

TO OUR READERS.

We have to thank our English friends and subscribers who have come forward by letters and subscriptions, and suggestions to aid in the difficult work of establishing a Kaffir newspaper. To all our contemporaries—(pardon and save the mark, and the presumption of the word on the part of such an elf of the press as the *Isigidimi Samarosa*)—to all who have helped us into public notice, we feel under deep obligations; but especially to the *Cape Argus* and the *Eastern Province Herald* for their suggestions and their generous recognition of our existence; as well also to the *Fort Beaufort Advocate* for space, and for notices by most other journals in the colony.

Various representations have reached us about the spelling of proper names and the introduction of new words into Kaffir. We invite further suggestions on these vexed questions before we return to the subject in a future issue. We are willing to do anything, not morally wrong, in order to secure our object—the diffusion of intelligence and information among the native people of this country. We shall be glad to spell such words backwards or forwards, or in any possible transposition of letters, or even to print them upside down, provided that will help the end in view. But we do not see that much is likely to be gained by so doing, and just as little by adopting an orthography in proper and geographical names, such as would render a reference to any dictionary or atlas yet published, perfectly useless. However, we are but feeling our way in this, as in various other matters connected with the paper; and if the purists in Kaffir will but have patience we may yet be able to please even them.

In this issue there is rather a smaller amount of English than is desirable. Our Kaffir readers like full value for their money, and as there were complaints last month about the small quantity of Kaffir, we have equalized the difference now. This, we know, will be of small consequence to our English readers, as they take the paper chiefly for the love they bear to its success, and from their good will to missionary work, rather than from any personal considerations.

The price of the paper will be *three shillings* a year, or *four shillings* by post—if it is continued at its present size, and only once a month. It would be desirable to issue it once a fortnight, or to enlarge it, in which case, there will be an alteration in price. But our difficulty at present is to squeeze from tight drawn native purses even thirty-six pence a year. And so we begin moderately. The omission last month of the price was due to two sentences of type having disappeared in the process of arranging into pages.

Only the latest war telegram is given, as the others were published and distributed within moderate distance round Lovedale shortly after their arrival. To those of our English readers who are interested in the war, the latest is given for sale.

CENTRAL AFRICA.

SIR SAMUEL BAKER.

By a letter received by Sir Roderick Murchison, we have accounts of Sir Samuel Baker's expedition up to June 15th. He was then at a spot on the banks of the White Nile, called Towfikeeya, in lat. 9, 26 North. He had with him 1,500 men, and a fleet of fifty-three vessels, which were moored in the river. The men, stores, and materials for the expedition, had all been safely housed for the rainy season, in magazines of galvanized iron, brought for the purpose of erecting such temporary stations. These stores, and the vessels in sections, had been conveyed across the Nubian desert from a point in the Red Sea, probably Suakin, to Khartoum, on the backs of 1,800 camels. The troops (of the Pasha) and all the Europeans, including Lady Baker, and Sir Samuel's nephew, Lieutenant Baker, were in good health—free from all ailments.

From the common fate of African travellers—unlooked for and prolonged delays—Sir Samuel has not escaped. He had lost the season for ascending the White Nile. The full tide of all great African rivers, during which alone their navigation is possible, occurs but once a year—when about two-thirds of the rainy season are over. It is this tide, in the affairs of African explorers, which taken at the flood, leads on to fortune; and if it is not so taken, they are all the rest of the year bound in shallows and in miseries, demoralized by inaction and laid low by fever, while their stores slowly melt away before their eyes. We have known one such voyage from this cause, occupying fourteen months, instead of six weeks. Meantime, Sir Samuel Baker will employ his 1,500 men in sowing and reaping corn to secure supplies for his advance to Gondokoro, for which place he was to leave this month, though it will more likely be in the end of December.

As an instance of the capriciousness of African rivers, Sir Samuel mentions, that since he was in the country in 1865, the course of the White Nile has become obstructed by a great dam composed of marsh vegetation floated downwards—forming a barrier to the upward progress of ships, but beneath which the great current of water still flows seawards. The slave traders being thus prevented following their usual route to their old hunting fields, had discovered a passage to Gondokoro by a stream marked on the maps as the Giraffe, which was believed to be a tributary, but is now found to be an arm of the main river. Up this arm Baker proceeded to nearly 8 lat. North—having had to cut at many places, a canal through the marsh vegetation, for his vessels, and being finally stopped by the shallowness of the water. This branch of the river is only navigable, even for light vessels, in the rainy season.

At his station at Towfikeeya—he had stopped a boat, laden with 150 slaves, packed, as he says, like sardines in a cask. Altogether he has freed

305 of these poor creatures, mostly women, young girls and boys—and one of the first labours of the English blacksmiths, was to cut through the chains which bound these unfortunates together. All these, on obtaining their freedom, were duly registered, to form part, we suppose, of the free community about to be established, as one of the results of this splendidly equipped expedition. Whatever may be its future fortunes, it is impossible not to regard it with interest. It has been organized on a scale adequate to the work attempted. Its object is to introduce freedom, good government, commerce, and civilization, into a region hitherto long cursed by annual raids of raiders of the vilest character, to whom pity and mercy, and the common feelings of humanity, are things unknown. There is no word of the introduction of the Gospel as yet, but that, in time, will no doubt come. It will be a great pity, if nothing more definite and tangible arise, than the extension of the Pasha's dominions and the administration of the country according to Mahomedan rule. But, any government is better than the no-government that exists there at present; and the present ruler of Egypt is a man of comprehensive views. Of this, the Suez Canal is a proof. However, Sir Samuel Baker will accomplish good results if he can put an end to the devil's work so faithfully carried on by those White Nile traders.

DR. LIVINGSTONE.

The general public of the English world will be gratified by the contradiction of the report of the death of Dr. Livingstone, which arrived at the same time as the original rumour. The Portuguese have put him to death very often of late by report. At the same time, they have never offered him any bodily harm, and in the early part of his career, afforded him a good deal of substantial assistance. Considering the not very flattering way in which Dr. Livingstone has been sometimes compelled to speak about them, they have been singularly forbearing and kind to him personally, if they have sometimes opposed his plans, when these came into collision with their trade in slaves. There is nothing very improbable in the rumour, that Dr. Livingstone was said to have arrived in safety at his old quarters in Mozambique—though it would be well to wait for confirmation before giving the account full credit. It is easier to travel southwards in Africa than to go northwards. The character of the people alters for the worse, as the traveller gradually makes his way to the north. The prevalence of the slave trade, and the existence of a hybrid Mahomedanism at some points, which makes a very fierce graft on African heathenism, accounts for the more degraded and ferocious character of the tribes.

Our readers will do well to suspect news coming by the post, and to be established by the Portu-