

*Remarks on Delagoa Bay, a large Harbour situated on the South-east Coast of Africa, and on the Country and Nations adjoining it. By a NAVAL OFFICER.\**

How this bay obtained the name of Delagoa is unknown, but certain it is that such is only in use amongst the English and Americans, and that by other nations it is called after its discoverer Lorenzo Marques, which, however, is confined by the Portuguese to their factory only, whilst the anchorage in the bay they denominate the Quatros Rios. There can, however, be no doubt but that the name of Delagoa will be that by which in future times it will be generally known. The bay extends from  $25^{\circ} 20'$  S. to the river Mapoota in  $26^{\circ}$ , and from the Cape of Inyack in latitude  $25^{\circ} 58'$  S. and longitude  $32^{\circ} 55'$  E. to the entrance of English River in the same latitude, and in longitude  $32^{\circ} 32'$  E. Into the bay three large rivers empty themselves, viz: the Mapoota into the South-west corner, and English and King George's Rivers into its eastern side. A fourth, by the name of Lagoa, is marked in charts as towards the northern extremity; and although from seaward at five or six miles distance there appears to be a large opening, yet on examining it within two miles we could find none, but only discovered there, as we have seen in other parts of the coast at these seasons, a considerable quantity of water within the beach. From this circumstance it is not improbable that the names of Lagoa and Delagoa were derived.

From Lagoa to Inyack there extends a bank or bar of shallow sounding, with from seven to two fathoms at high water. The shallowest parts, or rather those which abound most in shallow knolls, are about six miles from the large Inyack. At a like distance farther to the northward the bar may be crossed with not less than four-and-a-half fathoms at any part or at any time, but from fourteen to seventeen miles from the Cape, there is a patch of shallow knolls with as little as two fathoms at low water springs. This patch extends near to the shore, and leaves only a clear channel inside of it of about half a mile or a little more in breadth, with not less than nine fathoms of water. Such soundings, it appears, may be carried in all the way, provided the land be made any where between  $25^{\circ} 38'$  and  $25^{\circ} 25'$ , coasting southwards close along shore. To the westward of Lagoa, however, the land runs off shallow and in knolls to a distance of four or five miles from the beach, which appears to be the north end of the bar. From the sea, soundings decreased very gradually with fine sand, until on the bar in ten and nine fathoms. It continues for some breadth

---

\* Communicated by Mr. JARDINE.

with no less than seven fathoms, and then comes on the knolls with five fathoms, or sometimes less;—these are the soundings between the latitudes  $25^{\circ} 57'$ , and  $25^{\circ} 44'$ , but from  $25^{\circ} 48'$  to  $25^{\circ} 50'$  may be considered the best part of the bar to cross into the bay.

When over the western side of the bar and in the bay, the water deepens rapidly to nine, ten, or more fathoms, and there is then safe anchorage every where. To the northward of the mouth of King George's River a bar and a reef extend for some distance into the bay; and those, together with another which runs due north from Elephant Island, narrows the channel to about — miles.\* On the western side of the Inyack and Elephant Island there is an excellent harbour which we called Port Melville, this is carried on the bay side by shoals, and bounded to the southward by the Mapoota flats, and on the western point of Elephant Island docks might be made, there being ten and twelve fathoms water close to it, and a rise of thirteen feet-and-a-half in spring tides.

The harbour most frequented by whalers is English River, which itself is the estuary of three rivers, namely—the Temley, the Mattall, and the Dundas. This harbour is an excellent one, and points are to be found in it where dry docks might be formed. It has an outer bar over which, at low water springs, there is but two fathoms and a quarter, making four-and-a-half at high tide, and within the harbour there is from six to ten fathoms. From Port Melville to the westward towards English River, there are several banks as far as the channel into the Mapoota River, which is near the eastern coast of Temley. Into the Mapoota River as much as five fathoms may be carried all the way, and it is navigable to a considerable distance, as well as the Temley, which is so for large vessels about — miles.†

The principal river in the bay, however, and indeed, on this coast, is that which has the names of Monice, Maynice, Mama-toonga, Mayhay, Clerinda, Macobite, Rio Prata, Rio de Esperito, Santo, and many others, but which we named King George's River, because the people of this bay always call themselves King George men, many of them having picked up a little English from the whalers. This river has a shifting bar, but we carried through its channel twenty-two feet at high water. Within, it is not so considerable as either the Mapoota or English River, except that it flows from an immense distance, and delivers to the ocean such bodies of water as frequently bursts its banks to find other outlets into the great bay, which happened in February, 1823. It has a direction N. exactly parallel to the coast, or inclining but little inwards

---

\* No number is inserted in the MS.—Eds.

† Ibid.

for many miles, and has its source in the mountains North-west of Inhamban, and nearly North from its mouth. From this direction, and from its having its sources near that of the river of Inhamban, it is certain no other very considerable one can exist on the coast between them. This river has the advantage of opening a free communication with an immense country of great fertility even to the Portuguese post Mamia, which is said by them to be not far from its source, but the situation cannot be ascertained, further than it is in the Captaincy of Rios de Senna.

Inyack extends from the Cape and Island of that name, sometimes improperly called St. Mary, to the southward along the coast to the river. It is bounded on the West, by Port Melville and the territory of Mapoota; on the East, by the sea; on the South, by the river; and on the North, by the bar of Delagoa Bay. The natives are a naked timid race, being by their insular situation unexposed to wars or to depredations from their neighbours. They are for the most part quite naked, excepting that the one sex conceal what nature forbids them to expose by means of a long tube of plaited straw, and the other by a sort of apron which is passed between the limbs and fixed behind.

The inhabitants have abundance of cattle, poultry, and fish, and they collect on their shores also much ambergris. They have no religion whatever, yet use circumcision, and have faith in witchcraft. They exchange their products for beads or cloth; they have no elephants or other wild animals, and what their vegetable productions are we had no opportunity of ascertaining. The king of Inyack pays tribute to the king of Mapoota, in acknowledgment of his superiority. It may be reckoned to contain ten thousand inhabitants. Mapoota is bounded on the North, by the Bay of Delagoa; on the North-west, by the kingdom of Temley; on the West and South, by the Veterahs Olontontes, a very warlike and admirable race of Caffres. It appears that not long since Mapoota was over-run by the Veterahs, who at length settled therein by agreement. They possess more industry than the Mapootans, and have improved the country so much that it always enjoys abundance, and through them the Veterahs of the interior barter their ivory and horn for beads and coarse cottons, which are obtained principally from the Portuguese factory. Their products are cattle, goats, poultry, rice, Indian corn, sweet potatoes, pine apples, plantains, and several other tropical fruits; onions, cabbages, and pumpkins, they have in great abundance, with many fruits peculiar to the country. In customs, manners, &c. they resemble the inhabitants of Inyack and Temley, they are much inclined to trade, and when they can with impunity, they are said to be very treacherous, as indeed are all the



natives round the bay, and upon all the rivers except those of Inyack. Mapoota may contain near twenty thousand inhabitants. Temley is bounded on the East, by the bay; on the North, by the English and Dundas Rivers; on the West, by the mountains of the Olontontes or Veterahs; on the South-west, by the little state of Pongelly; and on the South, by the river and kingdom of Mapoota. The people of this kingdom are timid, tractable, industrious, keen in traffick, and treacherous it is said when their interest prompts, or a temptation stands in their way. With these people we had much more intercourse than with any of the others, and at length we yielded to their entreaties to be taken under British protection by ceding the sovereignty of their country to His Majesty. Their domain is fertile to a degree and might produce much rice, but it has lately been devastated by the Veterahs. They are precisely the same people as those of Mapoota, Inyack, and other parts about the bay; all speaking the same language, it is believed, as far as Inhamban. Mafooma or Ofoomo, as Deago de Conto has called it, is situated between the mouth of King George and English Rivers, is a very small state, and in it the Portuguese factory is situated. Mattoll is on the northern branch of the river of that name, which empties itself into English River, and has also been lately devastated by the Veterahs.

To the North-westward of Mattoll lies Moambo, a very considerable state, which is watered by King George's River, and Mawtote, Mamalong, Maghoy, and Cherinda, are small states at its mouth. At Mamalong on the western bank are now settled the Veterahs who have lately overrun and destroyed many of the neighbouring countries. Of them all we can learn is, that they are from the interior districts about and beyond the source of the Mapoota to the South-west of the mountains West of English River. They are a martial people, of free air and noble carriage, and are characterized by having the lower pendant flap of the ear perforated by a very large hole, and thereby differing from all the other tribes.

The present king of the Veterahs, Zeite, was a minor at his father's death, and therefore his uncle, Looncondune, assumed the government until his nephew should come of age, but being then unwilling to resign, a war ensued, and Zeite turned his uncle and all his adherents out of the country to find another for themselves. For two years past these have been more destructive than a swarm of locusts to all the countries between their own and the sea, and, being a more manly and bold race than the natives of these countries, have entered every part as conquerors, and have at length fixed themselves at Mamalong, about thirty miles from the Portuguese factory. The Veterahs, like all the tribes of the interior, manufacture all the implements of agriculture and husbandry used on the

coasts, even by the Portuguese. The natives of Delagoa Bay are armed with assagays, spears, and sometimes with small shields, and have no clothes but the cottons received in barter from the Portuguese, or wollens they get from whalers. The Vatalas clothe themselves elegantly in skins of animals, live much on animal food, and protect their bodies in war by an immense shield of bullocks hide of an oval form, such as that used by the Caffers on the borders of the colony. Behind the shield they carry from three to six or more assagays, and a spear ready to be taken from thence as from a quiver when required.

The natives of Delagoa are too timid to undertake any thing by night; and, therefore, the Vatalas always make their attacks then, as they are sure to find no resistance. The latter have an openness of character which speaks much in their favor: it is said they never attack their enemies without first sending to inform them of their intention; but the attack upon our tents was made without any such notice, and most treacherously, which they excused by saying they would not have done a thing so contrary to their usual practice, if they had not been influenced by a renegade son of old King Kapell, who persuaded them that immense treasures of beads were in our boats, and which might become an easy prey to their well known prowess. With all these nations, from the Equator Southwards, beads are money; more civilized people have too often been beguiled by a smaller temptation; we should not, therefore, judge them too harshly.

The huts of all the natives of Delagoa are circular, small, well and neatly constructed; and with a palisade fence enclosing an area round one, two, or more of them. Polygamy is universal, and a man's wealth and consequence are known by the number of his women. They are slaves to the men, and the only cultivators of the ground, yet the latter are much disposed to be industrious if they can get any thing by it; and for beads, to the amount in value of one penny, any man's labour may be had for the day. They are keen traders and covetous, but honest; death is the punishment awarded for theft among themselves. They are extremely desirous of learning what they can from Europeans. When the *Leven* first arrived in English River, the Portuguese succeeded in impressing the inhabitants with a great dread and fear of us, giving them to understand we were come to punish them for the murder of one Calder, a Portuguese merchant from Rio, who established himself in Temley as a merchant and whale fisher. From his having done this without consulting the king and people, they cut him off on some petty quarrel about a handkerchief. As this had happened only about two or three years before, and as they saw us intimate with the Portuguese, they believed it might be true; and, therefore, during our first

visit of six weeks, not one chief would venture on board. They, however, employed a man as a sort of spy to examine us, whose name was English Bill, he said, but his native name was Shamaguara. He was a man of no great note, having then only seven wives, but one of his daughters was married to the king of Mapoota. This person spoke a very little bad English, after the manner of the seamen of the whale ships, from whom he had learnt it; he also spoke a little Hindostanee, which he had picked up from the crew of a vessel from Bombay, about four years ago; a little Dutch he had also somewhere or other learnt, and Portuguese he understood well. He also could converse with the Veterans, in whose country he had travelled as a merchant, and could make himself intelligible to our Caffres from the Keiskamma. By him the captain sent presents to King Kapell and his chiefs, and invited them to an unreserved intercourse, but the old King Kapell was lately dead, and the custom is that such an event is never to be published for one year, by which time the succession is easily and quietly settled. Our importunity to see the king, and our insisting, if we did not, he must be dead, caused his successor to come forth openly. As a first act of his authority he put his cousin, a chief of note, to death, because he had been plotting in favor of the new king's uncle, who was a son of the late king. The name of the present one was Mayelt, a grandson of the deceased, and a very fine young man, not more than one or two and twenty. These circumstances, added to the fever with which our crews were attacked, and which proved so fatal, prevented us from seeing Mayelt or any of his chiefs on board, but he permitted his people to serve us in the capacity of boats' crews, by which assistance they saved our own men from much exposure, and were thereby very useful; one lad named Mingatree, entered with us to go to sea. English Bill and the boat's crew continued on board the *Cockburn* all the time we were absent, which was three months, and on our return to English River on the 1st of March, the former again joined us. The captain visited the eastern chief Slangelly, and a good understanding was established. By English Bill they had frequently invited us to take possession of the country, but now Slangelly came on board in an official capacity from Mayelt with the offer to cede the sovereignty of his kingdom to King George, stating his reasons for so doing as shewn in the deed of cession, and desiring to do so by a written one. The captain did not intend to accept it at that time, but to refer the affair to Commodore Nourse, in whose province it more particularly lay. As the governor, however, of the Portuguese factory was so enraged at the intimacy of King Mayelt and his chiefs with the British, that he was preparing a number of Portuguese flags to possess the country by



force on our departure, which he was simple enough to declare ; the captain, therefore, did not hesitate to accept the cession to save the people from a dreadful visitation, for we were assured that murder and rapine would follow him although he could not have secured a foot of ground, and would have been obliged, after a little time, to shut himself up in his fort again. The British flag was hoisted on the eighth of March, and saluted with twenty-one guns, and notice officially given to the governor of the Portuguese factory that the inhabitants of Temby were subjects of his Britannic Majesty.\* Mayelt, King

**\* COPY OF THE DEED OF CESSION.**

I, Mayett, King Kapell, King of all the lands situated between English and Dundas rivers on one side, and the river of Mapoota on the other, commonly called Temby, after one of my forefathers who first settled this land, —Do, by the power, authority, and title which have devolved on me by the much-lamented death of my grandfather, the late King Kapell, freely cede the full sovereignty of all the said lands of Temby and Mapoota, to George the Fourth, King of Great Britain and Ireland, &c. &c. &c. and his successors, on the conditions and for the reasons hereafter specified.

First,—That the King of Great Britain do permit a free trade to this land by all his subjects of British India, of the Cape of Good Hope, of Mauritius, and of his European dominions, under such regulations as he may see proper.

Second,—That the King of Great Britain do establish such a force in the lands of Temby, as may protect my people, not only from the incursions of the more warlike natives of the interior, but also from the insults and continued oppressions which have hitherto been practised on us by European nations, and more particularly by the Portuguese; who are not only unable to afford us any protection themselves, but by a most despotic, enthralling, and unreasonable interference, prevent, when they can, our commerce with the people of any other nation, even instigating us to murder those of our subjects who may have had any such commerce; and to all this, in the late war with the out-cast Oloutontes, when our whole country was devastated and no family safe, the Portuguese factory on the north bank of English River, were not only at peace with our invaders, but on such amicable terms as to buy their plunder of cattle and slaves and to carry on other peaceable traffic with them, whilst my people were reduced to a famine by the effects of the said war.

Third,—That the person who shall represent the King of Great Britain in these lands, shall be trusted with unlimited power to execute such laws and regulations as may be made for these lands of Mapoota and Temby.

Fourth,—That no law or regulation, neither for white inhabitants or black (except only the military) shall be made, unless assented to after discussion by the chiefs assembled for that purpose, in the first instance, and in the second, by the head council, consisting of the British Governor, King Kapell, or his successor, two British, and two Temby counsellors.

Fifth,—That the number of chiefs shall not exceed one for every square league in the country, and one half the number may be British settlers or military officers, not under the rank of lieutenants in the army; the chiefs shall all be named by the Governor and by King Kapell, jointly; those of Temby shall be chosen by King Kapell, those from the British by the Governor.

Sixth,—King Kapell recommends that no Governor be allowed to retain his situation more than five years, and that the King of Great Britain would be graciously pleased to cause their public conduct to undergo a public review and trial in England, at the end of their time; and that no charge against them shall be received, unless delivered into his successor's hands within one year after his supercession.

Seventh,—That no law or regulation shall ever be proposed or passed, but on the following principles, viz:—the freedom and security of person

Kapall, was so ill that he could not come to us himself, therefore the first lieutenant and botanist went to his place, sixteen miles from the Demding, where he most joyfully put his hand to it in the presence of all his chiefs, and as great a concourse of his people as could, on so short a notice, get there.

and property, and a perfect good faith, that is, the persons and property of every man shall be inviolable and sacred, so long as he keeps all the contracts, engagements, or conventions he may have voluntarily entered into, either with the state or individuals.

Eighth,—Whenever any lands may be necessary for public buildings or works, it must be ceded by law after the second year of the formation of a British establishment; before that time, I, King Kapell, will give such lands as the Governor shall require of me; but should any individual suffer loss by a public appropriation of his land, he must be satisfied for the same according to the judgment of arbiters.

Ninth,—The chiefs shall be called together in council by the joint authority of the Governor and King Kapell, four times in every year, for fourteen days each time, and none to absent themselves without permission of the said authority.

Tenth,—Every man shall have dominion in his own family: that is, over his own wives, children, and servants, within the bounds prescribed by law; the laws of the land shall, as soon as possible, be reduced to the most simple order, and be taught by rote to every male child, who, as soon as he shall be able to repeat them and understand them, after he is seventeen years of age, shall enter into a solemn agreement to keep the same, and shall from that time be free from his father's government, being responsible only to the state, except he still inhabit his father's house, and in that case he must fall under his paternal government.

Eleventh,—In all civil and criminal cases, trials shall always be before judges named by joint authority of the Governor and King Kapell from the chiefs, and in civil cases by three arbiters, in criminal by seven.

Twelfth,—The revenues, and their administration in every branch, come under the head of laws and regulations; and the power of making war and peace shall be with the supreme council exclusively, and the male population shall be formed into bodies of militia, and exercised at least two hours in every week, under such regulations as the Governor and King Kapell may think proper.

Thirteenth,—A man may, by will, give over his property to whomsoever he may think proper, provided he be sane, but no property whatever shall be devised intail; and in case of dying intestate, all his children by all his wives shall share the inheritance equally.

And I, King Kapell, do declare, that I am induced to make this cession by the advice of my chiefs, because I find my state and people too weak to defend themselves against the aggressions of either Africans or Europeans, and because I find my people ignorant and uncultivated, and inhabiting a country capable of every thing by well directed industry, to which they are well disposed; and, lastly, I have chosen the King of Great Britain for my protector, because my people are strongly attached to his, that very many speak the English language, and because I believe his power to be the only one established on principles of universal justice, and the only one capable of affording me and my people the protection we seek.

In witness whereof, I have put my hand and seal in the British manner, this eighth day of March, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-three.

(Signed)

KAPELL,  
SLENGELLY,  
SHAMAGUARA,  
CAPENFENICK,

Seal.

We, the Undersigned, do certify, that we walked about sixteen miles to the residence of King Kapell, of Temby, unattended by any but his own people, and that he did, without solicitation, and by his own free will and desire, make a cession of the sovereignty of his kingdom and its dependen-



The next day, Mayelt came down to Slangelly's place, though sick, and ordered English Bill and as many men as we wanted to go with us to the Cape, taking our acceptance of the cession of the country as a security for their return, for they were become, as he said, King George's own men. Temley and Pangelly have twenty thousand inhabitants at least; Mapoota is tributary to Temley, and has as many; Inyack is tributary to Mapoota, and may have fifteen thousand. These are rough estimations, but Temley has thirty-two chiefs, which, at five hundred inhabitants each, is fifteen thousand, and that is under the truth. Pangelly is a small state quite dependent on Temley, which I should take at five thousand. Mafoomo, or as Deago de Conto has it, Ofoomo, is situated on the North bank of English River, and is a very small spot: the site of the Portuguese factory is within it, its extent is not more than five miles from Reuben Point to the westward, and it is not broader; the number of inhabitants is very small, and although the Portuguese exercise a vicious tyranny over the people, yet they assume neither jurisdiction nor rule, beyond the demand of a servile subjugation to their will. Even these people they did not presume to consider as entitled to their protection against the Veterans, who drove away their cattle from under the walls of the fort, and wasted the grounds and plundered the huts even within reach of its guns. This is actually the same people as the others in manners, customs, and language. It is, perhaps, not a little remarkable, as shewing that by a just order of God's Providence the reaction of crime brings on its own punishment. About 1580, a Portuguese ship was wrecked a little to the northward of the Kei, with a governor of Inyack on board, on his return to Europe; the crew marched by the beach to

---

cies in the public presence of his chiefs and people, as by the accompanying Deed, and that he then gave his hand to sign the same, as did also as witnesses Slengelley, the chief of the district forming the southern bank of English River, and Shamaguara, the Interpreter, and Capentemick.

In witness whereof we have given this under our hands this nineteenth day of March, 1823.

(Signed)

WM. MUDGE,

Senior Lieut. of H. M. S. *Leven*.

(Signed)

JOHN FORBES, Botanist.

---

I, the Undersigned, do hereby certify, that I had been repeatedly solicited to accept the cession of the Kingdom of Temby, by the desire of King Kapell, of which it was only my intention to acquaint superior authorities, but circumstances rendered it necessary that I should at once decide to accept it until the pleasure of His Majesty should be known, when this request was brought to me in form, by Prince Slengelley in the King's name, which he did on the eighth day of March. I do also certify, that so far from having moved the act myself, or from having offered any inducement to the King of Temby to do it, I have constantly evaded it when urged to take it for King George and the English, until this time, nineteenth March, 1823.

(Signed)

W. F. W. OWEN,

Captain H. M. S. *Leven*.

Inyack, and crossed the Mapoota, as it is now called, which was then the Beligare, and reached English River. The then King of Ofoomo dealt subtilly with them and persuaded them to give up their arms, when he stripped them naked and turned them away, to the number of about a hundred. Of these about ten reached India to relate the loss of upwards of two hundred of their companions. The descendants of this very people now groan under a most vicious yoke from the countryman of the people they so treated. Mattall is a large state now in a dreadful state from the effects of the Vaterah invasion; it is bounded on the South, by Dundas River; on the West, by the petty states on the borders of the King George, and by Moambo; on the East, by the Mofoomo, Manleote, Mamalong, and Maghof. This state, which was populous and rich, is now a waste, and the inhabitants are suffering from famine and poverty.

There cannot, however, in all these states, including those on the King George's River, be fewer than a hundred thousand inhabitants. The same people originally inhabited the whole course of the King George, and the shores of the bay as far as Cape Corientes to Inhamban, which may include a hundred thousand more. The products of these countries are as various as can well be imagined; and the soil is rich and capable of any sort of culture. The sugar cane, Indian corn, pines, and pumpkins, with numerous other tropical plants are indigenous, and it has many fruits peculiar to itself. Its rivers produce hippopotami, fish, and alligators in abundance, and also valuable stones, and, probably, gold. The bay has fish of various kinds, besides the whale and seal. Rice, maize, millet, and various other useful farinæ, are in plenty in the neighbourhood; but are frequently laid waste by elephants, elks, and hippopotami. The Portuguese shew not the shadow of pretension to interference with any of these tribes, and, indeed, have great dread of them. The commerce between all these people is similar, that is beads, brass, and cottons, for elephant's teeth, ambergris, rhinoceros' horns, and hippopotami tusks; they also barter their cattle, poultry, pigs, goats, and grain; as also the skins of wild animals.

Of birds, the most remarkable are several species of beautiful pelicans and storks, but the wild water fowl are in great plenty, for the whole country has large lakes of water which never dry, and cover very much ground during, and some time after, the rains. The climate of the countries round Delagoa Bay is sometimes represented as very unhealthy, and we have suffered very severely from a fever which would appear, at first view, to be its plague; but, judging it more fairly than by a first view, we have no idea that it is more unhealthy than other tropical countries which are uncleared and uncultivated. The land is generally of a moderate elevation, and the soil light and

dry, without any appearance of its being insalubrious. But all countries, when the sun is near his zenith, are at these periods subjected to similar visitations when their deleterious effects are not avoided.

Even in the Ganges the rainy season is more inimical to the health of the Europeans, than we found Delagoa Bay. Our people were peculiarly subjected to the noxious effects of the season, being confined to the beds of the rivers at or near their estuaries, where vegetable matter undergoing decomposition had full and unobstructed room to act on subjects, unprepared by habits to resist its attack, wherefore we could not but expect to suffer, and our losses were very heavy; two of seven fell in one season from its deleterious effects, but neither the natives nor the Portuguese garrison suffered materially, the season they remarked as unusually unhealthy though very few died. The country is, however, full of lakes, yet it is in general so elevated and so dry as to furnish numerous situations both airy and healthy. It is never extremely hot, and the changes of temperature are never sudden; the highest range of the thermometer was 86 or 88, and the lowest in the warm season about 70.

When the sun is in the northern hemisphere, which is the season for the black whale to calve, the bay is very much frequented by American and English whalers, into which vessels many of the natives engage themselves as boat's crews for very trifling remuneration; that season is found both healthy and agreeable. The banks of the Mapoota and of the rivers which fall into English River are for the most part muddy, covered with mangroove, and behind them is a rich champaign country, studded with clumps of trees like park land, of a moderate elevation (that is from twenty to fifty feet above the sea), with a very rich soil. The King George River, however, has a different character, which marks most decidedly the distance of its sources like the Mississippi, and other great rivers. This one passes through a lower country of alluvial soil, being bounded by elevated banks, which banks are for the most part the spots chosen by the natives for their huts and rude culture. At Chamoia and Mancess on the right bank, there are some high lands, of which the Vaterahs have now possessed themselves. On the left bank the country is an entire swamp or reed marsh, except the bank that forms the margin of the river, which in some places is formed into sand hills of small elevation. The seasons here are similar to those of other tropical countries, and extremes of temperature are never known. The barometer ranges generally from 29.05 to 30.03 inches, rising always with a southerly wind. It generally, in October and November, as also in March, stood about 29.09 in settled weather, when sea and land breezes were regular.

The changes of the barometer here, as within the tropics, seldom precede a change of weather, but follows it rapidly.



The changes of the seasons or monsoons may be said to be between September and March; and the weather is mostly fine, though then the rainy season. The fine weather is always accompanied by strong sea breezes at E.N.E. by compass, or N.E. true; and between noon and midnight they fall suddenly and are succeeded by light land winds. After some days continuance of fine weather, the land breezes become stronger, and the sea breezes fall a little for one or two days together, which is often accompanied by rain.

The rain always comes off the land with S.W. winds, as may be remarked on all this coast at this season, and which is not difficult to account for. It frequently happens that heavy storms are formed by the meeting of the sea and land winds, which come on in furious gusts from South, lasting about an hour in their greatest rage, and then settling into a gale that gradually subsides in about thirty-six hours, as the winds draw round to Eastward, and when at S.E. it becomes moderate and fine again. The wind then gradually draws round by the East to North-east, where it commonly continues a few days and then undergoes a similar round of change. In the bay the South-east and East winds are sea breezes, are accompanied by fine weather, and are mostly followed by land breezes, though it frequently blows two or three days from the Eastward, only relaxing in strength during the night. The change of sea and land breezes are not felt at three leagues from the coast, but at that distance and beyond it the wind undergoes the changes above described. Bad weather always comes on with winds between West and South, and disappears as they draw round to the East, which holds from the Kei River to the Baganto Islands, so that although this season is called that of the N.E. monsoon, the strongest winds are from the Southward.

Delagoa Bay, according to some, is considered as a point of considerable political and commercial importance. It is the only part in Africa, to the Southward of Mozambique, over which, in a nautical view, it has many very manifest advantages. The neighbouring coast is clear and safe; it is attainable and always easy of access from North or South at all seasons of the year; it has safe anchorage either outside the bar or within, or upon it. There are no currents to sweep ships past it; there is a convenient rise of tide, and the surrounding country will always supply it to any extent of demand. Mozambique fails in all these particulars. From Delagoa the voyage to any part of India, or to Europe, is simple at all seasons of the year; but from Mozambique these voyages must always depend on the monsoon. To Great Britain this port offers an important point; it opens all the interior of Africa to her commerce, where millions of people are ready to receive clothing and civilization from her. By its products the more southern would always be secured against famine, or even scarcity; and in itself

it offers a point of very considerable importance for establishments for whale fisheries.

The black whale is abundant on all the coast from May to August and September, and between it and Madagascar the spermaceti whale is abundant in the months last mentioned. The bay and its rivers produce seals, hippopotami, turtles, ambergris, and abundance of fish; and by its situation it would command a free intercourse and commerce with every point on the entire coasts of Madagascar, at all seasons of the year.

These are its positive advantages to Great Britain, to which may be added, that her sovereignty might extend thence, towards the Southward, until it embrace the whole coast of Natal, apparently the richest and best endowed land in all Africa.

But should this bay fall into the possession of either the Americans, the French, or the Russians, it would be most ruinous, not only to the Cape colony, but to our East India possessions and commerce, either in peace or war. In peace by becoming a mart for all East India productions; and in war as being one of the finest ports in the world whence inimical enterprizes might issue at pleasure.

*An Account of the Penitentiary, or State Prison, at Sing Sing, near New York, and of the discipline pursued towards the prisoners confined in it. By Captain BASIL HALL.\**

ON Wednesday the 30th May, we visited the Penitentiary, or State Prison, at a place called Sing Sing, on the left or east bank of the Hudson River, at the distance of thirty miles from New York.

I have yet seen nothing in any part of the world in the way of prisons, which appeared to be better managed than this establishment. It is no easy task to bring people who are well disposed under the influence of strict discipline; but when the parties to be wrought upon are wicked and turbulent by nature, and altogether unaccustomed to restraint, the difficulty is considerably augmented. This problem, however, has been, I think, pretty nearly solved in America.

I had been told, in a general way, that several hundred convicts were employed at this spot, in the construction of a prison in which they themselves were eventually to be confined; but I could scarcely credit the accounts which described the degree of order and subordination maintained amongst a set of the most hardened ruffians any where to be found. Accordingly, although prepared in some degree, my astonish-

\* *Travels in North America*, vol. 1. p. 51.