

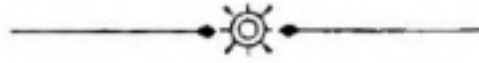
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THE

Reminiscences

OF

AN ALBANY SETTLER.



A Lecture

DELIVERED IN

GRAHAM'S TOWN,

AT THE

BRITISH SETTLERS' JUBILEE,

MAY, 1870,

BY

REV. H. H. DUGMORE.



Graham's Town:

RICHARDS, GLANVILLE & CO., CHURCH SQUARE.

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60

the Kareiga. But they had gone before the British Settlers came, and the new occupants had to dispute the possession of the soil with inhabitants of other kinds.

“Wilderness lands of brake and glen,—  
The wolf's and the leopard's gloomy den ;  
Wilderness plains where the springbok bounds,  
And the lion's voice from the hills resounds,  
And the vulture circles in airy rounds—  
Are Afric's southern wilds.”

Elephants in hundreds roamed leisurely from the Kooms to the Kowie, and from thence to the Ado. The rhinoceros crushed at will the thickets of the Fish River ravines. The lion stalked in undisputed sovereignty on the slopes of the Winterberg, and his roar was occasionally heard in the lower districts. The howl and laugh of the hyena, and the shrill yell of the jackall; were the regular nightly serenade of the new settlers, to which the little ones listened and trembled. By *day* even, the tiger's deep bass sounded for hours together among the krantzes, and the ominous responsive call of the wild dog to his fellow, too often sent its melancholy sound on the breeze, as the pack ranged ravenously over the pasture grounds; while from every high ridge whole armies of baboons shouted their defiance, and demanded what business we had on their domains. And then, over the plains of Mount Donkin, and the Salem flats, springboks in thousands bounded playfully, as their snowy backs shone in the sunlight, while the ostriches ruffled their plumes, the hartebeeste raised their horned crests, and the quaggas galloped heavily among them. We must go far from Albany to see such sights now, but the long-range rifles of Ayton and Bowker had not then arrived.

A bird's-eye view of Albany, at the earliest stage of the Settlement, would have shown a widely-spread camp of many divisions. The tents supplied by the government studded the locations in all directions, and marked the *first* phase of life there. And then came the selection of sites, and the preparation of material for more permanent dwellings. The nervous looked out for defensible positions. The men of sentiment sought picturesque