

**ABSTRACT OF THE DEBATES
AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE
COUNCIL OF POLICY AT THE
CAPE FROM 1651 TO 1687**

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by Various

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VARIOUS

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ABSTRACT

OF THE

DEBATES AND RESOLUTIONS

OF THE

Council of Policy at the Cape,

FROM 1651 TO 1687.

*Prepared by GEORGE M'CALL THEAL, while Keeper of the
Colonial Archives.*

CAPE TOWN:

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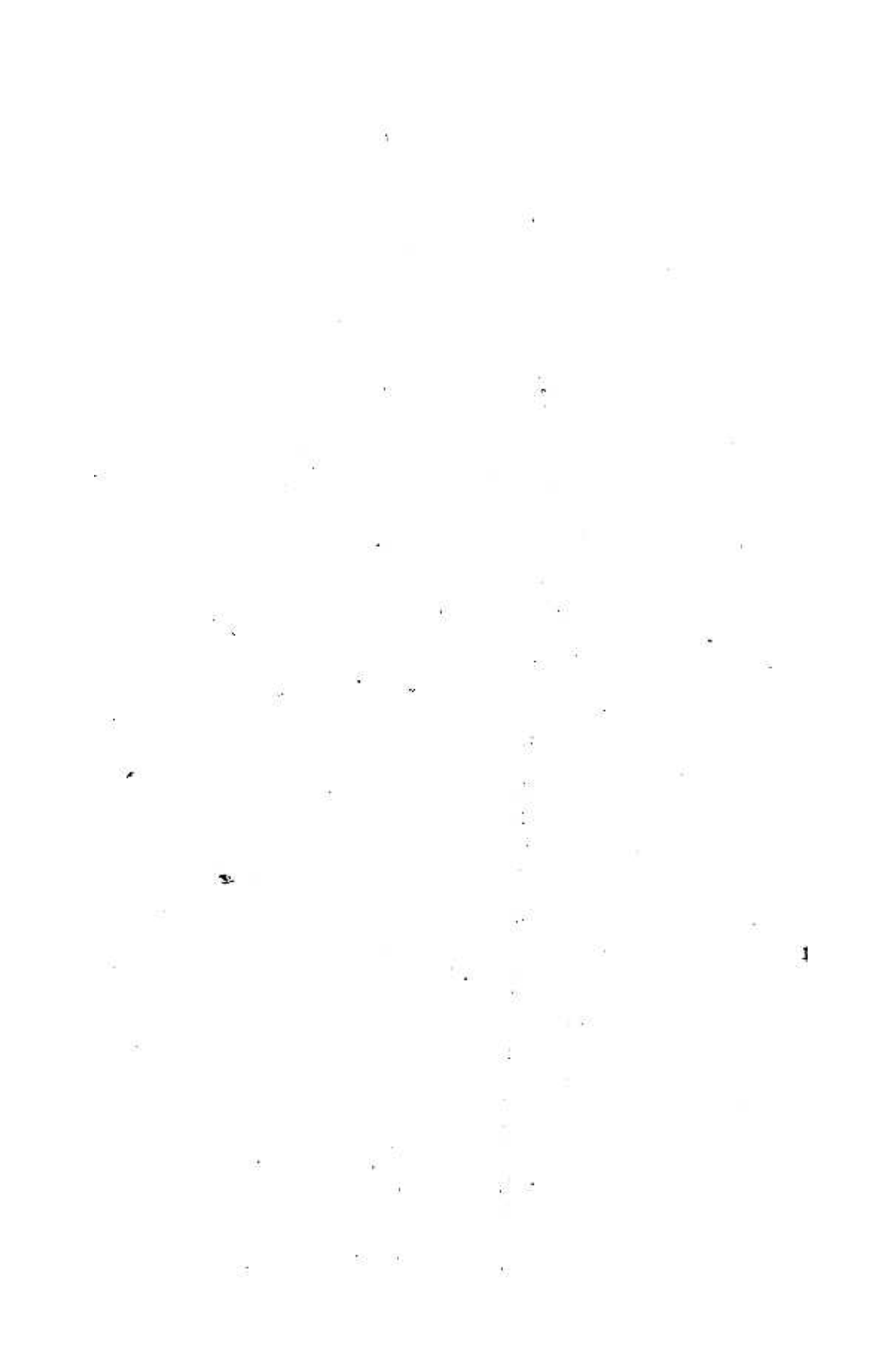
THE Debates and Resolutions of the State Council by which the Cape Colony was governed from 1652 to 1795 are the most important documents in our archives. They are in an excellent state of preservation, and the series is very nearly complete. A few of the oldest volumes were until recently only loosely fastened together, but I have had them bound, so that they can now be examined without any difficulty. The remaining volumes of the series were originally strongly bound, and have never sustained any injury.

The earliest documents are written in black letter, and are not easily read without a little practice. They are not indexed, as those of a later date have very carefully and fully been. This abstract has therefore been prepared with a view of facilitating research.

The Council of Policy at the Cape was subject to the control of the Governor General and Council of India as well as of the Chamber of Seventeen or Supreme Directory of the Honourable the United Netherlands Chartered East India Company. It consisted of the principal officers of the settlement, but the commanders of fleets and other officers of rank who happened to call on their way to or from the Indies usually took part in its deliberations. A very large proportion of the discussions on such occasions had reference only to ships, and is of no interest now. Every meeting is mentioned in the following pages, but subjects of no importance in the history of this colony have only a line devoted to them. Discussions and resolutions of permanent interest have been condensed, but care has been taken not to eliminate any information of value.

G. M. T.

Cape Town, December 1880.



The first book of Resolutions is prefaced by the following prayer, which was read at every meeting. It is copied here, so that any one unacquainted with the old style of writing, and with abbreviations then in use, may readily acquire such information by comparison.

O Barmhertige, Goedertieren Godt ende Hemelsche Vader, nadien het uwe goddel^e Maj^t gelieft heeft ons te beroepen over 't bestier der saacken van de Generale vereenighde Nederlantse g'octroijsde oost Indische Comp^e alhier aen Cabo de boa Esperance, ende wij ten dien eijnde met onsen bijhebbenden raedt in uwen H. name vergadert sijn: omme met advijs van de selve sodanige besluyten te maecken waermede den meesten dienst van de opgemelte Comp^e gevoirdert, de justitie gehanthaeft, ende ond'r dese wilde brutale menschen (mogelijk sijnde) uwe ware gereformeerde Christelijcke Leere metter tijt mochte voortgeplant ende verbreyt worden, tot uwes H. naems loff ende Eere, ende welstant onser H^{en} principalen, waertos wij sonder dijne genadige hulpe 't alderminste en vermogen. Soo bidden wij u derhalven, O aldergenadighste Vader, dat gij ons met uwe Vaderlijcke wijsheijt wilt bijwoonen, ende in dese onse vergaderinge presiderende onse Harten sulx verlichten, dat alle verkeerde passien misverstanden ende andere diergelijcke gebreken van ons mogen geweert blijven, ten eijnde onse Harten van alle menschelijcke affecten reijn, ende onse gemoederen soo gestelt sijnde wij in onse raedtsalagen niet anders voornemen nochte besluyten als 't gene mach strecken tot grootmaeckinge ende loff van uwen alderheijlighsten naems ende den meesten dienst van onse Heeren en Meesters, sonder in eeniger maten op eigen baet off particulier profijt acht te nemen. Het welcke en wes meer ons tot uijtvoeringe

onnes bevolen dienste ende Zaligh^t nodigh sij, wij bidden
ende begeeren in den naeme uwes Wel lieven Zoons
onnen Heijlandt ende Zaligmaker Jesu Christij, die ons
heeft leeren Bidden

Onse Vader &^a

I N D E X
OF THE
R E S O L U T I O N S
OF THE
Council of Policy.

30 December 1651. In the English Channel.

Present: Jan van Riebeeck, Senior Merchant, David Coninek, skipper of the *Dromedaris*, Jan Hoochsæet, skipper of the *Reiger*, and Simon Peter Turver, skipper of the *Goede Hoop*. Pieter van der Helm is Secretary.

The *Dromedaris* proving crank, the skippers of the *Reiger* and *Goede Hoop* have been summoned to come on board of her, a council is held, and it is resolved to put into a harbour on the English coast, to get some ballast for the *Dromedaris*, and then to proceed on the voyage with all possible speed.

20 January 1652. Off the Cape Verde Islands.

Present the same persons as at last meeting.

As the crews of the three vessels are in good health, it is resolved not to call at the Cape Verde Islands, but to pursue the voyage to the Cape of Good Hope.

29 March 1652. On board the *Dromedaris* at sea.

Present the same persons as at last meeting.

It is resolved to use every exertion to reach 34° 20'

south latitude, and then for the three vessels in company to direct their course to the Cape of Good Hope.

8 April 1652. On board the *Dromedaris* in Table Bay.

Present the same persons as at last meeting.

The arrival of the three vessels on the 6th and 7th is recorded, and the objects of the expedition are stated. It is resolved that the Senior Merchant Jan van Riebeeck with the three skippers shall go on shore and select and mark out a site for the fortress which is to be built. It is resolved that thirty-six hands be left on board the *Dromedaris*, the same number on board the *Reiger*, and eleven on board the *Goede Hoop*, to land cargo, to convey water and ballast to the ships, and to catch fish. It is resolved that in addition to the officers one hundred men shall go on shore. It is resolved that the carpenters shall erect a dwelling house and a store house within the limits to be marked out for the fortress. Some regulations follow, concerning the cooking of food on shore, the serving out of wine to the people, and the watch that is to be kept.

19 April 1652. On board the *Dromedaris* in Table Bay.

Present the same persons as at last meeting.

It is recorded that the ship *Salamander* arrived from Batavia on the 15th. The *Salamander* is to sail with the first fair wind for the Fatherland. Concerning the letters to be sent by her. It is resolved that three men from the *Salamander* remain here.

11 May 1652. On board the *Dromedaris* in Table Bay.

Present the same persons as at last meeting, and in addition four officers of the ships *Walvisch* and *Olifant*.

It is placed on record that there are now only sixty men of the *Dromedaris*, *Reiger*, and *Goede Hoop*, working at the fortifications, which are progressing but