

This appeal has been followed up, from time to time, by numerous urgent representations, which have all ended in disappointment.

In September, 1841, the following resolution, passed at a public meeting at Freemason's-hall, was transmitted to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and yet, after all their struggles and remonstrances, the year closed upon them without the slightest amelioration of their circumstances. In 1843, we find the Colonists again assembled in public meeting at Bathurst, when the following resolution was unanimously passed:—

“Resolved—That this meeting views with the most serious apprehensions and alarm the present state of this frontier; owing to the continual acts of plunder by the Kaffirs, and the murders which frequently mark the inroads of those people; that these acts of aggression and violence have been greatly on the increase in this division ever since the year 1836; that the peaceful occupation of the farmers can no longer be allowed in safety; that neither life nor property is secure; and that this meeting is of opinion that these grievances arise mainly from the operation of the treaties now existing between the Colonial Government and the Kaffir chiefs, and which are not only inadequate to protect the frontier farmer against Kaffir depredation and violence, but which act as an incentive to, and a premium on, such aggression. That this meeting is further of opinion that peace will only be restored and security attained by returning to the principles of the system formerly adopted by Sir Benjamin D'Urban; that it is its firm belief, that, were these adopted and efficiently carried out, they would afford ample security to life and property, and be hailed as a general blessing throughout the Colony, and more especially the frontier districts.”

The inhabitants of Albany, Port Elizabeth, Graham's-town, &c., were all, at the same time, memorialising and petitioning, without the least benefit to themselves or the Colony. From an address of the farmers of the Kaga and Winterberg—two of the most beautiful and fertile divisions of the Colony—we quote the following earnest and affecting passages:—

“The evils we have been subjected to ever since our arrival in this Colony have been so serious as to have caused about 20,000 of the industrious and peaceable Dutch farmers to fly from the Colony, and to seek a home in an unknown wilderness.

“We cannot avoid quoting the concluding words of their affecting parting manifesto:—

“We are now quitting the fruitful land of our birth, in which we have suffered enormous losses and continual vexation, and are entering a wild and dangerous territory; but we go with a firm reliance on an all-seeing, just, and merciful Being, whom it will be our endeavour to fear and humbly to obey.”

“These heart-rending expressions were uttered in 1837 by British subjects.

“We have borne all the cruel vexations they complained of, and from that date to the date of this address we have experienced no amelioration of (we may say, almost no sympathy in) our distresses.”

We will close our notice of this opportune little work with a tabular list of the crimes, and acts of depredation and aggression on the part of the Kaffirs, as furnished by Mr. J. C. Chase, one of the earliest Colonists, and a most able and indefatigable statistician, who, we are glad to observe, has been appointed Secretary to the Lieutenant-Governor of the Eastern Province.

We would merely premise that when these returns were moved for in the Legislative Council by the Hon. Mr. Edden, when presenting petitions from the Colonists, they were point blank refused.

Horses stolen from 1837 to ult. 1843	head	2,469
Cattle	”	11,234
Murders—According to Government Returns	16	
Cases of strong suspicion	2	
Recorded in local papers before publication of Government Returns, <i>i. e.</i> , 1836—37	69	
Do. do. since do., but not appearing therein	16	
	—	103
Assaults on Person—Persons wounded	33	
” fired on	22	
Other assaults	33	
	—	88
Thieves punished by chiefs		10
Kaffirs killed in flagrante		34
Trespasses committed on Colony, irrespective of cases of depredations		20
Infraction of treaties by the Government or Colonists		3