

**NOTES ON THE CAPE OF
GOOD HOPE: MADE DURING
AN EXCURSION IN THAT
COLONY IN THE YEAR 1820**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649658831

Notes on the Cape of Good Hope: Made During an Excursion in That Colony in the Year 1820 by
Edward Blount

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

EDWARD BLOUNT

**NOTES ON THE CAPE OF
GOOD HOPE: MADE DURING
AN EXCURSION IN THAT
COLONY IN THE YEAR 1820**

NOTES

ON THE

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE,

MADE DURING AN

EXCURSION IN THAT COLONY

IN THE YEAR 1820.

At nos hinc affl sitientes libanus Afros.

Virc.

LONDON:

JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE-STREET.

1821.

THE NEW YORK
PUBLIC LIBRARY
19493A
ASTOR LENOX AND
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS
NEW YORK

LONDON:

PRINTED BY THOMAS DAVISON, WHITEFRIARS.

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER I.

Arrival at the Cape—Cape Town—Hotels—Mode of Travelling
—Wynberg—Temperature Page 1

CHAPTER II.

Journey up the Country—The Boors—Their Houses—Manners,
Customs, &c. 13

CHAPTER III.

Mossel Bay and its Vicinity—Advantages of this Situation—
Forest Trees 34

CHAPTER IV.

Property continually changing Hands—The Reason—Description
of the Farm of Mr. T.—The Kuyana—Timber of the
Colony—Impediments to Travelling—Wild Beasts . . . 42

CHAPTER V.

Dutch System of Agriculture—Extent and Quality of the Farms
—The Produce—Method of treading out the Corn—Cattle—
Sheep—Horses 55

CHAPTER VI.

The Fruits of the Colony—The Vines—Wine indifferent—No
sufficient Reason yet assigned—Licences for selling Wine and
Spirits—Salubrity of the Climate 70

Edwards 31 May 1921

CHAPTER VII.

The English all clamorous for the Introduction of their own Laws
 —Cursory View of some Parts of the Dutch Colonial Juris-
 prudence—Mode of Taxation—The Change of Property upon
 Marriage—And the Division amongst the Children upon the
 Death of the Parents—Divorce Page 76

CHAPTER VIII.

Cape Town—Society—Women—Merchants—Literature—Music
 —Slave Dances—Slavery—Politics—State of Morals—Table
 Bay—Table Mountain 97

CHAPTER IX.

Arrival of the Settlers—Their Location—Quality of the Soil, &c.
 —Probabilities of Success—Description of Men embarked in
 the Undertaking 121

CHAPTER X.

Hints to Emigrants 143

CHAPTER XI.

Concluding Reflexions 154
 Report of Captain Fairfax Moresby to the acting Governor 169
 Sr. HALLOWA 185

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

CHAPTER I.

Arrival at the Cape—Cape Town—Hotels—Mode of Travelling—Wynberg—Temperature.

ON the morning of the 1st of January, 1820, we arrived at this new Land of Promise; a date too memorable to be easily forgotten, as being the first day of a new year dawning upon me in a new quarter of the globe. After a long and protracted voyage, where the eye has been accustomed to range at large over the blue expanse of waters, without one object to diversify and break the sameness of the view, the first appearance of land is really dazzling. Its outline, shape, and colour, are more vivid and distinct, more intensely present to us than at any other moment of our lives; and we gaze at it with an ardour, that those only can conceive, who have experienced this long and unnatural separation. The sea, after all, is not our element; we are intruders upon the secrets of the mighty deep, and we feel that our arrival at the shores of mother

earth, though in a foreign and unknown clime, is, as it were, a return to home. At day-break the land of the Cape of Good Hope was a speck upon the horizon, that, slowly rising from its bed of waters, gradually unfolded its dusky form, and stood at length displayed in wild and naked majesty. The Table Mountain, with its fleecy canopy of clouds, is the most remarkable feature in the scene; but it would be vain to attempt a picture of the whole of this lofty promontory, which stretches its rugged arms into the sea, and, frowning like a mighty giant upon the sons of other climates that pour in upon his Cyclopean dominions, seems an appropriate introduction to the wilds of Southern Africa. Some traveller has declared, that the hills of the Cape, from their marks of vast antiquity, must have been a prior creation to the rest of the earth*; and you are not inclined to quarrel with this hypothesis upon first beholding their shrubless sides and worn summits, which seem crumbling and dropping away beneath the hand of time. They might serve for

“The throne of Chaos, and his dark pavilion spread
Wide on the wasteful deep.”

* Shells and other marine substances have been lately discovered on these mountains, giving evidence that the Flood has been there.

Cape Town is too much frequented, and too generally known, to need any description. As the major part of its visitors, however, are persons on their way to and from India, remaining only a few days for rest and refreshment, it is probable that its defects have been overlooked, and its beauties exaggerated. Its external appearance is prepossessing, and it unquestionably may rank as a neat and pretty town. An Englishman is reminded that he is not in his own country, by the white-washed houses, the want of pavement and flags in the streets, and a few other peculiarities. The absence of shops, too, which bring the process and bustle of trade more immediately under the eye, imparts an air of stillness, of which the cause is not at first perceptible. All business is transacted in warehouses, or stores, as they are termed; but a stranger might imagine that none is going forward. The houses are constructed chiefly with a view to coolness, and to this, comfort and convenience, are not unfrequently sacrificed. The exclusion of light gives to the interior of a Dutch house a sombre appearance; and a spacious apartment, containing two or more beds, is not altogether so snug, as a room of smaller dimensions containing but one.

This is the first summer month. The sun is powerfully hot; the thermometer, in a large flagged hall, stands generally at about 80° Fahrenheit during