

—viz., want of reliable labour. The Kaffir population is our labour market; but, like all blacks living a pastoral and nomadic life, they are very adverse to long periods of work. Emigrants soon settle down to be their own masters, as by dint of hard work, with a little scheming and friendly helps from settlers, in two or three years you would observe quite a change in their affairs for good. A Kaffir works one month and rests six. He gets as much in that month as serves to buy him his blanket and few rinkets for his six months of idleness. After marriage a Kaffir is seldom found to work; his wife, or rather wives (for he is a staunch polygamist, and has as complete a harem as many Grand Turk) do all his laborious work—he is wood, draw his water, plant his crops and gather them, while our sable Othello sits over-drinking and snuff-taking. You may be sure, then, that while the gentler sex are really the only working class of Kaffirdom, there will be little chance for white settlers to do great things in the way of agriculture—say such as cotton or sugar growing. It riles a colonist, more particularly an emigrant's feelings, to see thousands of those able-bodied coloured gentry spending their days away while his fields are lying idle for want of more hands. This is often a real cause of bitterness between the two races, whose feelings and tendencies are so widely different. A colonist is often obliged to resort to bribing a native chief or head man to get affairs to turn out to gather his crops. It may seem strange to your years to hear the cry of want of labour while so many thousands of our fellow-countrymen are starving for want of that which brings them bread-work. Would to God that a few thousands of the more able-bodied of the Lancashire operatives were in Natal.

And now as to your second query as to the comforts and discomforts of the colony. An emigrant would not think of building a fine house unless he had a superfluous supply of cash. A man with two or three hundred pounds would do well only to put up a hut or cabin of two or three rooms, just to shelter him and his goods until he could set about more permanent work. People with soft hands this would be considered roughing it, but which old colonists would, of course, treat as a mere trifling discomfort. If an emigrant chooses to rent a farm at once, which can be done on very reasonable terms, he would then have time to look about him for a suitable farm. It is, however, a very bad plan for new-comers, who look to country for a place to settle down in, to remain long at the seaport of Durban or Maritzburg, as the hotel charges would ruin a small purse in no time. I do not think you would feel any great discomfort from the hot weather. The coolies from Madras wrap up here like a Londoner would in the Highlands—Natal is too cold a climate for them. I have felt it quite as hot in London as ever I have felt it here, but the suc-

cession of hot days is, of course, more numerous than in England. I am now about sixty miles from the coast and have found it so cold to-day (February, our hottest month) that I have had to put on an extra coat. There is a long succession of frosty nights here in winter. Hoar-frost is often very thick upon the grass in the villages. I have seen ice half-an-inch thick, and snow six inches deep on the hills within an hour's ride from this place. Fortunately, the summer is the wet season, and the copious rains and thunderstorms refreshen the atmosphere, and make the evenings generally very cool and pleasant. The average yearly temperature is about 60° and the thermometer seldom reaches to more than 90° or 95° in the hottest months—January and February. In winter it is often as low as 34°.

There is a long range of mountains running parallel to the coast called the Drakensberg, about 7,000 or 8,000 feet high from the sea level; these mountains are generally covered with snow during winter. The prevailing winds in winter are from the Indian Ocean in the day time, and in the winter months, immediately after sunset, the wind suddenly turns to the west, off the snowy tops of the Drakensberg. This wind has a very invigorating effect upon the climate, and if you were upon the hills in the face of this wind you would feel as much taste of frost as you would in a north wind in March at home.

From April to the end of September is one succession of beautiful sunshine; seldom a shower of rain falls in all these months. This has often a very charming effect upon the new-comers, as it is so very much at variance with an English winter sleety, sloppy, rainy days. We have, therefore, a comfortable winter, which is a fine season for shooting, as you may be sure. This country abounds with partridges, pheasants, quails, wood-pigeons, poves, wild turkeys, snipes, parrots, rabbits, various specimens of the wild antelope, &c. There is therefore, a comfort in that you can go out at leisure and shoot, and not fear being trapped up by a gamekeeper.

Notwithstanding that Natal is, as far as situation upon the earth's surface is concerned, almost in the tropics, yet it is free from the more virulent forms of disease. From returns of mortality amongst the troops situated in the various colonies, it appears that out of every 1,000 men 120 die yearly in Jamaica, 78 in the West Indies, 48 in the Madras Presidency, 28 in Bermuda, 16 in Malta and Canada, 14 in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, 13 in the Cape Colony, and only 2 in the thousand in Natal. Consumption is all but unknown here, and even persons who had strong tendencies towards that disease at home do not feel the least inconvenience from it here. The most dangerous diseases in this colony are a kind of low fever and dysentery. These are generally brought on by intemperate habits (colonial