





Verbondenheids... dat alles op den 6 September aanteekende, in orde zijn zal...

Wij hebben het van den aanvang bekend, en wy hebben het nog, dat het aannemelijk ook in vele opzichten...

Intekenings lieten tegen ten dien einde, aan het Kantoor van dit blad, op het Stadhuis, in de Zuid-Afrikaansche Koloniale en Union Bank...

De Mary Ray, op II. Zaterdag van Madras aangekomen, heeft tyding gehad dat een heilige orkan aldaar op den 29 Mei had gewoed...

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NOTICE.

NOTICE is hereby given that Mr. M. A. ...

ZUID-AFRIKAAN.

CAPE TOWN, AUGUST 5, 1850.

PRESUMING that on the 6th September next, every- thing will be in proper trim...

We have maintained from the first, and we still maintain, that however acceptable in many re- spects...

This point, therefore, amongst several others, to which attention will be called in due season...

In our opinion it is absolutely necessary that this question should be duly decided, and thus the real merits of the great and important change...

But, is it necessary to leave the consideration of this point exclusively to the Legislative Council?

It is to be feared, however, that the delay of every moment is an injury to the Colony in all respects...

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In connection with the above subject, the control of the Civil List, we have copied the following well written article from the Port Elizabeth Telegraph...

We look forward with much interest to the period when the new members of the Legislative Council shall assemble...

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The following distressing notice is recommended to public attention:—

A Mr. Kaye, tenant in the families of two gentle- men residing near Cape Town, left his lodgings and effects on Monday, the 22nd July, avowedly with the intention of proceeding to France...

On Saturday last his absence was discovered by one of his friends calling at his lodgings. Some accident being feared, enquiries have been anxiously made, but as yet without success.

"ARMS CONTRA."—On Monday morning last, a private of the Artillery corps was brought before the Baron de Lottin, charged with having created a disturbance on the previous Saturday night...

ANNEXATION.—A tract of land, about 150 square miles in extent, lying east of Albert division, and west of the Wilge River, has just been annexed to the colony...

ORANGE RIVER SOVEREIGNTY. Within the present week a considerable quantity of produce from the Orange River Sovereignty has been brought down and sold on the Graham's Town market...

THE FARMERS OVER THE VAAL. Mr. McCabe was on his farm near Mooi River D on the 23rd ult. he was anxiously looking for an answer to his letter to the authorities relative to his trial and unlawful detention...

THE PUNJAUB. We understand that Colonel George Lawrence, Commissioner at Peshawar, having received intelligence of a large body of Afreesies being assembled in a hostile attitude towards the Komal valley...

JAVA. By H. N. M. Steamer Batavia, accounts have been received from Batavia to the 28th ult. The news this month are more than usual interest.

From the Port Elizabeth Mercury, July 31. We have to remind our readers in the Eastern Province, in anticipation of the session of the Legislative Council in Cape Town, of the closer connection existing between a Separate Government for this Province and the appropriation of the Colonial Revenue...

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DESTRUCTION OF NINE PIRATICAL JUNKS BY THE MEDEA. We have been favoured by an eye witness with the following account of the Medea's action with pirates. A smart and well-armed expedition: the time occupied from the first order to get up steam until anchor was dropped on returning to Hongkong being 23 hours.

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DREADFUL EXPLOSION AT BENARES.

It is with deep regret that we publish the following narrative of a dreadful catastrophe at Benares, on the night of the 1st instant:—

"It is with regret that we publish an account of a most fearful accident, which took place last night, at 10 past 10 precisely, at Raj Ghat, Benares. I shall give you particulars in as short a space as I possibly can, from observations and information witnessed and derived on the spot. Whilst seated with a friend in the compound of his house at Benares, 51 miles from Raj Ghat, with my face to the east, my attention was drawn to a sudden illumination in the distance, which was followed by a deafening crash, accompanied with a terrific noise, inasmuch that some of the windows were blown in, and the glass was broken in short compass of the space of glass was falling out of the windows at this distance. Within two or three minutes of the first, we had a second flash, accompanied as before with a loud, only less severe. With the illumination still existing I entered my room and saw that it must have been the explosion of one and all our minds that it must have been the explosion of a mortar, and the more so at the evening had been exploded by a friend, and asked him to accompany him to Raj Ghat to witness the dreadful havoc of property, and to aid in alleviating the suffering of the wounded, occasioned by the explosion, which had destroyed the Rajah Ghat Hotel, (a building last erected by Messrs. Tait and Charles, of Benares, for the convenience and accommodation of strangers and travellers) at an expense I should imagine to be 30,000 Rs. The foundation of which was 40 feet deep, and constructed of a solid stone, which has stood unshaken, though the walls, roof, doors, and windows, are a mass of entire ruin. On proceeding to the water's edge, I could perceive on each side of the Hotel, along the banks of the river, the total destruction of houses to an extent of 1,000,000 yards, and about 40 miles in length. The River presented the most fearful appearance, over a surface of 500 yards along the bank. Besides the boats, Messrs. Crump and Co. of Calcutta have suffered severely, in the loss of 15 boats, out of 20, laden with beer, &c., and out of the remaining seven boats, five have foundered, together with a great many others, the extent of which is beyond time to ascertain. I suppose the loss must be at least 50 or 70, totally blown up or sunk. Brigadier Lloyd, of Benares, had his pinance blown to pieces, whilst lying at anchor close by. A country boat, which had been thrown a distance of 500 yards, and now lies in the centre of the river. It would occupy me the whole day were I to attempt to describe minutely the destruction caused."

"I will proceed to the most painful part—the loss of lives, which is averaged at 100, exclusive of those buried in the ruins, and which are being dug up, and which I am afraid will be another 100. I will give you a list of the names of the unfortunate sufferers who have come to an untimely death. The Rev. Mr. Small has lost his poor wife by a fall on her head, occasioned by the shock; a Mr. Howard, who was asleep in one of Messrs. Crump and Co.'s boats with her husband, is not forthcoming, and is supposed to have been blown to pieces or sunk—Mr. H. has however escaped miraculously. The families of some four or five hundred persons, who were on the spot all night, the latter with fatal consequences, having the dying and wounded removed to the hospital as fast as possible, and paying no attention or exertion towards the saving of the remains of their property, would be sick and wounded were conveyed to the hospital."

"So far as correspondents' statements may have been the cause of this calamity, arising from the folly and imprudence of mooring boats loaded with goods, and of a heart of a populous city. We do not know what orders of Government are in force on the subject, but we should suppose that those in charge of ammunition must have peremptory orders to keep the boats which have gunpowder on board apart from the rest, and never to step within a reasonable distance of the boats, or to be near the powder. The powder requires that it should be in small boats liable to catch fire at any moment; but this is of small consequence, when compared with the misery caused to so many innocent families by such culpable carelessness. It is probable that those in charge of this list of boats have perished, and are beyond the reach of either inquiry or punishment, but inquiry might most certainly be made as to the instructions given in regard to the charge of ammunition, and if the precautions indicated are insufficient, an instant change should be made."

"We reflect in passing through the city of Lucknow in Holland, using a large vacant space which were intended for a left without buildings, in perpetual remembrance of the destruction of those which stood there in the year 1810, by the blowing up of a fire in the French army. Several hundred persons there perished, and the destruction of property was immense. It might be thought that one such example would have been a sufficient warning for a century, but nations, like individuals, will not learn by the experience of others."

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"As for the letter calculating the loss of lives in the boats alone at 420 men. Of those who were in the boats, we never saw at the Ghat this morning, and behold a sight I hope never to see again. Two heaps of blood-mangled corpses, each containing about 200 bullets. Besides the hotel, the houses of several Europeans were destroyed, that of Mr. Smith and the Rev. Mr. Sewell's both totally destroyed. Mr. Gordon's much injured, hardly a house in the whole city is uninjured." The writer adds—"There is a standing order that powder boats shall not be moored at the city. If the boats had been moored on the opposite side, there would have been nothing left but the name. The bank at Raj Ghat is 60 to 80 feet high, which naturally protects the city. The accident is supposed to have happened from a boat man's books. The Commodore in charge of the fleet in India, in town, and makes no attempt to escape. He had with him his wife and children, all of whom perished."

"Twelve hundred persons are ascertained to have been taken out of the ruins of the river, dead or wounded, and were occasionally being disinterred at the time our letter was written. Not a house for a mile round the Ghat has escaped without injury."

"Since the above was written, we have received another letter from Benares, dated the 4th instant, from which we extract a few additional particulars. The fire began on board the fifth boat, and was immediately observed by a sentinel on shore, who had busied itself to give the alarm, and arouse a few of the people on board, before the explosion took place. All the boats sank immediately, except the 22nd, which after a minute and a half also exploded. The 4th boat which was in charge of Crump and Co.'s beer, &c., &c., being pulled inensible out of the water, his wife and family perished. The Benares palace, which overlooked the Ghat, is entirely destroyed. She was one of the Royal family of Delhi, and with her family, slaves, and all manner of accoutrements, was in the ruins. Two companies of the 10th B.N.S. were sent out to fire a volley over the Ghat."

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