

immediate assistance will be afforded to protect or recover property, if early application is made to the officers commanding.

W. H. JESSE, Lt. R.E.,
D. Q. M. Gen. 1st Division.

Enclosure No. 4.

Memoir

Presented to His Excellency Sir H. G. W. Smith, Bart. K.H. and K.C.B., Governor and Commander-in-Chief, by the Board of Defence, Graham's Town.

THAT the alarming nature of the intelligence received from the upper frontier districts, shows in their opinion, that the force now acting within the Colony is quite inadequate to the protection of the lives and property of Her Majesty's subjects.

That within the last six weeks the enemy has swept off from the district of Somerset alone, upwards of 20,000 sheep, 3,000 head of cattle, and 300 horses; that since the commencement of the war, 200 farm-houses on the north-eastern border have been reduced to ashes, and that a large amount of bread, corn, and other property has been wantonly destroyed.

That whilst the frontier colonists have become prostrated by the harassing events of seven months hostilities, the enemy has received within the present week, large accessions to his numbers, by the desertions of Hottentot servants, who up to this time, had remained faithful to their employers, and being at the present moment in possession of more cattle than before the war, is not likely to be subdued by famine.

That it is evident that the enemy is rapidly extending his operations, while the frontier is receding westwards, so that Burgher Camps, and Laagers, which but a few weeks ago were regarded as occupying secure positions, are now merely outposts, and these too are one by one being abandoned, as too weak to resist the tide of invasion.

That the heretofore settled districts are overrun by hordes of savage despoilers, before whom the farmers are retreating, and thus an immense tract of territory, the recent abode of industry, is relinquished to the undisputed possession of Kafirs and rebel Hottentots.

That whilst the extensive forays have supplied the Kafirs with abundance of food, the resources of the colony are rapidly becoming crippled and reduced; and that, unless this be at once stayed, the quantity of stock will shortly be unable to supply the immediate wants of the inhabitants, who will consequently become subjected to the severest privations, whilst agricultural operations being altogether suspended, distress must be increased rather than diminished, as the season advances.

It is the conviction of this Board that the Burghers of the frontier have been quite unable to protect their own property, which has been already carried off to the extent of several thousand pounds, and therefore, could not afford your Excellency that personal co-operation in the field, which seemed so desirable, and which was so urgently prayed for. Even the population of Graham's Town, so reduced by contingents supplied for the field, for Government escorts of stores to outposts, and by the patrol duties of the Albany Rangers, the Farmers' Club and Fingoes, is in the absence of any garrison force, regarded by all as unequal to its own defence. The spontaneous and universal desertion of the Kafir servants was a serious misfortune to the border farmers, and

being followed by the defection of the Hottentots, the property of their employers could not with safety be left to their sole care; it hence became impossible for men so circumstanced to leave their homes, which, at the moment of their departure, might have been assailed by, or surrendered to, the foe, as in too many instances has actually occurred.

That this Board is not unmindful of your Excellency's expressed intention of maintaining the Kaffrarian forts, as a basis of military operations; but they earnestly entreat that the helpless condition of the Colony may have your Excellency's immediate attention.

That the establishment of certain Burgher posts, by your Excellency's order, in June last, was hailed with gratitude as a temporary relief; but since that period those posts, so far as established, are found insufficient to protect their immediate localities, whilst the country at large is without any adequate force to resist the hostile inroad.

That the recent occurrences in the Orange River Sovereignty seem to give indication of the spread there of that combination amongst the coloured races, from which this province is now suffering. The Board, therefore, deem it of vital moment that the most energetic measures for the protection of the Colony should be taken, and that without a moment's delay. They are of opinion that the time has arrived when every able-bodied man throughout the Colony should be required, *in the terms prescribed by law*, to enrol himself for the common defence, and that Her Majesty's Government be informed of the urgent and absolute necessity of additional troops being sent hither to avert the calamities which now threaten to engulf the whole of the eastern province. The danger which threatens the country is, in the opinion of the Board, imminent, and they confidently trust, by the measures adopted by your Excellency, and by God's help, that the present wicked rebellion may be put down, and firm enduring peace be restored to this distracted land.

Graham's Town, July 19, 1851.

Charles Maynard, Chairman.
W. Cock.
R. Godlonton.
W. R. Thompson.
S. D. Mandy.
Geo. Wood.
W. Wright.
H. Blaine.
R. Jarvie.
James Black.

*King William's Town,
22nd July, 1851.*

GENTLEMEN,

YOUR memoir of the 19th instant reached me yesterday. I have always thought that any regular force at my disposal, which could be given for the interior defence of the frontier, would be inadequate for the purpose, although I ordered there every available reinforcement.

My proclamations of the 25th December and 3rd February last, the general disregard of which has led to the misfortunes therein predicted, were issued, such being my impression. Had the levy en masse which I called forth, been readily afforded, affairs at this moment, within the Colony, would not wear their present disastrous aspect from marauders.

I am aware that there is now much difficulty in the farmers on the immediate frontier turning out, owing to the desertion of their servants; but