

schools the means of existence, and to our holy religion a prestige and an influence which it could not otherwise acquire in the midst of non Catholic populations. In addition to the schools, the Sisters have established a congregation of young girls at the convent, and the Fathers have founded an association of young men, for whom we are about to build a large hall for meeting in, with library, reading room, etc. Let us now transport ourselves into the Caffir missions of Basutoland. To get there we have to cross the formidable chain of the Drakensberg (Dragon Mountain) whose winding crests form the rampart between Natal and the surrounding regions. We can go there on horseback and spend the night in the open air ; but we prefer the ox carts (wagons), which offer facilities for carrying things to the Mission, and furnish a shelter at night. Eighteen oxen are harnessed to each wagon, for we have to cross rivers, ascend mountains, pass through multitudes of ravines, and if the rains have flooded the river, we have to wait patiently till the waters subside. We cannot be content with one wagon ; we must have at least two travelling together, so that one may help the other in case of necessity. We have been travelling for four weeks at a slow pace, and from choice by night. Here we are at Caladon. The river is fordable, and our oxen enter it without much difficulty. But the wagon is heavily loaded, and our eighteen beasts are powerless to drag it up the opposite bank. In a few minutes the eighteen oxen of the second wagon are harnessed with ours. The Caffirs whip, shout and dance about like mad men ; the thirty-six beasts drag with all their strength, the iron chain holds firm, and we ascend the opposite bank without accident. We are now in Basutoland, a fine country of mountains and verdant plains, formerly the kingdom of Moshesh. But the old Caffir king, hunted by the Dutch boërs, was compelled to place his country under English protection, and at present his sons are only petty chiefs submissive to the authority of English magistrates. Before establishing themselves here, our missionaries had tried, but unsuccessfully,