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Miscellaneous.

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CAFFRARIA.

Caffreland is again the scene of fierce desolating war; and we are called once more to mourn over our stations, either partially or wholly destroyed, the converts scattered, or compelled to take part with their cotnrymen, and the missionaries forced to flee for their lives. For several weeks considerable uneasiness was felt along the frontier; but the outbreak was at last sudden, and at that time unexpected. On 10th October Mr. Niven thus wrote: "The colony is again apprehensive of war. The circumscribed limits of the Caffres since the war, the crowding together of the clans on the new border, where their cattle are daily dying for want of pasture; the ceaseless irritation produced by seizure and poundage, *i. e.*; fines varying from £1 to £6; and the grinding effect of universal scarcity of food, are all trying to the public peace. Yet there is no disposition to revolt." A drought had continued for a number of months. And Mr. Niven adds, "A copious descent of rain would sweeten all hearts, and wash out the traces of discontent, as well as give immediate employment to a nation of field labourers." This state of growing irritation, on the part of the Caffros, was promoted by the teaching of a young native prophet, named Mlangeni. Whether this person voluntarily endeavoured to excite his countrymen against the white men, or was used by the discontented

chiefs, who felt that power was slipping from their fingers, to stimulate the tribes to revolt, does not appear; but the excitement which he produced seems to have been very great. Mr. Niven says of him, "He has assumed the office of proufifix maxims (or high priest), and, borrowing the best part of his denunciations from Christianity, hurls his anathemas against witches and witchcraft, theft, uncleanness, bloodshed, and war;" and, as another letter says, "the burning of mimosa wood." "With a dash of patriotism, he promises the obedient inhumanity from the encroachments of white men, and the disappearance of military posts, by his latent energy. He has created a sensation among his credulous countrymen, who visit him in great numbers, and occasionally honour him with a salute from their guns which have escaped military search. The executive have shown their uneasiness, by moving upon Mlangeni, who eluded their advance; and the burning of his hut, and the destruction of a few charms, were his sole loss, with a mighty accession to his influence. I apprehend no interruption to the peace of the country if this enthusiast 'be let alone,' to run out of breath, which he will soon do. As little do I dread aggression on the part of the natives. But on the side of the Europeans, there is ground for uneasiness. The disposition is, to ply the master, with little respect to the claims of humanity and justice, emboldened by the presumption, that the Caffre is too much crippled to