late magistrate, Mr. Meurant, who, with local convict labour, converted a dry, baked, naked piece of waste ground into an ornamental public square and pleasant promenade. It shows how easily, and at little cost, an indifferent soil and situation may be clothed with timber trees, which in time become a source of wealth, improve the appearance of the country, and add to the comfort of its inhabitants. Around Fort Beaufort are numerous valuable sheep walks and cattle and grain farms,—the properties of Messrs. Ayliff, Ogilvie, Blakeway, Godlonton, Stokes, and Gilbert. In the summer season the whole district is richly beautiful, extending in every direction in ridges or meadows, bright with verdure and dappled with the fragrant flowering mimosa, or clumps of other evergreens. The pasturage in average seasons carries a sheep to an acre, besides cattle and horses, all the year through, but in times of protracted drought, which periodically occur, the grass withers rapidly, and stock has to be reduced or removed elsewhere for food.

North-westward from Fort Beaufort are the wood-crested heights known as the Kromme Range, which embrace the Waterkloof, Fuller's Hoek, Blinkwater, and other forest fastnesses occupied by the Kafirs in past wars. Beyond them is the Didima, and high above, at an altitude of 7,800 feet, is the Great Winterberg, commanding a magnificent view of all the eastern districts as well as of Cradock, Queen's Town, and even part of Kafirland. This is almost an Alpine region, the mountain summits in winter being covered with snow. It contains fine agricultural, as well as sheep and cattle farms. Many streams, which have their sources at a considerable elevation, are easily led out for the purposes of irrigation, and artificial water-

courses have been constructed at comparatively small expense, from which large gardens, orchards, and corn-lands below them are easily cultivated, and yield most abundantly. These streams lower down form the Koonap River, which after leaving the mountains passes through the village of Adelaide, and thence on until it unites with the Great Fish River. Adelaide has a large Dutch Reformed Church, built of stone at a cost of from £20,000 to £30,000, chiefly contributed by the surrounding farmers. The village is only of recent creation, and the population is small, but the progress already made in the formation of the several streets, the establishment of a school, a bank, a wool-wash, and a local newspaper, indicate the activity and enterprise of its inhabitants.

Crossing the Koonap, we enter the division of Bedford whose township is situated in a pretty nook under the wood-crested ridge of the Kagaberg. The estate "Maastrom," belonging to the Stockenstrom family, and the fine grazing lands and flocks of the Messrs. King, are close to Bedford, while in the upper part of the district, formerly known as the Baviaan's River, there are many very superior agricultural and pastoral farms. It was there that the Scotch party led by the poet, Thomas Pringle, were settled in 1820. The condition of the country at the time of their arrival, and the incidents attendant upon the new settlers' life, are graphically described in Pringle's "Narrative." Indeed his sketches and his lyrics have made this neighbourhood classic ground. Few who are acquainted with either will fail to feel an interest in the spot where the emigrant-band pitched their tents fifty years ago—

"When first these mountains heard the Sabbath song."

The Scotch appellation of Glen Lynden was then given to it, and such it is still named. The locality was

well-chosen—"a fertile basin or valley," Pringle says, "spreading out in verdant meadows, sheltered and embellished without being encumbered with groves of mimosa trees, among which in the distance were herds of wild animals, antelopes and quaggas, pasturing in undisturbed quietude." The beauty of these valleys or glens have been sung by the poet in his "Captive of Camalu:"

"O Camalu—green Camalu!
'Twas there I fed my father's flock,
Beside the mount where cedars threw
At dawn their shadows from the rock;
There tended I my father's flock
Along the grassy-margined rills,
Or chased the bounding bontebok
With hound and spear among the hills."

And still more sweetly in his "Evening Rambles"—so descriptive of this Arcadian life,—when

"The sultry summer noon is past;
And mellow evening comes at last,
With a low and languid breeze
Fanning the mimosa trees,
That cluster o'er the yellow vale,
And oft perfume the panting gale
With fragrance fai[illegible]it seems to tel
Of primrose-tuft in [illegible]tish dell,
Peeping forth in ten[illegible] spring
When the blithe lark [illegible]gins to sing."

"Sae that's the lot o' our inheritance then?" quoth one of the party—says the Narrative—as they came in view of the location, "Aweel, now that we've really got till't, I maun say the place looks no sae mickle amiss, and may suit our purpose no that ill, provided thae haughs turn out to be gude deep land for the pleugh, and we can but contrive to find a decent road out o' this queer hieland glen into the lowlands."

With courageous hopeful hearts they settled down in the wild domain, and at once applied themselves to

the task of teaching "the waste to yield them daily bread." After the first difficulties were surmounted and they became familiarised to the country and its various inhabitants, they prospered exceedingly well. Houses were built, crops were reaped, gardens and orchards were stocked, and flocks and herds accumulated. Pringle had the satisfaction of witnessing this success, and thanked God for the good providence which had directed their course to the wilds of South Africa. His relatives still flourish here, the chief of them now surviving being Mr. Dodds Pringle of "Glen Thorn," who is conspicuous for his activity and enterprise in his agricultural and pastoral pursuits, vieing with his neighbours for the possession of the best imported stock or the most improved reaping and thrashing machines, cultivators and other modern labour-saving appliances of good farming.

The division of Somerset East adjoins Bedford—the Great Fish River, which comes down from Cradock, forming the boundary between them. The town like that of Bedford, is situate at the foot of a charming wood-fringed hill, the Boschberg. It is of considerable size, with well-laid out-streets, and many gardens and trees. English, Dutch, Wesleyan, Presbyterian, and Mission Churches show the religious necessities of the people are well attended to. There are two excellent hotels. The stores and banks do a prosperous business. A weekly newspaper is published, and there is a college with some able professors attached which has been endowed by the liberality of a colonist, Dr. Gill, formerly a resident of the town, who bequeathed for this purpose the bulk of his property valued at the time at £24,000. The handsome buildings occupied by the college were erected from funds raised among the inhabitants of the district, and cost about £6,000.

The Somerset division is chiefly pastoral. In

1865 it carried over 500,000 woolled sheep, the clip of wool being valued at 914,997 lb.; 11,000 angora and 171,000 common goats; 7,624 draught oxen, and 13,000 other cattle, and about 5,500 horses. The increase since then has been considerable. The pastures, up to last year's drought, were considered overstocked, carrying about two sheep and goats to each morgen. The average at present is one and a quarter. Sheep with few exceptions are shorn twice a year,—in October and November, and during April and May. The average weight of fleece is 2½ lb. in the grease. The farmers living on the Fish River wash their sheep before shearing, running them three or four times through the pools of water, by which means the loose dust is got rid of. The lambing season varies, sometimes being in March, but mostly in April and June, much depending upon the condition of the ewes, which is affected by the state of the pasture. The herds of cattle which were common in former years have been reduced, partly by lung-sickness which still breaks out occasionally, although never severely, but chiefly owing to the grazing lands being everywhere occupied by sheep. On a few farms there are valuable cows, but the quantity of butter produced is very inconsiderable although the market is good. Horse-breeding is also a thing of the past. The late Sir A. Stockenstrom had a stud farm at Zwager's Hoek; Mr. Botha and Mr. Bolleurs had similar establishments in Vogel River, and many horses were bred for the remount of the Indian Army and the Cape Corps; but of late years this business has died out, and no one has as yet succeeded Bolleurs, the last of the breeders, although the increasing demand for good horses is such as to make it worth while to revive this branch of farming.

There are only a few grain farms, the principal being Glenavon and Prinsloo, adjoining Somerset and

enjoying the water of the Naude's River, flowing from the Boschberg; the Groot Plaats, which has a dam in the Little Fish River below Somerset; the adjoining farm, Muis Vlakte, similarly watered, and two other farms lower down the River. Buffel's-font at the entrance of Zwager's Hoek is a splendid agricultural farm, and is supplied with water from the Boschberg. Doornbosch, in Zwager's Hoek and Stockdale and Upsal, at the sources of the little Fish River, are also excellent, the latter being the most important grain farm in the division. Along the Vogel River there are the farms Vredenburg and Sunday's River, and on the plains near Pearston the farm Galjen-Bosch, of the late Mr. Bolleurs, which is irrigated from an immense dam resembling a small lake. There are orchards on most of the farms and on several orange-groves and vineyards.

A valuation, for ratable purposes, of the immovable properties of the division was made in 1874, after a most severe drought, succeeded by the ravages of locusts. The standard for freehold land per morgen, was 15s. 6d.; for quitrent land, 13s. 1d.; for leased land, 5s. 5d.; and the average of all lands in the division, 12s. 8d. The valuator, Mr. W. W. Maskew, for many years officially and intimately acquainted with every part of the district says:—"The late drought, more than any other, has brought to the test the real capabilities of the different localities of this division, consequently the farms in the field-cornetcies of Boschberg and Zwager's Hoek, with their grassy mountains and valleys, and never failing waters, and those a little less happily situated on the slopes and summits of Zuurberg have been appraised somewhat higher, whilst a considerable reduction has been made in the value of the farms in Brak and Vogel Rivers, where the arid Karoo plains have caused so much loss of stock. We are fast approach-

ing the limits at which grazing farms will be sold, until we have a revolution in stock-farming; whereas the prices which have and are likely to be given for produce, for a long time to come, will continue to increase the value of all farms where extensive agricultural operations are practicable."

The climate may be considered mild and healthy. In a normal season spring opens with a few light showers in September. Heavy rain in October from the south-west; heavier in November, with occasional thunder-storms and showers of hail. Thunder showers in December and January. February, in a good season is also a wet month, south-east winds still prevailing. March dry. April showery (ploughing time). May to August dry, with sharp frosts. As a rule the winters are dry and summers wet.

Winter days are delightful. Bright snow falls occasionally on the Boschberg and Zwager's Hoek Mountains, the heaviest being on the Coetzee's Berg, and remains unmelted for a week. Frost is very sharp in the valleys and uplands. The greatest heat is during January and February.

VIII.—THE BORDER DISTRICTS.

Eastward of the Keiskamma, and extending from it to the mouth of the Great Kei River, a distance of some eighty miles, we have the sea-board of the Border districts,—an exceedingly beautiful tract of country, highly favoured by nature in regard to its fertility, its resources, and its capability of improvement. The area of this territory is about 15,400 square miles, and it embraces the divisions of East London, King William's Town, Queen's Town, Wodehouse, Albert, Aliwal North, and Herschel, each rising in successive steppes from the coast to the highlands of the Stormbergen and Quathlamba. According to the census of 1865 the aggregate population was 146,534, of which upwards of 100,000 were native Kafirs; the ground under cultivation was near to 50,000 acres, producing wheat, maize, and other cereals: the yield of wool was 3,000,000 lb., and the stock depastured included 1,522,670 woolled sheep, 10,000 Cape, 3,400 Angora goats, 142,147 common goats, about 50,000 horses, and 140,000 cattle.

Most of this country was first permanently occupied by European settlers only twenty years ago. After the last war in 1853, Sir George Cathcart, and his successor, Sir George Grey, adopted the policy of removing the most noted rebellious Kafirs beyond the border line; their places being partly occupied by chiefs and people of proved loyalty, who were thus rewarded for their fidelity to Government, while the remainder of the forfeited and vacant territory was filled up with enterprising burgher colonists. The latter received free grants of farms of from 1,000 to 4,000 acres, on condition of erecting a defensible homestead, to be occupied per-

sonally, or by one or more retainers, well armed, and prepared to stand by each other for mutual support. These "grantees," as they were termed, formed the advance-guard of colonization, but so rapid and marked was their progress in settled prosperity and security, that the conditions of personal occupation and armed retainers were dispensed with several years since, and the properties are now held on the ordinary quit-rent tenure. At the same time ample provision was made for the accommodation of the numerous native population, who in all respects are treated with justice and consideration. Throughout the whole frontier, large tracts of the very richest lands have been expressly set apart for them under the name of "reserves" and "locations," and at most of these places European superintendents or missionaries are stationed with them to advise and instruct in everything tending to their advancement in civilization. The greater body of them live in those locations, many having individual titles to the land; and, as a whole, they are now enjoying far greater comfort and prosperity than ever they had any experience of in their former days of barbaric independence and perpetually recurring tribal wars.

The districts of East London and King William's Town formed what was known as the province of British Kaffraria up till 1865, when by Imperial as well as colonial legislation they were annexed to the Colony. This tract is bounded on its inland side by the Amatolas,—a continuation of the Katberg and Chumie mountains running eastward from near Gaika's Kop. These are intersected by deep rocky kloofs, clothed with forests of large trees, and opening out into rich and fertile valleys, presenting very attractive scenery. From the base of the range, an undulating country, sometimes rising into high ridges, falls away to the sea; it is generally covered with rich grass, varied

with clumps and woods of mimosa bush, and in every direction is traversed by rivers or small streams.

The coast-lands from the Keiskamma to the Gonubie Mouth, and extending twenty miles inland, are most excellent for cattle grazing; the pasture, which reaches to the water's edge, being very luxuriant and suffering but little from drought. With the exception of this belt (in which sheep do not do so well) the remaining portion is admirably adapted for sheep and all kinds of stock, which are gradually increasing in number. In every part, however, the soil is fertile, and suited for agricultural purposes. Along the coast, coffee, pine-apple, bananas, and sugar-cane are grown; the hilly slopes and mountain sides, especially in the Amatola Basin, are extensively cultivated by the natives, who raise large quantities of maize; while every variety of grain, vegetable, and fruit is supplied to the local markets by the German settlers.

These districts are the most recently colonised part of the Colony. There were few Europeans here prior to the Imperial Government arranging for the settlement of the disbanded German Legion, after the Crimean war. About two thousand of them were landed, and intended to be located in villages chosen with a view to the defence of the country, but many of their number soon after left to offer their services in India at the time of the Sepoy mutiny. Then some hundreds of able-bodied inhabitants of the Eastern and Western Provinces were granted 1,500 acre farms, on condition of personal occupation for three years and the requirement that they had sufficient capital to stock their lands. At the same time upwards of two thousand immigrants of the agricultural class were introduced from Germany as cultivators of the soil, to whom small grants of land were also made under easy conditions of repayment. The various elements thus brought together, and added to

by enterprising families from other districts of the Colony, served to constitute a community which in a very few years rapidly attained a marked degree of prosperity. The farming population generally are flourishing; their productions are increasing in quantity and value, and their properties have risen considerably. Land, which even three or four years ago could be got for 2s. 6d. or 5s. an acre, has now risen to 15s. and 20s.; and several farms then sold for £500 and £800, are now changing hands for £1,500 and £2,000.

But the progress of the German immigrants especially show that a selection of men more suited to the requirements of the country could scarcely have been made. They were settled upon their lands without any means of subsistence beyond the ration of bread and meat provided by Government for them; but they at once adapted themselves to their position. They lived in the rudest dwellings, and were most frugal in their habits. Men, women, and children laboured industriously on their small plots of ground; and shortly afterwards it was no uncommon sight to see the women carrying vegetables, or literally harnessed in to their rude wooden trucks, laden with farm produce, and dragging these to the market. This was their position after their arrival in 1859 and 1860. They have since become a thriving, well-to-do class. They have brought their lands to a high state of cultivation—in many instances by purchase have added considerably to their original grants—and accumulated a quantity of live-stock. The rude huts they first dwelt in have been superseded by comfortable homesteads, with stabling and other conveniences. In some cases they have been able to pay £500 and £1,000 in cash for property; and substantial stone buildings, with iron roofs, are to be seen studded over the country, all the result of their frugality and industry. While they

have thus prospered materially, their moral and social habits have not been neglected. Their churches and schools, and faithful, painstaking clergy, bear testimony to the liberality of the people, and their desire to foster and promote education and morality; and as a result, on any festive or holiday occasion, there are to be seen at the various villages groups of young people comfortably and neatly clad, who would be a credit to any peasantry in the world. Many of these Germans are engaged in the transport service, others have trading stations; the sons frequently join the Mounted Police for a time, and return with their earnings and the military experience gained, to farming pursuits; and some of the daughters go out as household servants, and are sought after from all parts. While these immigrants have thus benefited by their settlement in the Colony, they have greatly contributed to the advancement of the country generally. They are large producers of farm produce—tons of potatoes and other articles are supplied by them to the markets, and by careful cultivation and the judicious selection of seed, good varieties of wheat are being raised by them. They have thus proved that even with variable seasons, every inch of the agricultural lands of Kaffraria can be made to yield a fair return for the labour spent upon them, and that the country is capable of maintaining a very dense population.

King William's Town, or "King," as it is sometimes curtly termed, now ranks as the fourth in size and importance of all the colonial towns. It is well situated for the purposes of commerce, being on the highway from the harbour of East London to the interior, and from the eastern districts to the Transkei and Kafirland. A considerable part of the trade from Cape Town to the Free State and Griqualand passes through it, *via* East London, and in seasons of drought goods from Algoa Bay are forwarded in this direction,

owing to the superiority of pasturage for draught cattle. Besides these advantages it has the chief command of the native trade, extending beyond the border and north to Basutoland. The town itself is pleasantly situated, stretching along the banks of the Buffalo River, which is spanned by an elegant iron bridge. At the western end is the native location, the spot on which the first Christian missionary in Kaffraria, the late Rev. J. Brownlee, established his station half a century ago. Next comes the military barracks and officers' quarters, where a handful of English troops serve to maintain the prestige of Her Majesty's arms among the tribes of South Africa. Then there is the business part of the town with its public buildings, churches, clubs, stores, and private residences; while more to the eastward is the German town, and its thatched verandahed cottages; and beyond that the camp and head quarters of the Frontier Armed and Mounted Police—the nucleus of our colonial defensive force. The Town-hall is a large and capacious building, reflecting credit on the place. Between it and the river is the Botanic Garden, with an area of about fourteen acres of alluvial soil of the richest description, where everything grows in the greatest luxuriance. On a rise to the north, again, is the handsome and imposing edifice erected by Sir George Grey (and known as the Grey Hospital) for the purpose of breaking the belief of the natives in witch doctors, by placing skilful medical treatment and maintenance within their reach, free of charge. Close to this spot the new public offices are about to be erected. The population of the town is about 4,000 souls, of which 1,000 are natives. The value of landed property for local purposes is £133,000, while its actual value must be at least over £160,000. Its rapidly increasing commercial importance is indicated by the demand for property, there not being a

single dwelling unoccupied, and new stores and buildings of various sorts are being erected in every direction.

The native population of the district, it may be said, are in a transition state. Many of them are acquiring stock, and turning attention to the usages and habits of civilized life; but there are numbers who adhere to their aboriginal ways and customs, and are adding to that the vice of drunkenness. The Kafir tribe of Sandilli (the Gaikas) are amongst the most numerous, and, it may be added, the most savage. They occupy a location above King William's Town, adjoining the Stutterheim and the Upper Kabousie Crown Reserve; its extent is estimated at 800 square miles; the population is about 25,000, and, according to the last returns, their stock consists of 1,200 horses, 14,000 cattle, 25,000 sheep, 30,000 goats, and 300 ploughs. There are twenty-five trading stations among them, doing a fair business in wool and skins. No "canteens" are permitted by Government within their boundaries, but there are several in the neighbourhood, where the annual consumption of brandy by the tribe is computed at 25,000 or 30,000 gallons.

Between King William's Town and Queen's Town, on the northern spurs of the Amatola range, at an elevation of 3,000 or 4,000 feet, there is a stretch of comparatively unoccupied ground, known as the Bontebok Flats. This is a succession of rolling downs, grassy as a rule but different in their aspect from the green pastures of Kaffraria. During the last few summers they have been covered with thousands of sheep, who have found good grazing there when their usual homes on the Fish River Valley, or the Eastern grass veldt, were suffering from drought. These lands are adapted for agriculture, too, being well watered, and having more than the average rainfall.

Lately the portions surveyed have been readily leased or purchased by Eastern district farmers, some of whom are now permanently settling there, erecting homesteads, and constructing sheds for the protection of stock in winter, which is severely cold, especially during continued snow-storms.

From here we pass into the division of Queen's Town—a succession of beautiful plains or basins surrounded by hills of singularly picturesque shape. Some of these basins are quite clear of bush, except near the sides of the mountain; others have not even these towards the north. The soil generally is of a fruitful character, and the grass cannot be surpassed as pasture for horses, sheep, and cattle, although it is sometimes subject to severe drought. The best part for pastoral purposes is the block of farms on the Upper Zwart Kei, adjoining what was originally the Cradock division, now the district of Tarkastadt. The farms Mapassas, Leven, Bower's, and some others at the Zwart Kei Poort, abutting on Kafirland, are of the same character. For agricultural purposes the Klip Plaat Valley has abundance of water and good soil, as well as the basin of the Bongolo, which has also the advantage of being close to Queen's Town. Most of the farms have a river frontage, and the others are supplied with springs, and nearly all the arable lands are brought under water. There are no large stock holders: the properties as originally laid out, in 1,500 morgen lots, being too small to allow of that; but many adjoining places have been bought up by one proprietor, forming blocks of three or four farms. Mr. William Hart, of Thorn River, and Mr. John Frost, of Thibet Park, have each about 4,000 woolled sheep, with 200 head of cattle, and 100 horses; Mr. Jas. Phillips owns more large stock—about 300 head of cattle and 200 horses, and perhaps 3,000 small stock—and Mr. van

de Vyfen also has a considerable number of the latter. The pastures of the district as a rule bear one sheep to every morgen, with fifty head of cattle and twenty horses for a farm of 1,500 morgen; but overstocking has taken place in some cases, and the losses during drought, such as occurred last year, have been heavy. The average fleece of wool in the grease is three-and-a-half to four lb. Wheat yields from ten to twelve bushels per acre, and oathay about 25,000 lb. per acre. The natives raise maize and Kafir corn in large quantities, and at Kamastone a good deal of wheat is grown; but the grain crops would be greatly increased if the natives were more encouraged to occupy and cultivate the land by the sub-division of the locations, and the issue of freehold titles among them. The locations at Kamastone, Oxkraal, and Lesseyton are peopled chiefly by Fingoes, and that at the Bolotwa by Tambookie Kafirs. The latter contains about 20,000 inhabitants. It is divided into 104 farms of from 1,500 to 2,000 morgen each; of these eleven have been granted from time to time to the former chiefs of the tribes or their sons, or to other Tambookies who have by exceptional services deserved well of the Government. The other farms are in charge of headmen, appointed by the Government. Besides the headmen of farms, some senior headmen have been appointed, to whom the others are subordinate, and who receive their instructions directly from the magistrate. These people are all but universally heathens, believing in witchcraft and the wild customs of their forefathers. The use of European clothing and agricultural implements is, however, more common amongst them than formerly, and they are beginning to understand the value of woolled sheep, a considerable amount of wool being now produced upon their locations.

Queen's Town, the capital of the division, is situated in the centre of it, on the Komani or Bush River.

Twenty-two years ago antelopes were coursing over the grounds where now stands one of the most flourishing places in the Colony. The number of inhabitants is about 1,200. There are Dutch, Anglican, Congregationalist, and Wesleyan Churches, a town-hall and library, a masonic lodge, botanic gardens, two banks, two newspapers, and many large stores, all indicating the prosperity and commercial activity of the people. The houses are comfortable and substantial, and many of them even elegant in style, with gardens attached, and all the streets are lined with willow trees. It differs from other colonial towns, which are mostly of rectangular or parallelogramic form, inasmuch as it was laid out according to a "strategetic plan," approved by General Cathcart, who may be said to have been its founder. The central square, used as a market place, is of hexagonal shape, with broad streets radiating from it in six several directions. It was originally intended to have had a fortified building in this hexagon, to serve as a rallying place for the grantees, whence any advancing foe might be swept off at once, no matter what quarter they came from Now that the country has been peaceably settled, and the town enlarged, the strategetic arrangement is not considered the most convenient for ordinary business purposes. Visitors who find themselves for the first time in the place realize what has been termed "the puzzling intricacies of a maze," so ramified are the obtuse and acute angles of the cross streets and blocks of houses, although converging to a common point.

There are two small villages in the district, one named Whittlesea and the other Tylden. The former was the scene of an heroic defence by the burghers during the last war; and the latter was named in honour of a gallant officer, Colonel Tylden, who with a small number of volunteers, drawn up in line like the "thin red line" of the Highlanders at Balaklava,

met and defeated hordes of Kafirs led by the Chief Kreli, on the open flats of the Imvani. The burghers of Queen's Town are notably the flower and chivalry of border farmers, both Dutch and English. They are active, intelligent, and enterprising. To this is greatly attributable the rapid advancement of the division, which is certain to attain to still greater importance when the railway between it and the nearest port, East London, is constructed.

Above Queen's Town, the plateau of the Stormbergen rises to a height of over 6,000 feet, forming the watershed of the country, the rivers from one side flowing into the Orange River, and those on the other falling seawards. To the north-westward they are called the Bamboosbergen, while the continuation of the chain to the north-east is known as the Wittebergen and Drakensberg, or Quathlamba Mountains. They are flat-topped or conical, and singularly uniform in character; the horizontal beds of sandstone and shale, of which they are built, cropping out in parallel tiers all round their sides. The harder beds of sandstone, sometimes seven or eight in number, stand out in bold relief, while the softer shales usually form grassy slopes between, and here and there they are traversed by greenstone or trap rock, occasionally forming horizontal cappings. It is in these mountains that the Mesozoic carboniferous seams occur. At Bushman's Hoek, half-way between Queen's Town and Burghersdorp, the coal has been worked for some time past, and many hundred tons are used for local consumption, within a radius of eighty miles from the pit's mouth; beyond that distance the cost of carriage is at present prohibitive. In Albert, Aliwal, and Wodehouse, as in many of the Midland districts, fuel is very scarce, and that ordinarily used is disagreeable and expensive, being principally dried manure obtained from sheep kraals, or mimosa sticks. The presence

of coal is therefore of vital consequence. At present it is employed and answers well, at Queen's Town and other places, for steam flour mills, steam wool-washes, and ordinary domestic purposes. Last year it was very successfully tested by the Government engineer at the East London harbour works, when it was found to give sixty pounds of steam in thirty minutes, and after working all day, using 500 lb., of coal, there were no clinkers, but a good deal of ash. On the next day a trial was made with Welsh and Tanfield coal, producing exactly similar results; so that the 500 lb. of Stormberg coal proved to be as good as that imported. The largest workings of these mines hitherto has been at Mr. Vice's, near the newly formed village of "Molteno," but there are many other seams all the way from within a few miles of Burghersdorp, eastward beyond Dordrecht; and there are indications of further deposits extending northward and eastward in Basutoland and Kaffraria, as well as Natal.

From the Stormbergen the country gradually descends towards the Orange River, the coal-bearing rocks being left behind near Burghersdorp, and the Upper Karoo, or dicynodon beds, similar to those of the Cradock and Queen's Town basins, again entered upon. Here are situate the north-eastern border districts of Albert, Aliwal North, Herschel, and Wodehouse, the greater portion of which was declared part of the Colony in 1848.

The first of these, the district of Albert, is almost entirely pastoral in its nature. The farms are large and well adapted for sheep, cattle, and horses. Nearly all the farmers are Dutch, and although education has not as yet done much for them, they are wealthy, contented, and essentially conservative in their notions. Agriculture answers well where irrigation can be carried out by means of reservoirs, but owing to the

cost of carriage to the sea port, the raising of grain for export has never yet been attempted. The Stormberg Spruit is the only river of any size in the district.

Burghersdorp is the town and seat of magistracy, and is a well laid out and regularly built place. Most of the inhabitants are English, with a considerable number of Germans. There are several public buildings, of which the chief are the Dutch Reformed Church, the church of those who have separated themselves from that body, the "Doppers," the Church of England, a dissenting place of worship, town-hall, academy, masonic lodge, &c. In all the towns of these districts a large number of houses belong to the farming population, who inhabit them only from Saturday to Monday, when they come in to attend service. On such occasions the towns present a comparatively crowded appearance, very different from the other days of the week. The Bethulie drift, beyond Burghersdorp, crosses the Orange River on the direct route to Bloemfontein, Free State, and is an important route for wagon traffic from Port Elizabeth.

The district of Aliwal North is similar to that of Albert, except towards the north-east, where it is extremely mountainous, and in parts inaccessible for vehicles. The latter portion forms a separate ward, or field-cornetcy, called New England, and differs from the rest of the district by being a rich grain-producing country. The soil is exceedingly fertile, and the rainfall sufficiently steady to admit of cultivation without irrigation. Wheat, maize, oats, potatoes, &c., are raised to a large extent, and find a ready market, chiefly at the Diamond-fields. Pastoral farming, however, is not neglected, and is increasing; the obstacles at present are the too great richness of the herbage, and to a less extent the wetness of the country. This part of the district was formally

settled in 1866, upon the same terms of occupation as the Queen's Town grantees before mentioned. This servitude has, however, been since removed, and has caused a great impetus to farming. Ground which was originally sold for £100 would now find a ready sale at £1,000, and in many cases much more.

With a very few exceptions, all land in this district is held in freehold, subject to an annual quitrent of a few pounds; the average size of farms may be 4,000 acres. Fully three-fourths of the district form part of the watershed of the Kraai River, a large and important feeder of the Orange River, with which it unites near the town of Aliwal North. The Kraai (or Crow) River has an average breadth of about 120 feet, and varies in depth from a few feet in winter to some fifteen in summer, when it becomes a dangerous torrent, bringing down trees and *debris*, with which the banks are lined everywhere. Considerable use is made of this river for irrigation purposes and for driving mills. In times of severe drought the water is invaluable, since, owing to its sources being in the Drakensberg, or Quathlamba Mountains, at an altitude of some 7,500 feet above the sea, this is one of the few South African rivers which has never been known entirely to "dry up," and its use for watering stock becomes of great importance when every other source of supply has ceased to flow.

The climate of this district is peculiar. Owing to the great difference of altitude of from about 6,500 feet in New England to some 4,500 in the lower parts there is considerable variation. In the higher parts the cold is very severe, and frosts may occur in any month of the year, except, perhaps, January and February. At the town of Aliwal North, which is about the lowest part above the sea, the greatest temperature registered in the shade is 106° Fahr., and lowest, 11° to 21° below freezing point. Frosts may

be expected from April to August. In summer, although the heat is great, the nights are never oppressive, which is not the case in the lower districts of the Colony. In winter the nights are exceedingly cold, but the days are generally bright and genial. The mean annual rainfall (according to observations made from 1866 to 1874) was 25·31 inches, extending over ninety-five rainy days.

The average value of land throughout the district may be taken at 10s. per acre, including whatever homesteads, buildings, or improvements are on each farm.

The chief town is Aliwal North, situate on the Orange River. It contains about 900 inhabitants, of whom 800 are Europeans and the remainder coloured, chiefly Basutos and Hottentots. The town is not well laid out, but the streets are wide, and gardens are numerous and well kept. The township is irrigated by water from two mineral springs, led into the town by a furrow about two miles long. The supply is constant, and is unaffected by rain or drought. This water, although not the best for vegetation, is useful for some crops. The cereals all flourish on it, but leguminous plants, and indeed most others, do not thrive well, although they are kept from perishing during drought until rain falls. At the source where the fountains well-out with much force, the water has a constant temperature of 98° Fahr., and possesses a disodour, of which visitors are unpleasantly aware, but which one ceases to perceive after a while. By the time the water reaches the town the smell disappears, and the temperature is reduced to that of the air. These springs should be better known than is the case, as their healing properties for cutaneous and rheumatic affections have been established beyond doubt. The inhabitants make considerable use of the waters, and occasionally strangers come and pitch

their tents alongside to obtain benefit from a course of bathing.

Aliwal North possesses no less than five churches; that of the Dutch Reformed Church and the recently erected one of the Primitive Methodists (the only one in the Cape) have some pretensions to architectural design. There is a public library, and also a literary society. The Magistrate's and Civil Commissioner's offices, and the post office, are spacious and convenient, but will shortly be surpassed by some fine buildings about to be erected by Government at a cost of some £5,000. The bank is a flourishing institution, and trade generally appears to be carried on with energy and profit. The town is fast increasing in size and importance, and is regarded as one of the most flourishing of border settlements. It was founded in 1848 by Sir Harry Smith—the hero of Aliwal.

The Orange River has here one of the best fords to be found. The river is some 900 feet broad, and when the stream is full, which may be from November to March, the traffic is ferried across on pontoons sufficiently large and strong to bear a loaded wagon and sixteen oxen; and as there are several of these structures working close together, a very animated scene occurs after a flood, or any detention which causes wagons to accumulate. The traffic is very extensive, this being the chief route between the sea ports and the Free State and Diamond-fields, as well as Basutoland. Provision has been made by Government for the construction of an iron bridge over the river at a cost of £40,000.

About four miles distant, on the Kraai River, which, as before mentioned, joins the Orange River near the town, is a large and important wool-washing establishment, where this most necessary operation is carried on in a vigorous and extensive manner, and on a scale far beyond most places of the kind, except

Uitenhage. The importance of wool being washed near the spot where it is grown will be apparent when it is borne in mind that one of the greatest, and in some cases, the only* drawback to some of the Cape exports is the cost of land carriage. On wool this is about 1¼d. per lb., of which half the weight is grease and dirt, costing this sum to the sea port. As the wool must be washed previous to use, it is evidently a gain to do this before incurring the cost of carriage. The risk of erecting mill works on the Kraai, or indeed any South African river, is, however, very great, owing to sudden and devastating floods. In the present instance the works have twice been swept away in recent years.

Lady Grey is the second town of importance in the district, and is situated at the base of the Lady Grey hills, about thirty miles south-east of Aliwal North. As the town does not yet possess a "through" road, and is inaccessible from but one direction, the place cannot well progress, to any extent, until the back country of New England be communicated with. The origin of this town was a church which the farmers attended when the Kraai River was impassable, or the distance was felt to be too great to attend Aliwal North. The leaders of the congregation bought the farm, laid out a township, sold the erven upon a quit-rent, and thus secured an income for their church. Some shops of importance have since been opened, and although not an increasing place, the trade is of a healthy character, and competes with Aliwal North.

Until recently the district of Herschel formed part of that of Aliwal North; it is now separated for all but electoral purposes—together they send two members to the House of Assembly. Herschel, for-

* For instance, maize is sold in London at about 28s. per sack; here it costs 5s. to 7s. 6d., but the land carriage to nearest seaport increases it to 35s. per bag. If this were 15s. it would answer to export.

merly known as the Wittebergen Reserve, is unlike other districts, inasmuch as the land is not divided into farms, but the whole extent is reserved for the use of native tribes. These are located in different parts, under the direction of the resident magistrate. Although the ground has not been sub-divided in any manner, the inhabitants are nevertheless disposed of in regular native villages under the care of a "headman," who is made responsible to the magistrate for the good conduct of those under his charge. The sites of such collections of huts are chosen for reasons which make them suitable for village purposes,—as, for instance, nearness to good grazing ground, arable land, good water, &c. There are about 25,000 coloured inhabitants, and a few hundred Europeans, mostly traders who set up business near to native villages, or wherever natives can be got together. There are almost forty such shops in the district. The gross revenue, chiefly derivable from a tax which natives pay for each hut they build, amounts to £3,000, of which Government expends £700 in keeping up the magistrate's establishment. No European is allowed to own soil in this district, and indeed can only open business upon sufferance, for which Government sanction must first be obtained. The natives consisting chiefly of Basutos, Fingoes, and Bastards, raise immense quantities of maize, wheat, &c., and, like the farmers of the ward of New England, which they adjoin, supply the country for a considerable distance, as far as the Diamond-fields. About 35,000 sacks of grain is estimated to be the annual amount raised. This is the country to which natives retire after a time of successful service down in the Colony, and to which they are continually returning, generally laden with stock as the reward of service. Stock thus accumulates to a great extent; in fact, the whole district is fully grazed, and flocks

require to be sent away from time to time to new pasturage in Basutoland or elsewhere. The country generally is exceedingly beautiful, and the scenery grand; the mountains are imposing, and there is nothing of Nature on a small scale. All water flows direct into the Orange River, which bounds the district on the north side. In most respects the country is identical with New England, before described. It forms, in fact, one range of mountains, of which the highest ridge is taken as the separating line. Except on horseback, these mountains cannot be crossed, and no communication between Herschel and New England can be effected but by an enormous detour, twice the direct distance.

The district of Wodehouse was created as recently as 1872, by portions being taken out of the surrounding districts of Queen's Town, Albert, and Aliwal North, the last-named contributing more than two-thirds of the whole extent. Probably this is the coldest district, as it is the most elevated, in the whole Colony. The Stormbergen range crosses it and divides the watershed of the rivers which flow eastward into the Indian Ocean, such as the Indwe and Kei, and those which feed the Orange River flowing westward.

Wodehouse differs from Aliwal North chiefly in its possessing more of mountain country, similar to New England, which it adjoins, the Kraai River being the boundary. This tract has but recently been added to the surveyed portion of the Colony, and had been known for many years previously under the general name of Waschbank lands. It extends to the ridge of the Drakensberg or Quathlamba, from which one can see across Nomansland even to the Indian Ocean. This portion of the district of Wodehouse is farmed at the disadvantage of possessing no "brak soil," without which stock cannot thrive

or even exist long. Hence farmers must purchase salt to a large extent; and the evil of dear and inefficient land carriage is forcibly shown by increasing this necessary article from 7s. 6d. a bag at Port Elizabeth to 50s. before it reaches the consumer.

A township has been laid out sixty miles to the north-east of Dordrecht in the Lange Kloof, and named after the present Governor, "Barkly." It is expected to succeed, as Dordrecht, the capital of the district, is too far distant to be often visited. The neighbourhood is supplied with shops, which are scattered all over the country, and a Dutch Reformed Church has been flourishing for some years. In all likelihood there is no part of the Colony where farms are so mountainous as in these highlands. One is lost in the deep kloofs and gorges, and a plain is altogether unknown. As might be expected, the country is well supplied with rain, and crops can be cultivated to any extent. No storing of water in dams or reservoirs is necessary, nor would such structures stand against the torrents which rush down when heavy storms occur. Stock is farmed at a disadvantage, however, owing to the extreme cold in winter, snow falling from April to August or September: and farming is not yet sufficiently advanced to provide shelter during the severe weather, and still less to raise crops for use in such seasons. Hence great numbers of sheep, horses, and cattle succumb at times, and flocks do not increase as fast as in other parts of the district. Grain could be sent away in great quantities but for the bad state of the roads, which at present are barely passable, and at times not even that; matters are, however, mending in this respect. The inhabitants have pioneered a new route to the sea coast across the Drakensberg, which, if properly opened up, may prove of great use. This road proceeds from Barkly along the Langekloof to the summit of the Drakens-

berg, where it descends abruptly some thousand feet near the sources of the T'Somo, a tributary of the Great Kei, and joins the main road through Kafirland, having communication with East London and Natal on one hand, and King William's Town on the other.

Dordrecht, the seat of magistracy, distant forty-eight miles from Queen's Town, has the same history as to origin and progress as Lady Grey. It has, however, gone far beyond the latter place in material prosperity, since it is fed by traffic and business from all directions, and has steadily advanced in size and importance for some years past. The site in itself, however, is bad in nearly all respects, and little can be done to make the place attractive, except for business purposes. The usual buildings in a country town of this size have been erected, such as public offices and town-hall, Dutch Reformed Church, bank, public library, &c. Close by the town is a kloof, forming in some parts natural and picturesque grottos, which abound in old drawings of Bushmen. These drawings are found in caves, or on smooth pieces of rocks, and in general the subjects are either animals or something of a war-like character. Most of the representations are in colour, and, remembering they must have been done many years ago by a race now nearly extinct, they have a peculiar interest attached to them. There are many specimens in other parts of the district, and they are naturally cherished by those to whom they now belong. It is a matter of regret that time is slowly effacing all these ingenious works of Bushmen, and that probably in another half century not one will remain. Fac-similies have been preserved by Mr. G .W. Stow and others, but real specimens for museums can seldom, if ever, be detached from the massive rocks on which the drawings are invariably made.

As in Albert and Aliwal North, the wealth of Wodehouse is derived from pastoral pursuits, wool being the chief product. The present prohibitive land carriage discourages the raising of corn beyond the immediate requirements of the inhabitants. The value of lands here, however, has increased from the upset price of 7s. 6d. per morgen, fixed by Government in 1872, to 15s. to 25s. per morgen, according to the improvements made. The country generally is treeless, although towards Nomansland the yellow-wood grows, and its timber is of value; for purposes where sun and moisture are excluded it answers well, but when exposed it warps and twists in an extraordinary manner.

A large portion of the Tambookie location is enclosed within the division of Wodehouse on the north-eastern side, and though the population is not so dense as in the adjoining part (in the division of Queen's Town) it may be estimated at 10,000, including Fingoes and Basutos. The resident magistrate, as the representative of Government, is looked upon as "the chief" by these natives, the mass of whom are heathen, not attached to the Government by any warm feeling of loyalty, but by self-interest in the security of property, impartial administration of justice, and facilities of accumulating wealth. About 400 bales of wool are yearly produced in the location, and almost every native has a horse, cows, and sheep, or goats; some have wagons, and agriculture is greatly extending amongst them.

The nearest sea-port for these north-eastern Border districts is the Buffalo River mouth, at East London, about 130 miles from Aliwal North *via* Queen's Town and King William's Town. But Port Elizabeth, although 330 miles distant, is at present the place through which the greater part of the imports are made,—the usual mode of carriage being the

lumbering ox-wagon, which, when drawn by sixteen oxen, carries about four tons at a rate of about twelve or fifteen miles per day. To remedy the disadvantage of such expensive and tedious transport, works designed to improve the harbour of East London, and a railway from there to near the foot of the Stormbergen, have been authorised by Parliament, and are now in course of construction. The railway as far as Queen's Town will be 150 miles in length, and is calculated, with stock, to cost £1,069,000. Already the earthworks have been made up to King William's Town, and in another year the first portion may be opened for traffic. The importance of the undertaking in its immediate benefit to trade, as well as in its indirect influences upon the civilization of the native races, cannot be too highly estimated. The country traversed by it is one of the richest and fairest parts of the Colony, capable of supporting a dense population, and producing agricultural and pastoral products almost to an unlimited extent, while adjacent to it are the territories of Kaffraria, Basutoland, the Free State, &c.

The success of the harbour improvements at East London will likewise have an important bearing on these districts and territories. If the "bar" at the Buffalo River mouth can be removed, the broad deep reaches inside will form the most commodious natural docks possible, with water acreage and quayage sufficient to accommodate several hundred ships or steamers. Every other year the floods or freshets in the river serve to clear the bar to a depth of seventeen feet, and vessels are then able to pass inside and discharge cargo without the use of surf-boats or the delays and risk attendant upon lying at an open anchorage outside; but usually after these floods the bar is liable to silt up again. The works now in progress, under the direction of Sir John

Coode, are intended to keep the passage permanently clear. Training walls, which will form quays, are being built inside the river so as to narrow the channel and thereby increase the scour, and a breakwater of concrete blocks, like that of Portland, is being built in the form of an arm outside, to prevent the sea from checking the action of the river and driving the sand back upon the bar. Notwithstanding the disadvantage of uncertainty which the port has hitherto laboured under, its trade has made remarkable progress. The value of direct imports has advanced from £51,000 in 1872 to £527,521 in 1874; while the exports, which in 1870 were £33,000, amounted to £96,985 in 1874. The quantity of wool shipped in this last year was 1,340,579 lb., but in 1872 it was higher, viz., 2,060,067 lb. It should be borne in mind, as already stated, that in addition to this a large portion of the Border trade still finds its way through Port Elizabeth.

The Border trade comprises a very extensive business with the native Kafirs, Fingoes, and Basutos. King William's Town and Queen's Town are the centres where this branch of commerce is especially studied and developed, hundreds of shops and out-stations having been established by them throughout the several locations, as far as St. John's River and its tributaries, and over the mountains into Basutoland, supplying native wants. For the "red Kafirs," or heathens, there are varieties of beads, brass-wire, chains, and red clay, of which they are large consumers. For those in a transition state there are imported ornaments such as arm-rings, bracelets, ear-rings, &c.; but the chief item is the woollen blanket,—it is generally in use, and at least 60,000 change hands at King William's Town in the course of a year. Cotton blankets and sheets are also in request. The demand for European clothing

as well as for agricultural implements is greatly on the increase. The purchasing power of the natives for these and other articles is at present estimated at not less than £400,000 a year, and their productions —such as wool, Angora hair, hides, horns, goat and sheep skins, tobacco, and grain, and cattle—are valued at three-quarters of a million sterling per annum. The amount of native produce purchased by one firm alone in King William's Town we know to have been over £58,000, from January to December, 1873. Wool forms the chief staple among the Fingoes and Kafirs, but in the district of Herschel a great deal of grain is raised, and Basuto-land last year supplied 300,000 bushels to the Free State and Diamond-fields. Leaf tobacco is produced in considerable quantities by the Galekas and Pondas; and the natives near St. John's River do a large trade in cattle, taking blankets and other articles in exchange.

This industrial progress of the natives, so observable in many directions, is very hopeful of promise for the future. The increasing desire to possess property, as evidenced by the eagerness with which they compete at the Government sales of land or leases,—their demand for ploughs, of which more have been sold within the last two years than during the ten years before,—for wagons, saddles, tools, and household requisites, and clothing,—all show that they are rapidly acquiring wants which will induce amongst them a spirit of work and labour as opposed to the spirit of idleness hitherto characteristic of their race. Another favourable indication is the willingness with which they now pay for the education of their children, whereas formerly they considered they conferred a favour by sending them to free institutions. At the Lovedale Industrial Seminary last year, about £1,000 was paid by natives; and the Rev. Mr. Mullins,

principal of the Kafir Institution at Graham's Town, says "it is quite cheering to witness the readiness with which they pay for education now as compared with a few years ago." In Fingoland £1,500 has been subscribed by the people themselves for an industrial institution similar to Lovedale, and although some may have contributed to please others over them, there is little doubt the work has originated from an honest desire on the part of a great many to place educational advantages within the reach of their children. There are a few colonists who may not regard these movements very favourably, and are occasionally loud in denouncing the thousands of "niggers wallowing in idleness, pampered by missionaries and other philanthropists," while their fields and flocks are without labourers or herds. The Kafirs and Fingoes take all such vapouring very philosophically, seeing no reason why they should work for the farmers' benefit. But civilize them, increase their wants, show them the value of labour to themselves, and the result will be very different. This is what the missionaries in Kafirland are labouring to accomplish; and much of the progress the natives have hitherto made is due to them.

SEASONS AND CLIMATE.

To many persons the clear sky and brilliant atmosphere of the Cape are an attraction in themselves, apart from more material considerations the colony may present. Being situate in the temperate zone, it possesses the mildness and salubrity so congenial to invalids, or those of delicate frame; and yet one may select within its borders, according to the locality and the time of the year chosen, whatever temperature or weather may be thought desirable for enjoyment—whether pleasant, fine, and dry, or wet and inclement—extreme heat, or bracing frost and snow—such are the transitions obtainable as at the different seasons the coast is exchanged for the inland plains or the high mountain lands.

The seasons come in reverse order to what they do in the northern hemisphere, and may be thus defined:

AT THE CAPE.		IN EUROPE.
December, January, February	*Summer.*	June, July, August.
March, April, May	*Autumn.*	September, October, November.
June, July, August	*Winter.*	December, January, February,
September, October, November	*Spring.*	March, April, May.

There is, however, some difference in the period of the commencement, as well as in the character, of the seasons in the south-western and north-eastern portions of the Colony. In the west the seasons are generally a month earlier than in the east. The north-west winds prevail during the winter of the west, carrying regular and copious supplies of rain to the first boundary of the Karoo plains; whilst in the east, during the spring and summer, the north-eastern winds, laden with moisture from the ocean, scatter refreshing and fertilizing showers. In the central basin of the Colony, again, the rain fall is more irregular and limited, being greatly dependant upon the electrical conditions of the atmosphere.

The Colony, generally speaking, is not a hot country. The greatest heat of calm summer days is not more than in the hottest parts of Europe; and these are extraordinary, and last but for a short time. The prevailing winds and the dry atmosphere temper such excesses, rendering the warmest day quite supportable; and the balmy coolness of the nights are surpassingly agreeable and enjoyable. Nearly all the old travellers and visitors testify to the beauty of the climate, and in the statistics of the Army Medical Department it stands as one of the healthiest in the world. This has led to its being highly recommended as a sanitarium for European invalids, especially those suffering from the various forms of pulmonary diseases. The researches of Major Tulloch and Dr. Balfour show that the low ratio of mortality among the troops stationed here in their time was greatly attributable to the extreme rarity of diseases of the lungs; and Dr. Ross, the health officer of Cape Town, has shown from the books of Somerset Hospital that, out of 2,722 patients sent there for treatment of all types of diseases, not more than 84 have died of lung complications in five years. These

facts, as well as the remarkable exemption from cholera, fevers, hepatic, and other affections which colonists have hitherto enjoyed, are set forth by Dr. Ross in an interesting paper on "Our Climate,"* published in 1869, in which he says:—"Here, then, in South Africa, we can offer a home to the delicate which, within a moderate radius from Cape Town, affords several distinct climates for those whose lungs, livers, or joints are painfully out of gear. These atmospheric differences are as distinctly marked by local peculiarities and characteristics as are Torquay, Bournemouth, Hastings, or the Isle of Wight, and are all within the soothing influences of sea breezes and the sandy beaches of our numerous bays. It is partly owing to the shelter of woods, and partly to the proximity of mountain peaks, that there is such a very pleasant difference to be found in the qualities of the air and the degrees of temperature along our coast, both of the eastern and western provinces. The intervention, too, of hills, and the existence of well-wooded ravines, are not confined to a few favoured spots, but form a feature of the colony, which, in connection with elevation above level of the sea, and the direction and velocity of local winds, makes all the difference between the Frontier, Seaboard, and Karoo districts, and which are, on the question of residence, a fit subject for medical advice. . . . The best period for arrival is towards the end of August. A long sea voyage by sailing vessel is an admirable introduction to the lovely scenes which September, at the Cape, yearly produces. The fields are then covered with verdure; the hills and plains are brilliant with patches of bulbs and heather in full bloom; and all nature is gay with the surpassing freshness and variety of spring. The air is then truly intoxicating; while the purity and transparency of the atmosphere

* *Vide* "The Cape and its People." Juta & Co., Cape Town.

is such as literally to stagger the minds of many who have been only accustomed to judge of distances through the medium of haze, and cannot be brought to realise the fact that mountains fifty miles off are as plainly visible as if within half-an-hour's walk, and to the naked eye as minutely traceable as by aid of telescope. . . . It is, however, in winter months that Cape Town forms the most pleasant of residences for invalids. Being well sheltered by mountains, there is always plenty of calm, clear weather, and even in the stormiest season of the year, as in May, when the north-west gales are tossing enormous breakers against our iron-bound coast, and but for breakwater works would be making wild havoc among the shipping of our bays, a night of destruction will be followed by perfectly heavenly weather, lasting perhaps for five or six days. During this period of exquisitely calm and temperate days, we are always blessed with Italian skies, and with air so cool, so soft, so dry, so grateful to the lungs, that it is a positive source of happiness to feel oneself to be alive." "No climate in the world," says Dr. Stovell, "could be more agreeable to the feelings—and very few more beneficial for the usual class of Indian invalids—than a Cape winter. There is an invigorating freshness about this season equally delightful and beneficial; the moment the rain ceases the clouds rapidly clear away, and the sky remains bright for several days."

More recently, in the *Lancet* for 1873, a valuable series of papers have been contributed by a lay correspondent who has had personal experience of the country as an invalid, and who declares that, "taking the whole of the colony into consideration, there are few better climates in the world than can be found here."

Meteorological observations have been, and are still being carried on in various divisions of the Colony, under the auspices of a commission appointed

by Government, and the tabulated results obtained generally published in the official Blue-book. But at the Royal Observatory, in the neighbourhood of Cape Town, there has been a systematic register kept for many years, which shows as a result that the mean temperature of the air throughout the year is about 61° 26′ Fahr., in the shade, the hottest days being in January, with an average temperature of 68° 92′, the coldest about July, with an average temperature of 54° 03′. Elsewhere the observations have not been extended over anylong period, but they are sufficiently reliable to serve as an index to the climate. For instance, we have the extreme limits of temperature at the following points :—

	HIGHEST.				LOWEST.			
				°				°
Graaff-Reinet	1865	December	20	105·0	1864	June	24	28·0
Worcester	1868	January	10	106·5	1862 May 30 / 1863 June 28			29·5
Mossel Bay ...	1862	March	24	97·0	1862	July	17	39·0
Port Elizabeth	1867	January	31	92·0	1868	August	22	41·0
Simon's Town	1865	March	11	95·0	1862	September	25	42·0
*Amalienstein	1868	January	11	110·7	1867 June 17, 21 / July 21			27·5
Royal Observatory	1864	March	18	99·5	1864	June	8	39·8
Graham's Town	1858	February	6	106·5	1856	August	8	32·5
Aliwal North...	1867	December	24	93·0	1867	June	21	20·0

* This is still less than in South Australia, where, during the hot months of January, February, and March, the temperature of the air on the plains about Adelaide exceeds 100 deg. for several days together, and rises to 115 deg.

The general observations made at Graham's Town, Graaff-Reinet, and Worcester are also very noticeable.

	Height above sea level.	Mean Temperature.	Mean daily range.	Rainfall.	Humidity.
	Feet.				
Graaff-Reinet.....	2,517	64·41	24·52	13·196	55·98
Worcester	776	62·88	24·91	11·795	54·99
Graham's Town	1,750	62·65	18.59	32·594	70·30

We have here in evidence the high and great range of temperature, the small amount of rainfall, and humidity of the air at Graaff-Reinet. At Worcester the annual temperature is 1·5 degrees lower, yet the ranges, humidity, and rainfall are pretty nearly the same. At Graham's Town the mean temperature is 2 degrees lower than at Graaff-Reinet, but the diurnal range is 6 degrees less, and the rainfall 32½ inches, or 2½ times more abundant. The times of observation are not coincident, but the intervals are of sufficient length to establish the relative types.

On the western coast, north to Namaqualand and Bushmanland—a tract of country particularly dry—there are marked extremes of heat and cold, which Mr. Wyley, in his observations on the climate there, attributes to the great evaporation caused by the dry winds which sweep over it.

On the eastern side of the Colony, up to the boundary of the Great Kei River, and nearing the tropic of Capricorn, there is an approach to a semi-tropical climate; but the winds from the Ocean, and the elevated formation of the country proceeding

inland, considerably modify the effect of decreasing latitude. The land rises in a series of steppes from the sea to the interior, and the higher country has a most bracing atmosphere. The air is dry, and in summer warm, but never, or only for a short time, oppressively so, owing to its dryness. During winter, again, on the coast, the warm ocean current coming down from the tropics moderates the temperature; and during the season, if there are any frosts, they are not sufficient to kill, or even damage, any sub-tropical plants that may be under cultivation But in the Midland and Border districts thick ice is formed on the water, and there are sometimes very heavy snowstorms; and on the mountain ranges the snow lies for several days together. In the south-western districts, as a rule, fires are only used in the dwelling-houses for cooking purposes; but in the highlands of the midland and north-eastern parts, the cold is such as to require the old familiar comforts of "home."

The rainfall in the neighbourhood of Cape Town, and over a considerable part of the Colony, is equal during the year to the average fall at Greenwich or Edinburgh. During twenty years of observation recorded at the Royal Observatory, the mean quantity was upwards of 24 inches—the lowest being 18·8 inches in 1844, and the highest 36·7 inches in 1859. But the impression of a wet or dry year sometimes depends less on the quantity than on the number of days on which rain falls, so as seasonably to promote the germination and growth of vegetable productions. We have a guide to this in the following table, showing the number of days on which rain fell in the neighbourhood of Cape Town in the years 1752, 1858, 1859, and 1862; and any departure from this average is exceptional. The first is extracted from the journals of the French astronomer, La Caille (who was