

THE
CAPE OF GOOD HOPE

AND THE
EASTERN PROVINCE

OF
ALGOA BAY,
&c. &c.

WITH STATISTICS OF THE COLONY.

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of a Map of the Colony; &c. &c. &c.

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“For thus saith the Lord, who created the heavens, God himself who formed the earth, and made it; He hath established it; He created it not in vain; He formed it to be inhabited.”

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MDCCLXIII.

indicate decisively the rapid advancement of the colony in substantial prosperity.

“It is already rich in all the requisites on which to establish a most flourishing settlement, and it requires nothing but *available labour*, to turn those requisites to valuable account.

“The produce of this county is officially reported as

| | | | |
|----------------|--------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Wheat, bushels | . . . 25,164 | Oat-hay, lbs | . . . 3,632,960 |
| Barley, do. | . . . 18,849 | Maize & Millet, bushels | 20,212 |
| Oats, do. | . . . 21,477 | Potatoes, do. | . . . 9,100 |

“The estimated quantity of land in cultivation in the district is 10,000 acres, while there are about 1,200,000 acres of pasture and, a large proportion of which is courting the hand of industry to produce abundance of food for man.

“The soil and geology of Albany does not materially differ from the other divisions of the colony. The cliffs belong in general to the sandstone and quartz formations so predominant in South Africa. Graywacke, quartz, schistus, and clay-slate are common. In the construction of the Queen’s-road some organic remains have been found, and a few fossils, both of the animal and vegetable kingdoms, are in possession of Mr. Bain, the superintendent of that work, in a fine state of preservation. The soils are extremely various along the coast; they are chiefly sand mixed with vegetable matter and shells. Further inland there is much clay interspersed with sandy flats, and patches of rich vegetable mould, resting upon a stratum of iron-coloured clay, or upon beds of limestone and sandstone.

“The zoology of Albany is common to the other divisions of the colony. On the arrival of the settlers in 1820, the elephant, rhinoceros, and hippopotamus were common; but they have either been destroyed, or have retired on the approach of civilised man. Elephants are still met with in the jungles of the Fish and Bushman’s Rivers. A straggling ostrich is sometimes observed crossing the sandy flats, and at the mouths of the large rivers the hippopotamus is occasionally perceived protruding his huge but shapeless head from the stream for a little air. The lion is rarely seen, though the district is not altogether freed from his ravages. The buffalo is still common in the woody jungle of the district. The quagga and hartebeest used formerly to browse on the flats in herds, but they are now seldom

seen. Springboks are much more common, but they have been so much hunted by the youth of Albany, who are in general fine shots and daring horsemen, that they have become comparatively scarce. The rietbok, the elegant little bluebok, and several others of the antelope tribe are often met with, though they are by no means numerous. The wolf is the most troublesome animal of prey with which the division is infested. In cold and wet weather he is especially daring. At such seasons he will descend from the mountain ridges into the more inhabited parts, and will seldom depart without levying tribute upon the stock of the farmer. The wild dog is equally destructive. This is a gregarious animal, hunting in packs, and committing great ravages upon such flocks of sheep as they happen to meet with when prowling through the country. The leopard and panther, usually called here the tiger, are not uncommon. They frequent the woody parts of the division, and occasionally do much mischief in the sheepfolds; they will clear a fence or climb a tree with a live sheep, and are dangerous and untameable animals. The ant-bear and porcupine are common; the former is to man rather useful than otherwise, but the latter is very destructive to gardens and other cultivated lands. The division abounds in numerous smaller animals, which it is not necessary in this sketch even to enumerate. The ursine baboon and several varieties of the monkey tribe are common.

“The birds of Albany are various, and many of them extremely beautiful. To the ostrich may be added the pelican, the crane, the paauw, the wild goose, the turkey, the guinea fowl, the wild duck, the pheasant, partridge, snipe, and many others.

“Of birds of prey there is the gigantic vulture, the secretary, (*Serpentarius*), or snake bird, several species of the hawk family, the crow, the rook, &c. The butcher-bird is not uncommon. The long-tailed bunting (*Loxia Caffra*) is familiar, hovering during spring seasons over marshy spots. The honey-bird, with its shrill cry of *cher, cher*, is often heard, while the little sugar-bird, sipping the nectar from the wild blossoms in the kloofs, dazzles the eye with the exquisite beauty of its brilliant plumage. There are several varieties of the king-fisher, and also of the parrot and loerie, many of them of gorgeous

plumage, together with others so various in their habits and appearance as would occupy no inconsiderable time for the ornithologist even to name them.

“ Reptiles are very common. Among the *ophidian* class, the *cobra di capella*, or hooded snake, and the puff-adder are the most formidable; their bite is much dreaded, and has often proved mortal within a few hours. Powerful stimulants have been used with success, but are not always an effectual antidote.

“ It is very satisfactory to be able to remark, that the efforts which have been made to promote the *moral* advancement of the division has been no less ardent than in the development of its physical capabilities. In this respect Albany ranks first of all the divisions of the colony. There have been no less than twenty-one buildings erected in various parts of the division for the celebration of Divine service, besides the establishment of many out-stations, to which ministers of one or other denomination itinerate for the purpose of imparting to those neighbourhoods religious instruction. Of these places of worship, *three* belong to the Church of England, *fourteen* to the Wesleyan Methodists, *two* to the Independents, *one* to the Baptists, and *one* to the Roman Catholics. Besides these, as already noticed, several handsome and spacious edifices for religious purposes are in course of erection at Graham’s Town. Considerable attention has been paid to education, and knowledge is as widely diffused as in most favoured rural districts of the mother country. The number of pupils in the several day schools has been estimated at 3000; in the Sunday schools at 3800; which, out of a population of 13,886 souls, the estimated amount of the whole division, is a result which will bear comparison with any other part of the world—extent and other circumstances being at all equal. Some of the places of worship have small lending libraries connected with them, and by these and other means the acquisition of information is rendered comparatively easy. On the whole it may be safely averred, that the general intelligence of the inhabitants is not a whit inferior to that of the middle and lower classes of any county in the United Kingdom.

“ The general character of the division, and the pursuits of its inhabitants, are decidedly pastoral, and manufactures have not, therefore, made much progress. Only 100 families out of the

sent home to England, and brought out, and taken home again, and then found to be excellent. It has been and continues still an article of export to Cape Town, Mauritius, and St. Helena, with both of which islands there is a contract for the supply of the troops. Much depends upon the judgment and skill employed in curing. Samples have been sent from Port Elizabeth to the victualling agent at Simon's Bay, and to the Board of Admiralty in England, and in both instances highly approved. Salt, as has already been remarked, is produced in abundance in the colony, and is gathered from natural pans in the immediate neighbourhood of Port Elizabeth. The export of this article from Port Elizabeth in 1841, was 412 casks, valued at £1269*.

Butter.—The choicest butter prepared in the whole colony is shipped from Algoa Bay. That which is exported for the use of Cape Town is less salted than for long voyages, and fully equal to the celebrated "*Epping.*" Mauritius provides a ready and constant market for this valuable commodity; it is generally shipped in small casks of about 50 lbs., and costs at the place of export about 9d. per lb., exclusive of casks and charges. The exports for 1841 were 264,405 lbs., valued at £9806.

Hides, Horns, and Goat and Sheep Skins are continually increasing articles of commerce, and form at present, with wool, the staples of the Eastern Province. Could settled relations of peace be established with the restless Kafir clans, this export would be immensely increased in number. The tough envelope of the elephant, the bullet-proof hide of the hippopotamus, the scaly vestment of the rhinoceros which sits "like a lady's loose gown" on the huge animal, the spotted skin of the "pard," and the shaggy covering of the sovereign of the woods, the lion, are

* One house at Port Elizabeth (Messrs. Cawoods) holds the contract to supply salted beef to the respective governments of St. Helena and Mauritius, to the extent of 150,000 lbs., one-half of which has been delivered and approved. The contract price, exclusive of the expense of the tierce, or 300 lbs. cask (which costs 13s. 6d.), is a fraction more than 2½d. per lb., delivered on the beach at Algoa Bay. The same establishment has now a contract for 70,000 lbs. for foreign ports, to be sent *via* England.

The cheapness of provisions at Port Elizabeth, in Algoa Bay, render it a favourable spot for refreshments, fresh beef being procurable at 2d., and vegetables very reasonable.

continually to be met with in our frontier markets, among abundant other extraordinary productions of the African continent "always offering something new."

Ivory.—This very valuable commodity varies very much in its supply, and as the elephant, except in some few sequestered portions of the colony, has been chased by our intrepid hunters far beyond our boundary, it can only be expected to be procured by our traders from the native tribes, or from the new settlement at Natal and the north of that country. The value of this export in 1841 was 12,359 lbs., value £1937.

Whale Oil and Whale Bone.—The bays of the colony are frequented by the black whale (*Balena Australis vel Antartica*) between the months of June and September, and fisheries are established in several of the bays of the Western, as well as of the Eastern Province, especially at Algoa Bay, where the most complete establishment in the colony is to be found. These fisheries have been very successful, but of late years have rather declined, owing, it is supposed, to the large number of foreign whalers on the coast, who, it is imagined, intercept the whales on their way to calve in the bays. No less than 60 to 100 vessels, principally American, are said to have been fishing off the South African coasts at one time during the last few seasons. There is little doubt that a successful rivalry of the foreign fisheries might be made by the colonists in the neighbourhood of our coasts, provided they sent out vessels to fish at sea, instead of confining themselves to the bays. The colony also affords, by the conveniences of the regularly established fisheries, such as tanks and all the other requisites, extraordinary facilities for South Sea whalers, to make it an entrepôt where the oil and bone could be stored for transmission to Europe, as freight offered, instead of sending the ships direct, and thus sacrificing a large portion of very valuable time*. The produce of the Cape whale fishery in 1832 was £11,548 sterling.

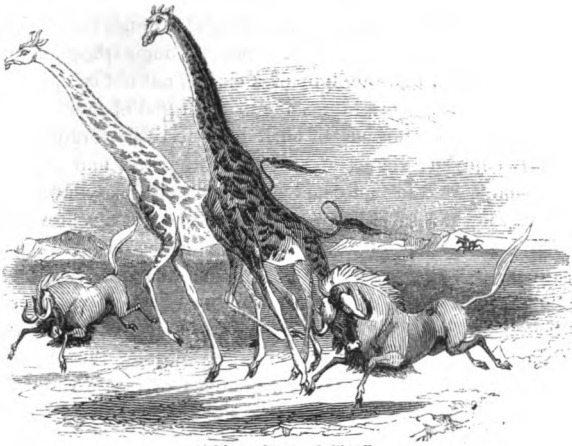
* And why might not foreign whalers be allowed to land and store their oil, taken in the southern seas, at licensed places in the colony, to be transhipped to the respective countries which sent them out. There need be no fear of smuggling it as British taken, for the declaration on oath is stringent enough. The supply, and this accommodation to foreign whalers, would bring much money into the colony.

The following list shews the number of whales captured in Algoa Bay, at one fishery alone, from 1819 to 1841:—

| Year. | Fish. | Year. | Fish. | Year. | Fish. |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1819 | 9 | 1827 | 3 | 1835 | 3 |
| 1820 | 20 | 1828 | 6 | 1836 | 3 |
| 1821 | 12 | 1829 | 18 | 1837 | 0 |
| 1822 | 8 | 1830 | 14 | 1838 | 5 |
| 1823 | 12 | 1831 | 12 | 1839 | 1 |
| 1824 | 6 | 1832 | 5 | 1840 | 3 |
| 1825 | 0 | 1833 | 6 | 1841 | 4 |
| 1826 | 0 | 1834 | 2 | | |

Grain and Flour have hitherto formed but a small item in the return of frontier exports, principally owing to the want of labour; but the capabilities of the country for this description of produce are unquestioned. Mr. Prince, a gentleman of the Western Province of the colony, at a recent meeting held in Cape Town, thus expressed his opinion of the subject:—

“That this colony, adequately peopled and governed, is capable of becoming a great agricultural and commercial country, can be no matter of doubt to any one acquainted with the extent of its resources. The quantity of corn annually grown is somewhere about 90,000 muids; but scarcely one-fiftieth part of the corn-lands, even in the Cape district, are yet brought into cultivation. Of 1,675,000 acres of land which have been granted away in this district alone, 1,510,000 acres have never been brought under any kind of cultivation; 130,000 are used for pasturage, and 35,000 only are cultivated and in crops. Looking, then, at the quantity of grain now produced, it is obvious that, supposing only one-half of this land to be susceptible of cultivation, and that sufficient labour could be obtained, the Cape district alone could produce quadruple the quantity of corn now grown throughout the colony. What would be said of 5,000,000 muids’ worth, when it leaves the shore, at £1 10s. per muid, or £7,500,000? And when it does leave these shores, what is it?—the best corn in the known world! He had frequently sold a bag, containing 100 lbs., of Cape flour, for the same price as a barrel of American flour, weighing 180 lbs. Then, again, before any wheat or flour can reach these latitudes from countries now in the habit of supplying us, the wheat is musty, and the flour is both musty and



African Gnu and Giraffe.

SECTION IX.

AMUSEMENTS.

THE amusements of the colony are numerous and varied, and although its Western extremity bears the intellectual distinction of possessing at Cape Town the most splendid public library to be found in any other settlement, British or foreign, not even excepting the Indian metropolis itself, the City of Palaces, the Eastern division competes with it in many other enjoyments, and excels it in the pleasures of the chase. Graham's Town has recently, however, established a library, which already contains 3200 volumes, and a theatre for amateur theatrical performances is about to be re-established. Public meetings for religious, philanthropic, political, and scientific objects, occasionally relieve the monotony of money-getting life; and those delightful relaxations, pic-nics, particularly adapted to the delicious climate of the colony, under the most magnificent of skies, and amidst its untamed and luxuriant scenery, are frequently enjoyed, when childhood and age, youth and maturity, congregate for the purpose of recreation, under the cool covert of some ancient fig or yellow wood tree on the banks of a sparkling rivulet, where

mirth, music, dance, and song, are prolonged through the livelong day, and continued to a late hour beneath a dome spangled with celestial brilliants and the light of a chaste, but not cold, moon, whose light rivals in brightness the brilliant god of morn. Nor are the grave substantial of such high festivals forgotten or sparingly enjoyed; viands and wines of the best and choicest description deck the cloth laid out upon the glossy lawn, and wit, sharp but not severe, jest, amusing without coarseness, pass around, and the only sufferers from indulgence on these happy occasions are occasionally some young hearts mutually stricken by the sly deity whom all worship, and none defy successfully.

Races, and all their concomitants on the turf, with race balls and race dinners, take place annually at most of the principal towns of the colony, and winter assemblies, private card-parties and other kinds of social amusements are frequent; for the colonial inhabitants, although they may lack something of the gaiety of our French neighbours of Mauritius, are still addicted to pleasure. It is in the frontier districts, however, where the chief amusements afforded by the colony, field sports, are to be enjoyed in all their zest and excitement. From the timid hare to the lordly lion, there is opportunity for the exercise of skill, and ample scope for the display of courage. Game of the feathered tribes is abundant, and of most kinds known to European sportsmen, besides several peculiar to the colony, among which is the Pauw (a bustard), weighing from 12 to 30 lbs., and the Koerhaan, both delicious birds.

The shooting season begins the 1st of December, and ends the 29th of June. Game licences are demanded by the laws of the colony, but very few are taken out.

It is, however, on the northern borders of the Eastern Province where the huntsman revels in unbounded licence. There his attention is almost distracted between the variety of animal life which everywhere presents itself. Troops of light and elegant antelopes of innumerable kinds, with their delicate fawns everywhere enliven the plains; the bounding gnû gracefully gambols in sheer scorn of its pursuers, and the elegant zebra, and the frolicsome quagga, involve the herd in a cloud of dust as they scamper away from their persecutors. There is the stately ostrich literally "on the wings of the wind," with pinions extended, every

plume of which is coveted for some ball-room beauty, whose image is enshrined in the heart of the fearless rider ; but caution ! there is a stealthy panther watching the quarry which the huntsman has put up :—and stop ! that sound which just boomed across his ear is the growl of the lion concealed in yonder sedgy pool, under the covert of those waving reeds, disturbed by Juno, Pero, Dido, and the whole pack of dogs with their usually euphonious names, who were wishing to slake their thirst at that rare treat “ a fountain in the desert.” Such are the excitements and such the perils and the pleasures of the sportsman’s life in the Eastern Province of the Cape.

To those mighty Nimrods who live on horseback and seem to exist only for the chase, the vast limits of the colony are too circumscribed to restrain their affection for the *feræ naturæ*. These enthusiasts, malgré “ all cape punishment bills,” (in spite of all parliamentary committees on aborigines, and reckless of the rights of the ancient and undoubted denizens of the soil, the game, who, by-the-bye, were the occupants before any of the human species,) pass ever the colonial boundary and wage deadly and unremitting warfare against the innocent inhabitants of the interior plains and forests, where nobler as well as more extensive sport awaits their rifle—the sagacious elephant, the horny rhinoceros, the lovely giraffe, the unwieldy hippopotamus, the scaly boa, and the insidious alligator, alike bow beneath their all-conquering guns, and they return overwhelmed with glory, bringing, like Captain Harris*, a waggon load of trophies.

The solitary and contemplative angler too is not without his share of pleasure. There are many streams in which the finny tribe may be flattered into compliance with his insinuating invitation to feed, and the penner of these lines has himself hooked fine fish, both with live and dead bait, in the waters of Albany, weighing from three to eight pounds. Fly-fishing, there is every reason to believe, would be successful, but as yet little attention to this or any other kind of angling has been attempted.

* An Indian visitor to the colony in 1836, who has published two very interesting works. 1. Narrative of an expedition into South Africa. 2. Portraits of Game and Wild Animals in Southern Africa. Seductive books, which have already brought a number of his fellow Indians to follow the great sport in this field of nature’s grandest productions.—“ He hath made many sportsmen.”

THE LION HUNT.

MOUNT, mount for the hunting, with musket and spear!
 Call our friends to the field, for the lion is near!
 Call Arend, and Ekhard, and Groepe to the spoor;
 Call Muller and Coetzer, and Lucas Van Vuur.

Ride up Eildons' Cleugh, and blow loudly the bugle;
 Call Slinger and Allie, and Dikkop and Dugal;
 And George with the elephant-gun on his shoulder,
 In a perilous pinch none is better or bolder.

In the gorge of the glen lie the bones of my steed,
 And the hoofs of a heifer of fatherland's breed;
 But mount, my brave boys! if our rifles prove true,
 We'll soon make the spoiler his ravages rue.

Ho! the Hottentot lads have discovered the track—
 To his den in the desert we'll follow him back;
 But tighten your girths, and look well to your flints,
 For heavy and fresh are the villain's foot-prints.

Through the rough rocky kloof into grey Huntly-glen,
 Past the wild-olive clump where the wolf has his den,
 By the black eagle's rock at the foot of the fell,
 We have tracked him at length to the buffalo's well.

Now, mark yonder break where the blood-hounds are howling,
 And hark that hoarse sound, like the deep thunder growling;
 'Tis his lair, 'tis his voice! from your saddles alight;
 He's at bay in the brushwood preparing for fight.

Leave the horses behind, and be still every man,
 Let the Mullers and Rennies advance in the van,
 Keep fast in your ranks; by the yell of yon hound,
 The savage, I guess, will be out with a bound.

He comes! the tall jungle before him loud crashing,
 His mane bristled fiercely, his fiery eyes flashing;
 With a roar of disdain, he leaps forth in his wrath,
 To challenge the foe that dare leaguer his path.

He couches! ay, now we'll see mischief, I dread!
 Quick—level your rifles—and aim at his head!
 Thrust forward the spears, and unsheathe every knife—
 St. George! he's upon us! now, fire, lads, for life!

He's wounded! but yet he'll draw blood here he falls.
 Ah! under his paw see Bezuidenhout sprawls!
 Now, Diederik! Christian! right in the brain
 Plant each man his bullet—hurrah! he is slain!

Bezuidenhout, up man! 'tis only a scratch!
 You were always a scamp and have met with your match.
 What a glorious lion! what sinews!—what claws!—
 And seven feet ten from the rump to the jaws.

His hide, with the paws, and the bones of his skull,
 With the spoils of the leopard and buffalo bull,
 We'll send to Sir Walter. Now, boys, let us dine,
 And talk of our deeds o'er a flask of old wine.

T. PRINGLE.