





THE ZUID-AFRIKAAN.

CAPE TOWN, DECEMBER 4, 1848.

It will be observed from the subjoined Resolutions, adopted by an unusually large meeting of the inhabitants of Graham's Town, that they have taken a high ground with reference to the proposed Militia Bill...

The time for the long desired alteration in the constitution of the Colonial Legislature, cannot be far distant;—there is no immediate necessity to effect the contemplated change in the law in question...

The following are the Resolutions alluded to:—"That it is the opinion of this Meeting, it is not expedient or required by public exigency, that the proposed draft for amending the existing Burgher Ordinance should pass into law...

The Memorial of the inhabitants of Tulbagh, elsewhere inserted, is entitled to the serious consideration of the government. Their prayer should be immediately granted. The residents in any particular division are undoubtedly the best guardians of the funds contributed by them for a specific object...

SYNODAL DEPUTATION TO THE COUNTRIES BEYOND THE ORANGE RIVER.

Knowing the anxiety of many of our readers to be made acquainted with the proceedings of the Revs. Messrs. Faure and Robertson, we have much pleasure in giving publicity to the following extract of a letter from the Rev. Dr. Robertson, dated "Poortje," Boven Riet River, 20th Nov. 1848...

"It is to day a month since my colleague and myself left Swellendam; and I am happy to say, that we have now finished the services of our fourth preaching station. On the 9th and 10th instant we had Divine Service at 'Groenskloof' the residence of Mr. William Jacobs...

When we think of the little that is required to remove all these heart burnings and check this progressive ruin among the best class of men, is it not shameful to delay? The registration system, and other improvements suggested by Messrs. Faure and Robertson, would effect it all. We shall next look upon those who oppose them, as the enemies of the Colonist.

of seeing and speaking, not only with the parents of the children, but with all intending communicants. I trust, however, that our labours will not be in vain in the Lord; and the inhabitants have everywhere received us with the utmost kindness...

Original Correspondence.

Ma. Error.—One needs a "brave man" to face such a set of Hornets that have been roused by the unpalatable truths of the "English Farmer." It must be a lame cause indeed when such advocates are employed, as figure in the Commercial Advertiser, to defend the lazy system, of the Political Missionaries...

These men (many of them) occupy the time they should devote to christian labours, in unchristian controversies in newspapers (batting the law, instead of the devil, who is reaping a fine harvest among them in the mean time).

AN ENGLISH FARMER.

Riversdale, Nov. 27, 1848. Sir,—In your paper of the 23d inst, I perceive a letter signed Geo. Rattray, in which the writer attempts to cast aspersions upon the conduct of your paper of the 13th inst. He also volunteers me some advice for which I thank him, but at the same time hope to be able to prove, that it is more applicable to himself, as follows:—"The Civil Commissioner's letter, to which he alludes, directed the Fieldcornets not to receive road rates after the end of April (not the 1st March as stated by Mr. Rattray)...

lately, the mass of filthy, black, vile mortals that swarm in the alleys, and outskirts of the town would soon call them into action, or any other malignant epidemic, the town would suffer the penalty of infringing the natural and moral laws and laws which too late, the justice of the "English Farmer's" remonstrances against such an abuse of power, and drive out the thousands of able bodied idle vagabonds to useful work in the country...

It is high time we returned to something like healthy and sensible courses, abandoning those speculative theories that have been shocked their authors in effect, altho' they have made liberal converts to our way of thinking...

As long as man remains constituted as he now is, there must be distinctions of class, for men's capacities and faculties vary so much that it is a law of nature incontrovertible. The Legislature who contents himself or its party with expedients or experiments, is not fit for such responsible duties. Enlightened men will not be satisfied with anything short of sound principles founded upon human nature, and its relations compatible with matter of fact daily life.

It is by no means a new thing, that the descendants of the present labourer become gentlemen. The path upwards is steep and strong, to be sure. Industry, care, skill, excellence, in the present world, are the only means of rising above one's station...

He also says, "the state of the laborer has its advantages that no other condition in life can compare to, free from the torments of ambition, equal, and ill health, which all the riches of the world would not compensate for the loss of it."

Poverty leads to crime and the labours of many of the Missionaries have had a tendency to pauperize the community they have been at work upon, by withdrawing them from those useful and profitable kinds of labor, they should have taught them to be content with. Many of the Missionaries were tradesmen, such as blacksmiths, tailors, carpenters, &c. Such useful trades, by demonstrating industry and application to the productive community at large, would be a direct and salutary stimulus, as the people of England intended should have been given, would indeed have proved a blessing to the society; they were sent to labour among them. There are yet among them men who, while they were teaching the natives to make bricks, wild iron, and make implements of husbandry, were eminently happy and successful in their callings...

AN HONEST CODFISH.

A sloop, belonging to Rothsay, was recently lying in Lochroom, the skipper of which, when fishing over the side, lost the keys of his lockers, &c., from his pocket into 10 fathoms of water. Attached to the bunch was a small piece of parchment, on which his name and that of the vessel were written. He, of course, gave up all hopes of ever seeing the written. He, of course, gave up all hopes of ever seeing the skipper cast anchor off the island of Rassay, about 100 miles from Lochroom and again resumed his piscatory employment. Among the results of his labours was a large codfish, which was speedily unhooked and thrown upon the deck, and to the utter amazement of the skipper, when he saw that when he had brought any letters for him from the Customs of Port Natal, they were busy writing them, when I cleared, but Customs House Lists, wrote them rather too leisurely for me to wait!" We know not whether the hint was taken by the Collector.

at foot, the names of the defendants in these cases. Several of the defendants, in the remaining cases against whom judgment was given, have found their receipts since the 2d, and I have no doubt many more will find theirs. As to the point whether Mr. Theunissen had or had not authority to receive road rates, I must say I cannot see what it has to do with the justice of the case. Surely his production of the Civil Commissioner's and Mr. Rattray's receipts, ought to satisfy any reasonable mind; that they had received the amounts for which I produced receipts.

4th. I now come to Mr. Rattray's last and gravest charge against me, wherein he states, that the Civil Commissioner never granted a receipt for £15, for Riversdale, and infers from this, that Mr. Theunissen could not have produced such a receipt in Court. In reply to this, I herewith enclose the identical receipt produced by Mr. Theunissen in Court for £15, signed by the Civil Commissioner and countersigned by Mr. Rattray himself! It is true, as stated by Mr. Rattray, that no erf of Mr. Steyn is liable to £15, but Mr. Theunissen when he gave in his list to the Civil Commissioner, thought that this was the amount for which Mr. Steyn's property was liable, but afterwards finding, that Mr. Steyn's property, being six erf, was liable to £13 4, he paid Mr. Rattray the balance 8s. 4d. in presence of several witnesses, and yet Mr. Steyn was summoned.

I must now, in justice to Mr. Rattray, correct an error into which I was led in my first letter. I stated in it that 22 cases were withdrawn out of Court. I find on enquiry that eight is the correct number, making in all 28 cases withdrawn in, and out of Court.

It is very evident, that great blunders have been made, and much public money wasted, and in present recurrence of these mistakes I would advise the formation of a separate Board for this District of Riversdale, or if this cannot be effected, the appointment of competent persons to manage the accounts of the several Boards.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY LIEUT. GEN. SIR H. G. SMITH, RT. GEN.

The Memorial of the undersigned inhabitants of the Tulbagh District.

HUMBLE SHEWETH.—That the New Kloof Pass has existed as a road for upwards of one hundred years and is indispensable for the District of Tulbagh and the public in general. That great inconvenience is felt not only by the inhabitants of this district, but likewise by the inhabitants of the interior, who are obliged to pass through the New Kloof to Cape Town and the Districts of the Paarl, Malenburgh, Stellenbosch and Wynberg.

That the pass through the New Kloof, which is only a distance of three miles, is level. That proceeding from Mesterd Hoek to Cape Town, both the Breede and Klein Berg Rivers are avoided, both of which in the winter season at times are very dangerous to pass. That the inhabitants of this district and travellers from the interior to Cape Town and the abovementioned districts find good outspan places on that road every two hours.

That for some time past a place called "Lichtenburg," situated midway between Paardeberg and D'Urban was purchased at considerable expense by the inhabitants of this district and other districts for an outspan place, the same being in direct line to Cape Town and Stellenbosch, which has abundance of water throughout the year.

That on account of the advantageous situation and short distance of the pass through the New Kloof or "Roois Zand," the expense and time will not require one sixtieth part of the proposed road through Bains Kloof. That the Fieldcornet of 24 Rivers is under the jurisdiction of this district and that the New Kloof is a road which has access to the Magistrate's Court and parish Church.

That the mails from Cape Town, Stellenbosch, Paarl and Wellington, to Tulbagh, Mesterd's Hoek, Worcester, Piquetberg and Clanwilliam cannot with any possible advantage pass any other road than the New Kloof. That Memorialists have noticed in the Government Gazette of the 27th April last that a road through Bains Kloof will be completed, and that the Bains Kloof is recommended as being advantageous to the inhabitants of the District of Tulbagh, more especially to the Fieldcornets of the Warm and Cold Bokkeveld.

That on account of the reasons above stated, the Bains Kloof will wholly tend to the disadvantage of the Tulbagh and other districts. Year Memorialists therefore humbly pray that your Excellency may be graciously pleased to take this subject into further consideration and cause a commission to be appointed to inspect and investigate the truth of the above allegations and have the mail pass put in proper repair, which, in case your Excellency may be pleased to accede to their request will not only be advantageous to this district, but also a great saving of expense to the public at large.

And your Memorialists as in duty bound will ever pray.

D. J. DE VAAL, H. A. MOOREES, S. A. DU TOIT, J. A. THERON, and others.

Tulbagh, May 6, 1848.

Reply to the Memorial of certain Inhabitants of the Tulbagh District.

Praying that the New Kloof Pass may be put in proper repair. Memorialists are informed, that the Divisional Road Board should have been applied for the improvements suggested. Colonial Office, 3th May 30, 1848.

By His Excellency's Command, (Signed) JOHN MONTAGU.

Messrs J. de Vaal, H. A. Moorees, S. A. du Toit, J. A. Theron.

Office of the Divisional Board of Public Roads, Worcester, 2nd September, 1845.

Sir,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 1st instant, accompanied by copy of Memorial, and reply thereto, presented to Government by certain inhabitants of Tulbagh, on the subject of the Tulbagh or Roois Zand Kloof, and am directed to state in answer, that the Board's attention has already been called to that Kloof, and that they will continue as far as lies in their power, to keep the same in a proper state of repair.

I have the honor to be, Sir, &c. J. A. MUNNIK, Secretary.

D. J. de Vaal, Esq., Tulbagh.

A Skipper the other day, at a Custom House, not 100 miles from Cape Town, being asked by the Collector of Customs "whether he had brought any letters for him from the Customs of Port Natal?" replied very coolly—"Oh! no! they were busy writing them, when I cleared, but Customs House Lists, wrote them rather too leisurely for me to wait!" We know not whether the hint was taken by the Collector.

AN HONEST CODFISH.

A sloop, belonging to Rothsay, was recently lying in Lochroom, the skipper of which, when fishing over the side, lost the keys of his lockers, &c., from his pocket into 10 fathoms of water. Attached to the bunch was a small piece of parchment, on which his name and that of the vessel were written. He, of course, gave up all hopes of ever seeing the written. He, of course, gave up all hopes of ever seeing the skipper cast anchor off the island of Rassay, about 100 miles from Lochroom and again resumed his piscatory employment. Among the results of his labours was a large codfish, which was speedily unhooked and thrown upon the deck, and to the utter amazement of the skipper, when he saw that when he had brought any letters for him from the Customs of Port Natal, they were busy writing them, when I cleared, but Customs House Lists, wrote them rather too leisurely for me to wait!" We know not whether the hint was taken by the Collector.

To the Commissioners of the Central Road Board of Cape Town.

RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH.—That on the 6th May last, a public meeting was held at Tulbagh, with the sanction of the Government, to have the

• This list contains the names of twenty different parties.—

† This receipt, granted by the Civil Commissioner and countersigned by Mr. Rattray, but too clearly proves that the £15 alluded to, was really paid over by Mr. Theunissen.—

