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War Office, July 15, 1878.

A DESPATCH, of which the following is a copy, has been received by the Secretary of State for War from the General Officer commanding the troops in South Africa:—

*King William's Town, Cape of Good Hope,
Sir, June 12, 1878.*

1. SINCE the last communication I had the honour of addressing you, the aspect of affairs in, and on the eastern frontier, of the Cape Colony has considerably improved, the rebels have been driven completely from the fastnesses in the Buffalo Range, and the energy with which the various commanders of the Imperial and Colonial forces have carried on their duties has resulted, as I ventured to anticipate, in either the death or capture of the most prominent rebel leaders, and in the total dispersion of their followers.

2. In my last Despatch I mentioned that a body of Kaffirs had been attacked by two companies of Lonsdale's Fingoes on the 30th May*, in which affair Dukwana, one of Sandilli's body-guard, was killed. It has since transpired that Sandilli himself was present on that occasion, and was then either mortally wounded or killed. From information received through Captain Landry, search was made for his body by a patrol on the 7th June, it was found in the place indicated and has been identified.

3. It further appears, from information considered quite reliable by the civil authorities, that Seyolo has been shot in the Fish River District, and the deaths of the following men of note have been reported, Kokwe, brother of "Oba," killed in the Scheln Kloof, and Ngaka, brother of "Macomo." Macomo himself and his brothers, Jape and Mapolisi, are now prisoners; T'Sindwane Gadu, Sandilli's chief councillor, and Somta, the brother of Sandilli, have been captured, together with several other influential men.

The two sons of Sandilli, Edmund and Matauzima, are still at large, hiding in the Thomas River district. They have sent in to the magistrate, Mr. Liefeldt, stating their anxiety to surrender now their father is dead.

Mackinnon and N'Dimba are the only men of note now in arms against us.

4. Even without the surrender or capture of these last-mentioned rebels, I am of opinion that this war may now be considered at an end.

* N.B. I believe there was an error in the date, it should have been 29th May.

Elements of disturbance will no doubt exist for some time to come, but these can be more efficiently met by police patrols, than by the action of military bodies.

5. I have informed his Excellency the Governor of my opinion on this point, and I have every reason to hope that the Government will shortly issue an amnesty.

6. The only part of the Colony where the rebels may be said to be still in some strength is in the Fish River District, where Commandant Minto, with a considerable Colonial force, is operating:

7. Affairs in Gcalekaland are in the same state as reported in my last Despatch. Kveli is said to be hiding in the Udweassa Forest. Colonel Glyn, commanding Transkei, is at present patrolling that part of the country.

8. Affairs having happily assumed a more peaceful aspect in this Colony, the larger portion of Her Majesty's troops, at present on its frontier, will be set free for service elsewhere, and I am at present expecting instructions from his Excellency the Governor on the subject of their proceeding to Natal.

9. From the reports I have received from officers under my command in the Transvaal, it would appear that the troubles there show no signs of decreasing. Ketchwayo has again ordered the erection of a military kraal on the disputed territory, near Lüneberg, and is preparing to attack the Swazis, who are friendly to our Government.

In the Transvaal, detachments of the 1st Battalion 13th Regiment are occupying Leydenberg and Middleberg, with the object of giving confidence to the well affected, and of enabling volunteers, I believe, to take the field. There appears to be but a tardy response on the part of the inhabitants to the call of the Administrator for assistance.

Colonel Rowlands, V.C., special service, has proceeded to the seat of disturbance, and I expect shortly to receive a report from him.

10. I have received no report of what progress has been made in quelling disturbances in Griqualand West. Major Warren, R.E., with the Diamond Field Horse, has by this time, I trust, reached the Administrator, Lieutenant-Colonel Lanyon.

11. As soon as I have received instructions from his Excellency the Governor as to the future movements of the Imperial Forces, and have made the necessary arrangements for their movements, I purpose proceeding to Cape Town,