

**AN ENGLISH-ZULU DICTIONARY;
WITH THE PRINCIPLES
OF PRONUNCIATION AND
CLASSIFICATION FULLY
EXPLAINED**

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An English-Zulu Dictionary; With the Principles of Pronunciation and Classification Fully Explained by Charles Roberts

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CHARLES ROBERTS

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ENGLISH-ZULU DICTIONARY;

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BY THE
REV. CHARLES ROBERTS,

*Author of "The South-African Travellers' Handbook; for the use
of the Army and the Navy;" "The Zulu-Kafir Language
Simplified for Beginners," "Step-by-Step in Zulu," &c.*

SECOND EDITION, WITH SUPPLEMENT.

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1895.

A. F.

P R E F A C E.

THE circumstance that gave rise to the compilation of this Dictionary may be briefly stated. Several years ago an American minister of a kindred Society, who had purchased a copy of the Author's Grammar, wrote him expressing both "regret that the English-Zulu Vocabulary was not larger," and the opinion "that a copious and reliable English-Zulu Dictionary was a desideratum in Natal." These, and similar observations made subsequently by others, led irresistibly to the conclusion that Perrin's small book, though possessing considerable merit, is not sufficiently comprehensive to meet the varied necessities of those persons whose requirements go beyond the ordinary details of daily life. And impressed with the conviction that out of his own limited stock of the vernacular, and by frequent converse with the natives themselves, he might, at least in part, be able to supply the need felt by most missionaries there, the Author commenced the present work.

It contains Zulu for about *Eighteen Thousand English Words*. The whole of the Zulu will not be equally well known in every part of Natal. For example, plants indigenous in the upper districts may appear exotic to natives residing on the coast, or *vice versa*; hence the thing itself being unknown, the name also will probably be unknown.

For valuable assistance afforded in the preparation of the Dictionary, the Author is indebted to several ministers and laymen. To those gentlemen who examined parts of the work in manuscript, and the brethren of the Natal District who unanimously and cordially recommended it to the consideration of the Missionary Committee, he is under peculiar obligations.

Numerous gleanings have been made from books published in and on the Zulu language. But many words which could not stand the test of criticism by competent natives were at once rejected.

Notwithstanding every effort to secure accuracy, it would be too much even to hope that the work is perfect. Those, however, who wish to consult it need to be guarded against the error into which some Colonists have fallen, of supposing that every Zulu, or what is worse, young Natalian, who to a certain extent speaks the vernacular fluently, is thoroughly acquainted with the language. Such a conclusion, if arrived at with respect to a European tongue, would of course be absurd. With certain exceptions, to be noticed in the Introduction, most of the words found herein either are or ought to be in general use. In determining philological difficulties, it will always be safe to adopt the Author's plan of submitting them to a number of the senior heathen living at remote distances from civilization.

PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

THE Supplement to this Edition, which contains more than four hundred additional words, includes some of foreign origin, which are clearly understood by the Natives in their commercial intercourse with the English and Dutch Colonists; and the Zulu language will, in the future, be further enriched by similar words. Terms have yet to be invented or Zuluised to distinguish between a palace and a hut, a cathedral and a chapel, a crypt and a grave, a molecule and a ball.

With deep sorrow I record the fact that three of the excellent Ministers to whom this work was dedicated have passed away.

To the REVERENDS W. MORLEY PUNSHON, LL.D., JOHN KILNER
EBENEZER E. JENKINS, M.A., MARMADUKE C. OSBORN
(Secretary of the Conference), the General Secretaries of
the Wesleyan Missionary Society.

REVEREND AND DEAR SIRS,

Had there been time to consult the brethrer of the Natal District, there is little doubt that the announcement of my intention to dedicate this Dictionary to you would have been received with unmingled satisfaction. The relations existing between yourselves and the Wesleyan Ministers labouring in that Colony have, at least on your part, been so genial, and characterized by so much urbanity and tenderness, even for the feelings of those from whom you may have differed, that communications in your own autograph, received by missionaries in that far-distant field of toil, are welcomed by all. And the pleasure is enhanced by the consideration of those noble and unflagging efforts which you have recently put forth to free the Society from its present embarrassments. These facts alone are a sufficient reason for the liberty I have taken with your names.

To the above, however, must be added the uniform kindness I have personally received, particularly during the time spent under the Missionary Committee's direction. And the present connection—which will, by my entrance into the home work, be severed—must always be remembered as a gleam of sunshine that cheered many an hour of monotonous toil.

With Christian regards,

I am, Reverend and dear Sirs,

Most truly yours,

LONDON,

CHARLES ROBERTS.

February 9th, 1830.

INTRODUCTION.

THE Native population of Natal comprises a few tribes known as the ama-Xosa, the ama-Swazi, the ama-Tefula, and a large number of the ama-Zulu. It is probable that the latter emigrated originally from the interior of Africa ; and travelling in a south-easterly direction, settled between the Black and the White Umvolosi river. Thence, during the days of the famous chief Chaka, they rapidly enlarged the territory already acquired by prowess, spreading over the adjacent country, till eventually their dominion extended from the Umpongolo river on the north to the Tukela on the south, and the Blood and Buffalo rivers on the west. In every part of this extensive tract of land the Zulu language is generally spoken. Not a few of the natives, dissatisfied with the arbitrary sway of heathen despotism, or eager to obtain work ; fleeing as outlaws, or impelled by a roving disposition ; have from time to time crossed the borders, and sought protection both in Natal and the Transvaal. Thus by a large section of the population of these countries, especially in the former, the Zulu is also spoken. Between the words, the signification, and the grammatical forms of the several dialects common in Natal, a substantial agreement will be found. With the exception of the ama-Xosa, many of the differences are not greater or more numerous than the provincialisms of England. The ama-Tefula put *y* for *l*, as *yapa* for *lapa* ; and change *wy* into *n*, as *inama* for *inyama*. The ama-Swazi place *t* for *z*, as *umfati* for *umfazi* ; *angati* for *angazi*. The ama-Lala, whose dialect is harsh, substitute *y* for *k*, *d* for *z*, and *w* for *y*. The natives concerned feel a pride in using and perpetuating these clannish distinctions. Since it is not desirable that a lexicographer should include mere barbarisms, but few specimens will appear in the following pages.

This remark does not however apply with equal force to those "Ukhlonipa" customs so generally prevalent, which have not only burdened the language with a number of superfluous words, but have given a false and unnatural meaning to others, as in the word "isankelo," for hand. A limited number of such words have, by the force of custom, been engrafted into the language.

There is another observation respecting the correspondence of words in the English and the Zulu. When the reader recollects the synonyms, or rather pseudo-synonyms, of our own tongue, he will not be surprised to learn that a few of the translations are only approximations. It is impossible, in every instance, to obtain in Zulu a word which corresponds exactly with the English.

Another remark must be made respecting the prefixes, which, when united to nouns, are not easily recognized. Take, for example, "Utando," love; does it belong to the fifth or the sixth class? So with "Ukula," weeds; judging from its form, we may refer it to either the fifth or the eighth class of nouns. To obviate such difficulties the prefix indicative of the class has been placed at the end of each word. And the prefixes, looked at in connection with the subjoined table, will enable the reader to discriminate correctly in most cases.

Those who wish to study the Grammar cannot do better than obtain a copy of "The Zulu-Kafir Language Simplified for Beginners," the Second Edition of which work will shortly be published.

But in reference to many missionaries and others, whose knowledge of the Zulu tongue is considerable, the paradigm given below will be useful.

ORTHOGRAPHY AND ACCENTUATION.

1. The alphabet of the Zulu language is usually divided into seventeen *consonants*, five *vowels*, three *clicks*, and a harsh *guttural*.

2. With the exception of a limited number of letters to be noticed presently, the consonants are pronounced as in the English language.

3. The vowels have the following value :

a,	as in the English word	ark, father.
e,	" "	late.
i,	" "	piqua, ravine.
o,	" "	mole, pole.
u,	" "	rule, ruin.