



**HIS EXCELLENCY THE RIGHT HONOURABLE VISCOUNT
BUXTON OF NEWTIMBER, P.C., G.C.M.G.**

Governor-General of the Union of South Africa, 1914-1920.

INTRODUCTION.

THE history of South Africa as a White Man's Country is very short as history goes. But its inhabitants, White and Black, have managed to crowd a great deal of history into a period of a comparatively few years. One epoch has followed close on the heels of another ; and a space of time of less than two hundred and fifty years covers the whole period of development of South Africa.

Three white races contributed to the early history, and to the gradual development of South Africa.

There were those of Dutch descent, first settled as farmers in the Cape Province, from whom sprung the voortrekkers, men and women who, with indomitable endurance and determination, and in spite of almost overwhelming difficulties and hardships, constantly moved further afield.

Then there were the Huguenots, who, few in numbers and soon absorbed into the Dutch-speaking section, have nevertheless left a distinctive mark in name, feature and character. The Huguenots settled in and developed the near Western Province.

Then came the British, the Officials and the Immigrants, who were at first but sparsely scattered about the country, until they were strongly reinforced by the " 1820 Settlers."

The hardships with which these Settlers had to contend meant the survival of the fittest. They not only occupied and developed the Eastern Province, but gradually spread out elsewhere ; and, as time went on, their blood and their brains and their sturdy character went to invigorate the Country as a whole through their 150,000 descendants.

These three White Races have all in their own way been a source of strength to South Africa, and constitute the blend from which the South African now springs.

I do not propose to trace the history of the 1820 Settlers, with which I am mainly concerned here ; is it not written in the books of the South African historians, Dr. Theal and Professor Cory? But we all have read and know of the terribly hard times these

brave people had to undergo during their early years in the country, with destructive drought and equally destructive flood, and the decimation by manifold diseases of their flocks and herds and crops. Nor was this all; for, being utilised like the Dutch settlers in other districts as a sort of bulwark against Kaffir inroads, they were harassed and plundered by the Natives, and had to be ever on the watch with perpetual alarms and excursions.

South Africa and the British Empire both gained from this immigration. On the one hand, it greatly assisted to knit closer together the connexion between South Africa and the United Kingdom; on the other, it actively contributed to the development of the country; while to the immigrants South Africa owes many of its foremost men.

This great Dominion is equally the home of both of the great White Races "Dutch" and "British." Neither race can claim the country specially as its own; and, come what may, the two races have to live side by side for ever and aye. Both are equally devoted to their Country, and realise its fascination and its charm; both have suffered equally from its chastisements and prospered from its beneficence.

A predecessor of mine, Sir Rufane Donkin, gave a kindly welcome to the 1820 Immigrants, and did his best to succour and assist them. For this he got into trouble, as Governors not infrequently did in those days. I, in happier times, desire to pay a tribute to the memory of these intrepid Settlers who have gone; and to send a message of goodwill to their numerous descendants.

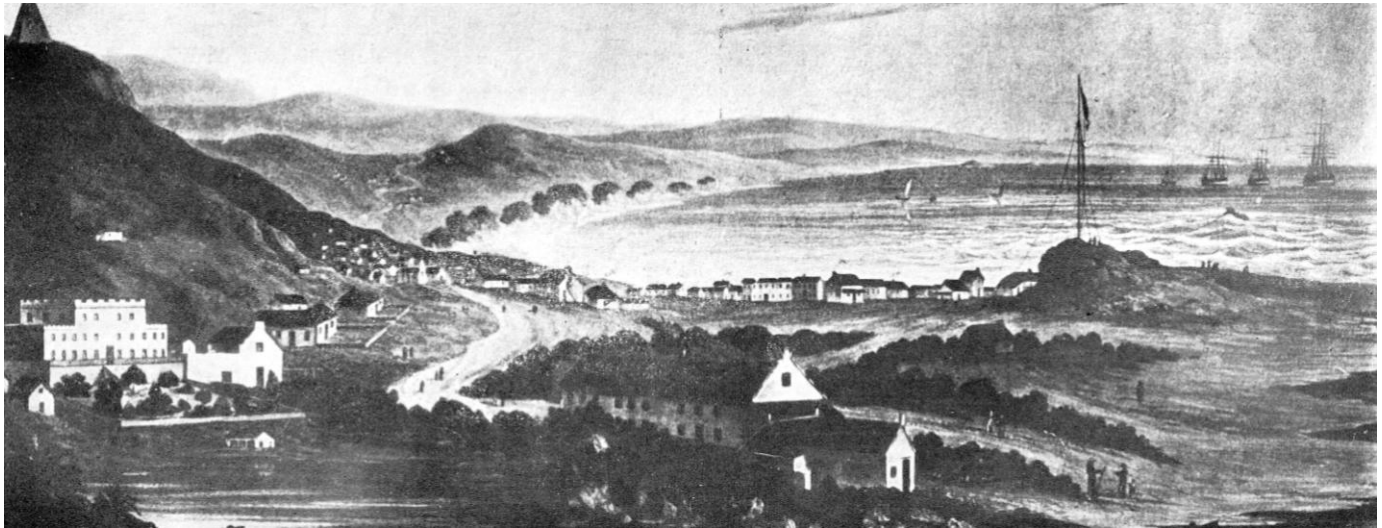
Souvenir of Centenary of 1820 Settlers.

The Centenary, which (as suggested by President Reitz) may become an annual celebration, is no more essentially a celebration for those of British descent than Dingaan's Day is essentially an anniversary for those of Dutch extraction; for both these events were in different ways of great moment to South Africans.

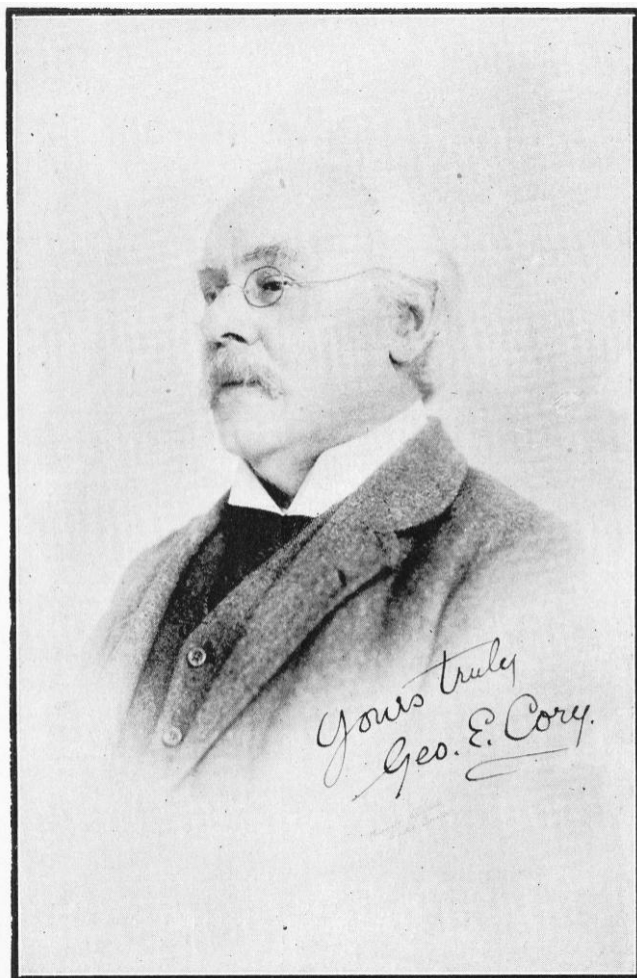


Government House,
Cape Town.

March 21, 1920.



Alphabetical List of the British Settlers of 1870



The following list of the British Settlers of 1820 has been compiled from the original documents in the archives of the Houses of Parliament, in Cape Town. Owing to the discrepancies in these original documents, this list, though the best which can be made from these sources, is not absolutely perfect. There seems to have been some "shuffling" among the Settlers after the first lists were made in England. Apparently the "Head of a Party," as soon as he had formed his party, sent the names to the Secretary of State, and thus formed what may be called the London list. But as, after all were on board, there was considerable delay before starting-in some cases, weeks-many individuals appear to have thought better-or worse-of emigration to the Cape, and to have taken the first opportunity of escaping back to their homes. Their places must then have been taken by others, without any alteration of the names on the list. When the vessels arrived in Simon's Town the captain sent in to the Colonial Office the names of the Settlers they had brought, and thus formed what may be called the Colonial lists. Unfortunately this was not done in every case, so that the doubtful London list gives the only indication of those who formed the parties. Hence names appear on these London lists which do not appear on the Colonial, and vice versa. But there is another case, namely, that of those who arrived in the Colony as Settlers in 1820, and whose names do not appear on any list. It is difficult to account for these. That such existed is shown by the letters which were received by the Colonial Secretary in 1821 and 1822 from individuals asking permission to return to England, a request, by the way, which was always granted provided it was done at the expense of the individual. There is no mention of the name of Ayliff, for instance, in any Settler list, yet there can be no doubt that Mr. (afterwards the Rev.) John Ayliff was a '20 Settler. It will be seen, therefore, that it is almost impossible to form a perfect and complete list of the British Settlers. It should be noted that the Irish parties, under W. Parker, Captain Synnot, and Captain Butler, landed at Saldhana Bay, and only a few eventually came round to Algoa Bay. Scanlen's party was thus formed. Gush's party was an off-shoot from the large Sephton party. The greatest care has been taken in making and checking the following list. All names have been put in from both London and Colonial lists, as well as those which have been found in other documents.

GEO. E. CORY

*Archives Department
House of Parliament
Cape Town, October, 1919*

NOTES ON THE EASTERN PROVINCE IN PRE-SETTLER TIMES

BY JOHN HEWITT.

I. Discovery and Exploration.

THE latter half of the fifteenth century was a memorable period in the history of the world. It saw the capture of Constantinople by the Turks (1453) ; its navigators, from Portugal and Spain, discovered the Cape (1488) and the New World (1492), whilst the sea route to India, which seemed then the greatest feat of all, was accomplished by Vasco de Gama in 1497-1499. About this time also, it is believed, the vanguard of the Bantu tribes made their first appearance on the eastern borders of the Pondoland coast.

Bartholomew Dias, the bold pioneer of maritime discovery in South Africa, arrived in Algoa Bay about the middle of February, 1488. There his storm-tossed ships found safe anchorage near the conspicuous rocky islet now known as St. Croix. Though at first sight barren and forbidding, this haunt of countless penguins and other strange sea fowl afforded opportune shelter and abundant fresh food to supplement their monotonous fare; so convenient was it, that Dias dignified the spot by erecting a cross, whence the islet received its name. Still bent on finding a sea way to India, they sailed along the coast for several days, eventually stopping, at the bidding of a mutinous crew, near the mouth of a river which Dias christened the Rio Infante, after the Captain Infante who first stepped ashore there. The river is generally identified with the Great Fish, but according to Canon E. Ford, is most probably the modern Keiskama, whilst Professor Schwarz has advanced the claims of the Kowie to the honour. Disheartened and fatigued, the mariners returned towards Algoa Bay, and at or near the eastern point thereof, now called Cape Padrone, they erected a large marble pillar bearing a cross;

this pillar, the Padrao San Gregorio, was one of several brought out from Portugal by order of King John II. No trace of it has since been found, nor of the cross placed on St. Croix; but portions of the padrao erected by Dias at Angra Pequena are still in existence, one of them being in the Cape Town Museum.

Vasco de Gama was the next traveller along our coast. Hugging the shores, he noted the contrast between the forested lowlands of the Eastern Province and the arid wastes of the West Coast, but no attempt was made to explore the land. After his discovery of India, there commenced a most lucrative trade between Portugal and the East. All the efforts of Portugal became concentrated on the development of trade with India and Africa, and a Papal Bull was obtained confirming their rights in these regions, whilst Spain was allowed a free hand in the New World. It is said that 771 ships sailed from Portugal for India between the years 1500 and 1560. A number of them came to a tragic end on the Eastern Cape Coast, and their crews suffered terrible hardships in the attempt to reach the calling station at Delagoa Bay or that at Table Bay, although for many years the Cabo de Bona Speranza was studiously avoided after the massacre of the Viceroy D'Almeida and his suite by the Hottentots (1510). There is a tradition that the Portuguese of that period erected a fort at the mouth of the Rio Infante. No such building has actually been found. Mr. G. Thompson, who travelled from the mouth of the Kowie River to the Great Fish River in 1823, wrote: " We could perceive no vestiges of the Portuguese fort said to have been erected here in former times." Other travellers who possessed no means of crossing the river (Great Fish) may possibly

have been deceived by some rocks on the left bank, which at a distance certainly have a striking resemblance to the ruins of a fort! However, the ruined customs house at Port Alfred is commonly identified therewith, or as a Portuguese slaving station, and has fired the imagination of many a visitor !

As the shipping losses continued, it was deemed necessary to make a careful survey of the coast from Cape Corrientes to the Cape of Good Hope. This task was entrusted to an experienced seaman named Perestrello, who had actually suffered shipwreck some twenty years earlier at the mouth of the Umtata. Thus we are indebted to Perestrello for the

First Chart of the Southern Coast.

His map (1576) merely purports to present an outline of the coast, and as such is clearly somewhat inaccurate; but this is not surprising considering the imperfect instruments at his disposal.

During the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, no great geographical discoveries relating to the interior of the Eastern Province came to light. How little was generally known of the interior of South Africa may be learned from examination of the fanciful and hopelessly inaccurate map in Peter Kolbe's great work on the Cape of Good Hope (1719), a work which became, as Theal tells us, the basis of nearly everything published concerning South Africa during the succeeding half century. This, like the earlier maps of the seventeenth century on which it was based, shows the great Rio Infante arising on the tropic of Capricorn and studded with fortified towns on the northern side. In the earlier maps this river was the southern and western boundary of Monomotapa, a mythical empire

The Coming of the 1820 Settlers.

By Professor GEO. E. CORY, M A., Rhodes' University College, Grahamstown.

A CENTURY has now elapsed since South Africa—but more especially the Eastern Province—was first invaded by British people who arrived with the intention of making this country their permanent home. They came to a territory which then was only sparsely populated by Boers, and which, but very shortly before, had been the scene of struggle between these Boers and the marauding Kaffirs. In an area of many thousands of square miles, the new corners found but three tiny dorps—Graaff-Reinet, Uitenhage and Grahamstown; and the isolated farms or loan places—nominally of three thousand morgen (6,000 acres), but in reality of indefinite boundaries and extent—were at such distances apart that the country seemed to them to be almost uninhabited. A new era then commenced. The country had awaited the development which this enterprise was to bring about. The wilderness and the solitary places were soon to bring forth their wool, ostrich feathers, tobacco, oranges and pine apples—and perhaps even platinum.

In England, the winter of 1819-20 was the most severe which had been experienced for many years. For weeks continually the thermometer had registered several degrees below freezing; and the heavy snowstorms and piercingly cold winds were worthy of the Arctic regions themselves. As far down the Thames as Deptford the river was so thickly covered with ice that, not only was it perfectly safe to walk from one side to the other, but—so some who saw it tell us—stalls and booths were

erected in the middle of the river, where refreshments of gin and ginger beer were supplied to those who danced to the fiddlers' tunes and in other ways held high festival around them.

Among the ships lying there at anchor, and more or less imprisoned by the ice, were eight three-masted vessels of about 500 tons burthen, which were of special interest, for they were soon to leave with settlers for the Cape of Good Hope. Their names were the *Nautilus*, *Chapman*, *Aurora*, *Belle Alliance*, *Ocean*, *Zoroaster*, and *Sir George Osborne*. At Portsmouth, similarly waiting, were the *Northampton*, *Weymouth* and *Amphitrite*. At Liverpool there were the *Stentor*, *John* and *Albury*; at Bristol the *Kennerley Castle*; and at the Cove of Cork in Ireland, the *Fanny* and *East Indian*.

It would have been observed in making a tour of inspection on board these ships, during the cold December, that they were in very different stages of preparation for the voyage. On some the full complement of emigrants would have been found, many of whom were chafing at the delay in starting. In other vessels, besides this source of discontent, there was that due to the real or apparent want of proper foresight and preparation on the part of the Navy Board in not having provided sufficient bedding and provisions, in consequence of which many had for a time to sleep on the bare boards with no other covering than their ordinary clothes. In many cases prospective settlers, in their hurry and excitement to get to the land of such great promise, arrived on the comfortless ships long before these pre-

parations could have been completed, with the result that they had to remain on board nearly a month before they started. This gave time for reflection and retrospection, leading some to think better—or worse—of the momentous step they were taking, and inducing them, on the first opportunity, to escape from the ship and to return to their homes. Captain Synnot, head of one of the Irish parties, said, in writing to Earl Bathurst on January 5th, 1820: "The settlers under my care are extremely dissatisfied and difficult to be kept together, and a very large expense attends holding them in constant readiness for such a length of time." With the great majority, however, there seems to have been a determination to see the business through, and a preparedness, with a good heart, to face the unknown and to battle with difficulties as they arose.

The Voyage Begun.

It had been the intention of the Navy Board to despatch the ships in pairs at intervals of about a week, but the state of the weather forbade this. The *Nautilus* was the first to start. She sailed on December 5, 1819, and was followed on the 9th by the *Chapman*. Then during the ensuing six weeks the whole of the British settlers, who were assisted by the £50,000 grant, were afloat and being steered to the shores of South Africa.

The ships which left Liverpool, Bristol and Cork do not seem to have had any worse experience than those associated with the cold and high seas. But in the cases of some which had to pass down the Thames and through the English Channel, such dangers were encountered as nearly put an end to their voyages before they

The Albany settlement

1820 — 1856.

By The
Rev. John Ayliff.

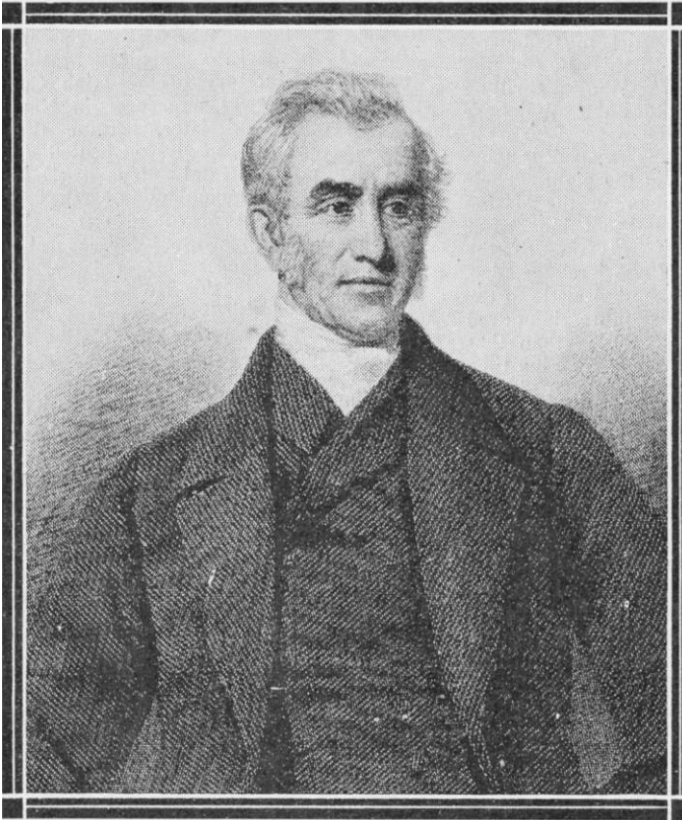
*A Paper read before the Albany Institute, Grahamstown,
in 1856, and now published for the first time.*

With an Introduction
By the Rev.
William Eveleigh.

INTRODUCTION

THE- celebration of the centenary of the arrival of the British Settlers of 1820 has led to an examination of . old letters, diaries, and newspapers in homes connected with the Settlers, and the result has been some interesting discoveries. Professor Cory, who has rendered such good service to the country by setting forth in attractive fashion the facts of Settler history, has been like the proverbial bee, gathering honey from every flower; he has tramped many hundreds of miles, interviewed scores of people, examined carefully a mass of documents, and his labours have been abundantly successful. But even his keen eyes could not pierce the doors of old .cupboards and the lids of stout boxes, in whose depths reposed documents of considerable historical value, nor could the well-known magic of his enthusiasm call forth these long hidden papers. For this the stimulus of a centenary celebration was required. Happily, some of the resurrected MSS. are now finding their way into the light of public print, as the columns of our newspapers have borne witness of late.

It so happened that for certain literary purposes connected with the centenary celebrations, a number of the late Rev. John Ayliff's papers came into the writer's hands. These included letters, journals, reminiscences, copies of letters and articles sent to newspapers, and memoranda about various subjects, all of real interest. Among the complete MSS. was one on "The Albany Settlement, 1820-1856," in an almost perfect state of preservation, with Mr. Ayliff's characteristic handwriting as bold and clear as though the writing had been done but a month or two ago. The paper was read before the Albany Institute, Grahamstown, in 1856. It is now printed substantially as it was written. As a care-



THE REV. JOHN AYLIFF.

ful and accurate survey of the rise and early progress of the Settlement by an eye-witness, it is probably unique. There is not much in, perhaps, that is new to those who have made a study of the history of the Settlers, but some of the facts will certainly be new to many people, even to descendants of the Settlers. Authentic documents of this kind are rare and valuable to-day, and every effort should be made to preserve them, and to afford the widest publicity to the facts they contain.

Mr. Ayliff was one of the original Settlers. He was born in London in 1797, and came to South Africa with members of Willson's Party on the *Belle Alliance*. He shared some of the early distressing experiences of the Settlers on the Albany Location, and knew what it was to endure hardship and privation. At twenty-three years of age, though, he had the temerity to launch out upon the sea of matrimony, and Jane Dold, who was about the same age, had the courage to make the venture with him. As a clerk in an Ordnance Store, as a Settler farmer, as manager of the stores on the Government farm at Somerset East, and as a teacher at Grahamstown, Mr. Ayliff had a varied experience, but he found his life's work in 1827, when he entered the ministry of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, encouraged thereto by the "Settlers' Minister," the Rev. William Shaw. For some forty years he was a devoted and successful missionary. His labours among the native people began at Hintza's "Great Place," near Butterworth, when Kaffraria was a land of dreadful night, and scenes of unspeakable cruelty and diabolical

wickedness were witnessed almost daily, and a man's life was of no more value than a mealie cob. It was a lonely furrow that the missionary ploughed in company with his wife, who shared the dangers and toils of those days; the time of the white man's advent as farmer and trader had not then arrived. A little girl, Jane Dold, was the first white baby born east of the Kei River, and her coming greatly excited Hintza's many wives. Hintza declared that the event was so important that the girl must be regarded as belonging to his house, the "royal house of Kauta." Many a thrilling adventure fell to the lot of the missionary and his family during the Kaffir Wars. In 1835 the whole family only escaped destruction by a hurried flight in the night. Their house and other buildings on the station were burnt to the ground not long after they left. Mr. Ayliff was one of the leaders of the famous Fingo Trek of 1835. He may be regarded as the "Apostle to the Firgoes." No name is more honoured among the Fingo people to-day than that of John Ayliff. No other man of his time did such a work for the people. In 1855 he founded the Healdtown Institution, and established it on a vacant piece of land selected by the Governor of the Colony, Sir George Grey. He was in charge of this institution at the time his paper on the Albany Settlement was written.

He made important contributions towards a fuller knowledge of the native language, and translated portions of the New Testament into Si-Xosa. A useful "Vocabulary of the Kaffir Language" was published by him in 1846. "A

History of the Fingo People," in manuscript, written by him, is in the Sir George Grey Collection at Cape Town. He died at Fauresmith in 1862, while on a visit to one of his sons.

All his sons were prominent in the Public Service of South Africa, and the record of their labours would be a big part of the story of South African history for many years. John, the eldest son, was in command of the Native Levies in the War of 1847. During General Cathcart's campaign across the Kei and against Moshesh he acted as Secretary to the High Commissioner. He was Treasurer in Natal for some time, and later, became the first Judge of the newly-constituted Native High Court of Natal. Reuben, the second son, was Commandant of the Native Levies in the War of 1850-51. He was Mayor of Grahamstown for several years, and for some time represented the Division of Uitenhage in the House of Assembly. William, the third son, a very successful farmer, was Secretary for Native Affairs in Sir Gordon Sprigg's Ministry from 1878 to 1881, and served the country well in difficult and trying days. Jonathan, the fourth son, for many years the leading attorney in Grahamstown, was Colonial Secretary to Sir Thomas Upington's Ministry, and had a big share in framing the important Penal Code for the Transkeian Administration. James, the youngest son, did good work as Superintendent of Crown Reserves, as Commandant of Fingo Levies in the War of 1877, and later as Civil Commissioner in several of the Border towns. Altogether a notable record for a single family.