# THE BEGINNING

OF

SOUTH AFRICAN HISTORY.

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BY

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# PREFACE.

In January 1896 I completed a small volume which was published in London and Capetown with the title of *The Portuguese in South Africa*, and which is now out of print. The preface to that volume was as follows:—

"A very few years ago, when I prepared my large History, the expression 'South Africa' meant Africa south of the Limpopo. Mainly through the ability of one man—the Right Honourable Cecil John Rhodes—that expression to-day means Africa south of the Zambesi. The event which I took as an initial point—the arrival of Van Riebeek in Table Valley in April 1652—has thus come to be incorrect for that purpose, the true starting-point now being the arrival of D'Anaya in Sofala in September 1505. I have therefore written this volume, in order to rectify the beginning of my work.

"As Bantu tribes that were not encountered by the Dutch, and that differed in several respects from those south of the Limpopo, came into contact with the Portuguese, it was necessary to enlarge and recast the chapters in my other volumes descriptive of the South African natives. I need not give my authorities for what I have now written concerning these people, for I think I can say with truth that no one else has ever made such a study of this subject as I have.

"The Portuguese in South Africa are not entitled to the

same amount of space in a history as the Dutch, for they did nothing to colonise the country. I think that in this little volume I have given them their just proportion. In another respect also I have treated them differently, for I expended many years of time in research among Dutch archives, and I have obtained the greater part of my information upon the Portuguese by the comparatively trifling labour of reading and comparing their printed histories. I should not have been justified, however, in issuing this volume if I had not been able to consult the important documents which the Right Honourable C. J. Rhodes caused to be copied at Lisbon for his own use."

The government of the Cape Colony took a different view of the relative interest of the Portuguese occupation, and considered it advisable that deeper research should be made into the particulars of their intercourse with the native tribes south of the Zambesi in the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries. I therefore came to Europe in October 1896, and the greater portion of my time since that date has been devoted to collecting Portuguese manuscripts and early printed books relating to South-Eastern Africa, translating them into English, and publishing the original texts and the translations. Some Dutch and English manuscripts have also been included. Each volume contains over five hundred pages, and the ninth is now in course of preparation. series, termed Records of South-Eastern Africa, prepared and printed at the cost of the Cape government, can be seen in the principal public libraries of Europe and the British colonies throughout the world.

The volume in the reader's hands is an abstract of the documents and printed matter thus collected, with a couple of additional chapters giving a brief narrative of events during the nineteenth century and a chapter upon the earliest inhabitants of the country. It contains about three

times as much matter as The Portuguese in South Africa, and must therefore be regarded as a new book. As it stands, it forms Volume I of my History of South Africa. The second edition of Volumes II and III was published in London in September 1897 under the title History of South Africa under the Administration of the Dutch East India Company, 1652 to 1795. Volume IV (second edition in course of preparation) contains the History of the Cape Colony from 1795 to 1834; Volume V (second edition published in 1893) the History of the Cape Colony from 1834 to 1848, the History of Natal to 1846, and the History of the Emigrant Farmers to 1854; and Volume VI contains the History of the Republics and Native Territories from 1854 to 1872 (second edition in 1900).

The sources of information consulted by me when preparing an account of the early English and Dutch voyages to India were records in the India Office, London, and in the Archive Office at the Hague, as well as the following printed books:

The Principal Navigations, Voyages, Traffics, and Discoveries of the English Nation, made by Sea or over Land, to the South and South-east parts of the World, by Richard Hakluyt, preacher, two quarto volumes, London, 1599; and Purchas his Pilgrimes, five large volumes, London, 1625. Hakluyt's work was the means of his obtaining the curatorship of the historical and geographical documents of the English East India Company. After his death these papers were entrusted to Purchas, by whom many of them were condensed and published in his work above named. The original manuscripts have perished. The dates are according to the old style.

Eerste Schipvaert der Hollanders naer Oost Indien, met vier Schepen onder 't beleydt van Cornelis Houtman uyt Texel ghegaen, Anno 1595. Contained in the collection of voyages known

as Begin ende Voortgangh van de Vereenighde Nederlantsche Geoctroyeerde Oost Indische Compagnie, printed in 1646, and also published separately in quarto at Amsterdam in 1648. with numerous subsequent editions. The original journals kept in the different ships of this fleet are still in existence. from which it is seen that the printed work is only a compendium. At the Hague I made verbatim copies for the Cape government of those portions of the original manuscripts referring to South Africa, and I found that one or two curious errors had been made by the compiler of the printed As an instance, the midshipman Frank van der Does, in the ship Hollandia, when describing the Hottentots states: "Haer haer opt hooft stadt oft affgeschroijt waer vande zonne, ende sien daer wyt eenich gelyck een dieff die door het langhe hanghen verdroocht is." This is given in the printed journal: "Het hayr op hare hoofden is als 't hayr van een mensche die een tijdt langh ghehanghen heeft," an alteration which turns a graphic sentence into nonsense.

Begin ende Voortgangh van de Vereenighde Nederlantsche Geoctroyeerde Oost Indische Compagnie, vervatende de voornaemste Reysen by de Inwoonderen derselver Provincien derwaerts gedaen. In two thick volumes. Printed in 1646. This work contains the journals in a condensed form of the fleets under Cornelis Houtman, Pieter Both, Joris van Spilbergen, and others, as also the first charter of the East India Company.

Journael van de Voyagie gedaen met drie Schepen, genaemt den Ram, Schaep, ende het Lam, gevaren uyt Zeelandt, van der Stadt Camp-Vere, naer d' Oost Indien, onder 't beleyt van den Heer Admirael Joris van Spilbergen, gedaen in de jaren 1601, 1602, 1603 en 1604. Contained in the collection of voyages known as Begin ende Voortgangh van de Vereenighde Nederlantsche Geoctroyeerde Oost Indische Compagnie, printed in 1646, and also published separately in

quarto at Amsterdam in 1648, with numerous editions thereafter. An account of the naming of Table Bay is to be found in this work.

Loffelycke Voyagie op Oost Indien met 8 Scheepen uyt Tessel gevaren in 't Jaer 1606 onder het beleyt van den Admirael Paulus van Caerden, haer wech genomen hebbende tusschen Madagascar ende Abissina deur. A pamphlet of forty-eight pages, published at Amsterdam in 1646.

Beschrijvinghe van de tweede Voyagie ghedaen met 12 Schepen naer d'Oost Indien onder den Heer Admirael Steven van der Hayen, waer inne verhaelt wert het veroveren der Portugeser Forten op Amboyna ende Tydor. A pamphlet of ninety-one pages, printed at Amsterdam in 1616.

de Jonge, J. K. J.: De Opkomst van het Nederlansch Gezag in Oost Indie. Verzameling van onuitgegeven Stukken uit het oudkoloniaal Archief. Uitgegeven en bewerkt door Jhr. Mr. J. K. J. de Jonge. The Hague and Amsterdam. The first part of this. valuable history was published in 1862, the second part in 1864, and the third part in 1865. These three volumes embrace the general history of Dutch intercourse with the East Indies from 1595 to 1610. They contain accounts of the several early trading associations, of the voyages and successes of the fleets sent out, of the events which led to the establishment by the states-general of the great Chartered East India Company, and of the progress of the Company until the appointment of Peter Both as first governor-general. Rather more than half of the work is composed of copies of original documents of interest. The fourth part, published in 1869, is devoted to Java, and with it a particular account of the Eastern possessions is commenced. The history was carried on as far as the tenth volume, which was published in 1878, but the work was unfinished at the time of the author's death in 1880.

When preparing the last two chapters of this book I con-

sulted a quantity of manuscript records in various places and the following printed volumes:—

Prior, James: Voyage along the Eastern Coast of Africa to Mozambique, Johanna, and Quiloa, in the Nisus frigate. An octavo volume of one hundred and fourteen pages, published at London in 1819.

Narrative of Voyages to explore the Shores of Africa, Arabia, and Madagascar, performed in H.M. ships Leven and Barracouta, under the direction of Captain W. F. W. Owen, R.N., by command of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty. Two octavo volumes, London, 1833. The expedition was engaged in surveying the East African coast from Delagoa Bay northward at intervals between October 1822 and September 1825. In these volumes there is a good deal of information concerning the Portuguese settlements.

Botelho, Sebastião Xavier: Memoria Estatistica sobre os Dominios Portuguezes na Africa Oriental. A crown octavo volume of four hundred pages, published at Lisbon in 1835. The author of this book was governor and captain general of Mozambique from the 20th of January 1825 to the 21st of August 1829, and therefore one might reasonably expect something authoritative from his pen. But the historical and geographical inaccuracies are so numerous as to prove that his power of observation was small and his capacity for The book is of very little value. research still less. only chapter in it from which I derived any information at all that I could depend upon is the one containing an account of the prazos of Tete and Sena.

Ensaios sobre a Statistica das Possessões Portuguezas na Africa Occidental e Oriental, na Asia Occidental, na China, e na Oceania, escriptos de ordem do Governo de sua Magestade Fidelissima a Senhora Dona Maria II, por José Joaquim Lopes de Lima e Francisco Maria Bordalo. Three volumes were written before Senhor de Lima's death, and were published at Lisbon 1844

to 1846, but he did not reach as far as Eastern Africa. The work was then entrusted to Senhor Bordalo, who completed it in three more volumes. The first of Bordalo's volumes was published at Lisbon in 1859, and is devoted entirely to Eastern Africa. It has been most carefully written, and as its materials were drawn from original documents in the public records and from other trustworthy sources, it is thoroughly reliable. The author treated his subject in a judicial manner, though, as a patriotic Portuguese, he was unable to detect the true causes of his country's want of success in Eastern Africa. No English writer could deal more severely than he with the general corruption of the seventeenth century, or with the decline and fall of missionary enterprise.

Livingstone, David, M.D.: A Popular Account of Missionary Travels and Researches in South Africa. An octavo volume of four hundred and thirty-six pages, published at London in 1861.

de Lacerda, D. José: Exame das Viagens do Doutor Livingstone. An octavo volume of six hundred and thirty-five pages, published at Lisbon in 1867.

Delagoa Bay. Correspondence respecting the claims of Her Majesty's Government. A bluebook of two hundred and fifty-one pages, printed at London in 1875, and presented to both Houses of Parliament by command of Her Majesty. This bluebook contains all the documents and maps put in on both sides when the question of the ownership of the southern and eastern shores of Delagoa Bay was referred for decision to the president of the French Republic. The Portuguese submitted their case in their own language, with a French translation in parallel columns, and the latter only appears in the English bluebook. Those who desire to consult the former can do so in the Portuguese yellow-books entitled, Questão entre Portugal e a Gran-Bretanha sujeita á arbitragem do Presidente da Republica Franceza, published at Lisbon in 1874.

La Hollande et la Baie-Delagoa, par M. L. van Deventer, Ancien Consul Général des Pays-Bas. An octavo pamphlet of eighty pages, published at the Hague in 1883. There is a great deal of accurate information in this pamphlet, which was prepared after much research in the archives at the Hague and elsewhere.

Estudos sobre as Provincias Ultramarinas, por João de Andrade Corvo, Socio effectivo da Academia Real das Sciencias de Lisboa. Four octavo volumes published at Lisbon, 1883 to 1887. The second volume of this carefully written and reliable work treats solely of the Portuguese possessions on the eastern coast of Africa, and the first and third also contain useful matter upon the same country.

Manica: being a Report addressed to the Minister of the Marine and the Colonies of Portugal. By J. Paiva de Andrada, Colonel of Artillery. A crown octavo pamphlet of sixty-three pages, published at London in 1891.

Selous, Frederick Courteney: Travel and Adventure in South-East Africa, being the Narrative of the last eleven years spent by the Author on the Zambesi and its Tributaries, with an Account of the Colonisation of Mashunaland and the Progress of the Gold Industry in that Country. A royal octavo volume of five hundred and three pages, published at London in 1893.

Matabeleland: the War, and our Position in South Africa. By Archibald R. Colquhoun, First Administrator of Mashonaland. A crown octavo volume of one hundred and sixty-seven pages, published in London in 1894.

De Castilho, Augusto: O Districto de Lourenço Marques no presente e no futuro. A crown octavo volume of two hundred and thirty-two pages, published at Lisbon in 1882. The first ninety-four pages are occupied with a well written historical and descriptive account of the station of Lourenço Marques, the remainder of the book consists of an appendix

containing copies of treaties, letters and reports concerning a railway to Pretoria, and Marshal Macmahon's award.

A Provincia de Moçambique e o Bonga. Por Delfim José de Oliveira. A pamphlet of forty-two pages, printed at Coimbra in 1879.

A Expedição da Zambezia em 1869. A pamphlet of fortyeight pages, printed at Nova Goa in 1870.

GEO. M. THEAL.

London, January 1902.

# CONTENTS.

#### CHAPTER L

#### THE EARLIEST INHABITANTS OF SOUTH AFRICA.

Evidence afforded by ancient shell mounds.—Stone weapons of a remote age.—Ancient workshops.—Progress in the manufacture of stone implements.—Physical features of the country.—Hunger, disease, and war as factors of progress.—Speculations upon the origin of the Hottentots.—Migrations of the Bantu.—Areas occupied at the close of the fifteenth century by the Hottentots, the Bantu, and the Bushmen.—Skull measurements of the three races.—Variations in appearance of the three races.

Bushmen: Language.—Dwellings.—Food.—Weapons.—Stone implements.—Clothing.—Ornaments.—Fire-sticks.—Prolificness.—Disposition.—Love of liberty.—Absence of government.—Superstitions.—Low reasoning faculty.—Power of mimicry.—Artistic skill.—Sense of locality.—Ordinary mode of living.—Incapability of improvement.

Hottentots: Different appearance from Bushmen.—Language.—Division into tribes.—Form of government.—Possession of domestic animals.—Food.—Use of intoxicants. — Clothing. — Ornaments. — Dwellings. — Weapons.—Knowledge of metallurgy.—Manufactures.—Degraded mode of life of impoverished clans. — Superstitions. — Religion. — Disposition. — Marriage customs.—Imaginative powers.—Pastimes.—Capability of improvement.

Page 1

### CHAPTER II.

#### DESCRIPTION OF THE BANTU TRIBES OF SOUTH AFRICA.

Knowledge of the Bantu derivable from Portuguese sources.—Area occupied by the Bantu at the beginning of the sixteenth century.—Origin of the title Bantu.—Tribal variations.—Features.—Mixture of blood.—Comparative freedom from disease.—Destruction of deformed children.—Longevity.—Language.—Form of government.—Privileges of members of ruling families.—Law of succession to the chieftainship.—Method of formation of new tribes.—Standard of virtue.—Form of oath.—Revenue of the chiefs.—

Charges upon the government.—Nature of religion.—Instance of the effect of religion.—Belief in spirits.—Method of interment of deceased chiefs.—Treatment of widows of deceased chiefs.—Origin of the belief in Qamata.—Belief in the appearance of the spirits of the dead in the form of different animals.—Origin of tribal titles.—Superstitions.—Instances of effect of the belief in water spirits.—Belief in the existence of people living under the water.—Instance of the effect of this belief.—Story of the chameleon and the little lizard.—Legend of the origin of men and animals.—Festivities on the appearance of a new moon.—Duties of tribal priests.—Effect of religion on government.—Belief in witchcraft.—Rainmakers.—Herbalists.—Belief in charms.—Revolting cruelty to animals.—Use of the daula.—Receptacle for charms.

#### CHAPTER IIL

# DESCRIPTION OF THE BANTU-(continued).

System of traditional law.—Communal responsibility.—Form of legal proceedings.-Modes of punishment.-Trials for witchcraft.-Great destruction of life caused by such trials.—Instance of effect of the belief in witchcraft.— Dreadful punishment of relatives of persons pronounced guilty of dealing in witchcraft.—Trial by ordeal.—Method of reckoning time.—Traditional history .-- Imperfection of such history .-- Characteristics of folklore .--Cause of such tales giving pleasure.—Specimens of provefbs.—Poetry.— War chants.—Musical instruments.—Official praisers of chiefs.—Dynastic names. - Method of giving names to individuals. - Practice of circumcision. -Horrible customs connected with this practice.-Corresponding rites for females.—Ceremonies connected therewith.—Practice of polygamy.—Position of women.-Method of contracting marriage.-Marriage festivities. -Restrictions with regard to the relationship of the man and the woman. Practice with regard to childless women.—Instance of its observance.— Reasons for marriage giving cause to much litigation.—Slight regard paid to chastity of females.-Polyandrous marriages.-Custom of hlonipa.-Respect of women for their husbands' male relatives in the ascending line.

# Page 56

# CHAPTER IV.

# DESCRIPTION OF THE BANTU-(continued).

Agricultural industry.—Method of making beer.—Use of wild hemp for smoking.—Method of preserving grain.—Products of gardens.—Animal food.—Method of capturing game.—Insect food.—Hospitality.—Cannibalism.—Land tenure.—Law of trespass.—Sites of kraals.—Huts.—Domestic cattle.—Law of descent of property.—Weapons of war.—Military training.—Clothing.—Ornaments.—Modes of dressing the hair.—Head rests.—Iron manufactures.—Smelting furnaces.—Extent of the

blacksmith's art.—Manufactures of copper.—Manufactures of wood.—Canoes.—Glue vases.—Preparation of skins for clothing.—Collection of gold.

—Manufacture of earthenware.—Basketwork.—Use of stone.—Habits of the men.—Cattle stealing.—Disregard of truth.—Deceptive powers.—Comparison of the coast tribes with those of the interior.—Freedom from care.—Ordinary life of women.—Amusements of children.—Outdoor games.—Indoor games.—Toys.—The nodiwu.—Method of keeping birds from gardens.—Forms of greeting.—Condition of the Bantu at present.—Intellectual power of children.—Occasional ability of individuals.—Instances of ability.—Want of mechanical genius.—Strong conservatism of the mass of the people

#### CHAPTER V.

#### ASTATIC IMMIGRANTS IN SOUTH-EASTERN AFRICA.

Appearance of Asiatics in South Africa in remote times.—Erection of numerous massive stone buildings.—The temple of Great Zimbabwe.—Comparative civilisation of its builders.—Their religion.—Articles found in the ruins.— Extensive gold-mining operations of the Asiatic intruders.—Use of African slaves as labourers.—Irrigation works.—Length of the ancient Asiatic occupation.—Fusion of Asiatic and African blood.—Disappearance of the Asiatics from tradition.—Origin of the Emozaidi.—Foundation of Magadosho and Brava by Arabs.—Discovery and occupation of Sofala.—Arrival of a party of Persians.—Foundation of Kilwa.—Description of Kilwa.— Quarrels between the different Asiatic settlers.—Conquest of Sofala by Kilwa.—Great power of Kilwa.—Usurpation of the government of Kilwa by the emir Abraham.-Independence of Sofala under the sheik Isuf.-Commerce of the Asiatic settlements.—Utility of the cocoa palm.—Style of vessel in use.-Method of navigation to India.-Articles obtained from India, Persia, and Arabia.—Commerce with the Bantu.—Taxes on trade.— Extent of government by the Asiatics.—Description of the Asiatic colonists. -Description of the mixed breeds.-Description of Magadosho, Brava, Melinde, Mombasa, Pemba, Zanzibar, Mafia, Kilwa, Mozambique, the Zambesi river, Sofala, and Inhambane in 1500.—Cause of Cape Correntes being the limit of navigation by the Asiatics .. .. Page 101

# CHAPTER VI.

# DISCOVERY OF AN OCEAN ROUTE TO INDIA.

Importance of the discovery of an ocean route to India.—Position of the Mohamedan states at the time.—Previous routes of eastern commerce.—Geographical knowledge before this event.—Devotion of Prince Henrique of Portugal to maritime discovery.—Early exploration by the Portuguese.—Voyages of Diogo Cam.—Expedition under Bartholomeu Dias.—Visit to Angra Pequena.—First entry of European ships into the Indian ocean.—

#### CHAPTER VII.

#### SUCCEEDING VOYAGES AND CONQUESTS.

Departure from the Tagus of a fleet under Pedro Alvares Cabral.—Discovery of South America.—Loss of four ships in a tornado.—Death of Bartholomeu Dias.—Arrival of Cabral at Mozambique.—Visit to Kilwa.—Events at this place.—Visit to Melinde.—Events during the return passage.—Visit of Sancho de Toar to Sofala.—New titles assumed by the king of Portugal.— Voyage of João da Nova.—Erection of a place of worship at Agoada de São Bras.-Discovery of the island of Saint Helena.-Second voyage of Dom Vasco da Gama.—Visit to Sofala.—Events at Kilwa,—Barbarous treatment of the crew of a captured vessel.—Departure of a squadron under Antonio de Saldanha.—First visit to Table Bay.--Naming of Table Mountain.—Cruise of Ruy Lourenco Ravasco.—Voyage of Lopo Soares d'Albergaria.—First shipwreck on the South African coast.—Extension of Portuguese authority in the East.—Appointment of Dom Francisco d'Almeida as viceroy.-Storming and sacking of Kilwa.-Erection at Kilwa of the first Portuguese fort in the East.—Settlement of the government of Kilwa.—Storming and sacking of Mombasa.—Friendly intercourse with Melinde.—Voyage of Tristão da Cunha.—Destruction of the town of Oja.—Storming and sacking of Brava.—Predominance of the Portuguese on the eastern coast of Africa.-Destruction of a great Mohamedan fleet off Diu. - Succession of Affonso d'Alboquerque to Dom Francisco d'Almeida.—Slaughter of Dom Francisco d'Almeida and sixty-four others in a skirmish with Hottentots near Table Valley.—Names given by the Portuguese to places on the South African coast .. Page 151

#### CHAPTER VIII.

# OCCUPATION OF SOFALA AND MOZAMBIQUE.

Exaggerated rumours concerning the gold of Sofala.—Expedition under Pedro d'Anaya.—Occurrence at Flesh Bay.—Shipwreck on the East African

coast.—Arrival of the expedition at Sofala.—Interview of Pedro d'Anaya with the sheik Isuf.—Feuds among the Mohamedans.—Erection of a fort at Sofala.—Barbarous conduct of Francisco d'Anaya.—Deaths from fever at Sofala.—Attack upon the fort.—Repulse of the assailants.—Death of the sheik Isuf.—Subjection of the Mohamedans.—Death of Pedro d'Anaya.— Voyage of Cyde Barbudo and Pedro Quaresma.—Account of affairs at Kilwa.—Regulations respecting trade.—Voyage of Vasco Gomes d'Abreu.— Occupation of Mozambique.—Great mortality at Mozambique.—Loss at sea of four ships under Vasco Gomes d'Abreu.-Events at Kilwa.-Abandonment of Kilwa by the Portuguese.—Decadence of Kilwa.—Manner of conducting trade at Sofala.—Information given by Diogo d'Alcaçova.— Report of Duarte de Lemos.—Clandestine traffic of the Mohamedans. - Report of Pedro Vaz Soares. Treatment of the Mohamedans. Amount of the gold trade.—Dealings with Bantu chiefs.—Unsuccessful attempt to form a station on the Zambesi.—Report of Francisco de Brito.— War between Bantu tribes.—Amount of the ivory trade.—Second attempt to form a station on the Zambesi.-Method of obtaining pearls at the Bazaruta islands Page 182

#### CHAPTER IX.

#### INTERCOURSE OF THE PORTUGUESE WITH THE BANTU.

Position of the Makalanga.-Position of the Batonga.-Origin of the title Monomotapa.—Description of the Makalanga.—Meaning of the word Zimbabwe.-Division of the Kalanga tribe into two sections.-Origin of the Tshikanga chieftainship.—Dealings of the Portuguese with chiefs of clans.—Establishment of the outpost Sena on the Zambesi.—Foundation of Tete.—Foundation of Kilimane.—Exploration of Delagoa Bay by Lourenco Marques and Antonio Caldeira.-Opening of trade at Delagoa Bay and at Inhambane.—Amount of the ivory trade.—Condition of the Portuguese in South-Eastern Africa.—Prevalence of rapacity and corruption.—War with the Turks.-Siege of Diu by the pasha Soleiman.-Heroic defence by the Portuguese under Antonio da Silveira.—Construction of Fort São Sebastião at Mozambique.—Formation of the Company of Jesus.—Account of Dom Gonçalo da Silveira.—Attempt by the Jesuits to establish a mission in South Africa. -- Arrival of the missionaries at Otongwe near Inhambane. --Baptism of the chief Gamba and many others.—Journey of Dom Gonçalo da Silveira to the kraal of the Monomotapa.—Separation of the Kiteve chieftainship from that of the Monomotapa.—Baptism of the Monomotapa and many of his people.—Enmity of the Mohamedans to the missionary. -Murder of Dom Gonçalo da Silveira.-Account of the mission at Otongwe.-Abandonment of the mission .. .. Page 211

#### CHAPTER X.

#### DISASTROUS EXPEDITIONS UNDER BARRETO AND HOMEM.

Accession of Dom Sebastião to the throne of Portugal.-Scheme of a vast African empire.—Speculations concerning the gold mines of South Africa. -Decision of the table of conscience.-Division of India into three governments.—Appointment of Francisco Barreto as commander of an expedition to South Africa.—Departure of the expedition.—Events on the passage.— Arrival at Mozambique.—Abandonment of the captaincy of Mozambique by Pedro Barreto.—Condition of Mozambique.—Visit of Francisco Barreto to the northern ports.—Events at Mozambique after his return.—Arrival of the expedition at Sena.—Condition of the expeditionary force.—Disaster from sickness at Sena.-Barbarous treatment of the Mohamedans there. -Communication with the Monomotapa.-Advance of the expedition up the Zambesi.—Attack upon the tribe under Mongasi.—Successive victorious encounters.—Distress from sickness and want of provisions.—Necessity of retreating to Sena.—Treacherous conduct of Antonio Pereira Brandão. -Satisfactory arrangements with the Monomotapa.-Construction of a fort at Sena.-Visit of Francisco Barreto to Mozambique.-Return of Barreto to Sena with reinforcements.-Dreadful mortality at Sena.-Death of Francisco Barreto. - Succession of Vasco Fernandes Homem to the chief command.—Retirement to Mozambique of the remnant of the expeditionary force.—Renewed attempt to invade the country by way of Sofala.—Defeat of the Kiteve tribe.—March of the expedition to Masikesi. -Arrangements with the Tshikanga and the Kiteve.-Loss of two hundred men on the Zambesi.—Abandonment of the scheme of conquest.—Reversion to the old system of government ... Page 232

#### CHAPTER XI.

#### EVENTS TO THE CLOSE OF THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY.

Death of King Sebastião.—Immediate decline of Portugal.—Causes of her decline in power.—Union of Portugal and Spain under one 'king.—Establishment by the Dominicans of missions in South Africa.—Residence of the friar João dos Santos at Sofala.—Description of Sofala.—Condition of the Mohamedans.—Productions of Sofala.—Account of a Portuguese chief.—Manner of conducting the coasting trade.—Dealings with the Kiteve.—Wars among the Bantu.—Description of Sena.—Mode of payment of officials.—Dealings with the Monomotapa.—Description of Tete.—Account of Bantu subjects of Tete.—Description of the trading stations Masapa, Luanze, and Bukoto.—Account of the Sedanda tribe.—Ignorance of the Portuguese of the country west of the Monomotapa's territory.—Manufactures of the Bantu.—Route of ships between Portugal

and India.—Appearance on the Zambesi of a horde of ferocious savages.—Separation of the horde into sections.—March of one section to the shore of the Indian sea.—Great damage done by it to Mozambique, Kilwa, and Mombasa.—Defeat of a section of the horde by the captain of Tete.—Practice of cannibalism by the Mumbos and the Mazimba.—Destruction of a Mumbo clan by the captain of Tete.—War between a clan of the Mazimba and the Portuguese of Sena.—March of the people of Tete to the assistance of Sena.—Complete destruction of the Portuguese of Tete.—Murder of the friar Nicolau do Rosario.—Defeat of the people of Sena.—Unsuccessful attempt of the captain of Mozambique to subdue the enemy.—Unsatisfactory terms of peace.—Methods of carrying on trade luring the sixteenth century

#### CHAPTER XIL.

#### KNOWLEDGE DERIVED FROM SHIPWRECKS.

Loss of the galleon São João near the mouth of the Umzimvubu river .--Journey of the wrecked people to Delagoa Bay.—Friendly conduct of the Inyaka.—Fate of Manuel de Sousa Sepulveda, his wife Dona Leonor, and many others on the northern bank of the Espirito Santo.—Arrival of a few survivors at Mozambique.—Loss of the São Bento at the mouth of the Umtata river.-Terrible journey through an almost uninhabited country. Arrival at Delagoa Bay. Sufferings from hunger there. Rescue of a few survivors.—Account of the passage of Francisco Barreto from India to Europe.—Survey of the South African coast by Manuel de Mesquita Perestrello.—Naming of Saint Sebastian's Bay, Saint Francis Bay, and Point Delgada.—Wreck of the Santiago in the Mozambique channel.—Account of the commerce of the delta of the Zambesi.—Wreck of the São Thomé off the eastern coast.—Pitiful scene on the departure of a boat.-Devotion to duty of the friar Nicolau do Rosario.-Arrival at Delagoa Bay of the people in the boat.—Sufferings of the people at Delagoa Bay.—Plunder of the trading pangayo by the natives.—Journey of some of the people to Sofala.—Wreck of the Santo Alberto near the mouth of the Umtata.—Account of the natives at the place of the wreck.—Remarkable journey to Delagoa Bay.—Dealings with the natives on the way.— Account of the Bantu tribes south of Delagoa Bay,-Insignificance of the clans south of Natal .. Page 277

#### CHAPTER XIII.

#### APPEARANCE OF RIVALS IN THE EASTERN SEAS.

Infirmity of Portugal under the Castilian kings.—Early voyages of the French to the eastern seas.—Residence of the Jesuit father Thomas Stephens in

India.-Note upon the book of Sir John Mandeville.-Voyage of Sir Francis Drake round the world .-- Adventures of several Englishmen in India.—Voyage of Thomas Candish.—Visit of English ships to Table Bay. -Attempts of the Dutch to discover a north-east passage to India.-Account of Jan Huyghen van Linschoten.—Residence of Linschoten in India.—Value of his published writings.—Description of Mozambique.— First voyage of a Dutch fleet to India.—Formation of several companies in the Netherlands to trade with India.—Account by John Davis of the variation of the magnetic needle at the Cape of Good Hope.-Naming of Mossel Bay, Flesh Bay, and Fish Bay by Paulus van Caerden.-Naming of Table Bay by Joris van Spilbergen.—Naming of Dassen Island by Sir Edward Michelburne.-Union of the different trading associations in the Netherlands into one great Company.—Charter of the United Netherlands East India Company.—Capital of the Company.—Advantages to the State from the formation of the Company.—Subsequent modifications of the constitution of the Company .- Departure of its first fleets .- Success of the Company in obtaining territory at the expense of the Portuguese .-Enormous dividends paid to the shareholders ... Page 302

#### CHAPTER XIV.

#### PROCEEDINGS OF THE DUTCH AND ENGLISH.

Desire of the Dutch to obtain possession of the eastern coast of Africa.—Siege of Mozambique by Steven van der Hagen.-Invasion of the territory of the Monomotapa by the Cabires.—Defeat of the Portuguese in the war with the Cabires.-Failure of Van der Hagen to get possession of Fort São Sebastião.—Siege of Mozambique by Paulus van Caerden.—Successful defence of Fort São Sebastião by Dom Estevão d'Ataide.-Destruction of the town and the plantations on the mainland by the Dutch.—Partial repair of the damages by the Portuguese.—Siege of Mozambique by Pieter Willemszoon Verhoeff.—Gallant conduct of Dom Estevão d'Ataide.—Capture of the ship Bom Jesus .- Abandonment of the siege .- Commercial progress of the Dutch.—Use made of Table Bay by the Dutch.—Visit to Table Bay of the first fleet fitted out by the English East India Company.--Voyage of Sir Edward Michelburne.--Last voyage of Captain John Davis.—Use made of Table Bay by the English.—Proclamation of British sovereignty over South Africa by Captains Shillinge and Fitzherbert.—Attempted alliance between the English and Dutch East India Companies.—Occurrences with Hottentots on the shores of Table Bay.— Account of the Hottentot Cory .- Landing of English convicts on the shores of Table Bay.—Objects of this measure.—Visit of Sir Thomas Roe to Table Valley.-Neglect of South Africa by the English at this time.

Page 321

# CHAPTER XV.

#### FRUITLESS SEARCH FOR SILVER MINES.

Pompous instructions issued by King Philippe II.—Rich specimens of silver ore sent to Lisbon from Mozambique.—War between the chief Tshunzo and the Monomotapa.—Character of the Monomotapa Gasilusere.—Assistance given by the Portuguese of Tete and Sena to the Monomotapa.-Success in war of the chief Matuzianye.—Account of Diogo Simões Madeira.—Cession of mines to the king of Portugal by Gasilusere.— Continuation of the war between Gasilusere and Matuzianye.—Dependence of the Monomotapa upon Diogo Madeira.—Arrival of Dom Nuno Alvares Pereira at Tete as head of an expedition in search of the silver mines.— Defeat and death of Matuzianye.—Arrival of Dom Estevão d'Ataide as successor of Dom Nuno Alvares Pereira.—Changed attitude of the Makalanga towards the Europeans. - War between the Portuguese and the Monomotapa.—Recall and death of Dom Estevão d'Ataide.—Proceedings of Diogo Madeira.-Conquest of the tribe under the chief Tshombe.-Conclusion of peace with the Monomotapa.—Occupation of Chicova.— Journey of Gaspar Bocarro from Chicova to Kilwa.—Arrival of the friar João dos Santos at Chicova.-Deplorable condition of the garrison of Chicova.—Arrival of the commissioner Francisco da Fonseca Pinto.— Abandonment of Chicova.-Arrival of Dom Nuno Alvares Pereira as commander in chief.-Failure to discover silver mines.-Reversion to the old form of government.-Appointment of an ecclesiastical administrator. ---Occurrences at Sofala •• .. Page 341

#### CHAPTER XVI.

#### EVENTS OF INTEREST FROM 1628 TO 1652.

Hostility of the Monomotapa Kapranzine to the Europeans.—Murder of an envoy.—Attack upon Masapa and Luanze.—Elevation by the Europeans of Manuza as Monomotapa.—Defeat of Kapranzine.—Declaration by Manuza of vassalage to the king of Portugal.—Baptism of Manuza.—Successful raid by Kapranzine.—Murder of two Dominican friars.—Arrival of the captain of Mozambique with an army.—Conquest of Manika.—Defeat and flight of Kapranzine.—Establishment of new trading stations.—Great extension of mission work by the Dominicans.—Search for mines.—Absurd letters from the king.—Construction of a stockade at Kilimane.—Report upon the country by Pedro Barreto de Rezende.—Description of Sofala, Sena, and Tete.—Account of the Dominican and Jesuit missions.—Condition of the Mohamedans.—Account of the administration of justice.—Wreck of the ship São Gonçalo at Plettenberg's Bay.

—Wreck of the ship Nossa Senhora de Belem on the coast of Pondoland.—Accession of the duke of Bragança to the throne of Portugal.—Truce between Portugal and the Netherlands.—Opening of the slave trade with Brazil.—Baptism of the Kiteve.—Dealings with an English ship at Mozambique.—Death of the Monomotapa Manuza.—Baptism of his successor.—Formation of a Dutch settlement in Table Valley ... Page 365

#### CHAPTER XVII.

#### WEAKNESS OF PORTUGUESE RULE IN SOUTH AFRICA.

Successive sovereigns of Portugal.—Close connection between Portugal and England.-Disintegration of the Bantu tribes between the Zambesi and Sabi rivers.—Acquisition of great prazos by individual Portuguese.— Position of the prazo holders.—War between some of the prazo holders and the Monomotapa.-Murder of the Monomotapa.-Appointment of his successor by the Portuguese.—System of female prazo holders.—Description of Sena, Tete, and Sofala in 1667.—Trading stations in the country.— Administration of justice.—Number of places of worship.—General corruption and oppression .- Views of the Jesuit father Manuel Barreto .-Different systems of carrying on trade.—Revolt of the Mohamedans to the north.—Attack upon Mozambique.—Restoration of comparative order by Dom Pedro d'Almeida.—Establishment of free trade.—Schemes of colonisation.—Ruinous competition of Indian traders.—General discontent in the country.—Abolition of free trade.—Establishment of a chartered trading company.--Dissolution of the company.--Resumption of commerce by the royal treasury.—Account of the Jesuit missions in the country.—Establishment by the Jesuits of a seminary at Sena.—Care of the hospital at Mozambique by the order of Saint John of God.—Causes of the decline of the Dominican order.—Activity of the commissary friar Francisco da Trindade.—Destruction of stations.—Extent of territory traversed by missionaries.—Trouble caused by pirate ships and by illicit traders.— Abandonment by the Portuguese of the trade at Delagoa Bay .. Page 387

#### CHAPTER XVIII.

#### EVENTS DURING THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

Condition of the Portuguese government at home.—Ability of the marquis of Pombal.—Perpetual wars among the Bantu.—Instances of wars between the Portuguese and the Bantu.—Attempt to support the Monomotapa.—Events connected with the friar Constantino do Rosario, son of the Monomotapa.—Corruption in commercial affairs.—Reasons of the court at Lisbon for trying to preserve the African trade.—Occupation of Delagoa Bay by

the Dutch from 1721 to 1730.—Trade with foreigners at Mozambique.— Change in the character of the commerce.—Attempts of the Dutch to carry on commerce at Inhambane.—Construction by the Portuguese of a fort at Inhambane.—Description of Inhambane in 1771.—Introduction of municipal government.—Treatment of the Mohamedans.—Decline of the Dominican order.—Number of missionaries in the country.—Expulsion of the Jesuits from the Portuguese dominions.—Suppression of the Company of Jesus.— Withdrawal of the Dominicans from South-Eastern Africa.—Establishment of secular priests in the country.-Extinction of Christianity among the Bantu.—Number of professing Christians in the country at the beginning of the nineteenth century.-Failure of an attempt to introduce colonists from India.—Neglect of Delagoa Bay.—Attempt of an Austrian Company to occupy Delagoa Bay.—Erection of a fort at Lourenco Marques by the Portuguese.—Destruction of the fort by the French.—Use made of Delagoa Bay by English and American whaling ships.—Condition of the country at the close of the eighteenth century.—Exploration of the territory to the westward Page 408

# CHAPTER XIX.

#### THE LOWEST POINT OF PORTUGUESE AUTHORITY.

Condition of Portugal during the first half of the nineteenth century.—State of affairs in South-Eastern Africa.-Progress of the slave trade.-Events at Delagoa Bay.-Establishment by the Portuguese of a Whale Fishing Company.—Visit of an English surveying expedition to Delagoa Bay.— Particulars concerning the cession of territory to Great Britain.—Changes in the old names of rivers.—Captain Owen's description of Portuguese East Africa.—Particulars concerning the slave trade.—Visit of Commodore Nourse to Delagoa Bay.—Account by the reverend Mr. Threlfall of occurrences after Commodore Nourse's departure.- Exterminating wars of the Abagaza.—Destruction of Lourenço Marques.—Career of the Angoni.— Destruction of Inhambane and Sofala.—Description of Sena.—Partial destruction of Sena.-Dreadful havoc among the Bantu.-Reoccupation of the Portuguese stations.—Further attacks upon Inhambane and Lourenco Marques.—Census of Lourenço Marques in 1878.—Occupation of Chiloane and Santa Carolina.—Continuation of the slave trade.—Laws regarding other commerce.—Creation of a council for the province of Mozambique. -Improvement of the courts of justice.-Reoccupation of Zumbo.-Crossing of the continent in both directions between Tete and Loanda by two native traders.—Account of the exploring expedition under Major Monteiro.—Crossing of the continent from Zanzibar to Angola by three Arab traders.—Account of the chief Sebetuane.—Crossing of the continent by the reverend Dr. Livingstone ... .. Page 429

### CHAPTER XX.

# REVIVAL OF ACTIVITY IN PORTUGUESE SOUTH AFRICA.

Effect upon the importance of Delagoa Bay of the occupation of the interior by Europeans.—Declaration of British sovereignty over the islands Inyaka and Elephant.—Account of the civil war in the Gaza tribe.—Conduct of the chief Umzila towards the Portuguese.—Conclusion of a treaty between the Portuguese and the South African Republic.—Submission to arbitration of Great Britain's claim to the southern and eastern shores of Delagoa Bay -Adverse decision of the president of the French Republic.-Construction of a railway from Lourenço Marques to the interior.—Present condition of Lourenço Marques.-Foundation of the town of Beira.-Particulars concerning the dispute between Great Britain and Portugal as to the possession of the interior.—Occupation of Rhodesia by the British South Africa Chartered Company.—Dealings with the chief Umtasa.—Services performed by Gouveia.—Occurrences between British and Portuguese officials at Umtasa's kraal.—Defeat of Portuguese volunteers by British police.— Treaty between Great Britain and Portugal fixing a boundary and providing commercial facilities.—Construction of a railway from Beira inland. -Description of Beira.-Account of the Mozambique Company.-Insurrec-· tion of Nyaude and his son Bonga.—Description of Tete.—Successful war with Gungunyana.—Condition of the country at present

INDEX	••	••	••	••	••	••	••			Page 469
-------	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	--	--	----------

# MAPS AND PLATES.

Map	$\mathbf{showing}$	the te	rritory	occupi	ed by	different	race	es in			
_	South Afr	ica in 1	500				••		To face	page	100
Char	t of the eas	stern co	ast of A	frica fr	equent	ed by Mo	hame	dans			
;	in 1500	••	••	••	••	••			"	,,	122
Phot	ograph of	Manue	l de M	esquita	Peres	strello's n	ap o	f the			
1	South Afri	ican coa	st in 15	76	••		••	••	22	**	290
Phot	ograph of	<b>a</b> plan	of Sofa	la in 1	163 <b>4</b> k	y Pedro	Barre	to de			
	$\mathbf{Rezende}$	••	••	••	••	••	••	••	37	"	374
Phot	ograph of	a pictu	re of the	baptis	m of t	the Mono	mota	pa in			
	1652	••	••		••	••	••	••	"	"	386
Map	of Portug	uese So	uth Afri	ica in I	1902	••		••	,,	17	462

# INDEX.

- Abagaza, Bantu tribe: escape from Tshaka and ravage the country round Delagoa Bay; in 1833 destroy the Portuguese fort at Lourence Marques and murder the garrison; settle on the Sabi river and carry on war with the Angoni, 439; plunder Inhambane and slaughter the inhabitants; destroy Sofala; attack Sena, kill most of the inhabitants, and exact tribute from that post thereafter, 440 and 441. See Gungunyana, Manikusa, and Umzila
- Abraham, emir of Kilwa: particulars concerning, 110, 153, 154, 160, 167, 168, 194, 201, 202, and 203. See Kilwa
- d'Abranches, Dom Alvaro: succeeds Nuno da Cunha as captain of Mozambique, 321
- d'Abreu, Manuel: is the holder of an enormous prazo, 388
- d'Abreu, Vasco Gomes: is the fourth captain of Sofala, 196; on the 8th of September 1507 assumes duty, 197; sails with four vessels from that port, and is never heard of again, 199 and 200
- Affonso VI: on 21st June 1662 becomes king of Portugal; on account of his worthless character is forced into retirement on the 23rd November 1667, and dies sixteen years later, 387
- Africa: ignorance of the limits of at the beginning of the fifteenth century, 124; the south-western coast of is never carefully examined by the Portuguese, 29
- Agoada de Saldanha: in 1503 is visited by Antonio de Saldanha, and is thereafter called by his name, 162. See Table Bay
- Agoada de São Bras: is visited and named by Bartholomeu Dias, 128; is visited by Paulus van Caerden in 1601, who changes its name to Mossel Bay, 314
- Agriculture: among the Bantu is mainly left to women, 93; is not much practised by Asiatic settlers on the eastern coast of Africa, 110
- d'Aguiar, Jeronymo: commands a company in Francisco Barreto's expedition, 244; dies at Sena, 250
- d'Alanquer, Pedro: sails as pilot with Bartholomeu Dias, 125; and in the same capacity with Vasco da Gama, 136
- d'Albergaria, Lopo Soares: in 1504 sails from Lisbon in command of a fleet, 164; touches at Kilwa on return passage; occurrences there, 164

Albert of Austria, archduke: governs Portugal for the king; in 1585 receives a letter from the bishop of Malacca asking for missionaries, 259

Albinos: are sometimes allowed to live among the Bantu, 34

d'Alboquerque, Affonso: in 1503 sails from Lisbon with a squadron for India, 161; on 6th March 1506 sails for the second time from Lisbon with a fleet for India, 173; assists Tristão da Cunha in destroying Oja, making Lamu tributary to Portugal, and destroying Brava, 174 and 175; on 5th November 1509 succeeds Dom Francisco d'Almeida in the government of Portuguese India, 176

d'Alboquerque, Francisco: in 1503 sails with a squadron for India, 161; leaves India to return home, and is never again heard of, 192 and 193

d'Alboquerque, Dom João: in March 1539 assumes duty at Goa as first bishop of India, 224

d'Alcaçova, Diogo: accompanies Pedro d'Anaya to Sofala, and sends a report to the king upon the trade there, 204

Algoa Bay: is not commended as a port by Manuel de Mesquita Perestrello, 289; is mentioned by Jan Huyghen van Linschoten, 311

Ali, son of the ruler of Shiraz: is the founder of Kilwa, 108

Alliance between the English and Dutch East India Companies: is entered into in 1619 and again in 1623, but is never carried into effect, 337

d'Almeida, Antonio Cardoso: is left by Vasco Fernandes Homem in charge of a garrisoned fort on the Zambesi; sends out a raiding party to obtain millet and cattle; is besieged by the natives until his provisions fail; tries to cut his way out, and is killed with all his men, 254

d'Almeida, Dom Francisco: particulars concerning, 165; on the 25th of March 1505 sails from the Tagus with a large fleet for India where after the erection of certain fortresses he is to assume the title of viceroy, 166; on the 22nd of July reaches Kilwa, 167; on the 24th seizes and sacks the town, 168; builds and garrisons a fort there, 168; and establishes a government tributary to Portugal, 169; on the 13th of August arrives at Mombasa, 170; after severe fighting takes the town by storm, pillages, and burns it, 171 and 172; makes large presents to the friendly ruler of Melinde, and then sails for India, 173; on 2nd February 1509 defeats a great Egyptian fleet off Diu, 176; on 5th November 1509 transfers the government to Affonso d'Alboquerque, 176; on 19th November 1509 sails from Cochin for Portugal, 177; on the passage puts into Table Bay, and on 1st March 1510 is killed by Hottentots, 178 d'Almeida, João Henriques: in 1783 abandons the fort at Lourenço Marques,

d'Almeida, João Henriques: in 1783 abandons the fort at Lourenço Marques, 425

d'Almeida, Dom Lourenço: assists in the seizure of Kilwa, 167; assists in the reduction of Mombasa, 171; is killed in battle with Emir Hocem in the harbour of Chaul, 176

d'Almeida, Dom Miguel: succeeds Caetano de Mello de Castro as governor of Mozambique, 399, 406

d'Almeida, Dom Pedro: in April 1677 is appointed viceroy of India, 395; restores order on eastern coast of Africa, 396

Amasi, fermented milk: used as food by Bantu, 80

- American whalers: frequent Delagoa Bay, 426
- Amsterdam, merchants of: in 1595 fit out fleet for India, 308; preponderance of the city in the Dutch East India Company, 319
- d'Anaya, Francisco: in 1506 commands a squadron of war on the East African coast, 187; commits ruthless acts of barbarity; loses two ships by wreck, 188
- d'Anaya, Pedro: on the 18th of May 1505 sails with six ships from the Tagus to build a fort at Sofala, 182; arrives at his destination and has an interview with the sheik Isuf, 185; on 21st September commences to build a fort, 186; repels an attack of the Mohamedans aided by a Bantu clan, and firmly establishes Portuguese authority, 188 to 191; shortly afterwards dies of fever, 191
- Andrada, trading station: Captain Forbes places a guard at; on 5th May 1891 Major Cardas Xavier with Portuguese volunteers arrives at, 460; is abandoned by the Portuguese and taken possession of by the English, 461
- d'Andrada, Colonel: in February 1888 hoists the Portuguese flag at Umtasa's kraal; marches against that chief on hearing of his concessions to the British, 458; is arrested by Captain Forbes and sent to Salisbury as a prisoner, 459; is released by Dr. Jameson, and proceeds to Portugal, 460
- d'Andrada, Jeronymo : commands a company in Francisco Barreto's expedition, 244
- d'Andrada, Onofre Lourenço, captain of fort at Lourenço Marques: aids Umzila against his brother, and on 2nd December 1861 receives cession of territory, 449
- d'Andrade, Fernão Martins Freire, captain of Mozambique: has certain trading privileges, 274 and 275
- d'Andrade, Jeronymo, captain of Tete; is successful in wars against invading barbarians, 269
- Ango, Jean, French merchant: sends from Dieppe three ships to India, 303
- Angola, governor of: offers reward to any one crossing Africa to Zanzibar, 446 Angoni, Bantu horde: reach the Sabi river from Zululand and carry on war
  - with the Abagaza; proceed northward to Lake Nyassa, 439
- Angosha: islands and river described, 118
- Angra dos Ilheos, now Angra Pequena: discovery of by Bartholomeu Dias, 126
- Animals: domestic, of Hottentots, 21; certain kinds held in respect by Bantu tribes, 46; cruelty of Bantu towards, 54; domestic, of Bantu, 85
- Ankoni, Mohamed: particulars concerning, 160, 169, and 194
- Antiquity of man in South Africa: proofs of, 1 and 2
- Antonio, Dom, prior of Crato: seizes the crown of Portugal, but in April 1581 is expelled by a Spanish army, 257
- Antonio, a cabra wrecked in the Santo Alberto: account of, 380
- Aracaty, marquis of, governor of Mozambique: on 11th November 1837 issues a proclamation declaring the necessity of continuing the slave trade, 442
- d'Araujo, Belchior, captain of Tete: successfully conducts an expedition against a force of Bantu. 343

d'Araujo, Joaquim: in 1782 is sent to Delagoa Bay to construct a fort, but dies there, 425

Arbitration: of the president of the French Republic concerning the British and the Portuguese claims to Delagoa Bay, 451; of three Swiss lawyers concerning the amount to be paid by the Portuguese government for confiscated railway, 453

dos Archanjos, Father Miguel: establishes a mission in the Kiteve country,

Arms:, permission to carry in Monomotapa's territory granted to Portuguese,

Arquebuses: terror caused to barbarians by, 269

Asiatic Company of Trieste: attempts to establish trading stations at Delagoa Bay, 424

Asiatics: settle in South-Eastern Africa at some remote time and introduce great changes, 31; may have come from Tyre, 101; build temples and forts, 102; religion of, 103; carry on gold mining extensively and have good system of irrigation, 104; ally themselves with native women, and finally become fused with the Bantu, 105; those found along the coast in 1500 are Arabs and Persians, whose literature and history have been preserved, 106; character and superstitions of, 114

Astrolabe, the: use of, 138 and 309

d'Ataide, Dona Beatriz, wife of Francisco Barreto: dies of plague at Lisbon two days after her husband's departure for South Africa, 236

d'Ataide, Dom Estevão, captain of Mozambique: defends Fort São Sebastião gallantly against the Dutch under Paulus van Caerden, 323 to 327; and under Pieter Verhoeff, 328 to 331; sends specimens of rich silver ore to Lisbon, 342; is appointed captain general of the Conquest and proceeds to Sena, 347; account of his proceedings until his recall, 347 to 349; dies at Mozambique, 349; conduct of the king towards him, 350

d'Ataide, Dom Luis, viceroy of India: sends horses and stores for Francisco Barreto's expedition, 238; induces the Dominicans to establish a house of their order at Mozambique, 258

d'Avelar, Father Francisco: carries specimens of silver ore from Chicova to Lisbon, 355

d'Azevedo, Dom Jeronymo, viceroy of India: dealings of with South-Eastern Africa, 349 and 357

d'Azevedo, Dom João: is appointed captain of Mozambique for one year, 849 d'Azevedo, Simão de Miranda: in October 1512 assumes duty as seventh captain of Sofala, 206

Bahia Fermosa (Plettenberg's Bay): account of the wreck of the São Gonçalo in 1630 at, 377

Bangue (dacha or wild hemp): use made of by the Hottentots, 21; by the Bantu, 79

Bantu: pressure into South Africa of the, 5; area occupied in 1500 by, 5; skull measurements of, 6 and 7; distinguishing characteristics of, 8; general description of, 29; why so called by Dr. Bleek, 30; variations

among, 31; personal appearance of, 32; cause of women being often stunted in growth, 33; passions and diseases of, 33; weak or deformed children allowed to die, 33; are long-lived and prolific, 34; language of, 34; forms of government, 35; affinity of dialects of eastern and western coasts, 35; marriage laws, 37; formation of new tribes, 39; powers of chiefs, 39; standard of virtue, 40; dues to chiefs on trade, 41; duties of priests, 42; religion of, 41 et seq.; mode of interment of chiefs, 44; account of Qamata, 46; respect paid to certain animals, 46; superstitions regarding demons and water spirits, 47; belief in sorcery, 49; legend regarding the, origin of men and animals, 50; festivities on the appearance of the newmoon, 51; influence of religion on government, 51; belief in revelations from the spirit world, 52; belief in rainmakers, 52; use of herbs as medicine, 52; belief in charms and divinations, 53 to 55; laws and tribunals of justice, 56; trials for witchcraft, 57; mode of reckoning time, 59; legendary history, 60; folklore, 61; specimens of proverbs, 61 to 64; poetry and musical instruments, 64; official praisers of chiefs, 64; dynastic titles, 65; mode of naming individuals, 65; practice of circumcision and corresponding rite for females, 66 to 69; marriage customs, 70 to 75; want of chastity, 76; language of women, 77; agriculture, 78; use of beer, 78; use of dacha, 78; mode of preserving grain, 79; milk and flesh food, 80 and 81; practice of cannibalism in extreme necessity, 81; land tenure, 82; description of gardens, 82; description of kraals and huts, 83; domestic animals, 84; law of inheritance, 85; weapons of war, 85; military training, 86; clothing and ornaments, 87; headrests, 88; manufactures of iron, 88 and 89; of copper, 90; of wood, 90; of glue vases, 91; of skin robes, 91; of earthenware, 92; of mats and baskets, 92; idleness of men, 93; disregard of truth, 93; differences between tribes of coast and interior, 93 and 94; cheerfulness of women, 95; evening occupations, 95; games of children, 95 to 98; toys of children, 98; forms of greeting, 98; capabilities of individuals, 99; want of mechanical aptitude, 100; reduction to slavery of some tribes in remote times, 104; are termed Kaffirs or infidels by Mohamedan immigrants, 109; first intercourse with Europeans, 143; consider it polite to agree with honoured guests, 227; are baptized by Portuguese . missionaries in large numbers, 227, 229, 270; failure of the first mission to, 231; superstitious fear of smoke from guns, 246; important tribes south of Delagoa Bay in 1600, 901; disintegration of tribes through contact with Portuguese, 388; general fruitlessness of mission work by the Portuguese, 402; perpetual wars among tribes, 409, 427, 429, and 441; during the eighteenth century lose all knowledge of Christianity, 422

Banyans: particulars concerning, 398 and 399

Baptism: of chief and others at Otongwe, 227; of the Monomotapa and others by Dom Gonçalo da Silveira, 229; of seventeen hundred persons at Sofala, 270; of two sons of the Monomotapa at Tete 345; of the Monomotapa Manuza, 367; of the Kiteve, 384; of the Monomotapa Domingos, 386

Baptista, Pedro João, native trader: crossing of Africa by, 445 Bar: varying weight of, 274 Barbuda, Portuguese historian: references to, 327 and 329 Barbudo, Cyde: voyage of in 1505 and 1506, 192 and 193 Barreto, Father Manuel: report of, 388, 392, and 393:

Barreto, Francisco: from 1555 to 1558 is governor general of Portuguese India, 235; events on passage from Goa to Lisbon, 287; particulars concerning, 235; is appointed commander of an expedition to conquer South-Eastern Africa, 235; on 16th April 1569 sails from Belem; on 4th August arrives at the Bay of All Saints; in January 1570 sails again; on 16th May arrives at Mozambique, 236; visits various places on the African coast, 237; makes ready to proceed to the relief of Chaul, but on the arrival of the viceroy that purpose is changed, 238; in November 1571 leaves Mozambique for Sena, 239; commences building a fort at Sena, 240; inflicts barbarous cruelties upon Mohamedans, 241; sends envoys to the Monomotapa, 242; at end of July 1572 leaves Sena with his army and marches up the Zambesi, 244; above the Lupata gorge turns to the south to attack Mongasi, 245; gains several victories, but from sickness and want of provisions is obliged to retreat, 246 and 247; returns to Sena and thence to Mozambique, 248 and 249;

Barreto, Pedro: is captain of Mozambique, but throws up his office and leaves for Europe in fit of jealousy, 236; shabby treatment of Luis de Camões by, 236; dies on the passage to Lisbon, 237; is named to succeed his uncle Francisco Barreto, but is then long dead, 251

on 15th May 1573 reaches Sena again with supplies, and finds nearly all his soldiers had perished, 250; dies in great distress of mind, and is buried in Fort São Marçal, but his remains are afterwards removed

Barreto, Ruy Nunes, son of Francisco Barreto: dies of fever at Sena, 244
Barros, Diogo Teixeira: is commander of a stockade at Chicova, where he experiences many difficulties, 352 and 353

de Barros, Jeronymo: in November 1628 goes as an envoy to the Monomotapa, 365; by whose order he is murdered, 366

Baskets: as made by Bantu women, 92

to Portugal, 251

Batonga: are found south of the Sabi river, 211 Bauden, English ship: in 1687 visits Delagoa Bay, 407

Bazaruta Islands: description of, 121; pearls obtained at, 121; visit of shipwrecked people to, 294; occupation by the Portuguese of, 442

Bazunga: native name for Portuguese, 220

Beads: traffic in reserved for the royal treasury, 416

Beatrice, Dona, wife of Dom Paul de Lima: is wrecked in the São Thome, 292

Beer: method of making by the Bantu, 78

Beira, formerly Porto Bango, at mouth of the Pungwe river: small Mohamedan settlement at, 120; excellent harbour at, 454; present importance of, 463

Bent, J. Theodore, archæologist: in 1891 examines ruins of buildings in South-Eastern Africa, 101

Berg Damaras: description of, 31

- Berg River: is discovered by Nicolau Coelho and named Rio de São Thiago,
- Bernardes, Miguel: is sent by Francisco Barreto as an envoy to the Monomotapa, but is drowned on the way, 242
- Beve, Bantu chief: in 1760 cedes a large tract of land near Tete to the Portuguese, 411
- Bickford, Captain: on 5th November 1861 hoists the British flag on Inyaka and Elephant Islands, 448
- Board of Conscience: decision of in 1569, 234
- Bocarro, Antonio, keeper of the archives at Goa: revises a report on South-Eastern Africa drawn up for the use of the king, 374
- Bocarro, Gaspar: journey from Chicova to Mombasa of, 355 and 356
- Bolts, Lieutenant Colonel William: tries to form trading stations at Delagoa Bay for an Austrian Company, 424
- Bom Jesus, Portuguese galleon; capture of by the Dutch, 331
- Bone Implements: particulars concerning, 11
- Bonga or Antonio Vicente da Cruz: insurrection against the Portuguese of, 465 and 466
- Borges, Gaspar: is envoy from Francisco Barreto to the Monomotapa, 249
- Both, Pieter: references to, 314 and 332
- Botonghi: name given to gold diggers, 92
- Brandão, Antonio Pereira, captain of Mozambique: treacherous conduct of, 248 and 249
- Brava: is founded by Arabs, 107; description of in 1500, 115; dealings of Ruy Lourenço Ravasco with some members of the government of, 163; in 1506 is destroyed by Tristão da Cunha and Affonso d'Alboquerque, 174; shocking barbarities of some of the soldiers, 174
- de Brito, André de Alpoim: has command of a bastion in siege of Fort São Sebastião by the Dutch, 323
- de Brito, Francisco: in 1519 sends a report to the king upon the trade of Sofala, 208
- de Brito, Lourenço: in 1510 is killed by Hottentots near Table Valley, 179
- de Brito, Lourenço: in 1604 is defeated in war with the Cabires, 322
- Brochado, Francisco: establishments on the lower Zambesi of, 291
- de Bucquoi, Jacob; account of the hospital at Mozambique by, 402
- Bukoto, trading station: accounts of, 264, 265, and 342
- Bulls: conceding commerce from Cape Nun to India to the kings of Portugal,
- Burial of Bantu chiefs: slaughter of attendants, wives, and favourite animals at, 44 and 45
- Bushmen: weapons used by, 2, 4, and 11; area occupied by in 1500, 6; skull measurements of, 6 and 7; distinguishing characteristics of, 8; Hottentot and Bantu names for, origin of the European name, power of concealing themselves, language, 9; places of abode, habitations, food, power of endurance, careless disposition, 10; use of stone implements, use of poison, 11; clothing, hunger belts, mode of warfare, ornaments, 13; mode of procuring fire, prolificacy of, disposition of, 14; characteristics

of person, love of liberty, superstitions, reasoning power, 15; power of mimicry, artistic power, 16; strong sense of locality, scanty manufactures of, ordinary mode of living, 17; musical instruments, mode of dancing, games, practice of strict monogamy, incapability of adopting civilised habits, 18

Cabires, horde of barbarians: invade the territory of the Monomotapa, 322 Cabral, Fernão Alvares: is wrecked in 1554 near the mouth of the Umtata, 282; is drowned in the Tugela, 285

Cabral, Pedro Alvares: on the 9th March 1500 sails from Lisbon for India with thirteen ships, 151; on the 24th April discovers the coast of Brazil, 152; on the 20th July reaches Mozambique with only six ships, 153; visits Kilwa, 153; at Melinde obtains pilots and sails for the Malabar coast, 155; on the 31st July 1501 reaches Lisbon again, 155

de Cabreyra, Joseph: is wrecked on the coast of Pondoland, 379; builds a large boat in which he reaches Angola, 380

van Caerden, Paulus: in 1601 names Mossel, Flesh, and Fish ba 314; in 1607 unsuccessfully besieges Mozambique, 323 to 327

Caiado, Antonio, Portuguese adventurer: account of, 228

Caldas, João Pereira de Sousa, superintendent of whale fishery: in 1818 is killed at Delagoa Bay by natives, 431

Caldas, José Antonio, captain of Lourenço Marques: in 1805 obtains a deed of cession to Portugal of land north of the Espirito Santo, 430

Caldeira, Antonio: in 1544 assists in the exploration of Delagoa Bay, 218
Calico, use of: is introduced to the Bantu of the eastern coast by the Arabs
and Persians. 87

Calicut: in May 1498 is reached by the expedition under Vasco da Gama, 149

Cam, Diogo: voyages of, 125

de Camões, Luis: shabby treatment of by Pedro Barreto, 237

do Campo, Antonio: seizes and carries away several Hottentots from Flesh Bay, 183; is killed by Hottentots near Table Valley, 179

Canarins, Indian traders: account of in Eastern Africa, 398 and 399

Candish, Thomas: commands the second English expedition that sails round the world, 306 and 307

Cannibalism among the Bantu: references to, 29, 81, 82, 269, 271, and 272

Canoes: construction of by Bantu north of Delagoa Bay, 90

Cape Blanco: in 1441 is discovered, 124 Cape Bojador: in 1434 is passed, 124

Cape Correntes: is the southern limit of navigation by the Mohamedans before 1500, 110 and 122; is acknowledged as Portuguese territory by the Dutch in 1641, 382

\*Cape Cross: in 1485 is reached, 125

Cape of Good Hope: in 1497 is discovered by Bartholomeu Dias, 130

Cape Verde: in 1445 is discovered, 124 Captaincies: disposal of in Portugal, 256

Captain of the Gates: title of the chief Portuguese officer at Masapa, 265

- de Cardenas, Lupe, captain of Lourenço Marques: conduct of towards natives, 437; is killed by them, 438
- de Carrezedo, Isidro Manuel: in 1834 is appointed governor of the Rivers, independent of Mozambique, 441
- de Carvalho, Bernardim: is wrecked in the São Thomé, 292; dies at Manisa's kraal, 295
- de Carvalho, Diogo: assists in the defence of Fort São Sebastião against the Dutch, 324; builds a stockade at Masapa, 347; abandons it and retires to Tete, 348; builds and occupies a stockade called Fort Santo Estevão on the bank of the Zambesi above Tete, 348
- Carvalho, Lourenço: commands a ship in the expedition under Francisco Barreto, 235; but after a gale is obliged to return to Lisbon, where his vessel is condemned, 236
- de Carvalho, Martim Gomes: assists in the defence of Fort São Sebastião against the Dutch, 323
- Carvalho, Pedro, prazo holder: in 1717 rebels against the government, 410
- de Castro, Caetano de Mello: in 1682 is appointed governor of Mozambique and the Rivers, 397
- de Castro, Dom João, viceroy of India: references to, 221
- de Castro, Manuel, survivor from the wreck of the São João: is wrecked again in the São Bento, and dies next day from injuries, 282
- de Castro, Martim Affonso, viceroy of India: reference to, 325
- de Castro, Pedro: is sergeant major in Francisco Barreto's expedition, 245
- Catharina, Dona, widow of João III: in 1557 becomes regent of Portugal, 221; orders the construction of Fort São Sebastião, 223; in 1562 retires, 232
- Cattle: are chief wealth of the Bantu, are highly prized and trained, 84
- Cazembe, Bantu chief: visits to kraal of, 428
- Charms: are highly regarded by the Bantu, 53
- Charter of the Dutch East India Company: particulars concerning, 316 et seq.
- Chastity: is lightly regarded by the Bantu, 76 and 372
- de Chaves, Pedro Fernandes, captain of Tete: conquers a horde of Bantu under the chief Kwizura, 270; is killed with many others by the Mazimba, 272
- Chicova: is believed to be the site of silver mines, 342; particulars concerning its occupation and the search for mines, 342, 346, 351, 352, and 352
- Children, Bantu: games and toys of, 97 and 98; intelligence of at an early age, 99
- Chiloane Island: description of, 121; is occupied by the Portuguese, 442; possesses a lighthouse, 442
- Chironde, district of: is ceded by the Kiteve to the widow of Jožo Pires, 411 Christianity: during the eighteenth century dies out among the Bantu of Eastern Africa, 422
- Chupanga: is the burial place of Mrs. Livingstone, 464
- Churches: sixteen are enumerated by Father Manuel Barreto in 1667, 392
- Cicatrices: are made by Bantu on their bodies as ornaments, 87
- Cinnamon: royal monopoly in trade of, 383

Circumcision: is practised by various Bantu tribes, 66 and 297

Climate: remarks upon, 120, 240, 423, and 464 Cloth: is manufactured by some Bantu, 87

Clothing: of Hottentots, 22; of Bantu, 87; of Mohamedans on the eastern coast, 112

Coal: is found near Tete, 467

Cocoa palm: is cultivated by the Asiatics on the African coast and made much use of, 110

Coelho, Gomes, resident at Tete: mention of, 228

Coelho, Nicolau: is captain of a ship in the expedition under Vasco da Gama, 136; reaches the Tagus again on 10th July 1499, before Da Gama, 149; commands a ship in the fleet under Pedro Alvares Cabral, 152

Collaço, André: is the holder of a prazo of immense extent, 388

Colonisation: mention of projects of, 267, 373, 384, 394, 397, and 423

Colquhoun, Archibald: action of in 1890 with the chief Umtasa, 456

Commerce: particulars concerning, 41, 109, 110, 112, 113, 157, 216, 217, 219, 294, 253, 261, 262, 264, 274, 275, 276, 291, 296, 307, 310, 317, 319, 321, 331, 333, 361, 371, 373, 383, 393, 394, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 413, 416, 417, 443, 450, and 452

Comoro Islands: description of in 1500, 117

Company, English: constructs a railway from Lourence Marques to Komati Poort, which is confiscated by the Portuguese government, 453; amount of compensation awarded to, 453

Compass: variations of at False Cape, Cape Agulhas, and Cape of Good Hope, 313

Congo, the: in 1484 is reached, 125

Convicts: use made of by the Portuguese, 125, 137, 384, and 419; and by the English, 339 and 340

Copper: is used by the Bantu for ornaments, 90; is plentiful in South-Eastern Africa, 267

Corbin, French ship: sails from St. Malo in May 1601, and is lost at the Maldives in July 1602, 304

Correa, Thomé de Sousa: in 1688 becomes governor of Mozambique and the Rivers, 399

Corte Real, Antonio Monteiro: assists in the defence of Fort São Sebastião against the Dutch, 323

Cory, a Hottentot: is taken to England, where he receives many presents, 338; in 1614 returns to South Africa, resumes his former habits, and teaches his countrymen to despise bits of copper as payment for cattle, 339

da Costa, André: is a member of the first band of missionaries in South Africa, 225 and 226

 da Costa, Lieutenant Colonel Francisco Honorato: sends two native traders from Angola to Tete, 445

da Costa, José Marques, captain of Sofala: in 1836 is killed in battle with the Abagaza, 440

da Costa, Dom Rodrigo, governor general of India: mention of, 406

Cotão, Bartholomeu, an engineer: constructs a stockade at Kilimane. 374 Cotton: grows wild on the banks of the Zambesi, from which machinas are manufactured, 267

Council of Mozambique: in 1856 is created, 444

Courts of Justice: particulars concerning, 276, 376, 377, 444, and 463

Coutinho, Dom Jeronymo, viceroy of India: mention of, 327

Coutinho, Manuel: is appointed ecclesiastical administrator of Mozambique in 1563, 232

de Couto, Jeronymo: is one of the founders of the Dominican establishment at Mozambique, 258

Crime: communal responsibility for among the Bantu, 56

Criminals: see Convicts

Croissant, French ship: sails for India in May 1601, but is lost on the Spanish coast on her return passage, 304

Cross: is set up on Cape São Bras by Manuel de Mesquita Perestrello in January 1576, 289; is asserted to have been seen in the sky by the army under the Monomotapa Manuza, 369; is erected at Plettenberg's Bay by the wrecked crew of the São Gonçalo, 378

Cruelty: practised by Bantu in divination, 54

da Cruz, Manuel, vicar general of the Dominicans in South Africa; mention

Cruzado, gold, of King Sebastião: weight and value of, 233; value of the silver cruzado, 350

Cuama, delta: description of, 119; acknowledged in 1641 by the Dutch as Portuguese territory, 382

Cunene River: expedition in search of the sources of, 428

da Cunha, Francisco, captain of the Gates: aids the Monomotapa against rebels, 344

da Cunha. Nunc: in 1596 becomes captain of Mozambique, 276: fills the office a second time, 361

da Cunha, Tristão: on 6th March 1506 sails from Lisbon with a fleet for India, and on the passage discovers the islands that bear his name, 173: plunders and burns the town of Oja, makes Lamu tributary to Portugal. takes Brava after a desperate resistance, and pillages and burns it, 174 and 175

Customs duties: particulars concerning, 113, 276, and 443

Dacha: use of by Hottentots, 21; by Bantu, 79

Damaraland: struggle between Bantu and Hottentots in, 30

Dambarare, trading and mission station: in 1692 is destroyed, 404

Dassen (Cony) Island: is so named by Sir Edward Michelburne, 333

Davis, John: is chief pilot in the Leeuw, and writes an account of the voyage, 813; is chief pilot of the first fleet fitted out by the English East India Company, 333; is second in rank in Sir Edward Michelburne's expedition; in December 1605 is killed by Japanese pirates, 833

Delagoa Bay: in 1544 is examined by Lourenco Marques and Antonio

Caldeira, 218; is afterwards termed by the Portuguese the bay of Lourenço Marques, 219; a trade, principally in ivory, is opened up by vessels sent yearly from Mozambique, 219, 271, and 299; is frequented by pirates, 405; and by illicit traders, 406; is visited by Robert Everard in 1687, is surveyed by the Dutch in 1688, is abandoned by the Portuguese about 1700, 407; in 1721 is occupied by the Dutch, 414; and retained by them until 1730, 415; is occupied by an Austrian Company in 1776, 424; in 1781 is retaken by the Portuguese, 425; who in 1787 build a fort there, 425; which in 1796 is destroyed by the French, 426 is repunited by English and American whalers, 426; in 1799 the fort is rebuilt by the Portuguese, 427; occurrences connected with Captain Owen's visit, 431 to 434; in 1833 the Portuguese establishment is annihilated by the Abagaza, 439; is claimed by Great Britain, 451; but is awarded to Portugal by the president of the French Republic as arbitrator, 452; is now a place of much importance, 453

Delta of the Zambesi: description of, 119

Dias, Bartholomeu: in August 1486 sails from the Tagus with three small vessels, 125; leaves his storeship near the equator, 126; puts into Angra Pequena, 126; puts into Angra das Voltas, where he remains five days, 127; experiences stormy weather after leaving, 127; reaches Angra dos Vaqueiros on the southern coast, 127; touches at Agoada de São Bras, 128; reaches the islet Santa Cruz, 128; lands at the mouth of the Infante river, 129; from this point turns homeward, 130; discovers the Cape of Good Hope, 130; rejoins his storeship, 130; at Prince's Island rescues some wrecked Portuguese, 130; touches at São Jorge da Mina, 130; in December 1487 reaches Lisbon again, 130; superintends the building of ships for another expedition, 134; sails as captain of a caravel in company with Vasco da Gama, 135; leaves Da Gama's fleet and proceeds to São Jorge da Mina, 137; is appointed captain of a fort to be built at Sofala, and leaves Lisbon for that purpose in command of a ship in the fleet under Pedro Alvares Cabral, but is lost at sea, 152

Diogo, a son of the Monomotapa: account of, 345

Disease: a factor in man's progress, 4

Divination: methods of practising among the Bantu, 54

Dominicans: establishment of missions among the Bantu by, 258; particulars concerning their missions, 362, 363, 372, 376, 392, 403, 403, and 421; in 1775 are withdrawn from South-Eastern Africa, 422. See dos Santos.

Domingos, Monomotapa: baptism of, 386

Downton, Captain Nicholas: in 1610 visits Table Bay, 332; and again in 1614, 338

Dows: trading vessels used by the Mohamedans in the Indian ocean, 111

Drake, Sir Francis: is the first English navigator who sails round the world,
305

Dutch, the: in 1580 are shut out of the Lisbon market, 308; endeavour to find a north-eastern passage to China, 308; in 1595 send first fleet to India by way of the Cape of Good Hope, 312; take possession of the Spice islands, 321; are more successful traders than the Portuguese, 331;

in 1652 occupy the Cape peninsula, 386. See Delagoa Bay, Inhambane, and Mozambique

Dutch East India Company: establishment of, 316 to 320; proposed alliance with the English East India Company, 337

Earthenware: manufacture of by Bantu women, 92

Ecclesiastical Administrator for the country from Cape Guardafui to the Cape of Good Hope: in 1612 the office is created, 363; references to, 393, 402, and 422

Egypt: position of at the beginning of the sixteenth century, 123; in 1508 the sultan sends a great fleet under Emir Hocem to operate against the Portuguese in India, 175; which fleet is destroyed off Diu by Dom Francisco d'Almeida, 176; in 1517 Egypt becomes part of the Turkish dominions. 123

Elephant Island: in 1861 the English flag is hoisted on, 448; it is awarded to Portugal by arbitration, 452

Embo: Bantu name for Natal, 301

Emozaide, followers of Zaide: accompany him from Arabia and form settlements on the East African coast, 465

Empata: general seizure of goods by order of the Monomotapa, 263

English: expeditions of to India, 305 et seq.; make no attempt to explore South Africa, 340; begin to frequent the coast of East Africa as traders, 385; frequent Delagoa Bay, 405 and 426

English East India Company: establishment of, 332; use made of Table Bay by, 334; project of alliance with the Dutch East India Company, 336; project of establishing a joint refreshment station in South Africa, 337

English River: the Espirito Santo, 218

Equator, the: in 1471 is first crossed by the Portuguese, 124

do Espirito Santo, Damião, Dominican friar, mention of, 371

do Espirito Santo, Luis, Dominican friar: baptizes the Monomotapa Manuza, 367; is made prisoner by Kapranzine and is put to death, 368

Espirito Santo River, English River, or Lourenço Marques River; is an excellent harbour, 448

Ethiopia Oriental, by João dos Santos: is printed in 1609 in the Dominican convent at Evora, 271

Everard, Robert: in 1687 visits Delagoa Bay, 407

Factors of progress in its earliest stage, 3 and 4

Famine among Bantu: is less fatal in its effects than among Europeans, 33 de Faria Cerveira, Julião: in 1593 is wrecked on the South African coast, 295 Feast among Bantu: description of, 68 and 70 to 72

Fermosa Bay (Plettenberg's Bay): description of by Manuel de Mesquita Perestrello, 289; account of the wreck of the São Gonçalo at, 377

Fernandes, Father André: is one of the first missionaries in South-Eastern Africa, 225; is stationed at a kraal named Otongwe, 226; undergoes great privations and disappointments, and after two years returns to Goa, 231

Fernandes, Manuel: in 1506 and 1507 acts as captain of Sofala, 191

Ferreira, André, captain of the Gates: narrowly escapes being murdered by the Monomotapa, 365 and 366

Festivals at appearance of the new moon: among the Hottentots, 25; among the Bantu, 50

Fever: is endemic along the coast north of Delagoa Bay and on the banks of the Zambesi, 423

Fika, the last Kiteve: dies in 1803, 427

Fire: mode of procuring by Bushmen, 14; is sent every year by the Monomotapa to all the kraals of his tribe, 214

Fish Bay: in 1601 is so named by Paulus van Caerden, 314

Fishery, whale and seal: after 1614 is carried on at Table Bay, 334

Fitch, Ralph: travels in India of, 306

Fitzherbert, Humphrey: in 1620 visits Table Bay and assists in proclaiming English sovereignty over the adjacent country, 335

Flesh Bay: in 1601 is so named by Paulus van Caerden, 314

Fogaça, Pedro Ferreira: in August 1505 is installed captain of Fort São Thiago at Kilwa, 169

Folklore of the Bantu: description of, 61

da Fonseca Coutinho, José: general insurrection caused by violent conduct of, 409

da Fonseca Pinto, Francisco: is sent from India to inquire into the conduct of Dom Estevão d'Ataide, 349 and 350; is sent afterwards as commissioner to the Rivers, 357; conduct of in that capacity, 357 and 358; is tried by the inquisitor general of India for his conduct, 359

da Fonseca, Vicente, archbishop of Goa: mention of, 309

Forbes, Captain Patrick William: proceedings of at Umtasa's kraal, 458 to 460

Fort Santo Antonio: construction of, 352; abandonment of, 358 Fort Santo Estevão: construction of, 348; destruction of, 352

Fort São Marçal: is built at Sena by Francisco Barreto, 240, 244, and 249

Fort São Miguel: is built at Chicova by Diogo Madeira, 352; is held under extreme difficulties, 353, 356, and 357; in August 1616 is abandoned, 358; and is destroyed by the Monomotapa, 358

Fort São Sebastião: is built at Mozambique by order of the regent Dona Catharina, 223; in 1604 is besieged by the Dutch under Steven van der Hagen, 322; in 1607 by Paulus van Caerden, 323 to 327; and again in 1608 by Peter Verhoeff, 328 to 331

Fort São Thiago, the first occupied by the Portuguese in India: in July and August 1505 is built at Kilwa, 168

Franciscans, the: have the privilege of exporting a certain quantity of ivory from the Rivers every year free of duty, 421

Frausto, João, Dominican friar: mention of, 259

Freire, Manuel, rector of the Jesuit College at Mozambique: mention of, 406 French, the: early voyages to India of, 303 and 304; make no attempt to form a settlement in South Africa, 304; in 1796 destroy the Portuguese fort at Lourenço Marques, 426 French East India Company: formation of, 304

Fura, mountain: is jealously guarded by the Monomotapa, 212

Furtado, Father André: mention of, 395

da Gama, João de Saldanha, viceroy of India: orders of, concerning slaves of Mohamedans, 420

- da Gama, Paulo: is offered the command of an exploring expedition, but declines the responsibility, 135; is captain of a ship in the expedition under his brother, 136; adventure of with a whale in St. Helena Bay, 141; humane conduct of, 144; dies at Terceira on the homeward passage, 149
- da Gama, Vasco: is appointed commander of an exploring expedition, 135; particulars concerning, 135; on the 8th of July 1497 with four ships sails from the Tagus, 136; takes in water at the island of Santiago, 137; on the 4th of November comes in sight of the African coast, 137; on the 7th anchors in St. Helena Bay, 137; where he is slightly wounded in a skirmish with Hottentots, 140; on the 16th of November sails again, 141; on the 20th doubles the Cape of Good Hope, 141; and on the 26th anchors in the bay of São Bras, 141; burns his storeship, and on the 8th of December sails again, 142; on the 25th of December names the land in sight Natal, 142; on the 6th of January 1498 reaches the mouth of the Limpopo, 143; on the 15th leaves, 143; and on the 24th enters the Kilimane river, 143; where he refits his ships, 144; on the 24th of February sails, and on the 2nd of March arrives at Mozambique, 144; particulars of his intercourse with the Mohamedans here, 144 et seq.; on the 1st of April sets sail from Mozambique, and on the 7th reaches Mombasa, 147; next visits Melinde, where he enters into an agreement of peace and friendship, 148; obtains an experienced Indian pilot, with whom on the 24th of April he sets sail and twenty-two days later reaches Calicut, 149; on his return passage touches at Melinde, loses one of his ships on a shoal, puts in at the bay of São Bras, and on the 29th of August 1499 reaches Lisbon, 149; has the title of Dom conferred upon him, 150; has the title of Admiral of the Eastern Seas conferred upon him, 159; on the 10th of February 1502 sails for the second time from Lisbon in command of a fleet, 159; visits Sofala, 159; puts in at Kilwa, 160; occurrences there, 160; destruction of the ship Meri, 161; on the 1st of September 1503 reaches Lisbon again, 161

Gamba: is the first Bantu chief to receive Christian missionaries, 226; is baptized, 227; but continues his previous customs, 231

Games played by Bantu boys, 96 and 97

Gamitto, Captain Antonio Candido Peroso: in 1831 is journalist of an exploring expedition, 445

Gardens of Bantu: description of, 82

Gasilusere, Monomotapa: is assisted by the Portuguese in wars against his enemies, 342 et seq.; in August 1607 cedes to the king of Portugal all the mines in his country, 344

Gaspar, a Moor wrecked on the South African coast: account of, 284 and 286 Geographical knowledge at the beginning of the fifteenth century, 124

Ghosts of dead: are greatly feared by the Bantu, 43

Girls, orphan: receive prazos as dowries, 391

Goa: in 1510 becomes the capital of Portuguese India, 177 Godinho, Antonio: is wrecked in the Santo Antonio, 296

Godinho, Lourenço, captain of Mozambique: account of, 237, 248, and 249

Gold: collection and barter of, 91, 104, 106, 202 to 207, 209, 233, 248, 253, 276, 310, 311, 321, 398, and 399

de Gouvea, Father Manuel: mention of, 390 and 395

Gouveia (Manuel Antonio de Sousa): services performed by, 457; dealings with Umtasa, 458; is arrested by Captain Forbes, 459; is released by Dr. Jameson, 460; disperses Bonga's robber band, 466; is killed in 1892 in war with Makombi, 467

Grain: manner of preserving by Bantu, 79 Greeting: various forms of among Bantu, 98

da Guerra, Salvador Vaz, captain of Mozambique: mention of, 357 Guião, Manuel Gonçalves, prazo holder: violent conduct of, 410

Guilds: are formed among Bantu youths, 67

Gungunyana, son of Umzila: acccount of, 455 and 467

Gwanya, Bantu chief: mention of, 42

van der Hagen, Steven: in December 1603 leaves Holland with a strong armed fleet, 321; in June 1604 arrives at Mozambique and commences a siege of Fort São Sebastião, 322; in August abandons the siege and sails for India, 323; wrests the Spice islands from the Portuguese, 323

Hair, the: modes of dressing by the Bantu, 88

Head rests; manufacture and use of by the Bantu, 88

Henrique, Dom, prince of Portugal: exploration promoted by, 124; on 13th November 1460 dies, 124

Henrique, Cardinal Dom: in 1562 becomes regent of Portugal, 232; in 1578 becomes king of Portugal, 257; in January 1580 dies, 257

Herbalists, Bantu: remedies used by, 53

Heyman, Captain: defeats a Portuguese force at Andrada, 460 and 461

Hlonipa custom: mention of, 31

Hocem, Emir: commands a great war fleet sent by the sultan of Egypt in 1508 to operate against the Portuguese in India, 175; defeats a fleet under Dom Lourenço d'Almeida in the harbour of Chaul, 175; but is utterly defeated himself on the 2nd of February 1509 by Dom Francisco d'Almeida off Diu, 176

Homem, Vasco Fernandes: is second in command of the expedition under Francisco Barreto, 235 to 251; succeeds Francisco Barreto as governor and captain general, 251; enters the Kiteve's country with an army by way of Sofala and vanquishes the Kiteve's forces, 252; is welcomed in the Tshikanga's territory and makes a friendly agreement with the chief, 253; makes peace with the Kiteve, 253; proceeds up the Zambesi and then returns to Mozambique, 254

Horn implements: particulars concerning, 11

Hospital at Mozambique: in 1681 is entrusted to the order of Saint John of God, 402

Hottentots: appearance in South Africa of, 4; speculations on the origin of, 4: area occupied by in 1500, 5; skull measurements of, 6 and 7: distinguishing characteristics of, 8; Bantu name of, 19; term themselves Khoikhoi, 19; meaning of the term, 19; different appearance from Bushmen, 19; language, 20; division into tribes, 20; weakness of government, 20; possession of horned cattle and sheep, 21; description of domestic animals, 21; food, 21; use of intoxicants, 21; clothing, 22; ornaments, 22; dwellings, 22; weapons, 22; use of iron and copper, 23; manufactures, 23; mode of living of impoverished clans, 24; superstitions, 25: religion, 25: disposition, 26; musical instruments, 26 and 141; practice of polygamy, 26; position of women, 26; custom on entering manhood, 27; powers of imagination, 27; amusements, 27; freedom from sickness, 28; capability of adopting civilised habits, 28; are seldom met with by Portuguese, 29; conquer and enslave Bantu tribes in Damaraland, 30; first intercourse with Europeans, 139 and 141; intercourse with the people of Antonio de Saldanha's ship, 162; conflict in 1510 with the Portuguese under Dom Francisco d'Almeida, 177 et sea .: in 1505 kill sixteen Portuguese at Flesh Bay, 184; are regarded by the Portuguese as ferocious savages and avoided, 267; in Table Valley fall upon men bartering cattle and kill thirteen, 313; at the same place . quarrel with and kill English and Dutch seamen, 338

Houtman, Cornelis, commander of the first Dutch fleet that sailed to India: mention of, 812

Hunger: a factor in man's progress, 3 Hunting: method of by Bantu, 80 Huts, Bantu: description of, 63 and 84

Iceys, a Hottentot game, 27 and 97 Imfumba, a game of Bantu children, 97 Incest as regarded by the Bantu, 73

Indian commerce with Europe: routes of at the beginning of the sixteenth century, 123

Indwe, the blue crane: wings of are worn by Xosa warriors as an emblem of bravery, 69

Infante, river: is the farthest point reached by Bartholomeu Dias, 129

. Ingomiamo River: position of, 121

Inhambane: in 1500 the Mohamedans have a small settlement at, 121; is frequented by the Portuguese after 1544 for purposes of trade, 219; is visited by the first missionaries in South Africa, 225 and 226; the Dutch make efforts to open a trade at, 417 to 419; in 1730 is permanently occupied by the Portuguese, 419; description of in 1771, 419; is found by Captain Owen to be the most thriving of all the Portuguese settlements, 435; is destroyed in 1834 by the Abagaza, 440; is now a small trading village, 464

Inyabanzo, district close to Tete: is bestowed by the Monomotapa upon Diogo Simões Madeira, 344; later occurrences at, 345 and 410

Inyaka, the: is chief of the tribe on the south-eastern shore of Delagoa Bay, 218; is friendly to the Portuguese, 218, 280, and 293

Inyaka Island: the Asiatic Company of Trieste unsuccessfully endeavour to establish a trading station on, 424; in November 1861 the British flag is hoisted on, 448; is awarded to Portugal by arbitration, 452

Invansata Island: mention of, 120

Irrigation, system of: is carried out by Asiatic immigrants, 104

Iron: use of by the Hottentots, 23; by the Bantu, 88 and 89; is plentiful in South-Eastern Africa, 267

Isuf, sheik of Sofala: particulars concerning, 110, 185, 188, and 190

Ivory: armrings are prized by the Bantu, 81; particulars of the trade in, 204, 208, 209, 218, 219, 220, 271, 275, 322, 406, 407, 413, and 419; the Franciscans have the privilege of collecting as alms a certain quantity every year and exporting it free of duty, 421

Jaka, party of girls at Ntonjane ceremony, 69

James I, king of England: in 1620 is proclaimed sovereign of the country from Table Bay to the dominions of the nearest Christian prince, 334 and 335

Jesus, Company of: on September 27th 1540 comes into existence, 224; in 1542 founds a college at Coimbra, 224; account of missions in South Africa, 225 to 231, 363, 376, 392, 401, 421, and 467; on the 23rd July 1773 the order is suppressed, 422; on the 7th August 1814 is restored, 422

João II: in 1481 ascends the throne of Portugal, 124; on the 25th October 1495 dies, 133

João III: in December 1521 becomes king of Portugal, 210; in June 1557 dies, 221

João IV, duke of Bragança: in December 1640 becomes king of Portugal, 381; in November 1656 dies, 387

João V: in December 1706 becomes king of Portugal, 408; in 1750 dies, 408 João, Dom: in 1799 becomes regent of Portugal, 409; in November 1807

João. Dom: succeeds his brother Pedro as Monomotapa, 412

Johnson, Captain: inspects Table Bay in 1620, and reports unfavourably upon it. 338

José I: in 1750 becomes king of Portugal, 408; in February 1777 dies, 408
José, Amaro, native trader: crosses Africa in both directions between Angola and Tete, 445

José, Luis: in 1800 builds fort at Lourenço Marques, 427

Josepe of Lamego: travels of, 131

leaves Portugal for Brazil, 409

Journey: of the people wrecked in the São João to Delagoa Bay, 279 et seq.; of the people wrecked in the São Bento to Delagoa Bay, 283 et seq.; of the people wrecked in the São Thomé, 293 et seq.; of the people wrecked in the Santo Alberto to Delagoa Bay, 296 et seq.; of Dr. Francisco José de Lacerda e Almeida from Tete to the kraal of Cazembe, 428; of Major

José Maria Correia Monteiro from Tete to the kraal of Cazembe, 445; of the reverend Dr. Livingstone across the continent, 446 and 447

Justice: administration of by the captains of Sofala, Sena, and Tete, 376 and 377

Kaffirs: name, meaning infidels, given to the Bantu by the Mohamedans, 109 Kapampo, induna of Tshunzo: particulars concerning, 342

Kapela: dynastic name of the chiefs of a tribe on the southern shore of Delagoa Bay, 65 and 424; in 1794 nominally cedes his country to Portugal, 426; in 1823 nominally cedes his country to Great Britain, 431

Kapote, sub chief of Mongasi: particulars concerning, 246

Kapranzine, Monomotapa: account of, 365 to 370; account of the son of as Dominican friar, 365

Kesarimyo, or Kesarinuto, Monomotapa: account of, 216

Kilimane River: description of, 118; in January 1498 is entered by Vasco da Gama, 143; in 1544 a Portuguese factory is founded on the bank of, 217; further particulars concerning, 239, 374, 382, 434, and 447

Kilwa: is occupied by Persians under Ali, 108 to 110; duties on commerce at, 113; description of, 117; is visited by the fleet under Pedro Alvares Cabral, 153; occurrences during the stay of the fleet, 153 and 154; in 1502 is visited by Dom Vasco da Gama, 160; transactions of Dom Vasco there, 160; is visited by Lopo Soares d'Albergaria in 1505 on his return passage from India, 164; the emir refuses to pay tribute to Portugal, 164; in July 1505 is seized and plundered by Dom Francisco d'Almeida, 168; a fort is built and occupied there, 168; and a government is established tributary to Portugal, 169; events at, 193 to 196, and 200 to 203; is abandoned by the Portuguese, 203; further particulars concerning, 237 and 268

Kiteve, the, chief of the tribe at Soiala: particulars concerning, 229, 252, 253, 261, 262, 375, 384, 410, and 411

Knives: manufacture of by Bantu, 89 Kraals, Bantu: favourite sites for, 83

Kuama: see Cuama

Kwitambo, Bantu chief: mention of, 351 Kwizura, Bantu chief: war with, 270

de Lacerda e Almeida, Dr. Francisco José: journey of, 428

Lamu: in 1506 is made tributary to Portugal by Tristão da Cunha and Affonso d'Alboquerque, 174

Lançarote, Dom Antonio, son of the Kiteve: mention of, 404

Lancaster, Captain James: in 1591 visits Table Bay, 307; and again in 1601, 333

Land: tenure of among Bantu, 82

Latitude: imperfect means for determining, 111 and 126

Leades, William: travels of, 306

Leitão, Captain Antonio Simões: is killed in battle, 410

Leitão, Jeronymo: vessel under command of is captured and plundered in the Limpopo river, 294

de Lemos, Bastião: rescues crew of wrecked ship São Bento, 286

de Lemos, Duarte: in September 1508 sends a report to the king upon the trade of Sofala, 204

Leonor, Dona, wife of Manuel de Sousa Sepulveda: pitiful story of, 278 to 281

Leopard, skin of: is reserved for dress of men of rank among the Bantu, 87 Leprosy: death of the Sedanda from, 266; death of the chief Sekeletu from, 446

Letters: are unknown to the Bantu, 60

de Lima, Antonio Rodrigues, prazo holder: account of, 390

de Lima, Dom Paul: is wrecked in the São Thome, 292; dies at Manisa's kraal. 295

de Lima, Dom Rodrigo: in 1515 visits Abyssinia as ambassador of the king of Portugal, 132

Limpopo River: in 1498 is visited by Vasco da Gama, 143; in 1544 is explored by Lourenco Marques, 218; a vessel is captured and plundered at, 294

van Linschoten, Jan Huyghen: particulars concerning, 306, 308 to 312, and 340

Linyanti, Makololo kraal: mention of, 446 and 447

Lion, British Indiaman: in 1798 puts into Delagoa Bay in distress, 426

Livingstone, Reverend Dr. David, missionary explorer: is the first white man to cross Africa, 446 and 447

Lobengula, son of Moselekatse: makes a treaty with British envoys, 455

Lobo, João, vicar of Luanze: mention of, 344

Lobo, Rodrigo: as a vassal of the Kiteve holds the island of Maroupé, 261

Locusts: are eaten by the Bantu, 81; plague of in the Monomotapa's territory, 230

Lopes, Jeronymo, Dominican friar: mention of, 259

Lourenço, Mohamedan prisoner at Sena: fate of, 241

Lourenço Marques, town of: census of in 1878, 441; present condition of, 454

Lourenço Marques, bay of: see Delagoa Bay

Lourenço Marques, river of: is named the Dundas by Captain Owen, but is now called the Umbelosi, 434

Luanze, trading and mission station: particulars concerning, 264, 265, 342, 366, and 371

Luiza, Dona, daughter of Dona Isabella Pereira: is wrecked in the Santo Alberto, 295

Lupata, gorge of: mention of, 120

Luspance, Bantu chief: friendly treatment of wrecked Portuguese by, 296 to 298

Luzios, small vessels used in Eastern Africa, 111

de Macedo, Sebastião, captain of Mozambique: mention of, 322; sends specimens of rich silver ore to Lisbon, 342

Macmahon, Marshal, president of the French Republic: on the 24th July 1875 issues award giving Portugal the territory to 26° 30′ south latitude, 452

Madeira, Diogo Simões: career of, 344 to 362

Madeira, João, Dominican friar: mention of, 259 and 270

Mafia, island of: is colonised from Kilwa, 108; description of, 116; mention of, 237

Magadosho, town of: foundation of, 107; description of, 115

de Magalhães, Francisco: is sent as envoy to the Monomotapa, but dies on the journey, 249

de Magalhães, Pedro Barreto: in 1505 accompanies Pedro d'Anaya to build a fort at Sofala, 183; after the fort is built sails for India as commodore of three ships, 187; loses his own ship at Kilwa, 187; on the 1st March 1510 is killed by Hottentots near Table Valley, 179

de Magdalena, João, Dominican friar: mention of, 406

le Maire, Isaac: in May 1611 visits Table Bay, and leaves men there to kill seals and whales, 332

Makalanga, Bantu tribe: description of, 211, 214, 215, and 262

Makalapapa, Bantu tribe: mention of, 301 Makamoasha, Bantu chief: mention of, 370

Makasane, Bantu chief: in 1823 signs a document placing himself under British protection, 433; dealings of the Portuguese with, 437

Makomata, Bantu tribe: mention of, 293 and 301

Makombi, Bantu chief: war with, 467

Malemos, Mohamedan pilots: are very expert, 111

Malheiro, Manuel: murder of, 271

Ma Matiwane: torture of on charge of witchcraft, 58

Mambo: title of the Monomotapa, 266
Mandeville, Sir John: note on book of, 305
Mangova, Bantu chief: mention of, 424
Mangrove tree: description of, 119

Manhoesa, half-breed Arab at Sena: particulars concerning, 240 and 241

Manika: becomes independent of the Monomotapa, 216; further mention of, 233 and 253

Manikusa, or Sotshangana, Gaza chief: destructive career of, 439 and 440

Manisa, dynastic title of chief of tribe on the northern shore of Delagoa Bay: mention of, 65 and 294

Manisa River: mention of, 218, 294, and 434

Ma Ntati: march of the destructive horde under, 268

Manuel the Fortunate: in 1495 ascends the throne of Portugal, 133; resolves to send an expedition to follow up the discoveries of Bartholomeu Dias, 134; in 1501 adds to his titles that of Lord of the Navigation, Conquest, and Trade of Ethiopia, Arabia, Persia, and India, 157; in December 1521 dies. 210

Manufactories of stone implements: particulars concerning, 2

Manufactures: of the Bushmen, 17; of the Hottentots, 22 and 23; of the Bantu, 88 to 92

Manuza: is made Monomotapa by the Portuguese, 365 to 371, and 385

Maputa River: mention of, 218, 280, and 424

Marecos, Francisco: acts for a short time as eighth captain of Sofala, 208
Mariana, Dona, wife of Guterre de Monroy: is wrecked in the São Thomé,
292

de Maris Lobo, Antonio: control of commerce by, 360 Maris, Pedro Usus, Dominican friar: mention of, 258

Maroupé, island of: is given by the Kiteve to Rodrigo Lobo, 261

Marques, Lourenço: exploration of Delagoa Bay by, 218, opens up trade there, 219

Marriage customs: of Bantu, 70 to 74

dos Martyres, Aleixo, Dominican friar: mention of, 371

Mascarenhas, Antonio, son of Vasco Fernandes Homem: dies at Mozambique, 236

Mascarenhas, Dom Philippe, captain of Mozambique: mention of, 372

Masapa, trading and mission station: mention of, 233, 264, 342, 347, and 366

Masarwa: particulars concerning the, 8

Mashona: are descended from the Makalanga, 211
Masikesi: is visited by Vasco Fernandes Homem, 253

Masisa, Bantu chief: in 1722 cedes a tract of land to the Portuguese, 410

Matical of gold: value of in English money, 181

de Mattos, José Correia Monteiro: obtains cession of land to Portugal, 426

Matuzianye: rebellion of against the Monomotapa, 344 to 347

Maweva, son of Manikusa: is deposed by his brother Umzila, 449 and 450 Mayeta, Kapela chief: cedes his territory to Great Britain, 431; attacks and kills Lupe de Cardenas and a number of soldiers, 438

Mazimba: wars with the, 269 to 273 Medicines used by Bantu herbalists, 53

Melinde: description of, 115; in 1498 is visited by Vasco da Gama, 148; becomes a permanent ally of Portugal, 148; is visited by the fleet under Pedro Alvares Cabral, 154; in 1503 is assisted by the Portuguese in its war with Mombasa, 163; position of in 1506, 195; further mention of, 237 and 268

- de Mello, Antonio: is an officer in Francisco Barreto's expedition, 244; dies at Sena, 250
- de Mello e Castro, Alvaro Caetano, last Portuguese captain of Mombasa: in 1729 is driven away by rebel blacks, 414
- de Mello, Garcia: in 1586 is captain of Sofala, 259
- de Mello, Ruy: is an officer in Francisco Barreto's expedition, 244 and 247
- de Mendonça, Dona Joanna: is wrecked in the São Thomé, 292
- de Mendonça Furtado, Luis, viceroy of India: mention of, 394 and 395
- de Mendonça, Pedro: in 1505 is wrecked on the South African coast, and perishes with the entire crew of his ship, 164
- de Menezes, Dom Aleixo, archbishop of Goa, acting governor general of India: mention of, 346
- de Menezes, Dom Duarte, viceroy of India: mention of, 275
- 2. Manager Dan Tare and in al Manambiana mantion of 075

de Menezes, Fernão Lobo: is wrecked at Plettenberg's Bay, 377

Meri, the: destruction of by Dom Vasco da Gama, 161

de Mesquita, Diogo, captain of Mozambique: mention of, 281

de Mesquita Perestrello, Manuel: assists in the expedition under Francisco Barreto, 238; is wrecked in the São Bento, 287; surveys the South African coast, 287 to 290

Michelburne, Sir Edward: in 1605 names Dassen Island, 315; voyage of, 333 Miguel, son of the Monomotapa Kapranzine: account of, 370

Miguels, Rodrigo : sis wrecked in the Santo Alberto, 295; keeps a diary of the journey to Delagoa Bay, 296

Millet: is the grain used by the Bantu, 78

Mines: in 1607 are ceded by the Monomotaps to the king of Portugal, 344 Missions of the Jesuits and Dominicans: account of, 224 to 231, 248, 258, 259, 266, 362, 363, 371, 401, 420 et seq.

Mnamatapa: dynastic title of the chief of the Makalanga, 65

Mohamedans on the East African coast: particulars concerning, 106 to 114, 234, 240 to 242, 248, 260, 302, 367, 376, 395, and 420

Mokomba, Monomotapa; account of, 215

Mombasa: description of in 1500, 115 and 116; in 1498 is visited by Vasco da Gama, 147; in August 1505 is taken by storm by Dom Francisco d'Almeida, and is pillaged and burned, 172; further mention of, 237, 268, and 414

Monclaros, Father Francisco: accompanies the expedition under Francisco Barreto and writes an account of it, 236, 238, 240, 242, and 249 to 252

Mondragon, French corsair: account of, 303

Mongalo, Bantu chief at Kilimane: mention of, 239

Mongasi, enemy of the Monomotapa: war with, 243 to 247; destruction of, 345 Moniz, João da Fonseca, captain of Inhambane: mention of, 418

Monomotapa, or Mnamatapa, the: mention of, 212 to 214, 228 to 230, 234, 242, 243, 248, 249, 263 to 265, 322, 345 to 348, 351, 353, 359, 366, 368, 376, 386, 388 to 390, 392, and 411

de Monroy, Dom Fernando, governor and captain general of East Africa: mention of, 254

Monsoons in Indian Ocean: mention of, 311

Monteiro, Major José Maria Correia: journey of, 445

Moraria, Portuguese soldier at Mozambique: bravery of, 330

Moselekatse, chief of the Matabele: mention of, 454

Mossel Bay: receives its present name in 1601 from Paulus van Caerden, 314; mention of, 312 and 340. See Agoada de São Bras

Mourning of widows of Bantu of rank, 45

Mozambique: description of the island, 117; condition of in 1498 when visited by Vasco da Gama, 145; in October 1507 is occupied by the Portuguese, 198; further particulars concerning, 221, 223, 225, 232, 235 to 239, 249 to 251, 254, 258, 259, 268, 268, 270, 273, 274, 281, 286, 287, 300, 309, 310, 321 to 328, 341, 348, 349, 353, 361, 363, 382, 384, 385, 393, 395, 398, 401, 402, 405, 406, 411, 413, 415, 422, 425, 434, and 435

Mozambique Company: formation and working of, 463 and 464

Mpako River: wreck of the Santo Alberto at mouth of, 296

Muinha Sedaca, half-breed Arab: kindness of to wrecked Portuguese, 291

Mumbos, cannibal Bantu: account of, 269

Municipal government: in 1763 is introduced into South-Eastern Africa, 419 Musical instruments: of the Bushmen, 18; of the Hottentots, 26 and 141; of the Bantu, 64

Mutilation by Bantu of bodies of slain enemies, 67

Naarstigheid, the, Dutch ship: in 1757 puts into Delagoa Bay in distress, and her crew remains there two years, 424

Names, dynastic, of Bantu chiefs, 65; given to women on marriage and motherhood, 66

Natal: is named by Vasco da Gama, 142

Natal, bay of: is not mentioned by Manuel de Mesquita Perestrello in his report of his survey of the South African coast. 289

Navigation: imperfect knowledge of in the sixteenth century, 309

Necklaces used by Bushmen: description of, 13

Newbery, John: travels of, 306

Ningomosha, general of Monomotapa's army: account of, 342 and 343

Nodiwu, wooden toy used by Bantu children: description of, 98

Noord, the, Dutch galiot: in 1688 surveys Delagoa Bay, 407

de Noronha, Dom Antonio, viceroy of India: mention of, 238

Nossa Senhora da Ajuda, the: is captured by pirates and all her crew except one boy are put to death, 405

Nossa Senhora de Belem, the: in 1635 is wrecked near the mouth of the Umzimvubu river, 379

Noto, son of Morolong: is credited by the Barolong tribe as the inventor of iron weapons, the maker of copper ornaments, and the introducer of millet as food, 60

Nourse, Commodore Joseph: proceedings in Delagoa Bay of, 437

da Nova, João: on the 5th of May 1501 sails from Lisbon for India in command of a fleet, 157; at the bay of São Bras finds an account of Cabral's voyage, 157; is appointed commander of a fleet of war, and in 1505 accompanies Dom Francisco d'Almeida to India, 167

Ntoniane ceremonies: account of, 68 and 69

Nunes, Miguel, notary: draws up the document ceding the mines in the Monomotapa's country to Portugal, 344

Nyaka: dynastic title of the chiefs of a tribe on the south-eastern shore of Delagoa Bay, 65

Nyambana: see Inhambane

Nyassa, Lake: in 1616 is visited by Gaspar Bocarro, 355; Dr. Livingstone's discovery of, 355

Nyaude, or Joaquim José da Cruz, prazo holder: insurrection and violent conduct of, 465

Oath: form of among Bantu, 40

Ocean road to India: importance of the discovery of, 123

Oja, town of: in 1506 is destroyed by Tristão da Cunha and Affonso d'Alboquerque, 174

Ophir: productions of found in South-Eastern Africa, 101

Opinion given in 1569 by the board of conscience to King Sebastião, 234

Ordeal: trial by among Bantu, 59

Ornaments: worn by Bushmen, 13; by Hottentots, 22; by Bantu, 87

Otongwe: the first mission in South Africa is commenced at, 226, 227, and 231

Owen, Captain William FitzWilliam: proceedings at Delagoa Bay of, 431 to 434

Pacheco, Albino Manuel: in 1862 hoists the Portuguese flag at Zumbo, 444
Pacheco, Duarte, is wrecked at Prince's Island, and is rescued by
Bartholomeu Dias, 130; in 1509 captures the French corsair
Mondragon, 303

de Paiva, Affonso: travels of, 131

Pangayos, trading vessels: description of, 111

Pardão: uncertain value of, 276

Parmentier, Jean and Raoul: voyage of, 304

Patalim, Ruy de Brito: acts for some time as fifth captain of Sofala, 199

Pate: mention of, 237, 395, and 414

Paul V, Pope: in 1642 separates South-Eastern Africa from the archbishopric of Goa and creates the office of ecclesiastical administrator for it, 363

Pearls: are found at the Bazaruta islands, 121, 210, and 400

Pedro II, king of Portugal: mention of, 387, 399, 401, and 408

Pedro III, king of Portugal: mention of, 408

Pedro V, king of Portugal: mention of, 429

Pedro, Monomotapa: carries on war with Tshangamira, 411; grants silver mines to the Portuguese, 412; in 1711 dies, 412;

Pegado, José Gregorio, military governor of Mozambique: mention of, 441

Pegado, Vicente, captain of Sofala: mention of, 216 and 217

Pemba, island of: description of, 116

Pepper trade: particulars concerning, 165

Pereira, Francisco de Sodre, captain of the Bom Jesus: is captured by the Dutch, 331

Pereira, Dona Isabella: is wrecked in the Santo Alberto, 295

Pereira, Dom João Froyas, viceroy of India: mention of, 342

Pereira, Dom Nuno Alvares: proceedings of in South Africa, 346 and 347, 359 to 361, and 363

Pereira, Manuel Caetano: journey of, 428

Pereira, Nuno Velho: is captain of Mozambique, 268; is wrecked in the Santo Alberto, 295 and 296; is again captain of Mozambique, 310

Pereira, Nuno Vaz: is the third captain of Sofala, 194 Perforated stones: particulars concerning, 11, 12, and 24

Pestana, Francisco Pereira: succeeds Pedro Ferreira Fogaça as captain of Kilwa, 201; is instructed to abandon that place, and does so, 203

Philippe II, king of Spain: in 1581 adds Portugal to his dominions, 257

Philippe II of Portugal, III of Spain: mention of, 341 and 342

Philippe, Monomotapa: see Manuza

Philippe, son of Monomotapa: mention of, 345 and 358

Physical description of South Africa, 3

Pillars set up by Bartholomeu Dias: São Thiago at Angra Pequena, 126; Santa Cruz at the island of that name, 128; São Philippe on the Cape peninsula, 130

de Pinho, Manuel Paez, prazo holder: mention of, 388

Pinto, Francisco João: is chaplain of Dr. Lacerda's expedition and takes command after that gentleman's death, 428

Pirates: frequent Delagoa Bay, 405

Pires, Francisco: is wrecked in the São Bento, 285

Pires, João, of Covilhão: in May 1487 leaves Santarem and proceeds by way of Alexandria, Cairo, and Aden to Cananor, Calicut, and Goa, crosses over to Sofala on the African coast, and then returns to Cairo, 131; with Rabbi Habrão proceeds to Ormuz, and thence by way of Aden to Abyssinia, where he spends the remainder of his life, 132

Pires, João, trader at Sofala: in 1735 is robbed and murdered by a son of the Kiteve, 410; his widow makes war upon the Kiteve, and obtains the district of Chironde, 411

Plettenberg's Bay: see Bahia Fermosa Poetry, Bantu: description of, 64 Poison: mention of, 45, 215, and 241

Porto, Antonio Francisco Ferreira da Silva: journey of, 446

Port Singune: mention of, 121

Portugal: causes of the decline of after the death of King Sebastião, 255 and 256; in 1581 becomes part of the Spanish dominions, 257; in 1640 recovers her independence, 381; is closely allied with England afterwards, 387

Portuguese, the: in the fifteenth century are the most adventurous seamen in the world, 124; in 1487 discover the southern limit of Africa, 127 to 130; in 1498 reach India, 149; in September 1505 commence at Sofala the European occupation of South Africa, 187; rapidly degenerate in Africa and India, 220 and 221; further particulars concerning, 302, 382, 392, 405, 409, 427, and 431; territory in South Africa finally defined, 462; present condition of in South Africa, 467

Prazos, or great estates held under feudal tenure: particulars concerning, 383, 388, 389, 391, 393, and 442

Presents: Bantu system of, 113, 216, 247, 249, 262, 264, and 353

Prester John: references to, 126, 132, and 155

Priests, Bantu: duties of, 42 and 51 Primeiras Islands: description of, 118

Property: distribution and inheritance of among the Bantu, 85

Proverbs: specimens of Xosa, 61 to 64 Punishment for crimes by Bantu, 57 Qamata: belief in, 46

Quaresma, Pedro: voyage in 1505 and 1506 of, 192 and 193

Queimado, Job: ship commanded by is plundered by the French corsair

Mondragon, 303

de Queiroz, João: in 1505 is killed by Hottentots at Flesh Bay, 184

Querimba Islands: description of, 117

Querns used by Bantu, 92 Quilimane: see Kilimane

Quiloa: see Kilwar

Quitrents for prazos: are very small, 388 and 389

Rabbi Habrão, of Beja: travels of, 131

Rafaxo, Francisco: goes as envoy to the Monomotapa, 249

Rainmakers among the Bantu, 52

Railway from Lourenco Marques inland: account of, 453; from Beira to Salisbury, 463

Ramires, Francisco d'Aviles, lieutenant general at Mozambique: mention of, 406

Raposo, João: assists in the first mission of the Jesuits, 225 and 226

Ravasco, Ruy Lourenço: daring cruise on the East African coast of, 163

Raymond, Admiral George: in 1591 visits Table Bay, 307; is lost off the coast, 307

Real (plural reis): note upon the value of in English money, 180

Religion: of the Bushmen, 16; of Hottentots, 25; of Bantu, 41 and 51; of early Asiatic immigrants, 103

Report on the condition of South-Eastern Africa drawn up in 1634 by Pedro Barreto de Rezende, 374

Revenue: schemes for increasing, 399

Reviews, military: held among Bantu, 86

de Rezende, João, agent of the Mozambique Company: particulars concerning, 456 and 459

de Rezende, Pedro Barreto: report of, 874

Ribeiro, Dionysio Antonio, captain of the fort at Lourence Marques: murder of by the Abagaza, 439

Ribeiro, Father Domingos Dias: mention of, 406

Ribeiro, Francisco Pires; is sent as commissioner to South-Eastern Africa, 390

Ribeiro, Gonçalo, Dominican friar: mention of, 367

Ribeiro, Dom João Gayo, bishop of Malacca: mention of, 259

Robben Island: in 1591 is visited by Admiral Raymond, 307; is named Cornelia Island by Joris van Spilbergen, 315

Roe, Sir Thomas, English envoy to the Great Mogul: visits Table Valley, 339

do Rosario, Aleixo, Dominican friar: mention of, 386

do Rosario, Constantino, Dominican friar, son of the Monomotapa: particulars concerning, 403, 412, and 413

do Rosario, Nicolau, Dominican friar : displays great devotion to duty in

the wreck of the São Thomé, 292; succeeds Father João dos Santos at Tete, 271; is murdered by the Mazimba, 272

Ruins in Rhodesia: imperfect architecture of, 103

de Sá, Garcia, captain of Malacca, father of Dona Leonor who perished at Delagoa Bay: mention of, 218

de Sá, Garcia, Inyaka so named by the Portuguese: mention of, 218, 283, 286, and 289

de Sá, Pantaleão, captain of Sofala: mention of, 274

de Sá e Simas, José Augusto, captain of Lourenço Marques: mention of, 441 Sabæans: are considered by Mr. Bent to be the probable builders of the forts and temples in Rhodesia, 102

Sabi River: in former times was the boundary between the Makalanga and Batonga tribes, 211; is reached by the Abagaza and Angoni from Zululand, who fight with each other there, 439

Sacoto, João Machado, factor at Mozambique: mention of, 406

Sacrifices offered by Bantu at graves of chiefs, 45

Saint Francis, bay of: description of by Manuel de Mesquita Perestrello, 289 Saint George, island of: position of, 117

Saint Helena, island of: in 1502 is discovered by João da Nova, 158

Saint Helena Bay: in November 1497 is discovered and named by Vasco da Gama, 137

Saint Jago, island of: description of, 118

Saint John of God, order of: in 1681 takes charge of the hospital at Mozambique, 402

Saint Sebastian's Bay: description of by Manuel de Mesquita Perestrello, 288 Sakandemo, Bantu chief: war between the Kiteye and, 384

Salaries of officials, 262 and 397

de Saldanha, Antonio: in 1503 sails from Lisbon with a squadron for India, 161; puts into the port now known as Table Bay, 162; transactions there, 162; in September 1509 assumes duty as sixth captain of Sofala, 200

Saldanha, Agoada de: see Table Bay

Salisbury, town of: on the 11th September 1890 the British flag is hoisted at, 456

Salt River: is named the Jacqueline by Joris van Spilbergen, 315

de Sampayo, Ruy de Mello, captain of Mozambique: particulars concerning, 349, 354, 357, and 359

Sanches, Lopo: in 1505 is wrecked near Cape Correntes, when most of the crew of his ship perish, 173; account of the wreck, 184 and 186

Sanitation: is entirely neglected by the Bantu, 83

Santa Barbara, convent of, in Goa: Kapranzine's son dies as vicar of, 385 Santa Carolina, island of: in 1855 is occupied by refugees from the mainland, 442

Santa Cruz, islet of: is visited by Bartholomeu Dias, 128 de Santa Rosa, Damaso, Dominican friar: mention of, 403 de Santa Rosa, Diogo, Dominican friar: mention of, 403

Santiago: wreck of the, 290

de Santiago, André, captain of Sena: carries on war with the Mazimba, 271; is killed with many of his people, 272

Santo Alberto: wreck of the, 295

Santo Ignacio Loyola, the; rescues a boat with people of the wrecked ship Sāo Gonçalo, and is lost near home, 378

dos Santos, João, Dominican friar: particulars concerning, 34, 259, 260, 266, 270, 271, 856, and 358

São Bento: wreck of the, 282

São Bras, Agoada de: is visited by Bartholomeu Dias, 128; and by Vasco da Gama, 141; in 1501 João da Nova builds the first place of worship in South Africa on its shore, 157; is described by Manuel de Mesquita Perestrello, 289. See Mossel Bay

São Gabriel, church of, at Mozambique: is set on fire by the Dutch, 327

São Gonçalo: wreck of the, 377

São João: wreck of the, 277

São Thiago: church at Tete dedicated to, 264

São Thomé: wreck of the, 291

de São Thomé, João, Dominican friar: mention of, 403 de São Thomé, Jorge, Dominican friar: mention of, 403

de São Vicente, Manuel, Dominican friar: mention of, 344

Sapoe, Bantu chief: aids the Portuguese, 352

Sarmento e Moraes, Paschoal d'Abreu, castellan of Mozambique: mention of, 406

Sardinha, Manuel, Dominican friar: mention of, 365 and 369

Sculpture by Asiatic immigrants: remains of, 103

Seals: are found in abundance on the South African coast, 142, 315, and 378

Sebastiao, Dom: on the 16th of June 1557 succeeds to the throne of Portugal at three years of age, 221; in 1568 is declared of age and is crowned king of Portugal, 232; resolves to create a vast dominion in South-Eastern Africa, 232; submits to a board of conscience the question of lawfulness of warfare against the Monomotapa, 234; on the 4th of August 1578 dies in battle with the Moors of North Africa, 255

Sebetuane, Makololo chief; mention of, 446

Sedanda: dynastic title of chiefs of the tribe living between Sofala and the Sabi river, 266

Sekeletu, Makololo chief: mention of, 446

Selous, Frederick Courtency: visit to Umtasa's kraal of, 456

Sena, town of: particulars concerning, 120, 216, 228, 239, 244, 248, 250, 251, 262, 263, 273, 274, 862, 863, 875, 882, 392, 894, 401, 440, and 441

Serrão, Manuel Gomes: is commander in chief in the war against Kapranzine, 366

Shell mounds: description of, 1, 24, and 25

Shillinge, Andrew: in 1620 proclaims sovereignty of King James I over South Africa, 335

Ships of the time of Vasco da Gama: description of, 134

Siboko: animal esteemed by a Bantu tribe, 47

Siege of Mozambique by the Dutch: the first, 322; the second, 323; the third, 328

da Silva, Antonio Lobo, prazo holder: mention of, 388 and 390

da Silva, João, son of Francisco Barreto: mention of, 249 and 251

da Silveira, Antonio, captain of Sofala from 1524 to 1527: gallant defence of Diu in 1538 by, 222

da Silveira, Dom Gonçalo, leader of the first mission party in South Africa: account of, 224 to 230

Silver: specimens of ore and search for mines of: 253, 342, 346, 352, 354, 355, 359, 361, 362, 372, and 412

Sinews of animals: are used as thread by the Bantu, 91

de Siqueira, Antonio João, governor of Mozambique: mention of, 416

Skins: methods of dressing by the Bantu, 91

Skull measurements of Bantu, Hottentots, and Bushmen, 6 and 7

Skulls, human: are used by Bantu to hold charms against witchcraft, 55; the courtyard of Kwizura's hut is found paved with, 270

Slaves: particulars concerning, 94, 256, 297, 310, 311, 389, and 420

Slave trade, the: effect upon Portugal of, 124; particulars concerning, 255, 383, 416, 417, 430, 434, 436, 442, and 443

Smell: dull sense of among Bantu, 83

Smith, Andrew, M.A.: book of on medicinal plants used by Bantu, 53

Smoking wild hemp: is practised by Bantu, 79

Smythe, Sir Thomas, governor of the English East India Company: mention of, 338

Snuffelaar, the: visit to Inhambane of, 418

Soares, Bernardo de Castro: protests against the Dutch trading at Inhambane, 417

Soares, Pedro Vaz: in June 1513 sends a report to the king upon the trade of Sofala, 206

Sodre, Vicente: in 1502 sails from Lisbon for India as commander of a fleet of war, 158

Sofala: under the Mohamedans, 107 to 110; description of in 1500, 120 and 121; is visited by João Pires, of Covilhão, 131; accounts of the wealth of received by Vasco da Gama, 145 and 146; is visited by Sancho de Toar, 155; is visited by Dom Vasco da Gama, 159; condition of in 1505, 185; on 21st September 1505 Pedro d'Anaya commences to build a fort, 186; condition of the Portuguese garrison in 1506, 188; the fort is attacked by the Mohamedans aided by a Bantu clan, 189; who are vanquished, when Portuguese authority is firmly established, 190 and 191; further particulars concerning, 193, 200, 203 et seq., 211, 216, 225, 233, 239, 252, 259 to 261, 270, 294, 295, 341, 363, 374, 375, 382, 392, 404, 420, 435, and 440

Soleiman, ninth ruler of Kilwa: takes Sofala from Magadosho and secures the trade in ivory and gold, 109

Soleiman, Turkish governor of Egypt: siege of Diu by, 222

Songs of Bantu: description of, 64

Sonza, Bantu chief; war with, 269

Sotomayor, Dom Francisco Alarção, governor of Mozambique: mention of 413

Sotshangana: see Manikusa

de Sousa, Alvaro, captain of Mozambique: mention of, 385

de Sousa e Menezes, Diogo, captain of Mozambique: mention of, 369

de Sousa Freire, João, military commander: mention of, 394 to 396

de Sousa Sepulveda, Manuel: miserable fate of in the wreck of the São João, 278 to 281

de Sousa, Dom Pedro, captain of Mozambique: mention of, 273

de Sousa, Thomé: is an officer in Francisco Barreto's expedition, 244

South Africa Chartered Company: formation of, 455; boundary with the Portuguese settled, 461

South African Republic: independence of acknowledged by Great Britain in 1852, 448; boundary with the Portuguese settled, 450

Spice Islands: in 1604 are taken from the Portuguese by the Dutch, 323 van Spilbergen, Joris: in 1601 gives Table Bay its present name, 315

St. Croix, islet of, in Algoa Bay: see Santa Cruz

Stephens, Thomas, rector of the Jesuit college at Salsette: mention of, 305 and 306

Stone: is little used for building by the Bantu, 92

Stone implements of great age: particulars concerning, 2, 3, 13, and 23

Story, James: travels of, 306

Superstitions of Mohamedans on the eastern coast of Africa, 114

Table Bay: is so named by Joris van Spilbergen, 315; is soon afterwards much frequented by English and Dutch ships, 332 to 335, and 340. See Agoada de Saldanha

Table Mountain: in 1503 is so named by Antonio de Saldanha, 162

Table Valley: slaughter of Dom Francisco d'Almeida and his people near, 267; proposed settlement in, 334; English and Dutch killed by Hottentots in, 338; English criminals left in, 339; settlement formed in by Dutch East India Company, 386

de Tavora, Christovão: in 1515 assumes duty as ninth captain of Sofala, 208

de Tavora, Francisco, vicercy of India: mention of, 396

Tavora, marquis of, viceroy of India; mention of, 422 and 423

de Tavora, Ruy Lourenço, viceroy of India: mention of, 347

Tembe River: position of, 218: the British flag is hoisted on the bank of, 433; the Portuguese flag is hoisted on the bank of, 437

Terrado, Dom Domingos, titular bishop of Sale: is appointed first ecclesiastical administrator of South-Eastern Africa, 363

Tete: establishment of trading station at, 217; further particulars concerning, 243, 263, 264, 270, 271, 345, 346, 348, 376, 392, 410, 428, 445, 465, 466,

Threlfall, Rev. Mr., Wesleyan missionary at Delagoa Bay: account of, 437

Time: method of computing by Bantu, 59 and 60

Tizombe, or Zikali, prominent rock on the coast: mention of, 296

de Toar, Sancho: is second in command of the fleet under Pedro Alvares Cabral, 151; visits Sofala, 155; in September 1518 becomes tenth captain of Sofala, 208

Tolwa, Bantu chief: mention of, 216

Tondo, Bantu chief: war with, 271, 273, and 274

Torture of Ma Matiwane on charge of witchcraft: account of, 58

Tower in temple of Great Zimbabwe: is supposed to have been a phallus, 103

Toys of Bantu children: description of, 98

Trade: see Commerce

Treaties between Great Britain and Portugal: mention of, 436, 451, 461, and 462

Trials, judicial: method of holding among Bantu, 57

da Trindade, Francisco, Dominican friar: mention of, 403 and 412

da Trindade, João, Dominican friar: murder of, 368

Tristão, Nuno: in 1441 brings first slaves from West Africa to Portugal, 255

Tristão, Rodrigo: is wrecked in the São João, remains in Kaffraria, and leaves with the wrecked crew of the São Bento, 285 and 286

Truth: is lightly esteemed by the Bantu, 93

Tshaka, Zulu chief: mention of, 439

Tshangamira, Bantu chief: makes war with the Monomotapa, 411 and 412

Tshawe, great grandson of Xosa: is credited by the Amaxosa as the inventor of iron weapons, the maker of copper ornaments, and the introducer of millet as food, 60

Tshepute, the first Kiteve: account of, 229

Tsherema: dealings of Diogo Simões Madeira with, 352 and 354

Tshikanda, Bantu sub-chief: dealings with, 343

Tshikanga, dynastic title of the rulers of Manika: origin of, 215 and 216; particulars concerning, 252, 253, and 369

Tshombe, Bantu chief: particulars concerning, 244, 248, 350, and 351

Tshunzo, Bantu chief: carries on war with the Monomotapa, 342

Turks, the: position of at the beginning of the sixteenth century, 123; carry on war with the Portuguese in the eastern seas, 222

Tyre: Asiatic immigrants into Africa possibly from, 101

Ubabu, Bantu chief: mention of, 298 Umbelosi River: discovery of, 218 and 219

Umdungazwe, son and successor of Umzila: demands tribute from the Portuguese, but is made prisoner and banished from South-Eastern Africa, 467

Umhlonhlo, Bantu chief: mention of, 42

Umkulunkulu: Bantu name for a great spirit once human, 43

Umtasa, Bantu chief: dealings with, 456 and 458

Umtamvuna River: in 1500 is the dividing line between Hottentots and
Rantu. 80

Umyambosi, son of Umtetwa: is credited by the Abatetwa as the inventor of

iron weapons, the maker of copper ornaments, and the introducer of millet as food, 60

Umzila, son of Manikusa: account of, 449 and 450

Vambe, Bantu tribe: mention of, 301

de Vasconcellos, Mattheus Mendes, factor at Melinde: mention of, 268

Vases: are made by Bantu from scrapings of skins, 91

Vatwahs (Abagaza); mention of, 431 and 432

Veloso, Fernão: adventure of with Hottentots at Saint Helena Bay, 140

Venice: position of at the beginning of the sixteenth century, 123 Verhoeff, Pieter Willemszoon; siege of Mozambique by, 328 to 331

Vessels, Mohamedan trading: description of, 111

Vibo, Bantu chief: mention of, 299

Victoria, Dutch vessel: voyages to Inhambane of, 417

Victoria Falls on the Zambesi: are discovered by the reverend Dr. Livingstone, 447

Viragune, Bantu chief: mention of, 301

van Waerwyk, Wybrand: mention of, 320 Water spirits: are believed in by Bantu, 48

War: a factor in man's progress, 4

Weapons: of Bushmen, 11; of Hottentots, 22 and 23; of Bantu, 85, 86, and 89

de Weert, Sebald: mention of, 320

Whales: in the winter are abundant in South African waters, 332

Whaling: carried on by English, Americans, and Portuguese at Delagoa. Bay, 426 and 430

Widows of men of rank: treatment by Bantu of, 45

Witchcraft: belief in by Bantu, 52, 57, 58, 226, 242, and 245

Witchfinders: mention of, 49 and 58

Wives of Bantu: particulars concerning, 38

Women: position among the Hottentots of, 26; among the Bantu of, 70, 74, 77, 92, 93, and 95

Wood: articles made by the Bantu of, 90

Wrecks: of the São João, 277, of the São Bento, 282; of the Santiago, 290; of the São Thome, 291; of the Santo Alberto, 295; of the São Gonçalo, 377; of the Nossa Senhora de Belem, 379

Xavier, Major Cardas: is in command of Portuguese volunteers in 1891 in the action with British police, 460

Zaide, a descendant of Mohamed: settles with his followers in Eastern Africa, 107

Zakoeja, sheik of Mozambique in 1498: particulars concerning, 145

Zambesi River: description of the delta of, 119; commerce of the delta, 291; the river is followed by Dr. Livingstone from the heart of the continent to the sea, 447; the free navigation of is secured by treaty, 462

Zambucos, trading vessels: description of, 111

Zanzibar, island of: description of, 116; is made tributary to Portugal by Ruy Lourenço Ravasco, 163; insurrection quelled at, 237; withdrawal of Portuguese from, 414

Zimbabwe: place of residence of a Bantu chief, 215 Zimbabwe, Great: description of, 102 and 106 Zimbas (Mazimba), cannibal horde: account of, 268

Zumbo, trading and mission station: particulars concerning, 404 and 444