

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.



WHEN Bartholomew Diaz gave the ominous title of "Cape of Storms" to the southern promontory of Africa which King John II. of Portugal re-christened, as a more favourable augury for the future, "The Cape of Good Hope," neither he nor the discoverer imagined for a moment the greatness and importance the new country was destined to assume some centuries later in the hands of another nation as a potent factor in the world's civilisation.

That it has proved the nursery from which have emanated innumerable great men is history. It has been our endeavour to give a brief but adequate account of the most prominent of the present and rising generation in the Law, Church, Science, Art, Sport, and Commerce, while many of the most memorable deceased men also find a place in these pages, and we cherish the hope that these simple and unambitious biographical sketches may prove both interesting and useful to a wide circle of readers among those who have either personal, official, or commercial associations with Cape Colony.

We have endeavoured to present a volume which shall be to the friends and families of the notable personages delineated an acceptable and agreeable souvenir; to those desirous of doing business with the Colony a trustworthy and indispensable *vade mecum*, and a work which will be handed down to posterity as a permanent record and mine of authoritative and valuable information.

A section has been devoted to the leading members of the neighbouring communities of Johannesburg and the Orange River Colony, whose interests are so closely allied, and even inseparably identified, with the social and mercantile circles of the Cape Colony.

The various industries of the Cape Colony have also been included in the scheme of the work with the desire to afford to those who may propose to enter into relations with the Colony, as well as to the world at large, some general idea of the resources and capabilities of the country from the productive point of view.

We express our gratitude to the prominent citizens who have displayed a readiness to spare their valuable time at our request, so that we might not be guilty of the sin of omission in dealing with celebrities, and the sympathy which has been accorded us on every hand has made the compilation a pleasurable occupation. It would be supernatural

in an undertaking of such magnitude as this work if there were no omissions or errors, and we cannot lay claim to anything beyond the gifts usually possessed by the average man. In anticipation of such omissions or errors we tender our apologies to all we have unwittingly offended in this respect.

We also tender our thanks to the Chambers of Commerce of Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, East London, and Kimberley for the ready courtesy and kindly feeling which prompted those important bodies to grant their patronage to the book, and have also to offer grateful acknowledgment to the Press for the appreciative support accorded to our undertaking.

It is then with every trust and confidence that MEN OF THE TIMES, OLD COLONISTS OF THE CAPE COLONY AND ORANGE RIVER COLONY, the fruits of much labour, is submitted to the judgment of an indulgent public; and in the belief that it may be the means of heralding the dawn of a new era of prosperity in the country, we conceive that no better *envoi* could be chosen for the book than the motto of Cape Colony—

“SPES BONA.”

THE PUBLISHERS.

