

**RAMBLES THROUGH THE
ARCHIVES OF THE
COLONY OF THE CAPE OF
GOOD HOPE, 1688-1700**

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Rambles through the archives of the colony of the Cape of Good Hope, 1688-1700 by Hendrik
Carel Vos Leibbrandt

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HENDRIK CAREL VOS LEIBBRANDT

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1688-1700.

BY
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"Truth is established by scrutiny and deliberation: falsehood
thrives by precipitation and uncertainty."—TACITUS.

FIRST SERIES.

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TO THE
HONOURABLE JOHN TUDHOPE,

MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,

AND

COLONIAL SECRETARY OF THE COLONY OF THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE,

This Volume

IS DEDICATED AS A MARK OF THE PERSONAL REGARD

OF

THE AUTHOR.



INTRODUCTION.

MANY authors have complained that, although their works are read, the introductions penned by them with so much pains are generally skipped, and that often the writing of even a small one is a more difficult task than the treatment of many portions of the subject to which the volume which it is intended to introduce, has been devoted. Be this as it may, I hope that at least a few of my readers will peruse this first page. It will explain the reason why I wrote.

Being Custodian of the Archives of the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope—a most interesting and valuable collection of Dutch official papers, covering the period from the departure from Holland of Commander Johan van Riebeeck, in December, 1651, in order to establish a factory or refreshment station here, until January, 1806, when the Cape was taken by England—I considered it necessary, not only to arrange the documents properly, but also to draw out their contents in the form of an English *précis*, and, at the same time, compile a copious index for the convenience of reference.

In this form many years of Colonial History have already been completed by me; and I trust within a very early period to be able to publish the whole in the same manner in which the papers of the two first years 1651-53, have seen the light.

It was, however, suggested to me that, in the meanwhile, a narrative of the most important events of the period with which I have been busy would not be unacceptable, and, accordingly, I ventured to undertake the task of writing one; but having, as it were, to begin in the middle, and finding it impossible to do justice to my subject without laying before the reader events which preceded it, and should be thoroughly known, my story naturally assumed its present form. Hence I decided to place it before the public under the name of "Rambles through the Archives." Should it afford information to the reader, and likewise a few pleasant moments, my object will be attained.

My thanks are due to the Honourable John Tudhope, M.L.A., Colonial Secretary, and Ministerial head of my Department, for the kind interest which he has taken in my work; for his words of encouragement; and for his indispensable assistance so readily rendered in removing the most serious difficulties in the way of publication.

I likewise wish to express my sincere thanks to Charles A. Fairbridge and W. Rawbone, Esquires, both of this city, for rare volumes kindly lent to me; to Monsieur J. Van den Bergh, the Venerable Archivist at the Hague, not only for important extracts from the collection in his custody, but likewise for his invariable kindness, willing-

ness, and readiness to afford me all the information at his command; and likewise to his Lordship, the Right Reverend Bishop of St. Helena, for valuable extracts from the St. Helena Records, regarding the Huguenots on that Island, after the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes.

H. C. V. LEIBBRANDT.

PARLIAMENT HOUSE, CAPE TOWN.

March, 1886.