









THE ZUID-AFRIKAN.

Cape Town, January 20, 1855.

HAVING before demolished the outworks of Mr. Solomon's parliamentary discourse, we now come to his citadel, of which neither the material nor the construction will gain him much credit as an engineer.

First then, as regards the Dutch Reformed Church, let us look to Statement No. 1. "All the Dutch churches have been built without pecuniary assistance from Government, except perhaps £1000 contributed towards the erection of the two Dutch churches in Cape Town, which cost about £35,000."

The former part of this assertion is so far from being correct, that many of the Dutch churches, and those too of our wealthiest villages, have been assisted by government loans from the orphan-chamber. Mr. GUDLONTO, referring to this fact, said in the Legislative Council, on the 17th Dec. 1851: "I find in the papers before me the following memorandum: Loans from the funds of the late orphan chamber to the following churches, and remitted by government in 1843:

- To the Dutch Church at Cal-Don £750
- To the Dutch Church at George 900
- To the Dutch Church at Uitenhage 750
- To the Dutch Church at Somerset 1275
- To the Dutch Church at D'Urban 375."

These loans, it appears, were to be gradually repaid by a church tax, and the congregations had petitioned government to be relieved from the tax.

On the 12th of December of the same year the Attorney General presented a petition from the Churchwardens of the Dutch Reformed Church of George, praying to be empowered by law to levy a tax, not exceeding six shillings upon each member, in order to liquidate a debt upon the church. Does that look like voluntarism?

We also read of a grant of £160 to a church of Mossel Bay in a printed correspondence relative to Government Grants in aid of the Ministers and Churches in the Colony, 1849. That bluebook contains *inter alia* a letter from the Rev. A. FAURE, as Acuarium Synodi, to the Secretary of Government, from which we extract the following passage:

"3. That much dependence cannot be placed upon voluntary contributions, and that the support arising from that source will be precarious, and efficient Ministers, with every desire to labour for the benefit of their fellow men, be held back to undertake pastoral duties in the Dutch Reformed Church, unless aided in another manner, the following facts will prove—

"14. When, on the 17th of the Rev. Dr. Scholtz from Europe, the parishioners of Pikerberg, who were part of his late father's congregation, gave him a call to be their Minister, having the amount of his salary, they were so remiss in fulfilling their engagement, that unless Government, at the urgent request of the Synod, had decreed a salary, he would have been almost without support in that parish.

"15. The stipends of Glen Lynden have not yet paid any part of the stipend promised to the Minister, who, having come to the Colony, is compelled to be satisfied with the small sum allowed him by the Government."

"16. The Rev. Mr. van der Ret, of Mossel Bay, and the Rev. Mr. Ham, at Franscho Hoek, experienced much difficulty in obtaining from their parishioners even the third part of the stipend of Government they promised annually to pay.

"17. I regret to make any personal allusion, but without intending the least offence, I am constrained to state the fact that when I was appointed Minister of Cape Town, and subsequently found that my stipend from Government was only £157 10s. I represented to the Consistory the impossibility of supporting myself and family from it, but to no purpose; not a farthing was added by any voluntary contribution, and I was obliged, although with the sacrifice of my health, to keep a school, as a means of supporting my family.

"18. Moreover, when the Synod resolved that it was the duty of each congregation to provide the incumbent with a dwelling (free) in the neighbourhood of the congregation, and that the elders of the congregation, and a not a stipend has been contributed towards the purchase of the Ministers in Cape Town, which is no small item of expense in this place, although from the Ministers engaging in secular employment, as teaching, &c. it was known to be incumbent on their congregation that their stipends were insufficient to their wants.

As regards building expenses for the two Dutch Reformed Churches in Cape Town, they have not only absorbed all the funds that had accumulated during a series of generations, which after all did not exceed £20,000, but have left a debt on the church, the interest of which absorbs all its revenues, so that from sheer destitution the most numerous christian congregation in the City of Cape Town cannot even boast of a parish school. This is fit to be rather disgraceful, and the members of the church are now making extraordinary exertions to relieve it of the incubus. How soon would this be effected, if only a third of the members had a little of the voluntary spirit of Mr. Solomon! But Mr. S. is a zealot, and we suspect that he was only twisting the Dutch with their want of voluntarism.

The second statement on which we shall remark regards the salaries of the Ministers. It is said that "several Ministers of the Dutch Reformed Church have been in the first instance paid by the people and that this was the case at Wynberg, Wellington and other places." This is true under certain limitations. No clergyman can touch a penny of his salary before his appointment has been sanctioned in England. A twelve month or longer would sometimes elapse between his entering upon his functions and that consummation. To provide for that interval, a few wealthy individuals would combine to raise by subscription a stipend, seldom amounting to more than half a salary, trusting, if not stipulating, that they would not be called on to repeat the sacrifice. Whether the contributions subscribed for were in all cases punctually paid, is a delicate question. The above extract from Mr. FAURE's letter goes far to prove the contrary. However this be, the scanty and temporary provision, made for a clergyman here and there, in the manner alluded to, is not a happy illustration of the voluntary principle.

"The churches of the Paarl, Stellenbosch and Malmesbury &c." says Mr. S., "have balances at interest while they are drawing money from the public revenue." The object of this remark is to show that the money drawn by those churches is innocent. Did Mr. S. reflect that the Dutch

Reformed Churches maintain their poor, and that the interest alluded to can hardly be expected to suffice for that purpose, and at the same time for paying the clergyman?

The Colesberg case need not detain us long. It was a combination of a limited number of wealthy individuals to get rid of a Minister whom they disliked. The personal feeling that, in such a case, reconciles a man to a pecuniary sacrifice, for the satisfaction of having his own way, is very different from that appreciation of religious instruction, which prompts him to contribute annually to the maintenance of a Minister. The Seceders of Tulberg were a similar combination for a similar purpose. It appears that their ardor soon began to flag, for the Consistory is said to have applied to Government for authority to impose a tax.

The story of the Minister of the Paarl coming to Cape Town laden with £1000 in sovereigns for the Theological Seminary, is so evidently a satirical hit at the inertness of the Dutch Reformed Church, that we shall not be at the trouble of seriously refuting it. It is well known that two years ago, only about one-third of the fund required for that seminary had been collected, to which a few hundred pounds may have been added since. £12,000 is the amount required; and we have reason to believe that one-half of that sum has not yet been collected. This then, supposing all members of the Dutch Reformed Church to agree that the said Seminary is really a desideratum, does not say much for voluntarism. But when we reflect that there is in the church a pretty strong opposition party to the Seminary, and that this is as patent to all the world as anything can be, then indeed we are at a loss to guess how the prospects of the Theological Seminary can be alleged as a proof, that the voluntary principle is successful operation among us. Having shown, as far as we are able, that the statements concerning the Dutch Reformed Church are incorrect, it remains for us to show, that those concerning the Roman Catholic and Episcopal churches are valuable.

As regards the Roman Catholic Cathedral, nobody believes that it was built by voluntary contributions. The people of that persuasion in this Colony could not do it, if they would. The Church of Rome is wealthy and never unwilling to contribute towards the erection of Roman Catholic Churches in any part of the world. It is well known also that Mrs. O'FLINN transmitted large sums collected by her in Europe. That the Roman Catholics here are pretty smartly taxed by their Clergy we believe, but whether contributions to a clergy who are believed to have a hold on the souls of people even after death, can with propriety be called voluntary, "demands a doubt." We shall not even point to the doctrine of salvation by works as a powerful agency for obtaining contributions.

We admit that Mr. Solomon has shown that voluntarism is very strong in the English Church; but it is a spurious kind of voluntarism, diametrically opposed in its tendency to what it is in every other church besides. Let us not forget that voluntarism is essentially dissenters, opposed to all connection between church and state; now the object of the would-be voluntaries of the Church of England is to consolidate that connection, which he considers as one of the safeguards of their constitution. The conservative party is at all times strong in England; churchmen look with a jealous eye at the increase of dissent, and not satisfied with the powerful protection afforded to the Establishment by the State, they feel it their duty, from political motives, to contribute munificently towards the maintenance of the Church. By what kind of logic Mr. Solomon has made out that this Episcopal Voluntarism prognosticates the separation of Church and State, we do not profess to understand. It is so respectable and so profitable to support a Government Church, and sacrifices for spiritual matters are so easy when they advance our temporal interests; on the other hand the risk is such a security for the State in the ample resources of a wealthy clergy devoted to its interests, and there is such a respectable opening in the church for the younger branches of the nobility, that, in England at least, Church and State, like a most affable couple, are likely to stick to one another for life, furnishing a most edifying proof, that those marriages are thoroughly cemented, which are permanently profitable to both parties. The voluntary principle, in the sense in which it is applied to other churches, cannot exist either in the Roman Catholic or in the Episcopal Church, and therefore Mr. Solomon's facts and figures in connection with those churches go for nothing as an argument.

The Finco's of Fort Beaufort and the Hotentots of Ouitshoorn are fair specimens of the efficacy of voluntarism among the colored people; but we do not expect to see the whites come up to that standard, and there is no use in reasoning from exceptional cases.

It appears then that of all the voluntaries that Mr. Solomon has brought into the field, the Finco's and Hotentots alone have stood their ground. If he can make out that they are the Colony, then we shall admit that the voluntary principle is eminently successful at the Cape of Good Hope.

We might here drop the subject, satisfied with the result that, what was considered an impregnable bulwark of voluntarism, firm and compact like Sebastopol, has been levelled with the ground like Bomarsund. But as Mr. Solomon is manifestly in difficulties at the close of his speech, and leaves Parliament nothing but the alternative of adopting his resolution, or reconciling itself to the dilemma of either constituting government a judge of religious truth, or supporting with the public money the most conflicting doctrines, we shall endeavour in our next to answer his question: "Upon what principle will the House decide that ecclesiastical grants shall hereafter be made?"

THE TRANS VAAL.—Accounts from the Trans Vaal, received by last week's Mail, are up to the 4th instant. The details give of the state of ecclesiastical matters, is very encouraging. The Rev. Mr. van der Hoff had returned from his visitation tour. In the upper Vaal District a new congregation has been formed, the office bearers of which had been duly inducted in their offices. On the 24th Dec. Divine service was held, when thanks were offered to Almighty God for the victory which General Pretorius had achieved over Makapan. 53 new members were that day also confirmed. The next day (the 25th) the Lord's Supper was celebrated, and in the afternoon three couples were married and a large number of children baptized. At the conclusion of the service the minister announced that he

intended, in compliance with invitations to that effect, to visit the districts of the Lower Vaal; that on the first Sunday in February he would be at Makwasiberg, on the first Sunday in March at Mariko, and on the occasion of April at Rustenburg and the newly established village Pretorius. The concourse of people on the above occasion was very large, the number of wagons amounting to 150 besides many horsemen.

As regards the political state of the country, our correspondent gives the following— MOOI RIVER, JANUARY 1, 1855.—Our esteemed General M. W. Pretorius arrived here on the 23rd December. There is a meeting at the public offices. The General suggests an improvement in the regulations for field-masters. Measures will be adopted for the purpose. It has been decided that there shall be two field-masters for the village, to whom all the inhabitants thereof shall hereafter present themselves. The entire public has approved of this decision.

It has been resolved to call out another commando, Men, slaughter cattle, &c., are already being called up. They will leave here on the 13th instant. The whole force will assemble on the farm of the General on the 17th or 18th; from thence they will proceed against the enemy. The names of the enemy are kept secret; it is conjectured however to be directed against Makapa (a Kafir chief whom the General had already intended to chastise a year ago for his incessant raids, murders, &c.) or Tjopa, who is said to have taken refuge with Makook, and other minor chiefs in the creeks of Ollifants, Pienars, Selons and Anjeps Rivers, who of late have assumed an equivocal, treacherous and dangerous attitude. The zeal to join the commando is general; numerous volunteers are offering themselves. The confidence in the valour and prudence of the youthful General, and the success of the last commando led by him, no doubt contribute to this disposition.

This day, 1st January, our General left this place, amidst repeated discharges of musketry, the same as when he arrived. He attended divine service before and on Christmas-day, and partook of the Lord's Supper. Yesterday he attended divine service, both morning and evening. Only one wish is entertained here, that the time may soon arrive when the executive power, in military as well as political matters, may be placed entirely in his hands. It is true that he already actually exercises that power; but our small state continues to be saddled with three Generals, by which the unity and power of action is but too much disturbed.

The official report of Commandant General Pretorius, detailing his operations against the Chief Makapan, is elsewhere inserted.

STATE OF THE FRONTIER.—The dread of war is diminishing as the fatality of Christmas day continues to recede. It is, however, the impression of all that no reliance should be placed on the present lull. Kafir tactics are inexplicable. People look to His Excellency our new Governor, as the only harbinger of hope left to console them. Upon him they rely, depending every thing. Fortunately and happily he comes among us, surrounded with the halo of a great name. His career in South Australia, will of itself immortalize him. May his government in this Colony, be the realisation of what the prestige of his character promises.—Colombo, Jan. 20.

THE APPROACHING ELECTION.—Notwithstanding the recent seeming indifference with which the government proclamation was received respecting the representation of this City in Parliament, a movement is at last being made in the shape of the usual requisition. It is to be regretted exceedingly that some of our enterprising townsmen should have failed hitherto to bestir themselves in so important a matter. We have material enough, beyond doubt, in Mr. Jervis or Mr. Carville, and we would remind the public that there is time enough yet for the preparation of past negligence.—Ibid.

THE GOVERNOR'S JOURNEY.—SIR GEORGE GARY has at length arrived. The approach of His Excellency was eagerly expected. The whole of yesterday and the day before the inhabitants of Port Elizabeth were on the qui vive. Our Railway Committee, and Harbor and Municipal Commissioners were all anxiously to present their addresses and memorials, by which to direct the attention of His Excellency's appliances, so necessary to the development of our resources, as well as to tender him a hearty welcome. It was not, however, till 5 o'clock yesterday that the enter of Sir George was effected. He has taken up his abode in Dryden's hotel. This delay was owing to the indisposition of Lady Grey, who was quite fatigued by the journey. His Excellency lost no time in visiting the prison, the beach, and some of the principal places in the town. All this was done in a quiet unobtrusive manner, every thing like formal and ceremonious display being dispensed with. Sir George will hold a levee about 11 o'clock; and should her ladyship feel sufficiently recovered, will leave in the course of the afternoon for Grahamstown, otherwise His Excellency will stay here over Sunday.—Port Elizabeth Mercury, Jan. 20.

LIEUT.-GEN. JACKSON.—In accordance with a Minute passed by the Municipal Board, the following Address being the appointment of Gen. Jackson as Lieut.-Governor of this Colony, was prepared by the Town Clerk, and Tuesday being the day appointed to receive the same, the deputation, consisting of Messrs. Mandy & Birkenhead repaired to the residence, where they were very kindly and courteously received by His Honor, whose reply is also appended.

ADDRESS TO HIS HONOR LIEUT.-GENERAL JAMES JACKSON, K.H. &c. &c. Lieut.-Governor of Her Majesty's Settlement of the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope, Territories and Dependencies thereof.

The Address of the Commissioners of the Municipality of the City of Grahamstown. The Commissioners beg leave in the name of the inhabitants of this City to offer to your Honor their congratulations upon your appointment by Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen to the responsible Office of Lieut.-Governor of the Settlement of the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope.

The Commissioners desire to express to your Honor on behalf of the inhabitants of this City, their earnest desire to aid and support your Honor in carrying out such measures as may be deemed necessary for advancing the prosperity and welfare of the inhabitants at large, and for promoting good order and civilization amongst the colored races.

In tendering to your Honor the assurance of their high respect, the Commissioners would express a fervent hope that this Province may continue to enjoy the blessing of peace, and that during your Honor's residence in it the general welfare and happiness of its inhabitants may be fostered and promoted.

Signed for and on behalf of the Commissioners of the Municipality of the City of Grahamstown. (Signed) S. D. MANDY, Chairman. A. W. BECK, Town Clerk. Town Office, City of Grahamstown, 13th January, 1855.

REPLY. GENTLEMEN.—I thank you sincerely for the address which you have just presented me from the Commissioners of the Municipality of the City of Graham's Town, on behalf of its Inhabitants, upon my appointment as Lieut.-Governor of the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope, and beg to assure you, that I will use my utmost endeavours to carry out such measures as shall be passed by the Houses of Parliament and the Governor for the general good of this Colony.

The preservation of peace with the Native tribes is most devoutly to be wished for, as it will tend to the increase of Commerce, the prosperity and happiness of the country, and give confidence to all Her Majesty's subjects. His Excellency Sir George Grey, K.C.B. Governor and Commander-in-Chief, being expected here in a few days, I shall not trouble you with any further observations. (Signed) J. JACKSON, Lieut.-Governor.

To the Gentlemen forming the Deputation from the Commissioners of the Municipality of the City of Grahamstown.—G. T. Journal, Jan. 20.

Letters received this morning, announce the arrival of His Excellency, on Thursday afternoon, at Uitenhage, where an address was read to him on behalf of the inhabitants by

Mr. W. Smith—to which a very satisfactory reply was returned. His Excellency may be expected to reach Graham's Town on Tuesday next.—Ibid.

A public meeting was to have been held at Graham's Town, to which the following address, to be presented to Sir George Grey on his arrival, would be submitted for approval: To His Excellency Sir George Grey, K.C.B., Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope, &c. &c.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY.—We, the undersigned inhabitants of the City of Grahamstown, take the earliest opportunity of presenting to your Excellency our hearty congratulations upon your assumption of the high office of Governor of the Cape of Good Hope. We also offer to your Excellency, and to Lady Grey, our very sincere welcome to the capital of the Eastern Province.

In addressing your Excellency on this occasion, we are anxious not to approach you in the mere language of compliment, still less as influenced solely by form or etiquette. We wish to be understood as actuated by a conviction of the important consequences which hang upon a change of Governor of this Colony, and of what is due to the Representative of our most gracious Sovereign. Sensitive as we are to this impression, it is a most gratifying consideration to be enabled to look forward to the affairs of this country, your Excellency's administration of the Eastern Province, your Excellency's government of two important dependencies of the Crown under peculiarly trying circumstances gives the best and strongest assurance that the same exhibition of judgment, benevolence and decision as marked your administration of the affairs of those Colonies cannot fail, under the blessing of Divine Providence, of being attended with the like favorable results to this Colony.

This impression is materially deepened by the consideration, that your Excellency, the illustrious successor of the late lamented Sir George Cathcart, whose memory will ever be gratefully cherished by the people of this Province, is not merely as the gallant defender of their hearths, but as the able originator of measures which, if fully matured, must, in their opinion, ensure the future prosperity of all classes. While they profoundly mourn the severe loss sustained by his country in the fall of this devoted and able officer, they are cheered by the reflection that the conceptions of his powerful mind in reference to this Frontier and the natives beyond it, will be worked out by one whose large experience, mature judgment and public character give the best guarantee that could be afforded of ultimate success.

We venture to assure your Excellency there are none more anxious than the people of this Province that the natives of South Africa should be raised in the scale of civilization, and that hence, while they claim from their government that reasonable protection to which as British subjects they are entitled, as well as the adoption of those measures which shall ensure them the peaceful enjoyment of the fruits of their industry, they will at the same time be prepared to co-operate most cordially with your Excellency in every well-directed endeavour which may be put forth to advance the interests of the country, the social improvement of all classes of the people, the due administration of the laws, the maintenance of the authority of government, and the honor of the British Crown.

We have only to add in conclusion our earnest prayer that you may be guided in all your measures by Divine Providence, and that you and Lady Grey may enjoy the heartfelt consciousness of having promoted the moral and social improvement of the Community over whose destiny, either for good or for evil, your Excellency's administration cannot fail to exercise important influence.—Ibid.

WINTERBERG, 18th Jan., 1855.—The harvest is very nearly over here, and notwithstanding the swarms of locusts and the many storms of hail, the crops are very abundant. Partial failures there are, but on the whole the farmers have cause to rejoice and to be thankful. Peace only is required and the people will soon recover their losses (so far as property is concerned).—Ibid.

EAST LONDON.—The "Hydra," arrived about 10 o'clock on Saturday, landed the 73rd Regt., and sailed the same afternoon. The "Flibbery" sailed on the same day for the Mauritius. The 73rd Regiment leave East London on Wednesday.—Ibid.

MEMBER FOR GRAHAMSTOWN.—Mr. Joseph Cawood, of the well-known firm of Cawood Brothers, has undertaken to stand for the representation of this City. It is understood that Mr. W. W. Wynne of this city, will also be proposed as a candidate.—C. E. Times, Jan. 23.

CONVICTS.—A letter from a well informed quarter in London, dated the 5th of November, 1854, received by yesterday's mail, mentions a report that the British Government intend to propose to the Cape Parliament to sanction the transmission of a number of convicts to East London, for the purpose of improving that harbour; and it is added, that should this proposition be entertained, it is intended to offer shipment of convicts to be employed on public works in Table Bay.—Ibid.

PARLIAMENT.—We regret exceedingly to learn that many Members of Parliament from the Eastern Province will not attend during the approaching Session. Two vacancies in the representation—the one occasioned by death and the second by resignation—have already been made public, and we have just heard with pain that the health of Mr. Franklin, Member for Victoria, is such that he deems it his duty at once to give notice to Government of his intention to resign. During the last Session Mr. Franklin was very feebly indisposed, and the cause from which he suffered in inflammation of the eyes, has not been removed. Victoria will lose in the retirement of Mr. Franklin, an able and honest Representative. We trust his present suffering will not be prolonged, but that he will soon be restored to better health, and more active life than that of retirement from all public business.—E. T. Herald, Jan. 23.

REMARKABLE MEETINGS.—In Port Elizabeth, Mr. Williams, of Alexandria, in Oliphant's Hoek, the only survivor, besides His Excellency himself, of the Australian exploring expedition, undertaken by Captain (now Sir George) Grey, waited upon His Excellency by whom he was kindly received, and requested again to meet him in Graham's Town. His Excellency also intimated his desire to visit his family, and, if possible, would pass through Alexandria to see them.

His Excellency also recognized our esteemed townsman, Captain Salmon, as one whom he had met before in Australia; and found in Mr. Piers, of the Ordnance Department, an old class-mate of Sandhurst College.—Ibid.

HORSE-SICKNESS.—This terrible distemper is spreading with fearful effect. Messrs. Reed & Co., the mail contractors have lost 50 horses and many mules. Of the Commissariat mules which left town on Monday, one dropped dead in Adderley-street, and another had dropped before coming into town.—Ibid.

THE RUSSIAN ARMY IN 1855. Notwithstanding the glorious victories achieved by our gallant troops in southern Russia, and the conviction that the allies will not flinch even before overwhelming numbers, we may not however estimate our enemies too lightly, nor does the insignificant manner in which some of the English journals represent the power of Russia deserve our approbation.

According to the statement of a very credible and impartial writer, the Count Bismark, in his work entitled "die Kaiserlich Russische Kriegsmacht in 1855, oder mittheilung nach St. Petersburg, Carlruhe, 1855, the Russian army at that time consisted of 6 corps of infantry each 3 divisions; that which had 2 brigades composed of 2 regiments, each 6 battalions, of 1000 men. Of these six battalions only four take the field; two remain in reserve. Each regiment therefore has 4000 men, each brigade 8000, each division 16,000, each corps 48,000; besides 3 brigades of artillery, each consisting of 32 pieces in four batteries, and an artillery reserve, together 6000 men; add to which 5000 cavalry and 2000 laborers, making a total addition of 12,000 men, so that each corps consists of 60,000 men with 125 pieces of artillery. Consequently the regular standing army, in time of peace, consisted of 360,000 men. To this however must still be added 50,000 Imperial Guards, 60,000 Grenadiers, 2 corps of spare cavalry, 1 corps of dragoons, together 30,000 cavalry, thus making a grand total of 500,000.

Further, we have to add 50,000 irregular cavalry, 80,000

men of the Canadian army with two regiments of dragoons and 8 regular regiments of Cossacks, one corps in Siberia and 200,000 reserve, so that at the first call in time of war 850,000 men can be brought into the field. This was in 1855. Since that time we know that the Autocrat has ever been preparing for war. Now, can the anxiety felt by many concerning our forces in the Crimea be as ridiculous and unfounded, as some venture to represent?—(Communicated.)

Original Correspondence.

Mooi River, S. A. Republic, 30th December, 1854. Mr. Editor.—By inserting the subjoined report in your paper, you will oblige. Respectfully yours, W. M. PRETORIUS, Commandant General.

Report of the Military Operations, &c., by Commandant General MARTINUS WISSEL PRATORIUS.

MAGALIESBERG, Dec. 6, 1854.—On the 23rd September last, I received a report from the Commandant General P. J. Potgieter, stating that probably the field-marshal Hermann Potgieter, with eight or nine other men, had been murdered by the Kafir Chief Makapan (of Mapepa), adding the likelihood of the number of the murdered being even greater. Three days afterwards, the 23rd September, I received a more clear and accurate report. My colleague informed me that, having proceeded with a patrol through Makapan's Port, to Zoupan's Berg, he had found some of the bodies of the murdered men, and also missed some other people who had gone to Makapan for the purpose of bartering corn. The horrible account which he gave me of the cruel manner in which the men had been massacred, shocked my very soul. Upon this heartrending account I at once matured my plans to avenge the murders. I ordered the men within my jurisdiction—at least as far as they could be spared—save those of Murrko and the Lower Vaal River districts, to take the field; from reports of insecurity on the side of Vaal River, I was compelled to leave behind the greater part of the men under Commandants Schutte and Schoeman, and to guard in particular against exposing Mooi River. On the 14th of October, I had 334 men assembled with me, and, provided with a large train of wagons, I proceeded at a brisk rate, and on the evening of the 21st arrived at the larger where I found the widows and orphans of the murdered men. The scene which I presented myself to me was most heartrending. Overwhelmed by grief at the loss of their husbands and fathers, and deprived of food, the mothers and children were emaciated by hunger and exposure, so much so that I felt constrained to give them four head of cattle and a muid of flour to rescue them from death by starvation. I next encamped there the whole of the next day, being Sabbath, to pass it in religious devotion. The next day I proceeded on my journey, and on the 24th I found the month reached the lager of Commandant General Potgieter.

Here I saw with my own eyes what had been written to me relative to the cruel manner in which the massacre had been effected. The bodies found were mostly of females; one body, that of a tall man, was sadly mutilated; all the fingers, from the tops to the palm of the hand, were cut open, the head was cut off, and the body thrown into the water. Evidently every possible mode of torture had been practised upon the victims. At one of the kraals was found melted human fat, in which the hands had been baked on a spit—in addition to this we discovered some other tokens of unbridled cruelty which decency prevents me to name. Whether the people were subjected to these barbarities before or after their death, I cannot say.

This abominable spectacle, which filled my soul with disgust, induced me to adopt the firm resolution to chastise the barbarians, though I should sacrifice my life in the act. United with General Potgieter, I started on the morning of the 25th and soon arrived at the entrenched subterranean caverns of the enemy. I at once ordered my men to charge, the result of which was that the enemy, being out of his entrenchments, retreated deeper into the caverns, and we had approached the second line of defences. Owing to the heavy fire of musketry, the smoke was so thick at the mouth of the holes that we could not distinguish anything whatever. As it would now have been a mere waste of ammunition, and one of our men, J. Erasmus, had been killed; besides two wounded (who soon recovered again), I ordered my men to retire, which was effected in regular order. On this occasion we captured four wagons, belonging to the murdered men, some of their oxen, besides some cattle belonging to the Kafirs. The whole of these, as well as the body of our fallen brother, were the same evening conveyed to the camp, where the latter was buried with due solemnity. The subterranean caverns in which the enemy had entrenched himself, are upwards of 2,000 feet in length, by 300, 500 and 1,500 feet wide, intersected by several walls, and offering security on every side, so that an Egyptian darkness prevails throughout, even in those caverns having two openings. I did not consider it prudent for my men to rush into these, and therefore devised another plan to destroy our foe.

In our council of war on the 28th, we resolved to blast the rocks above the caverns and thus to crush the enemy. The requisite implements were soon constructed and collected, so that on the 30th we made a trial, which failed, however, on account of the loose and stony components of which the rocks there are composed, the powder losing its effect by reason of the manifold cracks and openings.

This having failed, I gave order to begin the next day and night, and to cut off, as far as possible, all supplies. With this view I had some forces cut out on the rocks, and behind which I posted 100 men day and night. During this work the Kafirs fed incessantly out of the caverns, but without injury to us, whilst our patrols daily shot down some of the enemy. On the 6th Nov. I proceeded to the caverns, accompanied by Comm. Gen. Potgieter; we had ordered the bushes, which obstructed us at night, to be cut down. My colleague, whilst urging on a party of friendly Kafirs who were working for us, having gone too far in advance, was struck by a bullet, fired by the enemy, at the very mouth of one of the caverns; it entered on the right shoulder and came out between the left shoulder and the neck, so that he was knocked down the krantz upon which he had been standing, a height of about 25 feet, and fell right in front of the enemy's fence. I at once ordered the fence to be stormed, and thus secured the body, which I had forthwith escorted to my camp to be buried there. On the same day his brother-in-law, Commandant H. Potgieter, was provisionally appointed to succeed his deceased Commandant General. The chief command of the whole force there engaged was however confided to me as the executive Commandant General, and this task I readily accepted. Deeply indeed was I grieved at the loss of my colleague, whom I had learnt to love as a brother. In everything we consulted each other. To his praise it may be said that he was a warrior in the fullest sense of the term, undaunted, and educated in the war with the Kafir tribes, he despised them and knew no danger; wherever duty called him he was present, and was enabled at all times to point his men to his own example.

The loss of my gallant colleague strengthened, if possible, my determination fully to avenge the blood which had already been shed.

The siege was a work that proceeded much too tardily. Fruitless had the Kafir chief been challenged to come out of the caverns with all his men to answer for the butchery which he had committed. On the 8th November I determined to block up the openings of the caverns, which are from 40 to 50 feet wide and 25 to 35 feet deep. Fifty spans of oxen with an adequate number of laborers were employed upon that work on the first day. During the next five days this work was vigorously prosecuted, during which time 1500 drags of trees and as many loads of stone were brought on and thrown down the caverns by 800 friendly Kafirs in our employ. Meanwhile the Kafirs commenced at night, to sally forth to procure water; a large number of women and children suffering from want of water, also sallied forth, but died after they had drunk a little. Among these women was a mule Kafir, who surrendered, undertaking to point out where the treasury of the murdered man was concealed. Lt. Paul Kruger was despatched d. for this purpose on the 11th instant with a small guard, and returned in the afternoon with 23 large and 15 small elephants' tusks. The first, 10 lbs in weight, belong to Mr. Uckermann, trader, of Pietermaritzburg; the latter belong to the murdered man here. This afternoon two horses of the late H. Potgieter, also fell in our hands. On the 15th November a large number of women and children again sallied out of



