

and evidently knows that as plain Mr. SCHERMBRUCKER, he would not have deserved so much as respectful attention. Ordinary candidates—like Messrs. SOLOMON and WARREN—have nothing to give; the Government has in its hands all gifts, and he is a member of the Government. That is the line of argument at Native meetings. Now, as a fact, all the gifts worth having—Land grants, individual titles, schools, and such good things are in the hands of Parliament: the Government cannot give more than Parliament sanctions. Almost the only things the Government can give are proclamations marking off areas within which brandy cannot be sold or given to our people. But these the Government say plainly will not be given. No matter how earnestly we plead, our Native people must go and drink themselves to death. That is all the Natives are to receive from the Government.

But the Commissioner has a difficult task to perform; for he wants some Native votes very badly. He says he “noticed with pleasure that” the time had arrived when the “black and the white man could” assemble in one camp but this was said at a small and select dinner party. Yet even there he was obliged to drag in the calabash case when he began his career in defence—not certainly of blacks and whites assembling in one camp, but—“of the rights of the people.” And at Stutterheim he had to talk to the Europeans of his soldiering days, and of how he had fought against the Natives. One must adapt one’s speech to one’s company of course. The Colonel still has ambition to serve certain people, and he himself describes them: “the independent and free electors of the division of Kingwilliamstown.” Evidently he found it necessary to forget the Natives, thousands whom are put outside of the polling booths, by a Government which, through the Colonel, boasts, that it alone can do anything for anybody.

All this jovial speech-making some unfortunate Native has spoilt. There are some persons, even Natives, who will ask questions; and in this case it was a “learned” Native.” This Native, it appears, had the courage to ask “what have “our former members,” Messrs. SOLOMON and WARREN, “done “wrong that they should be put “out?” This appears to us as a very proper question; and it will probably be asked a good many times this month by Natives who are not “learned.” It is, as we all know, easier to ask a question than to find the correct answer; and evidently the Commissioner was puzzled. What indeed had Mr. WARREN and Mr. SOLOMON done wrong? The Colonel cast about for an answer and, “then a thought “struck him.” He replied “he “was not putting them out, they “were putting themselves out.” “This turned the tide of battle, and “from that moment the day was “gained.” But gained by the Native. It is now made clear, by the Commissioner himself, that Messrs. SOLOMON and WARREN have done nothing wrong, and that indeed is a victory; all the greater victory because the Commissioner has to take refuge in a hole. He is trying to put our members out; he has left his seat in the Legislative Council on purpose to turn one of them out. He cannot turn out both of course, so first Mr. LANCE was seized to fight the other one. But the Mayor of East London believes that “he who fights and “runs away may live to fight “another day,” so he was sent back home “a returned empty,” as the Bailway people say. Then Dr. EGAN was dragged into the arena, and stands before the constituency. But the day is fairly gained—the voting is now only a matter of form. The learned Native’s question “what have our former “members done wrong that they “should be put out?” cannot be answered; and leaves them masters of the field Like the Colonel the “learned Native” has stood up for

the “rights of the people;” and the Colonel has fallen on the field—struck by a thought.

Notes of Current Events.

MDITSHWA’S “great son,” Mthazi, entered Lovedale, we understand, two months ago. He is a good lad and very anxious for a thorough education. That great and good friend of the Native races, the Ven. Archdeacon Gibson, of St. Cuthbert’s, Tsolo, took a great interest in the young man, and we believe it is through his exertions Mthazi has been induced to embark on a students’ life. The lad’s career will, no doubt, be watched with much interest by the well-wishers of the Natives.

ABOUT the end of last month the Elementary Teachers’ Examination came off. It would appear from comments in the papers, Kafir was got up in a slipshod way, and was to examinees almost a Chinese puzzle. The person who set the questions, it is clear, is a poor scholar in Kafir, having no notion apparently of the Kafir idiom. When to this it must be added typographical errors of a trying kind it is easy to see that candidates who had to do the Kafir paper had no easy times of it. In the Teachers’ Examination papers the names of examiners are not given. We had always wondered why the names of examiners were kept back; but we see the reason for it now—it is to avoid exposing incompetent men from the ridicule which such papers richly deserve.

SELF-DECEPTION would appear to be included in the tactics of Schermbruckerianism. The marvellous way in which “the Colonel” has come, seen, and conquered at Native gatherings, from Middle Drift to Stutterheim, is given in most glowing terms in the *Watchman*, but the impression left on the minds of the Natives subjected to Schermbruckerianism is no more perceptible than that which the wind leaves on stones. It appears to be assumed that granted the Natives attend the meetings and heartily feast on the hamlets slaughtered, and then rise to return thanks for the speeches and the repast, they thereby pledge themselves to vote for Mr. Schermbrucker. Here and there a man or two is coached up to the elegancies of moving what passes for a vote of confidence, which Natives do not understand, and the surrender is supposed to be complete.

To us it is most gratifying to witness the efforts put forward by Mr. Schermbrucker to get himself returned by the very Native vote which escaped by the skin of its teeth the attempt on his part to get rid of it by a side wind by means of the Native Disfranchisement Act of last year. After this we trust he will do all he can to oppose any subterfuge to strike off the Natives from the Register.

The following, which occurs in Mr. Schermbrucker’s speech at the dinner given to him at Gleeson’s, last Friday, will be an eye-opener to many of the Natives:—“Here the Native population preponderated to a great extent and efforts had been made from time to time to counteract that sentimentality which indiscriminately took the part of the Natives against the white man. He did not mean to say that those who took the part of the Natives were actuated by anything but pure motives, but they went too far.” This just when some of the Natives in their ignorance were grumbling that their representatives had not done them any tangible service! We are not aware when the friends of our people took up the part of the Natives against the whites. Mr. Schermbrucker should not wrap up his facts in generalities, if he is to convince thinking men.

CORRESPONDENCE.

DEAR SIR,—I am glad to find from your last issue, that the Native Cricketers seem to be favourably disposed towards the proposed projects of getting up a team to visit Great Britain.

Allow me to say in answer to your correspondent with reference to practising; that we should expect the intended candidates to practice (for the next few months say), in their own clubs amongst themselves; and at the end of that time a team could be chosen, by picking the men acknowledged to be best. This could be done in a measure by reference to their scoring books.

The conditions of course would have to be mutual and agreeable to both the contracting parties. And as the success of the undertaking will largely depend upon themselves. It will certainly be to their own advantage to attain as high a degree of proficiency as possible under the circumstances. If this be done, the professional coaching up will be attended to in due course, and thus enable the Natives of this country (as your correspondent says) to thoroughly efface the best record of our Indian Cricketers.

I am sorry I cannot answer the letter that appears in Kafir, but must beg to be

ONE OF THE GENTLEMEN INTERESTED.

ERRORS OF EXAM. PAPERS.

SIR,—At the last Teachers’ Examination held September 25th up to September 27th, I noticed in the Kafir paper that there were some errors. I do not know whether it is the printer’s mistake; but most likely, I think, it is not. The errors are as follows:—

1st Misane nikulule, kaele sihamba, which I take by the sense to be kade sihamba.

2nd Ukuba bendingumntu otanda ukuxakamseka msinyane ngaseimxakanisile ngalenteto yako.

3rd Hamba koluku, sengqibile, ukuba wanxelile kwasentloko ukuba lendawo inamasela ngandingakupisanga nentwana encinane.

4th Amahashe adiniwa.

I do not think that Candidates are expected to give a free and correct translation, if such errors are made.

Yours &c.,

A CANDIDATE.

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LEVI S. MBANGE.

Tyinira, 10 March, 1888.

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