

especially with reference to distinctness and durability. Many plans have been adopted with more or less success. A correspondent of the *Country Gentleman*, speaking from personal experience, recommends *sheet zinc*, fastened to the tree by copper wire, the name of the variety being written thereon by a black lead pencil. A pencil is far better and more durable than ink. Old zinc, the surface of which has been roughened by oxidation, is better than new; but in case the former is not readily procurable the application of strong acetic acid (vinegar) to the surface of new zinc will speedily effect the desired purpose.

Miscellaneous.

THE COTTON-GROWING CAPABILITIES OF SOUTH AFRICA.

On Monday morning, a meeting was held in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall, to hear a statement from the Lord Bishop of Cape Town with respect to the commercial resources of South Africa. There were about 200 gentlemen present, including deputations from the chambers of commerce of Bradford and Leeds.

The Bishop of Cape Town said he believed that Englishmen had been planted on the western coast of Africa, and at the southern extremity, in order that we might diffuse Christianity throughout that land, and raise up one of the most degraded countries in the world to take rank amongst the civilised nations of the earth. In the Cape Colony there was a population of 300,000 or 400,000 persons, but the country, which was 600 miles in length and 400 in breadth, would accommodate as many millions of population as there were now hundreds of thousands. The inhabitants were chiefly engaged as a pastoral people. The chief production of the country was wool. Year by year the produce was increasing, and last year the exports amounted to about £1,000,000. In the western parts of the colony wine was produced of good quality, and no doubt large quantities of it had been sold in this country as port and sherry. Hides, skins, and ivory were imported from the north, and exported from the Cape. The climate was one of the finest in the world, and it was in the south in the same latitude that Gibraltar was in the north. There was a want of internal communication, and the country was not favourable for the construction of railways, although a line was being made from Table Bay through the vine districts, and another was in contemplation from Port Elizabeth to Graham's Town, a distance of eighty or ninety miles. In the Cape Colony there was no cotton culture carried on. He considered that British Kaffraria was a fertile country, and it was now being given out to farmers in small parcels with a view to people the country. Kaffraria Proper was one of the finest countries of the world, and one of the rivers by which it was intersected was finer than the Orange River. No country offered so fine a field for emigrants. Along the coast of Kaffraria Proper he had seen the cotton plant growing, and if we could succeed in civilising the country we might have cotton grown there to a considerable extent. Natal, which was populated with about 120,000 loyal Zulus, was a cotton-growing country; but the cultivation of the sugar plant was likely to thrust out the cotton culture. In that portion of country under King Pandar there was a large heathen population, and it was his intention to try to establish a missionary station there. The Griquas was not a cotton-growing country, but all along the banks of the Zambesi, as Dr. Livingstone had stated, the country abounded in the cotton plant. Dr. Livingstone had also found the coffee plant, the sugar cane, and the castor oil plant there; and the resources of the country were capable of great development. His lordship then described the plans he had in view for the extension of Christianity and civilization to the interior of Africa. Fifty of the sons of the leading chiefs from the interior were now being educated at Cape Town at the expense of the governor, Sir George Grey, and one object he had in view was to raise funds to found a permanent institution to educate natives. Miss Burdett-Coutts had given £2,500 for this purpose, £1,500 of which was to be devoted to building purposes; and the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge had given a donation of £500 towards establishing the institution. The cost of supporting and educating the pupils in this institution was £16 per annum each, and if fifty persons in England would each adopt a child, he should feel he had established an institution which would be of the very greatest advantage to Africa. (Applause.) In answer to questions put to him,