

ed Chaka over the Zulus, from knowing his qualities as a soldier, and being aware of his loyalty to himself.

Chaka required is friendship by remaining faithful to Dingiswayo up to the time of his death, and it was a combined movement of the two chiefs that drove the first defeated tribes from beyond the Tugela into the present territory of Natal, in 1812, which was the prelude to the extermination or the dispersion of its hitherto peaceful inhabitants.

After Dingiswayo's death Chaka became paramount ruler north of the Tugela, and the numerous tribes which he defeated retreated into the Natal county, falling again upon the unwarlike tribes, plundering and scattering them in turn. From that date wave of desolation swept over the land in the shape of retiring tribes before Chaka, carrying all before them; terror and self-preservation turning friends into foes, and every man's hand was raised against his neighbour; atrocities of a most shocking nature were perpetrated.

This was only the prelude to horrors to come, for after Chaka had subjugated the tribes north of the Tugela, he sent his armies into Natal to ravage that country, and to spare neither man, woman, or child, and to burn and destroy everything: his theory being to destroy all human beings except those under his own sovereignty. Some tribes did become his vassals, joined his army, and in like manner fell upon their former friends with greater animosity.

These wars of extermination, as they were called, were carried on from year to year, incorporating some of the tribes, and entirely destroying others, or driving them back into Kafirland on the eastern border of the Cape Colony. It was thus that the Fingoes, once a powerful tribe at Natal, were driven in amongst the Kafirs, and became their dogs—a synonymous term with that of bondaman or slave—until they were released by that humane Governor Sir B. D'Urban, in 1835; and it is curious that Mr. Shepstone and myself were the officers who escorted them into the Cape Colony.

Those tribes who tried to hold out against Chaka, or to remain in their own country, had great privations to endure, and had to live in rocks, glens, and caves. First their cattle were captured by the "exterminators" (army), then the stores of grain were destroyed; nor could they cultivate, as it drew attention to the locality so the people had at last to live upon their own starving dogs and wild roots. No wonder, therefore, that the country became depopulated, and filled with the dead and dying, and as the remnant of the old residents express it to this day, "The assagai killed the people, but hunger killed the country."

One would think this bad enough, but worse befel these poor creatures, for one man, more vile than the rest, conceived the horrible idea of feeding on his fellow-man: numbers of starving wretches soon rallied round him and formed a band of cannibals, augmented by similar bands in other parts of the country, who hunted for human beings as dogs hunt for game, and thus acquired a taste for human flesh, which continued long after the necessity ceased. They became so formidable that it was not until after the arrival of the Dutch emigrant farmers, in 1837, that the last of their bands were dislodged from the Beggarsburg and driven out of the country, and old men still alive relate their escape from the hands of these cannibals, after hearing themselves discussed as to whether they would, when killed, eat tender or

In less than ten years Chaka depopulated more than two thirds of the whole country now constituting Natal, and in 1828 had become the undisputed sovereign of all south eastern Africa, from the Umzimvubu, or St. John's River, to King George's River, far north of Delagoa Bay, including a large portion of what is now Orange Free State and Trans Vaal country, and also of the tribe and territory of his former patron and master, Dingiswayo.

Thus the Zulus passed through three important phases in less than half a century; first we have a simple, primitive people without civilization; secondly, the same people with a little knowledge, reducing their own happy country into a wilderness, causing rivers of blood to flow, and annihilating whole communities. The third phase is the present state of Natal, and the future yet to come.

The railway now in progress from Durban to Pietermaritzburg, and along the coast, will be the first stepping stone towards this future; the second will be the continuation of the railroad to the coal mines and iron deposits in the Newcastle Division, and thence on to the Orange Free State and Trans Vaal Republic.

These measures will bring European emigration to the country, it will bring wealth and progress, and enable a vast population to raise and export a great variety of produce, which cannot now be done for want of transport; and in a military point of view, it will enable you to move troops with facility to any part of the country.

(To be Continued.)

The British Army in 1874.

From the "General Annual Return of the British Army for the year 1874," lately published we gather the following details:—

The average strength of the Army, at home and abroad, during that year was 8234 officers and 178,105, non-commissioned officers and men, with 25,773 troop and battery horses. During the year 30,356 recruits enlisted, of whom 20,000 were finally approved. The number of desertions was 5572, from which must be deducted the number of deserters rejoining, 2052. The number of non-commissioned officers and men discharged was 13,255, besides 744 transferred to Class 1, Army Reserve. During the same period 12,419 men were tried by court martial for various offences; and 24,560 were fined, once or oftener, for drunkenness. The total number of minor punishments awarded by commanding officers was 255,317. The deaths amongst the non-commissioned officers and men, at home and abroad, amounted together to 2011; or 11 per 1000 of average strength. The deaths amongst the horses on the British Establishment amounted to 313, or 21 per 1000, which again suggests the query whether veterinary science has yet done, or, rather, been allowed to do, all that is possible in reducing the rate of equine mortality in quarters. The horse casualties in India are not shown.

From the latest returns available on 1st January, 1875, there were serving at home and abroad on that date 8156 officers, and 178,276 non-commissioned officers and men, with 25,332 troop and battery horses. Of these, in round numbers, 96,000 of all ranks and 13,000 horses were at home; 23,000 of all ranks and 19 horses in the colonies and 63,000 of all ranks and 10,000 horses in India. Of the aforesaid, 178,276 non-commissioned officers and men, 684 per 1000

were English, 80 per 1000 Scotch, and 233 per 1000 Irish. The proportion of "foreigners," including therein men born at sea or in the colonies, was about 3 per 1000. The proportion belonging to the Church of England was 651 per 1000, and of Roman Catholics 228 per 1000. The number of men unable to read or write was 10,254, or 53 per 1000; and the number able to read but not to write 8162, or 45 per 1000. Rather more than one-half had under 6 years' service, the proportion having less than five years, being 432 per 1000. The ages and service of non-commissioned officers are not shown separately, which, we think, is a mistake. The number wearing good conduct medals with or without gratuities was 1855. The number possessing one or more good conduct badges was 86,791.

Making deduction of those under 5ft. 5in., most of them, presumably, boys specially enlisted, it appears that two thirds of the non-commissioned officers and men measured 5ft. 7in. and upwards, and more than one-half of the total number had a chest measurement of 36in. or over. The age showing the largest proportion of men serving is 22-23 years. The number of men of that age amounted to 81 per 1000 of the whole. The number between the ages of eighteen and twenty years amounted to 80 per 1000. As regards the auxiliary and reserve forces, the return shows that on the 1st January, 1876, Class 1 of the Army Reserve numbered 7845 men, or 2155 short of its complement. Army Reserve, Class 2, numbered 22,214 men or 786 short of its strength.

The Militia numbered 112,679 of all ranks, being 27,254 below the establishment. Included in the Militia total are 28,559 of all ranks Militia Reserve. During the year 1874, 4876 Militiamen joined the Regular Army, and double that number deserted.

The effective strength of the Yeomanry Cavalry is shown as 12,815, being 2314 short of its proper complement.

The total number of enrolled Volunteers in November, 1874, the latest period included in this portion of the return, was 175,387 of all ranks, of whom 91.85 per cent. were efficient.

Obituary.

We are sorry to learn of the death of Major Ronald Archibald McKinnon, of Caledonia, who died on the 10th inst. aged 32 years. His remains were escorted to their last resting place by the officers and men of the 37th Battalion; an account of which we copy from *Grand River Sachem* of the 17th inst.

"On Saturday last a large concourse of sorrowing friends assembled to pay the last sad tribute to one whose death was felt as a personal loss by every one who enjoyed the privilege of his friendship. A large detachment of the 37th under the command of Lieut. Col. Davis, attended, and conducted the sad ceremonies connected with a military funeral. The pall was borne by Captains Wm. Davis, Williamson, Mussen, Whiddon, Goodwin and Ryan, while nearly every officer of the regiment was present. A large firing party surrounded the hearse, and in rear was led the horse of the deceased—the empty saddle and sombre drapery drawing tears from many an eye. Through the village, along the line from the residence of the deceased father to the cemetery, crowds of citizens lined the sidewalks, and every place of business in the village was closed.