

THE Suid Afrikaan.

Cape Town, March 29, 1868.

COMPETITIVE SCHOOL EXAMINATIONS.

ANY one at a distance, who is unacquainted with the comparative complacency, and superlative self-conceit, with which we are accustomed to view ourselves and our institutions, would imagine that we were all denizens of that happy valley which Johnson imagined, but from which he made Rasselas to effect his escape. Our government is so liberal that we scarcely can be said to have any government at all, and on the other hand, when it does exhibit itself, it generally does so in such a capricious way, that it were as well as it was never heard of. When we speak of the Government, we mean the existing Executive, which has unfortunately but little hold on the confidence of the public. We are fully prepared to allow, what the Executive has lost in the retirement of Mr. Porter. It cannot be said that his colleagues are equally highly regarded, and respected by the public. He is now gone however, and his successor has to take up his place. It is always a difficult matter to step into the shoes of a highly popular officer, and although we are aware the hon. Mr. Griffith will have many things to contend against, we hope for our hearts that he may be able to surmount them all, and assume that position, not only at the Bar, but in the Councils of the Colony, and in the esteem and affections of the people which his predecessor earned. But be this as it may, we Colonists are sure of one thing, that had the Councils of the country been regulated by the "fists of things" instead of the arbitrary will of a mere bird of passage who happened to possess the power, and at the same time had the hardihood to exert it, we would have had for years still to come, the invaluable assistance of Mr. Porter.

Nimiam semper in vetitum, which freely translated means, we Colonists are generally on a wild goose chase, hunting after the unattainable while we allow game of equal value to elude us in the hurry of our pursuit. Hence it is, that instead of being contented with wharves or jetties, we must forthwith have Docks and Breakwaters; instead of good roads and bridges, we must needs have Railways. In fact, we as a general rule, put the cart before the horse, or begin at the wrong end. As with Government measures, it is the same with special undertakings. A certain locality for instance feels the want of an Educational Institution. Now it is notorious, that our outlying villages are sorely provided with schools—they have been so for years—the Government can't be induced, however, to move in the matter—but the thing itself has become intolerable. The public therefore take the initiative, and what does the public do? The idea of establishing an elementary school is altogether out of the question. Nothing less than a College will do. Were we disposed to be ill-natured, we might insinuate that these Colleges are got up for the education of the wealthier members of the community without any regard whatever to those who contribute their fair share towards the establishment of these Institutions, but derive little or no benefit from them whatever. Honor it is, the public in general pay, but the leaders of public opinion alone profit by such payment. We need hardly ask such of our readers as live in the neighbourhood of a College, whether what we have stated is any exaggeration.

Again we have our Board of Examiners, with more zeal than discretion, countenancing such vagaries on the part of the public. Competitive Examinations between the various schools in the colony are instituted, and really handsome prizes are offered to the successful candidates. But what is the curriculum prescribed for such distinction? Publish it not in Gath!—An accurate and critical knowledge of the Greek language with all its various dialects, and anomalous grammatical and syntactical constructions. A corresponding acquaintance with the *minutiae* of the Latin language, with further investigations into the mysterious changes of the Algebraic plus and minus; and a few clap-trap arithmetical pedantries. This is really the gist of the competitive School Examination papers. These Examination papers being published annually in the form of a Government Blue-book (although the answers to the questions are scrupulously withheld) would lead one at a distance to believe that the schools at the Cape are ahead of all national schools on the face of the Earth. Boys from a provincial school are expected to read Greek and Latin *ad aperitiam libri* without the aid of a Lexicon. They are expected to be thorough critics in the English language, all the while that many of them can hardly speak it decently, and to discuss grave points in philology while they say they know the rudimentary principles of Grammar.—Yet this goes forth to the world as an index of the state of Education at the Cape, we mean such Education as can be obtained at the provincial schools, or rather to such education as prevails here.

In our next, we shall endeavour to point out some of the results which must necessarily follow from the public unscrupulously adopting, or rather endorsing the curriculum of education prescribed by the Board of Examiners for the intellectual development and progress of the Cape Colonial youth.

APPOINTMENTS.—James Mosenthal, Esq., as Justice of the peace for the district of Colerberg; J. H. Dwyer, Esq., to issue passes and to test contracts of service with natives; Mr. E. G. Bredekamp, as field-cornet of the ward Rhenoberg, division of Hope Town, vice Liebenberg; Mr. J. Featherstone, as ditto of the ward East River, division of Bedford, vice Bouwer; Dr. J. de Smidt, as district surgeon of Bredasdorp; Mr. K. de Lin, as postmaster at Pletkberg, vice Fick; Mr. J. P. Brinkman, as post office agent at Toll House, Grey's Pass, division of Glanwilliam.

SEQUESTERATOR.—The estates of: Moses Stillwell, lawyer, first and second meetings at the Magistrate's Office, Port Elizabeth, 11th and 18th April.—William Ferguson, sail and tentmaker, first and final meeting at ditto, ditto, 19th April.—William Adriaan Venter, trader, first and second meetings at ditto, Colerberg, 14th and 21st April.

INTESTATE ESTATES.—Meetings of the next of kin and creditors will be held in the estates of: I. T. Muller and predeceased wife H. M. Kritinger, and P. E. Foulkes and surviving widow F. Andrews, at the Magistrate's Office, Humansdorp, 4th May.

CAPE TOWN AND WYNBERG RAILWAYS.—The reports for the month of February, have been £3068. 9 7.

THE PARIS EXHIBITION.—The following gentlemen have been appointed by the Governor to form a committee for arranging for the presentation of the products of the Colony at the Paris Exhibition of 1867, viz: Sir Wm. Hodges (President), the hon. R. Southey, the hon. W. D. Griffith, the hon. J. Bask, W. Porter, Esq., Dr. Brown, C. J. Manuel, J. C. Molteno, J. Shepherd, R. Hare, O. M. Bergh, A. de Pass, M. J. Louw, H. H. Ardena, A. J. Zeeberg, Dr. R. Clerehouse, Esq., the Civil Commissioners of Graham's Town, Port Elizabeth and Worcester, the Mayors of Graham's Town, Port Elizabeth and King William's Town, Cpt. Mills, Dr. White, J. E. Barry, J. Vintoux, J. F. Hudson and W. Walter, Esq., and J. B. Curry and R. Trimmen, Esqs., as Secretaries.

On Tuesday last an interesting case came on in the Supreme Court, Mr. Pieterse of the General Estate and Ophan Chamber applying for the removal of Messrs. De Villiers and Seyler from the joint-trusteeship of the insolvent estate of C. P. Brink; and the latter gentlemen, in turn, making a similar application for the removal of the former. Voluntarily affidavits were read, resulting in the removal of both the one side and the other. To-morrow a motion will be made for the fresh appointment of a new provisional trustee.

COMPLIMENTARY ADDRESS TO MR. PORTER.

At the sitting of the Court, Mr. Justice Bell addressed Mr. Porter as follows:—
Mr. Porter, we have every reason to anticipate that in the gentleman whom Her Majesty has been pleased to appoint Attorney-General of the colony, you will have a worthy successor in that office, which you have for many years discharged with so much ability, with so much honor and credit to yourself, and with so much satisfaction to the colony; but we desire to express to you our regret at your resignation of that office, and at what we cannot but think to be a mistake; cause—advancing years—which induced you to take that step; and we desire at the same time to express our opinion of the mode in which you have discharged the duties of the office. There is no office, perhaps, within the colony which is attended so great and so direct a power over the subject as that of Attorney-General; but in no instance during the many years for which you have held the office, has it even been imputed to you that you have profited its powers for the gratification of private spite or for the perpetration of public wrong. The high powers of your office have never induced you either to forget what was due from you to the other branches of your profession. You have always to the credit of the members of the Bench with deference and respect, so far as was compatible with your independence as an advocate and the duty you owed to your clients. And towards the Bar your manner has always been courteous and kind to the younger members of your country has been mingled with a kind and friendly interest in their professional advancement and prosperity. In conclusion, let me repeat, we shall always remember with pleasure your administration of the office of Attorney-General, and regret your resignation of it.
Mr. Porter replied as follows:—I would be very unbecomingly to the young members of your country, wholly unexpected compliment which your Lordships have been pleased to pay to me, were I to say anything more upon this occasion, by way of reply, than that I feel deeply the kindness which your Lordships have shown to me upon this and upon every other occasion; and that it is very gratifying to me to find that, in referring to the reputation of the public, you have alluded to the accidental manner in which your position conferred upon me at the Bar, which I am able to carry with me, amongst other consolations of the reflection that I have in some degree at least appeared to your Lordships to merit the encomiums which you have just pronounced.

MR. JOHANNES GEBHARDUS GIBBERT TREUDENIC, OF THE PAARL, AN INVOLUNT.
Upon motion by the Attorney-General the Court appointed Meick van der Spuy provisional trustee of this insolvent.

MOSEL BAY, MARCH 17, 1868.—The horse-sickness is making great havoc amongst the farmers' horses in this district, some having only one or two left, while others, when they wish to come to the Bay, have to perform the journey on foot. The stench when travelling in the district is something awful, as farmers never for a moment think of burying their dead horses.—The cold about here is now looking splendid with abundance of water.—The washing away of the Markings Poort road will for a time put a stop to trade between this and Beaufort West.—The Judge is expected here on Sunday evening.—The criminal roll in this town is the largest that has ever been since Mossel Bay has been established a magistracy. The most important cases are two of forgery, one of rape, and one of setting fire to Government property, besides several sheep-stealing and other minor cases, of which proceedings a full report will be given in my next.—*George Advertiser.*

IRRIGATION AND RAILWAYS.—At the last meeting of the George Divisional Council, Mr. G. W. B. Wehmer gave notice that at the next meeting, he would move the following two resolutions:—"I. That in the opinion of this Council, the time has arrived that an immediate stop should be put to all railway and raking in this colony under the sub guarantee and borrowing principle, and constructed under the present system, to benefit a few at the cost of the whole community. That, whilst this Council acknowledges the progress the colony has made during the last ten years, it regrets, however, that the financial state of the colony is not so flourishing now as it was ten years ago, and that the imports and exports of the colony, and the present deplorable state of the inhabitants generally renders

it not advisable to sanction any further railway undertakings, except those which might be undertaken by private companies. That to such companies all inducement should be held out to carry into effect the object in view, by granting the right to construct across government land, and to build stations on it, and a grant from the public treasury in aid of such undertakings, subjecting such lines to the approval of the Governor before the opening thereof for public use. And that those resolutions be embodied in a petition to both Houses of Parliament, praying them to pass an Act to carry it into effect, and that the representatives for George be furnished with copies of the resolutions." 2. That, in the opinion of this Council, it is desirable that all encouragement should be given to carry into effect the most beneficial irrigation scheme calculated to benefit the colony at large. The private companies have the right to construct reservoirs at any river on Government land, and cut water-furrows across it, to lead water to such places where they may have contracted with the proprietor supply thereof. That the Governor of the colony may, after having consulted the Divisional Council, advance such sums of money from the general revenue as the Divisional Council may recommend to any person who may feel inclined to improve his property by constructing dams for hoarding water, reservoirs for irrigation purposes, &c.; and that such loan be first mortgaged on the property so improved, bearing interest at the rate of five per cent per annum, redeemable at seven years from the date of bond, or by three months' previous notice by the borrower. That these resolutions be embodied in a petition to both Houses of Parliament praying for the passing of an Act accordingly.

THE PAYER CASE.—A correspondent at Bedford writes as follows:—"This case has been completely and utterly smashed on preliminary examination. Only half of the witnesses for the prosecution were heard when the collapse took place; the rest were never called, and, of course, no one for the defence. There is not a shadow of a charge remaining against Payer in the opinion of all who heard the case. He is on nominal bail, pending reference to Cape Town—but everybody knows what that means." There are very few indeed who will not be glad to find Mr. Payer's fair fame entirely freed from the charge brought against him. And there are very few who will not be equally glad to see Mr. Nightingale removed from Bedford to a place where he may learn experience, without injury to any one but himself. A Transvaal magistracy would be more suitable to his peculiar talents; although even there a little wisdom and some patience would not be wholly out of place. We observe from the *Courant* that a petition for the removal of this officer is being signed by some gentlemen of the Bedford district. The *Graaf-Reinet Advertiser*, in an article on "The Colonial Magistrates," says,—"The present system of raising young, inexperienced men to the magistracy bench will have to undergo a change before long. It cannot last; its own absurdities will be the death of it." Possibly Mr. Nightingale may find himself elevated to the dignified position of being the cause of magistracy reform, if not to that of a reformer.—*Journal.*

CIVILISATION, no doubt, has its disadvantages, especially for that ingenious class of individuals whose wits are their only property, and who propose to themselves to realize a comfortable subsistence out of that small estate. Law, and order, and circuit courts, and cleared judges, and stern juries, are sad foes to those undisciplined beings who hold the simple creed that the world being an oyster, they have nothing to do but open the oyster in question with the keen knife of their intellect. This, we believe, has been regarded by Bohemians generally as a dogma entitled to as much respect as any of the dogmas of our theologians; but, unfortunately, there are heretics in the world as well as in the Church, and a want of faith in humbug is beginning to be a lamentable characteristic of the judges of the land.

Let us take an instance. Only on Wednesday last, last Basuto, rejoicing in the *nom de guerre* of Nekani, was charged before Mr. Justice Denysse, and a jury of nine good men and true, with theft, committed by means of false pretences, was the harsh name applied to the legitimate exercise of Nekani's craft. It appears, according to his simple statement, that he was called in to minister to the diseased bodies of certain Tambookies. Although he had not graduated in any recognised school of medicine, his ability as a practitioner was acknowledged, and the fact that his patients recovered may, perhaps, be considered some proof of his skill in the art of healing. However this may be, no sooner had he finished the good work for which he had been specially summoned, than he was called upon by his patients, who were suffering from drought, to "make rain." He promised to do his best to meet their wishes, demanding in return for his services, the very moderate remuneration of two black sheep. The sheep were given and slaughtered, and eaten by the learned doctor, in company with the old women of the neighbourhood; and then, with a mask of white clay, and a bone a foot in length—which came "from the heavens"—about his neck, the worthy conjuror commenced his incantations. The rain, however, as he plaintively observed, was "hard"—as a matter of fact, it was so hard as to be perfectly inexorable. The sheep were eaten, the rites were duly performed, but the heavens were as brass. Thereupon a faithless generation brought about the apprehension of Nekani, a hard-hearted jury convicted him, and a sceptical judge sentenced him to five years hard labour.

And, in the face of this, the respectable Holloway still pays £30,000 a year for advertising, keeps his carriage, and maintains a large establishment! The "art of putting things" was the subject of one of the best essays of one of the best essayists of our time. He maintained that anyone might say anything, provided always that he was careful how he said it. There is obviously also an "art of doing things." You may swindle the public—oh, ingenious adventurer!—to any extent you please in a certain way; but beware how you take sheep for the purpose of making rain, or you may be deprived for five years of the congenial delights of white clay and long bones—to say nothing of hot mutton, eaten in the society of elderly ladies.—*Q. T. Representative.*

FRIGHTFUL DEATH.—A little boy, about twelve or thirteen years of age, the son of Mr. Philip du Plessis, met with his death a few days since, at the Klaas Smit-River, not far from Lesevton, in a very shocking manner. He

was driving a wagon containing grain to the mill when, by some accident, he fell, and the hinder wheel of the wagon passed over his head, completely crushing it, and killing him on the spot.—*Ibid.*

UITENHAGE.—SHEEP STEALING IN THE TOWN.—A daring theft was perpetrated at the kraal of Messrs. Hendricks & Lucas, butchers, John Street, on Friday night when two fat hams were slaughtered in the kraal and carried off. Next morning Constable Renburg was informed of the robbery and at once commenced an investigation. In a hut at the Kaba he found the meat of two fat hams and a woman gave him such information as led to the apprehension of a hottenpot and a half caste named respectively Klaas Rooy and Hendrick Africaner, in whose possession the meat was found. They were made to carry the stolen meat up to the Court, and have since been committed for trial.—*Uitenhage Times.*

GRAAF-REINET.—The pasturage everywhere about is now in splendid condition. Hope has returned to our farmers and with it courage to embark their remaining capital and credit in the hire or purchase of stock. There were several applicants for the hire of the 1,200 ewes advertised in this paper last week by the Board of Extension. A couple of months ago no one but the Deputy Sheriff would think of offering sheep for sale, and those he had the unpleasant necessity of offering went for almost nothing. In consequence of the heavy losses of stock sustained by many farmers in Camdeboo and Ruggens sheep are now sure to find a ready sale at good prices.—*G. E. Advertiser.*

A RUN FOR LIFE.—A few days ago, a young Kafir, about 14 years of age, was sent by his master, who resides upon the farm "Leg Kraal," in the Middelburg district, into the veld with some sheep. During the day whilst himself concealed from observation, he saw four Kafirs approaching the flock. It was not long before these gentlemen singled out a fat ham slaughtered it, made a fire, and roasted a large portion of the meat. This they soon disposed of, with an appetite probably sharpened by three or four days abstinence and plenty of open-air exercise to assist digestion. Taking up the surplus mutton, they marched off in the direction of the herd whom they soon discovered. Having less faith in their countrymen (through knowing them better) than their "shining lights" of Exeter Hall manifest, he no sooner saw that he was discovered than off he started, as fast as his legs could carry him, in the direction of the homestead. The Kafirs at once gave chase, pelting him with sticks and stones. At last, whilst jumping over a sluit, he was hit in the back with a large stone, and fell into it. On scrambling out, he was agreeably surprised to see the Kafir making off. He soon reached home and told his master, who quickly set out and followed in pursuit taking his "gun with him, but returned after an unsuccessful search. He then went to Middelburg, and the police were sent out, but with no better success. Since this affair, Mr. F. cannot prevail upon his servants to take the stock to any distance from the house, and has incurred a further loss of sheep in consequence, through starvation.—*Craddock Register.*

FREE STATE.—The President was expected to repair to the river at Thaba Bosigo last Monday—Melville has at last been discharged from custody on his own recognizance as appears if called upon. From the evidence taken before the landroest, which is published in *De Tyd*, it would appear that the death of the chairman arose from pure accident.—The Rev. Mr. Cresswell, Wesleyan missionary, and family, late of Thaba Nchu, passed through Bloemfontein for Burgersdorp on Thursday week.—The Bishop of the diocese returning from his visit to Philadelphia and Fauresmith on Wednesday last. The Rev. Mr. Brook, late of Cape Town, is now permanently appointed by the Bishop to Philadelphia. The new church building here is progressing rapidly, and will in a couple of weeks be a fine one.—Mr. Thomas C. 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Capital, £20000 In Shares of £200 each... For the Administration of Properties and Estates...

General Estate and Orphan Chamber.

Deed of Partnership dated 21 March 1856... CAPITAL, £20000 Sterling.

Directors: O. M. BERGH, Esq., Chairman; F. F. H. HOFFMEYER, Esq., Secretary.

Office, No. 42, Adley Street, Cape of Good Hope.

Shipping Intelligence.

ARRIVALS IN TABLE BAY. March 26 - Western Province, 35 tons, A. Kent.

DEPARTURES FROM TABLE BAY. March 21 - To Amsterd., 26 tons, A. Kent.

OPGAAF

Van Koloniaal Oprengst der Slaven... Aloo, Aloes, Apricot, etc.

MARKT PRYZEN

Van den 27 Maart tot den 28 Maart 1856. Aloo per lb., Aloes per lb., Apricot per lb., etc.

voedel. Het eerste wat de roovers hem op syn reis geset kon... Het eerste wat de roovers hem op syn reis geset kon...

De Roovers in Italië.

(Verdelyt uit ons nummer van 1 Maart.) Naauwlyks hadden de roovers met hunne gevangen...

Ut Parys.

Parys, 8 February, 1866. Op dit ogenblik gaat er zeer weinig in Parys om...

SCHAATSCHYFFRESCHEID.

over de zachtheid van het seizoen. "De een zyn brood is echter der anderen zyn dood," zegt...

DE OPENING DER GROOTE TENTOONSTELLING.

alles doodschik zal zyn, daar ieder zyn geld voor die gelegenheid...

DEEREN VAN BATTI, DEN KRUYENSTEMMER.

die zonder uitzondering zeker de moedste van allen is...

ISABELLA.

Allan, die eenige maanden in Parys hebben doorgebragt...

kan in den zomer op byna alle wedrenbaan worden aangevoerd...

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