

Fain would I sound it out so loud,
That earth and heaven would hear.

Yes; thou art precious to my soul,
My transport and my trust;
Jewels to mine eyes are only toys,
And gold is sold as dust.

All my envious powers can wish,
In thee doth richly meet,
Not to mine eyes in light so dear,
Nor friendship half so sweet.

Thy grace still dwells upon my breast,
And thou dost live there;
The noblest halm of all its wounds,
The cordial of its care.

I'll speak the honours of thy name,
With my last labouring breath,
Then, speechless, sleep thee in mine arms,
The antidote of death.

DEATH OF AN INFANT.

Death found strange beauty on that polished brow,
And dashed it out. There was a tint of rose
On cheek and lip. He touched the veins with ice,
And the rose faded. Forth from those blue eyes
Then spake a wistful tenderness, a look
Whether to grieve or sleep, which innocence
Alone may wear. With ruthless haste he bound
The silken fringes of those curling lids
For ever. There had been a murmuring sound
With which the babe would charm its mother's ear,
Charming her even to tears. 'The spoiler seizes
The seal of silence.' But there beamed a smile
So fixed, so holy, from that cherub brow,
Death gazed and left it there. He dared not steal
The signet-ring of heaven. LYDIA H. SPOONER.

THE KAFFIR WAR.

The Kaffir war is an important topic under discussion in military and political circles, and one of perplexing interest to the British Government itself. Canada has taught Great Britain one wholesome lesson on Colonial Government; the Kaffirs are now teaching another. Dispassionate opinions, on the real merits of the case, from persons who have had facilities for judging, are of great importance. We believe we have got one well qualified witness-bearer in the Rev. Mr. Renton, of Kelso, Scotland, and accordingly subjoin his testimony. The United Presbyterian Synod having found it necessary to send a Commissioner, or Deputy, to investgate into the state of the Mission in Caffraria, the Rev. gentlemen mentioned was appointed to that important duty, and was there at the very commencement of the war. The following extract is from his speech delivered at a meeting of the Peace Society, in Edinburgh, in December last. —

"Had Britain, after having got possession of the south-eastern angle of the African continent—which, doubtless, was a very valuable acquisition in connection with her trade, and still more in connection with her vast possessions in Asia and America—instead of seeking territorial aggrandizement by the spoliation or the conquest of lands which she could not obtain without injustice, and could not retain without a vast expenditure of treasure, and of blood, acted in a conciliatory spirit to the native tribes on the border—encouraged, instead of obstructed, the entrance of missionaries, and showed her determination to maintain equity in all her transactions, they should not only not have such a renege as such a land had become by the preceding speaker, nor had such a pretext to consider as the Kaffir war. He had been requested to offer some observations on this war, from the circumstance that he happened to be on the scene when the calamity took place. On the very day that he had arrived on the frontier the rumours of a Kaffir outbreak was the first thing that saluted his ears, and he was led early to look at and subsequently to ponder the external condition and political state of the colony in which he had become involved. He would take the liberty, then, of offering one or two observations supplementary to that very graphic and striking outline of the connexion of this country with the Kaffirs to which they had just listened.— Let it be observed, then, that although the term 'Kaffirs' had been often applied, in a vague and loose sense, to the whole body of the native population, from the north-east boundary of the colony as far as Mozambique—a region extending over some twenty degrees of latitude, and comprehending from two to three millions of people—it was applicable, in a proper and strict sense, only to those who dwell within Kaffraria. This country comprises the district lying between the north-east territory of

our colony and the district of Natal, and is inhabited by three branches of the Kaffir family—the Amantabas, who occupy the northern division; the Amantabas, who occupy the western; and the Amakosas, who occupy the southern. It forms a parallelogram which does not exceed 300 miles in length by about 180 in breadth. British Kaffraria comprehends only about a fourth part of this district, and is composed of two branches of the Makosa Kaffirs, namely, the Shumbas and the Gaskas, each numbering about 35,000 souls. It was with the latter war had been chiefly carried on, the present being the sixth in which we had been engaged with them within the period of forty-five years that this country had been in possession of the colony. Other neighbouring tribes had also been involved, in consequence of their being in relation to the Gaskas. Since the return of this country some individuals had expressed their astonishment that a great nation like this should have to fight time after time with a handful of savages; but he would say in answer, it is most intolerable that a great nation like this should act in a manner to make such a handful of people engage in a war with us. If the people had justice as a basis of their cause, were united and resolute, and above all, in addition to these advantages, dwell in a mountainous and woody country, it was almost an impossibility to conquer them. What was the experience of the Romans in their contests with the ancient Caledonians, and the English with our forefathers? It did not become Scotchmen, of all people in the world, to condemn a population for taking advantage of opportunity to resist invasion and throw off a yoke which they believed had been imposed upon them by force and injustice. The Waidenas again, a more handful of people, far smaller than the Gaskas, possessed a portion of Savoy and of France, in immediate proximity, although they had no sympathizing tribes in their necessity to enlist in their support, nor vast tracts of country in their rear, to which they could retreat from the invader, with the certainty that he could not pursue them without rendering his conquest and his position more and more unsafe. To estimate the mischievous and dreadful consequences of getting into war with the Kaffirs at this time, it was requisite to take a glance at the circumstances of the colony itself. Had there been no war at this time, that colony would have been in a state of complete dislocation. They were aware that two years ago, the Governor and his staff of officials got into collision with 29 out of every 100 of the colonists on the convict question, and there was a vast breach between the colonists on the one hand, and the local and home Government on the other. More recently that breach had been widened and deepened by the difference about a popular question of the state of matters there was most unfortunate for the commencement of a war with barbarians. Another element of mischief within the last two years, consisted in the universal impression which had got abroad among the coloured classes, that there was a design on the part of the colonists to rescind the charter of their freedom, to reduce them to a state of servitude, to re-enslave the whole colony, and to send them back to their native travelling from one locality to another without a passport. Some of these apprehensions were well founded. The knowledge of such projects, although the enlightened part of the community reprobated them, excited in the minds of a large portion of the coloured classes, especially the Hottentots, distrust and jealousy. Thus the Government and a small section of adherents were in collision with the body of the European colonists, and the coloured classes were, in feeling, in a state of distrust of both. But he must hasten to speak of the causes of the present war, and, as far as the Kaffirs were concerned, he apprehended that the remote fundamental procuring causes were two—the universal accreted and unradical sense throughout the whole people—latent in some cases, but deeply cherished, in others, of injury and loss from the spoliation of their lands. To take their land from these people was to take every thing from them. Like every other nation, they had an attachment to their native country, and especially to those portions of it which they had been accustomed to consider their own. To take away from the proprietors and occupants of lands in this country—their entire estates and lands—by one wholesale confiscation, and to drive them out destitute, would not be a more flagrant wrong than it was to take from the native tribes their lands. Hence the spoliation of their lands was that fundamental injustice which lay at the bottom of all the difficulties which had arisen between the natives whom we have arbitrarily comprehended under our dominion, and who feel that they exist on their native soil by sufferance.

It was this greatest injury, next to their outright destruction, which made the coloured classes beyond our dominions dwell on our approximation. The other cause was the sense actually felt on the part of the chiefs of the several tribes of the colony of their power under the steady administration of the British magistracy. It was necessary to discuss the comparative merits of what had been termed the Glesne and D'Urban systems of governing the Kaffirs. But he would say, that whatever might be the defects or errors of the D'Urban system, which was that on which Sir Harry Smith had proceeded, as his immediate predecessor, Sir H. Pottinger and Sir F. Maitland had done, it had every advantage which a system derived from a prudent, faithful, continuing adviser's tuition. Colonel M'Kinnon, however, since he had been his patron and operations in this war as a soldier, and the two gentlemen under him, Mr. Brownlee and Captain M'Lean, had been most excellent commissioners. So that if it shall be found that the D'Urban system has not wrought well, and could not succeed under them, he should depair of its success in any hands. As to the proximate cause of the present war, he was inclined to ascribe it to three parties, namely, the Kaffirs, the Colonists, and the Government. As to the Kaffirs, it was a semi-political, semi-fanatical nature had been plotted by Sandili, his brother