

TO SUBSCRIBERS AT GRAAFF-REINET. SUBSCRIBERS at Graaff-Reinet are hereby informed that Mr. W. G. ZIEGLER, having resigned, Mr. J. VAN DER VLIET has succeeded him as Agent for the "Zuid-Afrikaan," from the 1st July last.

SOMERSET. MR. C. MOLLER having resigned the Agency for the "Zuid-Afrikaan" at Somerset, any persons wishing to undertake the same, may ascertain the terms thereof on application to the Proprietors. Zuid-Afrikaan Office, Aug. 23, 1846.

THE ZUID-AFRIKAAN.
CAPE TOWN, AUGUST 31, 1846.

On Friday last the Legislative Council met, when the Report of the Committee, relative to the construction of a Breakwater in Table Bay, was read and adopted. The report, together with a copy of the resolution of Council, will be forthwith submitted to His Excellency for approval, and sent home. Mr. MONTAGU remarked, and we concur with him, that it is a strange coincidence that on the very day—just 4 years ago—that the lamentable shipwrecks of the *Waterloo* and *Abercrombie* took place, the report of the Committee, to prevent such disasters in future, should be brought up and adopted by the Council.

Whilst fully concurring in the Report of the Committee, we beg to be distinctly understood, that we, and the whole Colony with us, are entirely averse to the introduction of convicts on any other condition than that expressed in the Municipal Petition; and we take this opportunity of stating, that in our opinion the report should have had a more direct reference to this subject. We repeat, what we have stated in a former number, that if the Breakwater is to be obtained by the liberation of convicts in this Colony, it will be most dearly purchased. Or is it too much when we say, in the words of a contemporary, that "liberated convicts only go to recruit the ranks of our outdoor, professional criminals;—that all our Colonies, but one, refuse them; and all refuse to become the moral jakes and dung-hill of England?" Besides, no penal colony—or colony in which convicts are once introduced or let loose—will ever command the attention of the government or secure the sympathies of the representatives of the people in Parliament. A convict colony is ever subject to neglect and injustice—it is left entirely to the thralldom of the Colonial Office, and on these, and many other grounds, we beg to protest against the introduction of convicts in our colony, either for the construction of a Breakwater, or any other purpose, except under the express condition and stipulation, that they be not liberated in this settlement. Other colonies have felt and groan under the baneful effects of such liberation, and we desire to be spared a similar fate.

The Frontier Papers which came to hand by the Post of Thursday last, contain but little intelligence with respect to the state of affairs in that quarter; nor could anything of importance be expected when it is recollected that the main division has suspended further operations for the present.

The *Graham's Town Journal* gives all the official despatches which have reached head quarters, respecting the combined movements of the several divisions on the Amatola, the Buffalo Poorts and Murray's Rook; but as they are only confirmatory of the various accounts which have already been before the public, we pass them over, giving the preference to those communications which are of later date, and consequently calculated to convey a better idea of the present state of affairs both within and beyond the colonial boundary.

From these accounts it will be seen that the General is encamped near the Buffalo and Amatola Mountains, and Colonel HARE at Fort Cox. Col. SOMERSET has returned to Fort Peddie to recruit, and Col. JOHNSTONE having joined Sir ANDREW STOKENSTROM, both these officers, with about 3000 infantry, have moved on towards the Kei for the purpose of capturing cattle. Messengers from some of the Chiefs had arrived at the camp to sue for peace, but their overtures were very properly rejected, and the reply given, that if the Chiefs were really sincere, they might prove it by delivering themselves up as prisoners of war.

Another instance of Kafir barbarity had occurred in the murder of not less than fourteen Hottentots who had imprudently wandered a great distance from the Camp in search of Kafir corn—or plunder, as it is elsewhere termed. These poor men were unexpectedly surrounded by a host of savages and cruelly butchered. Patrols were immediately sent out to the spot, but the offenders had decamped. Only one body had been found.

It would also appear that the Kafirs in the immediate vicinity of the British Camp are equally expert cattle stealers, and even more daring than those visiting this side of the border. "Four or five spans of oxen in the employ of the Commissariat," the account states, "having been *adroitly* carried off by Kafir marauders." They are really a matchless race these Kafirs, when, in sight of the British Camp, and within the range of the British guns, they cannot be prevented from "adroitly" carrying off the British cattle, whilst the British troops (comparatively speaking) cannot get a chance of capturing theirs!

Thus much as regards the state of affairs beyond the boundary. Within the same, it would appear, a little improvement, or rather, some relaxation on the part of the Kafirs, has occurred during the past week. In saying this much, we beg to be distinctly understood as not referring to the general state of things, but merely to the number of thefts committed, and the success which in some instances has attended the purgers. No real improvement in the state of affairs, generally, we think, can be expected, before the Fish River Bush is entirely cleared of the Kafirs, or before the last head of cattle is swept from the Eastern Districts. So long as they can find shelter in the first, and obtain plunder within the latter, it would be almost supernatural to expect that they would shrink from or abandon that which seems to be inherent to them, namely, murder and rapine.

"The people of Tola and Umhala," all the Kafir messengers agree, "are still in the Fish River Bush." But can't they be got out of it? The future must solve this question!

We are glad to find from General Orders by the Commander-in-Chief, that some consideration has at length been shown to the burgher force in the field, and that they will henceforth be supplied with "regiment of coffee, sugar, flour, salt, tobacco, and soap."

According to private letters received in town, it appears that Sir BENJAMIN D'URBAN reached England in good health on the 6th of June, after a passage of 58 days.

FRONTIER INTELLIGENCE.

(From the *Graham's Town Journal*, Aug. 23.)

TUESDAY.—Received information that some small parties of Kafir marauders had been seen near Salem and Farnersfield, and who had captured a good many cattle, and some horses. On Friday, the 16th inst., 104 head of cattle belonging to Farmered, were captured while in the field; but fortunately the parties who attempted to possess themselves of a train of wagons on their way from the Keis Mouth to Graham's Town, the persons with which, to the amount of 13 or 14, headed by two sons of Mr. J. J. Fuller, joined them, following the marauders into the dense Koro Bush, where they were ultimately overtaken; four Kafirs were seen and fired at, but the whole escaped; leaving behind them a gun, four iron trunks (boxes), and many articles. The whole of the cattle were retained. We learn, however, that a day or two previous to this party of thirty Kafirs, belonging to Mr. Gravatt's Station, were successfully carried off. It was also, that while one party from Farnersfield went off in one direction in pursuit of the 104 cattle, another party, under a native named Debuta, proceeded to a different point, where they took up a position in the passes by which it was supposed the marauders would emerge from the thicket. Though disappointed in one respect, they nevertheless were so successful in intercepting the train, with their horses loaded with provisions, that they were enabled to possess themselves of the property belonging to the Rev. W. Shaw and Mr. J. Harvey, and which had been sent from Farnersfield. The marauders were fired at, but succeeded nevertheless in getting into the bush. During the absence of Debuta, however, on this service, it appears that another party of Kafirs contrived to seize thirty head of his cattle, and with which they succeeded in getting off. Received also the following report:—

On Sunday last, the 16th inst., the spot of cattle which was discovered on the flat near Mr. Currie's house, and which was followed by a party, consisting of six Cape Mounted Riflemen and three Burghers, under command of Mr. J. Goldswain, of Bathurst. The spot described a most tortuous route, evidently taken with the design of baffling pursuit. Night coming on, the party rode to a well-known Kafir pass on the Fish River, where they lay for several days, but without meeting with any success. On the morning the pursuit was renewed, the party being reinforced by Capt. Lowe and nine men of the Stellenbosch force stationed at Wray Plains. The track was then followed up the precipitous heights of the Kap near Mahoney's, until near Purell's it turned short off through the Koro forest, where a fire made by the marauders was found still blazing. They then wound round the hill near Frazer's Camp, and thence after making another double for about two miles, they entered the Fish River bush in the direction of the Commissariat. Still following on this track, the pursuing party had forced their way through the thick bush for a distance of about two miles, when at length their perseverance and intrepidity were rewarded by a sight of the enemy, and of the cattle they were pursuing. The party then dismounted, and prepared for a brush, but the marauders, being apprised of this movement by one of their scouts, the cattle were abandoned and the enemy took to flight, about fifteen miles having been seen, but this did not comprise the whole of their force, and which, from the denseness of the bush, it was impossible accurately to estimate. Many shots were fired by the pursuers, and it is affirmed that several Kafirs must have been struck, and one or two mortally wounded, the blood spoor being distinctly seen leading from the spot where they were when fired upon into the thick bush. Twenty-five head of cattle were retained, and are supposed to be those captured from Farnersfield, before mentioned. The Kafirs were so exhausted by over driving that the explorers were obliged to shoot them. The Stellenbosch Burghers behaved in this pursuit with the same gallantry as has earned for them so much credit in the present warfare.

WEDNESDAY.—Post arrived from Kaffirland this evening, via Fish River Mouth, brings the intelligence of the loss of fourteen of our men, killed by the Kafirs. The particulars of this affair show that our men cannot be too wary of the Kafir enemy, and that though he has retired, and will not face our troops, yet that he is watching with the malignant eye of the panther, their every movement, and will take every opportunity which may present itself stealthily to spring upon any who may incautiously place themselves within his reach. The details of this unfortunate catastrophe are given in the following communication:—

Col. Johnston and Sir Andrew Stokenson were on their way on with near 3000 men, with twenty wagons of provisions, they go on until they come up with the Kafir cattle. I am afraid they will do but little, as they have no mounted force. Col. Johnston is I think, about the best officer we have in the field, so that if they have an opportunity of doing anything, they will try their best. A few days ago twenty-one wagon drivers left the General's camp, to go in search of Kafir corn; but when they had got about eight miles off, seven of them returned thinking that it was not prudent for them to go any further from the camp. All the Hottentots persisted, and went on until they found that they were surrounded by a large body of Kafirs. Only one of the party escaped, the thirteen were all butchered. About two weeks ago the Kafirs killed three poor Hottentot lads, who went out after some goats; their bodies were found and buried at the camp. It appears that since that time the Kafirs have been the bodies out of the graves, first mentioned, and then carried them to the Buffalo River, and hung them on a tree at the drift, through which the troops had to pass.

Umhala and Mazona have again sent in for peace, but their messengers were not allowed to enter the camp, and were driven off. It is supposed that when Col. Johnston returns from the Kei the Governor will recommence operations. This will probably be in October.

From another quarter we have the following:—

Capt. Hogg's 7th Dragoon Guards arrived with express from Col. Hare, to the effect that Mazona had sent in to sue for peace, stating that they had been killed on both sides; that the ploughing season was fast passing away; and that they wished the troops to return home, that he might return to his place near Fort Beaufort. The General is so far as a peace is concerned, ready to receive them, but he has already forbidden his cattle. Nothing can equal the firmness and decision of the General towards the Kafirs; while to all to camp his kind and unassuming attention makes him a general favorite. He always finds a patient ear to our little grievances and complaints, while he bears an equal share of our privations and hardships all have to endure. He notes out that just treatment to the Kafirs they have so long merited. Women are constantly coming into camp, some with the excuse of begging, and others to ask for food. 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