MARITZBURG
AUCTION COMPANY,
LAND VALUERS AND GENERAL AGENTS.
W. FRANCIS, Manager.

THE MARITZBURG AUCTION COMPANY
Have on hand, for Sale, at Wholesale rates:
Ale, Bass and Fleur Cresote Stockholm and Coal Tar
Bacon, Yellow wood Plank and Scantling
Butter, Mess Meat Champagne Deals, Ceiling, and Flooring Boards, Cut
Candles, Tallow Natal Coffee Posts, 3in., 4in., 5in., 6in.
Cigars, Cheroots Natal Leaf Shingles, Mouldings and Cornices, 2½in. to 5in.
Sugar, Brown Salt, and Saltpetre
Soap, Brown and Stearine Candles Saddles, Ladies' and Gent's Bar Lead
Nails, Assorted Morewood's and Scotch Corrugated Iron, 6ft., 7ft., and 8ft.
Medicine Shaker Winnowing Machines
Bar and Rod Iron Iron Axles
Rivets, Skins, Whipsticks, and Tows
Port Wine Nut Rum American Axes, and Chairs
Brandies, Hennessy's American Eight-day Clocks
Hollands Gin Cape Smoke Empress, and other Stoves
Bitter Ale Burton Ale Blucher Boots Basins Glassware
Wax Vestas Navy and Wagon Canvas Anti-friction Grease Saxoline Oil
Wax Tapers and Multi Sashes Paint, and Paint Oils Portland Cement
Cigars, Cheroots, and Plates Corks, Moles, Punjums, &c., &c., &c.
American Cotton Gins. American and Natal Ploughs. Cape Seed Oats.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"Looker-on," "A Farmer," "Rattle," and Capt Lloyd in our next.

Shipping Intelligence.

SAILED.

[illegible]

IN PORT.

[illegible]

Maritzburg Market Prices.

[illegible]

MOON'S PHASES.

[illegible]

The Natal Witness.

PIETERMARITZBURG, TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 1874.

WHEN we wrote our article on the 20th ultimo, urging that the Coolie Bill should be amended, we hardly hoped that it would be done. Our sole reliance was on the contention that the Legislature, who had not had time to inquire into the details of the question themself, had been misled, and that when he became aware of the facts he would see the necessity of entirely changing the character of the bill. This we are happy to say has come to pass and the planting interest thereby rescued from the position of extreme danger in which it had been placed by the unwise proceedings of their special representatives in the Legislative Council. That the alterations made have not been as complete as Earl Kimberley's Despatch implies is probably owing to the pertinacious influence these representatives have had on this question with the head of the Government. Still, much has been done, and the disadvantage of the bill is not now the absolute certainty it was in its previous bad form. But at the best, even after the amendments have been made, legislation having for its object the resumption of Coolie immigration has been sadly botched this session by those who profess to make it their special study and who arrogate to be its chosen champions.

Shortly after the Council resumed its sittings the Governor sent down a message requesting alterations to be made in the bill. In it That the £20,000 voted under the Loans Consolidation Law for Indian Immigrants should not be considered as so much voted in advance, for the introduction of Coolies, but should be reckoned as "the third of the cost of Indian Immigrants to be paid in future from the general revenue." That of the certainties required, two-thirds be paid by the employers of Coolies by the laws now in force should prove to be less than two-thirds the entire expense, that the Governor should have power to increase the contributions of employers until they reach two-thirds. And That the Trust Board should annually set apart sixty shillings per Coolie as a fund for the payment of return passages. These amendments are important, and, as far as they go, comply with the instructions in Earl Kimberley's Despatch.

But they do not go quite far enough. Earl Kimberley said that not only the £20,000 but "any portion of the cost of return passages since 1870 in excess of one-third which may have been defrayed from the General Revenue ought, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, to be counted as part of the third to be paid by proportion of the cost of Indian immigration to be in future paid from the General Revenue." This portion of His Lordship's instructions has been coolly disregarded, and what applies will be offered for having done so we are wholly unable to imagine. £5,277 have been paid out of the revenue for return passages since 1870, two-thirds of which, £3,518, ought to have been added to the £20,000 in order to obey the orders of the Secretary of State.

There where a section in the bill which has just become law that proposes to lend to the importers of Coolies £30,000 in addition to the sum paid to be contributed from revenue. We do not think there is the slightest probability of Earl Kimberley consenting to this arrangement. It is true that the Trust Board which has to have the control of this sum is required to pay five per cent. interest for the use of it. But as Coolie employers pay only two-thirds of the expenses, and revenue the other third, the employers will only pay three and one-third per cent. for the money which is lent to them, and revenue will have to pay one and two-thirds per cent. The fact is the colony borrows money at five per cent. and lends it to the employers of Coolies at three pounds six shillings and eight pence per cent. This neat little bargain will not escape the notice of the officials in Downing Street, and it will, we are sure, be specially offensive to Earl Kimberley.

Still it is not probable that His Lordship will take the extreme step of advising Her Majesty to disallow the bill. It is more probable that he will at once instruct the Governor not to advance any of the £20,000 and will require that the law be amended in uniformity with his previous instructions. Nor is it all improbable that His Lordship will express his extreme surprise that the wishes of Her Majesty's Government should have been so much disregarded when framing and passing the law.

If a judicious course had been pursued in legislating on this question there can be little doubt that a law, or rather laws, might have been passed which would have secured the concurrence of the Secretary of State. It would have been wiser to have framed a special bill to legalise the lending of the £30,000 to the employers of Coolies. This could have been done on the same principle as that which appointed the Drainage Commissioners in England and gave them power to advance loans to the owners of estates for specific purpose, and on expressed conditions. Thus the Trust Board might have been allowed to lend the £30,000 to the owners of estates for the purpose of Indian Immigration at five per cent. interest and three per cent. sinking fund. The interest and sinking fund would each year be paid to the Treasurer on revenue account. Of course the loan would be made a first charge on the estates of borrowers.

The operation of such a law would be something like the following:—A planter asks for sufficient to enable him to import 100 Coolies and £1,500, say, is placed to his credit for this purpose on his giving the necessary bonds. On this sum he has to pay eight per cent.—that is, five for interest, and three for sinking fund; and when the Coolies arrive he would have to pay £3 a-head on assignment, and £3 per year for four subsequent years, assuming that amount is sufficient to meet two-thirds of the entire cost of Coolie Immigration. His entire annual payments per Coolie would be £9, and eight per cent., that is, £4 4s. altogether. But of this sum £4 4s. would go to form a fund to be charitably expended when it is remembered how slightly the pupils and their master have been behind in the railway contest, to say nothing of other painful defeats.

A FORTNIGHT ago we informed our readers that the Governor had gone to the coast to examine the sugar estates and ascertain by personal observation if the loss from the destruction of unreaped crops was likely to be so serious as had been represented. His Excellency having satisfied himself of the truth of the representations, at once gallantly determined to come to the rescue. A circular has been issued by the Coast Magistrates requiring them to call together the various chiefs under their jurisdiction and inform them of the state of affairs, remind them of their own custom in that respect, that when the fruits of the earth are in danger, young and old, rich and poor, must turn out and assist in gathering and storing the grain, and inform them that Government will help to reap the sugar crop. By an estimate previously made it was calculated that 2,000 men would be required for a period of two months, and that number the chiefs have been required to furnish. The conditions of their employment are—that current wages must be paid to them, the usual rations given, and that in every case the employer they are to be under the provisions of the Master and Servant's Ordinance.

This is another bright star in Sir Benjamin's diadem. His Excellency's generosity and sympathy will endear him still more to the hearts of the people of Natal. In his absence such relief would not have been given, but suffering planters would have been left to the ruinous operation of the cold and heartless law of supply and demand.

WE are told that "the darkest cloud has its silver lining," and we quite believe it. Natal is in the last throes of despair on the labour question, with no immediate prospect of relief, when, lo! a kind angel comes to us in a substantial form from beyond the seas and offers our suffering planters just the help they could desire. A message has come from the island of Bourbon to say that there are 2,000 persons there accustomed to work on sugar estates that are desirous to come and labour in Natal. The cost of bringing them it is said will not be more than £5 per head, and they are willing to accept 12s. per month and rations for common labourers up to 20s. a-month with rations for carpenters, masons, blacksmiths, &c. This is an unexpected opportunity and the Governor did not hesitate to accept it. He said at once, "Yes, we will take them and pay the passage money as fast as you can send them." The bargain is concluded. An answer will be sent by the first opportunity, and in a few months the first batch of Bourbonites will, we hope, find a home in Natal. Should the Colonial Legislature in the way the blunderings in Coolie legislation will be less harmful than they would otherwise have been.

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A GRAND pyrotechnic exhibition is to take place at the premises of Messrs. J. J. Chapman & Co., so well known as the "Golden Cannister," to-morrow night, 21st instant, the day on which Prince Alfred, who may be looked upon as the patron Prince of Natal, is, if we mistake not, to make his entrance into Durban.

OUR MAILS.—The Government has accepted the tenders of Mr. R. Evans for (1) conveyance of mails and cars between the Bluff and the City and Durban, for the year 1874, and (2) for the conveyance of the Transvaal and other mails between the City and Newcastle via Estcourt and Ladysmith, once a week each way, for the period ending 31st December, 1875.

SATURDAY'S SALES.—Raw & Co.: Slaughter oxen, £7 17s. 6d. to £10; trek oxen, £6 12s. to £10; a lot of small unbreaks, £8 10s.; cows, £8 to £9; a span (10) of trek oxen, £8 16s. J. D. Holliday: Spans of trek oxen, £6 18s. to £8; horses, £6 to £10; a dog-cart, £12; a set of harness, £6; harness complete, £8; offered, not sold; loose cattle 6d. to 1s. 6d.

THE BISHOP OF NATAL AND THE KAFIRS.—A correspondent writes thus:—"All the Kafirs on my farm are now in possession of a garbled account of the Bishop's doings and sayings lately and say that he advocates that the volunteers who killed any of Langalibalele's people ought to be tried, and that Langalibalele ought to be released as he (the Bishop) does not believe the Chief has broken the laws."

RATES OF TRANSPORT.—The following are the latest quotations:—Durban to Pietermaritzburg 3s. per cwt.; Pietermaritzburg to Greytown 2s. 3d. to 3s.; do. Ladysmith, 8s.; do. Newcastle, 13s.; do. Harrismith, 14s.; do. Kokstad, 22s.; do. Cronstadt, 22s.; do. Winburg, 21s.; do. Bloemfontein, 30s.; do. Pretoria, 23s.; do. Pretoria, 27s.; do. Rustenburg, 28s.; do. Pretoria, 28s.; do. Leydenburg, 40s.; do. Gold Fields, 45s.

THE REDEEM.—On Sunday last a detachment of the Natal Mounted Rifles arrived in town bringing with them ninety more prisoners of the rebel tribe. These prisoners had, we hear, been captured by Captain Lucas' Native Contingent on the other side of the Berg, and had been brought down by the Langalibalele, where they were duly handed over to the Natal Frontier Guard who conveyed them to "durance vile" in the city.

THE GOVERNMENT.—The morning's *Gazette* are published a long set of regulations for the establishment of a Department of Immigration. Under these new rules, the Coolie Immigration Board and the old European Immigration Agency are both done away with, and the whole of the functions of Agent for the introduction of Immigrants, both European and Indian, are vested in Colonel Lucas Meyer, who is to be called Protector.

THE Commissioned Officers of the Volunteer Corps of the colony are called to attend a meeting at the Drill Shed, Pietermaritzburg, on Friday next, for the purpose of considering the best weapon to arm the force with, and also the best means to adopt for the improvement in the Volunteer Law, which have been brought to light by the experiences of the Zulu Cetswayo Expedition and Langalibalele Expedition.

THE PRESERVED GOLD A MISTAKE.—The *Cape Argus* says:—"We regret to learn that what appeared to the commissioners recently sent to the Gold Fields, and they are willing to accept 12s. per month and rations for common labourers up to 20s. a-month with rations for carpenters, masons, blacksmiths, &c. This is an unexpected opportunity and the Governor did not hesitate to accept it. He said at once, "Yes, we will take them and pay the passage money as fast as you can send them." The bargain is concluded. An answer will be sent by the first opportunity, and in a few months the first batch of Bourbonites will, we hope, find a home in Natal. Should the Colonial Legislature in the way the blunderings in Coolie legislation will be less harmful than they would otherwise have been.

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THE LATE SWIMMING SPORTS.

On Friday evening last a ceremony of a most interesting character took place in the Town Hall. Soon after seven o'clock the population of the city, and especially the youngsters, began to assemble about the Town Office. Shortly after, the Committee-men were to be seen amongst an army of prizes on the long table in the reporters' gallery, making up the cash into small packets. At 7.30 p.m. proceedings commenced. The Hon. T. Shepstone, C.M.G., M.E.C., took the chair, and was supported by most of the members of the Committee, and there was a large attendance of the amateurs of the city. The Chairman, in opening the proceedings, thanked the Working Committee for the profitable afternoon's sport afforded on the previous Saturday. He was delighted at these meetings every one could learn and gain. He was sorry he could not be as active as a member, but his age was, his old friend, Mr. J. D. Holliday, had frightened him out of the Veterans' Race. It gave him great pleasure to be present, as well knowing he (Mr. Holliday) had been on this, their fifth occurrence, and also to see that they were still appreciated by the public, as shown by the attendance at the River, and the list of contributions. He admired these sports as a means of making men of boys, and thought anything useful in any position they might find themselves in for saving life and property; in support of which he instanced an incident that occurred at the late Langalibalele Expedition, when a valuable horse was drowned because none of the bystanders could swim, when the hon. gentleman observed, "Any one of you boys I see round me would have gone in at once, and saved the life of the property," and also he (Mr. Shepstone) proceeded at the recent sports, when an individual strongly insisted on going to the bottom of the river, and a well-known member of the Committee insisted, still more strongly that he should not stay there. He hoped that they would look upon proficiency in swimming as a necessary part of their education. He was personally always glad and proud to be asked to act as judge, and he was glad to be asked, but he must say that he thought that these prizes were well worth competing for.

After these few remarks, which were received throughout with cheers, Mr. Shepstone distributed the prizes, as follows, accompanying each with a few appropriate remarks:—

Race—300 yards, 100 against current.

1. J. Peters, 22 2s.; 2. W. Reed, £1 1s.; 3. A. Johnson, 10s. 6d.

Race for all under twenty years—300 yards, 100 against current.

1. W. Hall, £1 10s.; 2. F. Bower, a desk; 3. J. Dean, a desk.

In this race, Dean actually came in second, but was objected to on the ground of having a shallow at the river, and walking a few yards instead of swimming. The objection was allowed. It is only fair to Dean to say that he never contended for the prize, and accepted the judge's decision in a most exemplary manner.

Race for all under seventeen years—200 yards.

1. A. Doig, £1; 2. F. Bower, books.

Race for all under fourteen years—100 yards.

1. J. Ballantine, 15s.; 2. C. Calbeart and A. Hines tied, the former a box of bi-cuits, and the latter a concertina.

Race in Clothing.

1. J. Peters, £1 10s.; 2. J. Dean, £1 1s.; 3. A. Archer, a lot of perfumery, &c.

Tub Race.

1. A. Hodgkins, £2 2s.; 2. A. Doig, box of colours; 3. J. Mitchell, basket of apples.

Steeplechase.

1. W. Reed, £1 10s.; 2. J. Dean, lamp; Pete Flynn (75th Regt.), 10s. 6d.

Crossing the River on Horseback.

1. D. B. Scott, *Punch's Dick*, £1 10s.; 2. R. Holliday's *Lightfoot*, £1 1s.; 3. Mr. Wilson's *Nelson*, spurs and whip.

Military and Volunteer Race.

1. W. Hall, £1 5s.; 2. A. Macdonald, set of studs; 3. O. Player, life preserver and pocket filter.

Deep Diving.

1. A. Johnson, £2 2s.; 2. W. Reed, £1 1s.; 3. J. Peters, 10s. 6d.

Long Diving.

1. A. Johnson, £2 2s.; 2. Private Pabey (75th Regt.), pipe; 3. W. Reed, microscope.

Long Diving for all under Eighteen.

1. J. Dean, £1 1s.; 2. J. Johnson, cigar-stand.

Long Diving for all under Eighteen.

1. J. Bakewell, £1 1s.; 2. B. Francis, bag of meal.

Weight Race.

1. A. Johnson, £1 10s.; 2. W. Reed, £1 1s.; 3. J. Peters, 10s. 6d.

Consolation Stakes—200 yards.

1. O. Player; £1 1s. 2. Bowser, pair of vases.

Greasy Pole.

C. Hodgkins, leg of mutton.

The two winners (J. Forsyth and A. Egner) received 5s. each.

The Chairman then presented the Champion Cup for the year and the Silver Medal to W. Reed. In doing so, he congratulated him on the honours he had won, and said he was glad to see a young man show such strength. The winner was loudly cheered.

Mr. Shepstone then congratulated the Working Committee on the success of their endeavours to make there sports go off well, and again repeated that he looked upon them as most healthy and useful property in the colony.

Mr. J. D. Holliday, in a few appropriate words, moved a vote of thanks to the Chairman, who had now for five years acted as judge at the Swimming Sports, and hoped he might be able to do so for many these sports. The vote was enthusiastically passed.

Mr. Shepstone, in returning thanks, said that he looked upon what he did as the discharge of the sports not as a service for which he should be thanked, but as a pleasure to himself. (Cheers.)

After passing a cordial vote of thanks to Mr. J. D. Holliday, Chairman of the Permanent Committee, the meeting broke up.

Trial of Langalibalele.

THE trial of the rebel Kafir Chief Langalibalele, for rebellion against the authority of Her Majesty's Government in this colony, was commenced on Friday morning at 11 o'clock, at Government House, which His Excellency Sir Benjamin C. C. Pine, K.C.M.G., Supreme Chief; Lieut.-Colonel T. Miles, Commandant Her Majesty's 75th Regiment; the Hon. D. Leslie, Colonial Secretary; the Hon. J. Ayliff, Colonial Treasurer; the Hon. M. H. Gallwey, Attorney-General; the Hon. T. Shepstone, Secretary for Native Affairs; the Hon. C. Barter, B.C.L., and the Hon. J. T. Bidkington, Members of the Executive Council; J. Bird, Esq., R.M.; A. C. Hawkins, Esq., R.M.; P. Paterson, Esq., R.M.; J. W. Shepstone, Esq., R.M.; and the Kafir Chiefs Gokuka and Induna to the Natal Government; Mafingu, Induna at the Resident Magistrate's Office, Durban; Hemubemu, chief of the Mafunzi tribe; Nondonisa, Chief of the Amatuli tribe; Teteleku, Chief of the Amapumuka tribe; and Manzele, Induna to the Secretary for Native Affairs.

The prisoner was brought into the marquee in which the court was held, attended by a strong bodyguard of Her Majesty's 75th Regiment, and throughout the proceedings, which lasted for two hours, there was a large attendance of Europeans and also of the natives, principally Zulus.

The proceedings were conducted under native law, and the Secretary for Native Affairs undertook the interpretation.

The Supreme Chief said: We are assembled today to try the prisoner Langalibalele for one of the greatest crimes that a human being can possibly commit against society—namely the crime of high treason. The crime of rebellion is the greatest that can be committed against a civilized community. Murder, robbery, plunder, violence, and all other offences are included in the crime of rebellion, and all are committed under the cloak of rebellion. Langalibalele and the other chiefs are perfectly aware that under the law, if the charge of rebellion against the prisoner would not be alive now; the offence he has committed would have made him worthy of death, and the sentence would have been carried, which would have been considered sufficient to condemn him without further proceedings. I have been determined to give the late chief the benefit of a trial by his own law, and to adhere to the Native Law under which he has lived, we are under no more desirous of tempering that law with as much mercy as we can. We are a Christian people, and do not like to put men to death if we can help it, and we even time will, giving the accused a fair and impartial trial. I have therefore called together the chiefs of the various powers in this colony and the representatives of the greatest authority in this colony; and I am myself sitting as Supreme Chief, and I am not alone in this, by Her Majesty the Queen, whom I am representing, to administer to the Native Law under which I have assisted also by the Secretary for Native Affairs, with whom the Kafirs are in the habit of coming into the Government Office, and by the Executive Council, the Supreme Council of this colony, and also by the Magistrates, who are more closely in touch with Native Law, under myself, to the Kafirs, and by some of the greatest Native Chiefs in this colony, the equals of Langalibalele himself.

Mr. J. W. Shepstone opened the case to the Court as follows: For nearly thirty years has British rule been established and supported in this colony, and it must be looked upon by all as a matter of congratulation, that it is only now found necessary for the safety of the inhabitants of this colony, to convene a court of Native Law, to try a case of rebellion against the authority of Her Majesty's Government in this colony. The case commenced on Friday morning at 11 o'clock, at Government House, which His Excellency Sir Benjamin C. C. Pine, K.C.M.G., Supreme Chief; Lieut.-Colonel T. Miles, Commandant Her Majesty's 75th Regiment; the Hon. D. Leslie, Colonial Secretary; the Hon. J. Ayliff, Colonial Treasurer; the Hon. M. H. Gallwey, Attorney-General; the Hon. T. Shepstone, Secretary for Native Affairs; the Hon. C. Barter, B.C.L., and the Hon. J. T. Bidkington, Members of the Executive Council; J. Bird, Esq., R.M.; A. C. Hawkins, Esq., R.M.; P. Paterson, Esq., R.M.; J. W. Shepstone, Esq., R.M.; and the Kafir Chiefs Gokuka and Induna to the Natal Government; Mafingu, Induna at the Resident Magistrate's Office, Durban; Hemubemu, chief of the Mafunzi tribe; Nondonisa, Chief of the Amatuli tribe; Teteleku, Chief of the Amapumuka tribe; and Manzele, Induna to the Secretary for Native Affairs.

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AGENTS
Durban—P. DAVIS & SONS, Greytown—R. FRIEDLAND, Pietermaritzburg—R. MACFARLANE, Newcastle—J. CUTHBERTSON, Richmond—J. JOB, Kokstad, Ekonjeni—JOHN COATES.

P. DAVIS & SONS,
Printers and Publishers.

OUR VOLUNTEERS.
KARKLOOF CARBINEERS
Meeting at Howick, on JANUARY 20th (to-day).
MARITZBURG RIFLES.
Orderlies for the month of January—Sergt. Horsley and Corpl. Ross.
Shooting for Mr. Leslie's Cup, on Saturday, 31st January, Fourth competition for LIEUTENANT SHOOTER MEDAL, on Saturday, 7th February.
CORPS OF L. J. DE VILLIERS, Engineers—F. ADAM, H. DENSHAM, Gunners—J. LACK, Lombardy, L. G. STREET, Cornhill, London.
Pietermaritzburg, Tuesday—Mr. O. O. WEBBS.

WEATHER REPORT.

Monday, 19th January, 9 a.m.

The weather of the past week has been unfortunately fine, and with no material change in atmospheric pressure. Temperature has varied between 86½° and 61°. The currents of air have been from the south-east and north-west, and on each twenty-four hours. During the last two or three days the mercury has been gradually receding, so, should this continue, and the thermometer rise, there may be thunderstorms before long.

CRICKET.

"LUTLAND" vs. "EUTWEINI."

This match was played on the Oval, in Alexandra Park, on Saturday last, and was won by the "Lutland" Club, by twenty runs on the first innings. But the match been played out it would have been seem that the winners—if perhaps idle about some other game—would have had a very easy time in handling the willow. Messrs. Parbury, Cruickshank, Beaumont, and Hickling made a rather big stand for good runs, and Messrs. Parbury and Tucker caused great destruction amongst the opponents' timber. The following is the score:—

"LUTLAND."

1st innings.		2nd innings.	
E. P. Parbury, b. A. Scott	28	c and b. D. Scott	80
J. P. Holmes, b. Edwards	3		
J. Cruickshank, c. Edwards	1	not out	35
H. H. Matthias, b. A. Scott	1		
J. Beaumont, b. A. Scott	0		
J. P. Manisty, b. Buston	0		
J. Hickling, c. Edwards, b. Buston	0	not out	10
G. Mansell, b. Buston	0		
W. Tucker, b. Buston	0		
" Richter, c. Edwards, b. Byers	2	A. A. L.	1
		Byers	6
		Buston	20
Total	83	Total	112

"EUTWEINI."

A. Moodie, b. Tucker	0
D. Taylor, b. Parbury	2
H. Arnold, b. Parbury	7
A. L. Scott, b. Tucker	0
W. W. Edwards, b. Tucker	0
D. Scott, b. Parbury	0
D. MacDonald, b. Parbury	0
A. D. Gibson, b. Parbury	0
J. D. Scott, b. Parbury	0
J. Barnett, not out	0
A. R. Buston, b. Tucker	0
" Byers, b. Tucker	0
Total	10

To the Editor of the Natal Witness.

SIR,—Having been myself present at the affair of the Bushmen last Friday, I cannot imagine how unpleasant it is to my feelings to read a letter by "Mr. Lord Bishop of Natal," for such I judge by the writings be founded on no greater truths I fear, alas, there may yet be a devil in spite of all the ingenuity of the Bishop of Natal.—I am, &c.,

January 13, 1874. TREMBLING.

To the Editor of the Natal Witness.

SIR,—It is very distressing indeed to see in the papers that our brave volunteers have been thought cowards. This is not very encouraging to them to remain in the corps, and there is no doubt that several of them will resign on that account. They do their duty, and ordered, and what could have been desired more? It is a miracle that any of them escaped to tell the tale, and instead of finding fault it would be far wiser to give them great praise after their two months' hardships, and a good farm each. What could be done without mounted volunteers in this country.—I am, &c.,

January 12, 1873. A LADY.

together for the trial of Langalibalele, a native who for a period of twenty-four years has enjoyed the position of chief over an important tribe in this country. The crime with which he is charged is a very serious one, but I feel that it is the sincere desire of Your Excellency, and also of this honourable court, that the prisoner should have a fair and unprejudiced trial, for the several charge which are to be brought against him. The indictment to which he will be called upon to plead is as follows:—

"That Langalibalele and the Hlubi tribe, having been refugees from the Zululand in 1849, and having been received by the Government of Natal and allowed to live in the country, on condition that they occupied a portion of the base of the Drakensberg and discharged certain duties necessary for the protection of the Country of Weenen, did wickedly, seditiously, and traitorously, conspire together to abandon that position and those duties; and, in carrying out the object of such conspiracy, did leave the colony, and cross the Drakensberg as an armed force, taking their cattle with them, and by so doing that, so to do was a defiant contravention of the law under which they live, and rebellion against the authority of Her Majesty the Queen.

"That in carrying out this seditious and rebellious design, they pointed their weapons of war against the Supreme Chief and Government of Natal, and the subjects of Her Majesty the Queen, sent by the Supreme Chief to turn them back to their allegiance and duty.

"That Langalibalele, having been entrusted with the management of the Hlubi tribe, and the Lieutenant of the Supreme Chief, did encourage and conspire with the people under him to procure firearms and to retain them, as he and they well knew, contrary to law, for the purpose and with the intention of, by force of such firearms, resisting the authority of the Supreme Chief, and that, with the same purpose and intention, he did enter into and carry on treasonable communications with parties at present unknown; and that emboldened by the possession of such firearms, and encouraged by expectations of aid and comfort from such parties, proceeded to disobey and defy the Magistrates placed over him, to insult and treat with violence the messengers and messengers sent to him on behalf of the Supreme Chief, and to kill the subjects of Her Majesty the Queen directly by the Supreme Chief, to cause him and the people placed under him to return to allegiance.

"Whereby he wickedly and traitorously placed himself and the people committed to his care in open rebellion against the Supreme Chief and the authority of Her Majesty the Queen."

The prisoner on being called upon to plead said: I do not understand the nature of the charge, to a certain extent; that is, I do not know that I have committed murder, or burglary. I should like the messengers who were present on the occasion alluded to to be present. I certainly did what I am charged with doing in the indictment, that is, I went over the mountains, armed, and with cattle, and by so doing the things happened as mentioned in the indictment, but the witnesses I would like to call would prove extenuating circumstances. I can only add that I advised the young men of my tribe not to purchase guns, but they would not take my advice. I was afraid to come to the Supreme Chief when sent for, for fear of punishment. (The prisoner gave the names of his five witnesses, and, on being asked, it is supposed, out of the colony, and are rebels.)

The Supreme Chief: I look upon it that your insults to the Government of this colony, in killing its messengers, is an aggravation of your offence.

Langalibalele: I have nothing to say, as regards that, but with reference to my taking flight, the people of my own tribe told me that there was danger in my remaining, and I was afraid to listen to my cautions against it. So far as the charge of murder is concerned, the blame should attach to Mahubulu and the three others who had accompanied me to Natal. I want to see them brought here. With the exception of treasonable communication I have held with others, outside the colony, all the blame should attach to my headmen, and others, for all the action I took was to go over the mountains, and I was in fear and in doubt of the danger which my people told me was imminent, and advice was given me in this respect, which I could not help following.

The Supreme Chief: It was your duty to control your tribe, and if you could not, then you should have given yourself up to the representative of the Government. Your plea is one that you know in a Kafir Court is not admissible at all. What is the use of your being a chief at all if you have not the command of your tribe?

The Kafir Chiefs in attendance then proceeded to give their opinion upon the case as follows:—

Hemubemu: I have heard no answer from the prisoner which is the least justifies or answers the charges brought against him. I have heard nothing that having been sent for to appear before the Government he went over the Drakensberg, and in doing so neglected his people and kraals, and left them. We cannot hear of his answers to the charges, at all. Those who have to speak of the Government as being to blame for this rebellion, they are themselves rebels; they are his own people, and consequently could not have done anything without his will and being told to. His duty clearly was to have come to the Supreme Chief when first sent for, and then instead of meeting a Court like this, he would simply have had to explain to the Supreme Chief, and that for far less trivial matters than those which are now brought against him. I should think the prisoner should have in his fear to come before the Supreme Chief, to name any chief of his rank or position, who would have gone for to answer any charge, was ever hurt for coming at once to the Supreme Chief.

Tetelesha: I think Langalibalele can plead no excuse for anything that he has done, at least on the score of ignorance, for all the chiefs and headmen of the colony are made fully aware of what are the laws of the land, of what may be done and what may not be done, especially with reference to the gun law. Everyone knows that under this law it is not lawful for a Kafir to have a gun without possessing a license from Government and it. It was his duty, as chief to the prisoner says, he advised his young men not to buy guns, but, they having rejected his advice, he cannot plead ignorance of their having purchased them, or of their having been unlawfully bought, or that they could only legally be held by taking them to the Magistrate, and the holder then obtaining permission of the Government to still continue the possession of them. If he, instead of at once attempt to compel the young men to take their guns to the Magistrate, he found that they disobeyed him, it was then clearly his duty to go to the Magistrate and explain that he had endeavoured to induce them to comply with the law but had failed, and therefore asked for the assistance in the matter. If he in thoughtlessness or negligence it had not occurred to him to follow that course, he could not at least have forgotten that when matters became so serious that he was sent for, it was clearly his duty to have gone at once to the Magistrate, and try and remedy the mistake he had made by not interfering in the matter before. And even if from want of confidence between him and the Supreme Chief at once and fully his case before him and asked advice and relief in the matter. And even though he had neglected all this, then he heard that the Supreme Chief was about coming to see him, he ought to have met him and humbly presented his case to him, and said, "If I have done wrong, punish me." That was the only plea I make course he had of remedying all the mistakes he had made previously. And if still he had neglected to do that, then, seeing that he had no property of his own—that his people, his land, and his life belonged to the Supreme Chief—he should have—he ought to have left the place alone, unfollowed and unopposed by any attempt on the Chief, when he was out of the colony and had left all behind him, he would have done wrong, but he would have done the smallest amount of wrong in comparison to the circumstances, and after the first anger of the Supreme Chief had subsided he might have sought for better terms, and possibly might have had some to return and live again in this colony. To say that Mahubulu or any other men who commanded the Pass were responsible for the acts done, I have to say that which could not be admissible in this Court, seeing that he himself the chief of a tribe, and held by Native Law that if the cattle of a tribe are taken away by their owners as an armed force, there is no necessity that they should defend their property against all that may occur; and from that very circumstance, anything that happens afterwards, may not be laid at the door of him who owns the cattle. The remarks are simply those which occur to me on the face of the case, and I mention them, as I think they would be no such a trial as the present for an offence of this nature. We have always heard of the great difference between the laws of the white and the black races, in the hesitancy of the former to take away life; but, as far as we are concerned, the circumstances against the prisoner are so strong, that quite sufficient to justify us in putting such a rebel out of the way for ever. At the same time we cannot help admiring the feeling of justice which prompted the trial, and which induces the white man to say that although Langalibalele has made himself so guilty of rebellion as possibly can be, yet he shall have the chance of saying or doing anything and everything he can to justify his conduct in the eyes of the Supreme Chief. Whatever, therefore, the judgment of the Court may be, the prisoner will have not the slightest reason to complain.

Nondomasi: The conduct which has been pursued by Langalibalele is far beyond the limits of surprise to every white and black man in the colony; they have all held up their hands in astonishment at it. The fact is that some people, like the prisoner, fancy that because they are not put down in the same way as Chaka, they are greater than they really are. I can only repeat my astonishment at his conduct; it is a course of action which no one can account for; the prisoner has attempted an act which no other, man of his class or in his position would dare do.

Mafuyo:—I can only say with Tetelesha that with us there would be but very little hesitation in the case of his kind. The prisoner would be treated as a dog who had turned round upon and bitten his master; and would be killed, with very little consideration. When this man came in from the Zulu country he was no chief, but now that he has been made a chief, he has been guilty of conduct which has disgraced every black man in the colony, and has caused everyone of us to have a feeling of resentment towards him. The payment of money and taxes to the Government is no hardship to us, but it seems there are some men who think them a hardship, and have caused these disturbances, probably for reasons of their own.

Zitshake: There is no reason why these guns should not have been registered in the presence of the Magistrate and returned to the owner, and therefore I think the prisoner's reasoning in this matter is very much about it. The facts of the case go to contradict most distinctly the answer of the prisoner and witnesses that the Government has caused this, because he had so many ways of remedying the mischief that had happened to him. And it is idle to consider that he, as a chief, and as one who has been educated, was every reason why he should go to the Magistrate, for he knew that he could have had a fair safer than he did before. Every man knows the law under which a native can hold a gun—that no black man can have a gun without a license, and that he knew that he was giving him a right to hold it. Where the prisoner first committed an error was in not going to his own Magistrate, if he had doubts as to the propriety of his right, but as he had not, everything had gone wrong since. By having forgotten to take the first right step, he had gone wrong throughout. He came the more fatal mistake, of when messengers were sent from the Supreme Chief, not only neglecting them to the indignities which he had admitted (because it was useless to deny it), but also of actually fleeing to escape from the Supreme Chief. It is the only satisfactory part of his defence that he had intended to come to the Supreme Chief, because the men were here to prove it, viz., that he had stripped and otherwise insulted the messengers of the Supreme Chief, and that he had fled to escape from the Chief submitting the Supreme Chief himself to similar indignities. It would have pleased me much more if the prisoner had stood up and said he had committed against him, as in my opinion his denial only aggravates it, and that he, as a chief, in his judgment, as the prisoner was under some hallucination that he could make himself master of all the black men in the colony, and that he was the Supreme Chief, and in got that idea into his head I cannot say, but that must have been the feeling in his mind, for I can conceive no other reason why he should have dared to commit the very grave offences of which he is guilty. His witnesses might be of some use, but it is possible to receive their evidence, as they are themselves criminals, and their statements would, therefore be valueless. I would, therefore, have had the whole truth at once, and I would strongly advise him to do so. To say that people placed under a chief by us, would do anything without his express sanction or order, is to say that which is perfectly impossible. His best course is to say what he did, why he did it, and to throw himself on the mercy of the Supreme Chief. That is the only course left for him to take. I, for my part, cannot admire the course that has been taken in determining to give the prisoner a trial—that a man who has committed himself as this prisoner has, should be allowed all the privileges of answering the charges, and that it should be assumed that he has anything in his jurisdiction of a serious nature, and to a degree of justice unknown to Native Law.

Manzip: I fully endorse what my brother chiefs have said, and I will not insult the Court by offering any further observations.

The Supreme Chief: It would save a good deal of time if the prisoner was given to understand that a chief is responsible for every act of his tribe, and cannot refer himself of that responsibility to any person the Government, and asking for their assistance to punish his people for doing wrong. I be unanimous, prove that he has done right, and no use has trying to throw the responsibility of their acts on any portion or any person, but himself. That is the Kafir Law, and the chiefs well know it.

The prisoner was then removed, and the further hearing of the case was adjourned till the following day.

The proceedings in this case were resumed on Saturday morning, at 10 o'clock, all the members of the Court being present as on the previous day, with the exception of Mr. Macfarlane, who, as on that day, there was a large attendance, and great interest was manifested in the proceedings. Mr. T. F. Bennett, of the Resident Magistrate's Office, Greytown, acted as interpreter.

You the assembling of the Court, Mr. Bird said: As it is intended that evidence shall be taken to-day, I think it would be as well to place on record the fact that this case is not a Native Law case, and I regard the prisoner's plea in any other light than that of "guilty," but rather to show more fully the magnitude of his offence.

Unarmed as he has rebelled and examined as follows: About Langalibalele, whom he speaks of as being one Langalibalele, being warned before I left that he would make an excuse that he could not come down to see the Supreme Chief, and was told to use that as a ground that in case he did so I was to suggest that an easy and quiet horse should be procured to convey him. I left Langalibalele with my people, and I thought he should come down in a wagon. I also had a note for Mr. Macfarlane, which I left in my wear up, and was directed to give it to the gentleman on my business. I found the prisoner at his kraal, and I said to him that I was sent by the Supreme Chief to summon his appearance in Pietermaritzburg. I also told him that in case he was not able to walk he was to use the horse which I had brought for the purpose to my instructions. Prisoner asked why he was wanted, and I said he was wanted by the Supreme Chief, and I was not at liberty to give any further information