

overtaken this Settlement never could have happened. Justice and self interest would have alike forbidden it. But veiled as its affairs have been, the most extravagant fictions have been believed and acted upon. Partisanship has had in this country a wide field for its operations; the British public have been deluded; numbers of the Colonists ruined or destroyed; while the Government has been taught a lesson, by the demands upon its treasury, which it is certain it will not easily forget.

"It is with the hope of assisting to dispel this darkness, that these papers are now published in their present form."

"It is probable that at first sight these pages may appear to give but a partial view of the whole matter. And, in fact, the case of the Colonists is emphatically an *ex parte* one. THE AGGRESSION IS ALL ON ONE SIDE; the Colonists are entirely guiltless of having provoked offence. Even the Kaffirs themselves do not plead any such excuse for their murderous inroads and incessant plunderings, while successive Governors have officially declared that the Colonists are altogether irreproachable in their conduct towards these restless people. Such being the actual fact, and upon which they boldly challenge inquiry; they come before the country with clean hands, they appeal to the manly feeling of their fellow subjects, and they claim at the hands of their Government the redress of past injuries and security for the future."

A voluminous mass of most unquestionable evidence as to the vicious nature of our frontier policy is here adduced; and the crying wrongs of the settlers are feelingly portrayed. The authorities have too long wilfully shut their eyes to the true state of affairs, and ultimately, as we now know, they were taken by *surprise*, and the frontier was laid prostrate, the Government for the time paralysed, and the exposed inhabitants swept away, destroyed, or ruined.

The endurance of the Cape Colonists has been most severely treated, their strong memorials have been disregarded, their earnest appeals for protection and redress unattended to, until, stung by this neglect, a large number of the old frontier inhabitants, rather than continue to endure the trials to which the border farmers were subjected, resolved to plunge into the interior, beyond the pale of British jurisdiction. Happy would it have been for the Colonists, the Kaffirs, and for the Home Government, had the suggestions and representations of the Colonists had their due weight, but unfortunately they were passed by as idle tales, and the results are war, anarchy, destruction, and death.

"After detailing their grievances, and showing by reference to public documents extant, and easily accessible, the whole course and character of their affairs, the Colonists in 1836, preferred three specific requests, namely, INQUIRY, COMPENSATION, PROTECTION, and which they more fully set forth in the following prayer:—

"1. The appointment of a *Commission of Inquiry*, to investigate on the spot into those charges which have been so injuriously made against them.

"2. That they may receive *pecuniary compensation* for their ruinous losses which have recently befallen them, and which may justly be attributed to inattention to their repeated petitions and most urgent remonstrances.

"3. For such *adequate protection* in future, against the aggressive inroads of the native tribes, as shall stimulate the plundered inhabitants to re-establish themselves on their ruined and deserted farms; as shall check that extensive abandonment of the Colony which is now in course of progress; and as shall restore that confidence in the justice and paternal regard of the British Government, which has been forfeited, to a considerable extent, by the adoption of impolitic measures, and by lending a too credulous ear to the reprehensible calumnies which have been cast upon a community of British subjects, whose humanity and loyalty they do not hesitate to declare are alike unimpeachable.

"Will it be believed that this urgent appeal was treated with the same chilling and criminal disregard as every preceding one? Will it be credited, that no inquiry was made, no compensation given; and that instead of protection, the savage invaders of the Colony were actually REWARDED for their murderous inroad; that a fresh tract of country was given them, and by which they were placed in a position where they might repeat the aggression with more ruinous and deadly effect, and with greater facility? Monstrous and fabulous as all this appears, it is nevertheless a sober reality, the consequences of which we see, and are made to feel, in the calamities that have now overspread this once smiling Province; by a repetition, in an aggravated form, of a sweep of the very same tract of country by the same robber hordes—by the destruction of the property and annihilation of the hopes of the Colonists—by an appalling loss of life—and by an expenditure of British treasure, which, considering the ease with which it might have been avoided, cannot be contemplated but with poignant regret as respects the past, and with serious uneasiness in reference to the future."