

gift contributes as does the part to the whole. How could we present a comprehensive exhibit illustrating the history of transport in South Africa without tram tickets of all periods? How thrilled we were to receive a Cape Town to Kimberley coaching ticket of 1875. We need these small items if we are to enable future researchers to reconstruct the social and economic history of our country in all its detail.

Loans also play a very important part in museum growth. Many an important item, or collection of items, often heirlooms of some sort, can neither be sold nor given away by the owner. Should he therefore wish it to be preserved and shown in a museum he places it on permanent loan. Many exhibits of outstanding historical interest have been placed in the Africana Museum in this way. Many people, too, find it difficult to part with an object of great sentimental value and prefer to make it a loan instead of a gift. In the experience of the Africana Museum loans are very rarely returned to their owners. Most loans remain permanently in the Museum.

Gifts and loans increase, we find, with the frequent publicity which is given to the Africana Museum by the press and the radio. There are also many dedicated and active friends of the Museum of long standing, not only in Johannesburg, and in the rest of Southern Africa, but as far afield as Britain, the United States and Canada, who are always watching for suitable material or persuading their acquaintances to place gifts in the Museum. Many photographs and documents relating to pioneer days in Johannesburg have reached us in this way. *Africana Notes and News*, with its subscribers and contributors from many parts of the world, has also been instrumental in bringing in gifts. Almost every temporary exhibition in the entrance hall of the Johannesburg Public Library creates more donors. The Africana Museum is deeply conscious of the great debt of gratitude owed to the many thousands of generous people who have contributed so much to the growth of the Museum.

L. de W.

Ar. - cana Notes & News, 14 1961

HENRY HALL: PIONEER SOUTH AFRICAN CARTOGRAPHER AND LITTÉRATEUR

BY S. A. ROCHLIN

Read on 3 July, 1961, at the Port Elizabeth Congress of the S.A. Association
for the Advancement of Science.

OF ALL THE BEST known figures in the scientific and cultural life of the mid-nineteenth century Cape, Henry Hall, appears for some unaccountable reason to be the least known to the South African of today.¹ It is this observation that has induced me to present this paper as a tribute to his memory as well as an appreciation of his good works in this country which should be remembered and evaluated even now.

He was born in Dublin in 1815. His first intention was to study at Dublin University, but this was not to be, for, in 1828, there occurred the death of his father, and this fact caused him not only to abandon his desire for a university education but also impelled him to seek work in order to support his financially embarrassed family.

Thus it came about that for some nine years he was associated with the Dublin firm of builders and government contractors, E. Carolen and Son, and whilst in their employ acquired a good knowledge of mathematics and cognate subjects.

In 1839 he entered the British Government service as Foreman of Works in the Royal Engineer Department as a consequence of his gaining first place in a competitive examination with eighteen other candidates.

In 1842 the Department ordered him to the Cape. He served on the Eastern frontier during the 1846 "War of the Axe."²

During his period of service in the Eastern Cape he was not only responsible for the construction of South Africa's first "signal tower,"³ but was as well energetically engaged in the erection of fortifications on the line of the Great Fish River and Kat River.⁴

Apropos one of these "signal towers" of his, the *Eastern Province Herald* of 20 February, 1874, printed this amusing skit of Hall's:

"In taking down the tower of this fort at Committee's Drift on the 7th February (1874), one of the workmen pushed his pick into the side of a glass bottle which had been inserted in the masonry at the time of building. The bottle contained a copy of the *Cape Frontier Times* of April 4th, 1844, wherein it is stated that

"this tower commenced A.D. November, 1843. Completed July, 1844. Cost £500.

¹ Even the *Dictionary of National Biography*, among others, contains no notice of him.

² For a brief outline of his career see *Cape Monthly Magazine*, of 1860, vol. 8, pp. 124-127, accompanied by a photograph of him.

³ See Prof. P. R. Kirby, "South Africa's First Telegraph," in *Africana Notes and News*, December, 1960, pp. 123-129; also Henry Hall, "On Telegraphic Communications," in *Cape Monthly Magazine* of 1859, vol. 7, pp. 257-266.

⁴ *Cape Monthly Magazine* of 1860, vol. 8, p. 125.

“ Executed under superintendence of Henry Hall, Foreman of Works,
aged 29 years, Native of Dublin.

In hoc loco sand is,
Sol etiam brand is,
In aqua much mud is,
Dam fluvio flood is,
In beef too no fat is,
Non etiam sat is,
Fleas too et bug gis,
Gaudeant in ruggis,
Naster panis a stick is,
In winkel no tick is,
Then Dei mihi pity,
In castra Cometjie!

H.H.”

In 1845, he was promoted to Clerk of Works of the fourth class, and was successively stationed at Fort Beaufort and Grahamstown.⁵

Following his participation in the local War of 1851-2, he proceeded to England by order of a medical board here, his health having been broken down, principally owing to his unremitting exertions to improve his 1857 Map of South Africa; constructing, independently of his other duties, no fewer than six maps, one after the other, as new topographical information then came into his possession. Of these cartographical efforts of his more will be revealed hereunder.⁶

During his stay in England he was employed in the office of the Inspector-General of Fortifications until, in 1853, at his own request and by the personal favour of Sir John Burgoyne,⁷ he was ordered again to the Cape.

In 1858, he was promoted to the rank of Clerk of Works of the first class, and was finally requested to return to England in mid-June, 1860,⁸ on account of the fact that the Cape Colony was not then considered a station for officers of his class.⁹ By the time he returned to England in 1860 he had gained so much popularity among his fellow-men here both on account of his personality, and, also, in respect of his diverse public labours in this country that, at the request of the Lieutenant-Governor of the Colony of the day, the Cape Parliament on 18 June 1860, in recognition of his services as such made him a grant of £100.¹⁰

Then, too, prior to his leaving the Cape for overseas he was entertained at a public dinner at the Masonic Hotel, Cape Town. This function, over

⁵ *Cape Monthly Magazine* of 1860, vol. 8, p. 126.

⁶ *Cape Monthly Magazine* of 1860, vol. 8, p. 125.

⁷ Burgoyne served with Wellington throughout the Peninsular War, and was, in 1845, appointed Inspector-General of Fortifications in England, a position he held for 23 years.

⁸ Prof. Kirby certainly errs when he states (*Africana Notes and News*, December, 1960, p. 124) that he remained, except for one brief absence in England, at the Cape until 1858.

⁹ *Cape Monthly Magazine* of 1860, vol. 8, p. 126.

¹⁰ *The Cape Argus*, 21 June, 1860.

which Rawson W. Rawson, the then Colonial Secretary, presided, was attended by, among others, Sir Thomas Maclear, the local Astronomer-Royal, and D. M. Huckins, the American Consul in Cape Town.¹¹

In 1875 he paid a short visit to the Cape, and, before returning to England, sojourned for a while at Port Elizabeth as the guest of Dr. Dunsterville.¹²

What are the main reasons, apart from his official duties here, that made him so favourably disposed to many a Cape Colonist between the years 1842 and 1860?

In the first instance, it was as a cartographer that he, who from the moment of his first arrival in this country had more than ordinarily interested himself in the affairs of this land, had first gained distinction.

It was in 1856 that Edward Stanford, Charing-Cross, London, published his first map¹³ under this caption:

"Cape of Good Hope. Map of the Eastern Frontier of the Cape Colony, compiled by Henry Hall, Draughtsman to the Royal Engineers, Cape Town, from Military and other Surveys. Dedicated by permission to Sir J. F. Burgoyne, K.C.B."

Three feet square, it is constructed on the scale of ten miles to an inch. His map¹⁴ not only details the geographical divisions of the country, with the rivers, towns, roads and district borders, but distinct marks are also fixed to point out the then old and new military lines and signal stations, the several missionary settlements, the Native Kraals, the anchorages on the coast, and the then rectified boundary.

To be sure, this undertaking of his can be regarded as a major improvement on John Arrowsmith's *"Map of the Eastern frontier of the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope—and part of Kaffraria—from Algoa Bay to the Great Kei*

¹¹ *The Cape Argus*, 21 June, 1860.

¹² *Eastern Province Herald*, 30 April, 1875.

Respecting his impressions of the Cape of 1875 see his articles "Cape Town Revisited" in *Cape Monthly Magazine* of 1875 (N.S., vol. X, pp. 294-96; 373-75; N.S. vol. XI, pp. 44 *et seq.*; 116-127, of which, pp. 116-120 deal with Port Elizabeth, and pp. 120-127 with Namaqualand).

At this stage, it is opportune to note the fact that J. J. Redgrave in his *Port Elizabeth in Bygone Days*, Wynberg, Rustica Press, 1947, among others, makes no allusion at all to Hall in his book.

Concerning Dr. George Dunsterville, see Pamela Ffolliott and E. L. H. Croft, *One Titan at a Time*, Cape Town, Timmins, 1960, pp. 65 *et seq.*

¹³ A writer in the *Cape Monthly Magazine* of 1860, vol. 8, p. 126, spoke thus:

"As a professional man of extensive mathematical knowledge, he refused to accept any data but those which scientific observations proved to be reliable. As a traveller through the greater part of the country he was personally familiar with all the characteristic marks and features of its surface. And the result has been the compilation of a series of maps of the most valuable character, and though by no means professing absolute completeness of accuracy, far surpassing, in both respects, anything that existed here before. The first of them published was his large map of the Eastern Frontier, issued by Mr. Stanford, the map-seller, of Charing-Cross, London."

¹⁴ Incidentally, the only reference to Hall in the 41 volumes of the *South African Geographical Journal* (1917-1959) I have consulted is this statement made by Vernon S. Forbes in the course of his study on "Paterson's Travels," vol. 30, April 1948, p. 62:

"There is, however, cartographic evidence that Sandflats may have been a corruption of Sandvliet, or that if these names referred to different places they were close to each other, since Henry Hall's map of the Eastern Frontier, 1856, shows in this locality a place marked Sand Vt."

River, chiefly from M.S. surveys and sketches. Communicated by . . . Michell . . . and Mr. F. J. Drummond Jervois" (London, 1853).

Among the first of local authorities to praise Hall's effort as such was Sir Thomas Maclear, F.R.S., Royal Astronomer at the Cape.¹⁵ In his *Memoir on the Geography and Topography of the Cape of Good Hope*¹⁶ Sir Thomas makes these observations (pp. 3-5):

"Between 1752 and 1797 the Colony had considerably increased—the pioneering *loan places*, in succession, becoming quit-rent or freehold tenures. At the latter date, the Governor's (Earl Macartney's) staff included a man of energy, ability and foresight—the late Sir John Barrow, whose journeys within and beyond the boundary of the Colony were marked with as much precision as could possibly be expected from an exploring traveller, with the indifferent instrumental means of that period.¹⁷ But neither Barrow, nor any of the travellers who preceded or followed him in this Colony, could fix differences in longitude with a modern approximation to the truth.

"Thus germinated the outline maps handed down to us, in imagination filled in without being corrected by the measured area of estates; yet, with the touching up of a little blue, pink and yellow, they are as imposing as those of the surveyed countries. Their value may be gathered from the fact, that the town of Clanwilliam, in the year 1843, was discovered to be 21 miles from its position on Arrowsmith's then [1843] latest map, and 14 miles seemed to have been wedged in near the north horn of St. Helena Bay, dislocating all to the north, as far as the boundary of the Colony. Mr. Arrowsmith is not blameable, for he went to the fountain head, as appears by the following, engraved on his map: 'This map is, with permission copied from the original M.S. drawing in the Colonial Office, compiled by Mr. Herbert, senior.'

"Lately, Mr. Hall, of the Royal Engineer Department, with a rare aptitude for the work, collected whatever materials he could find, and by trial and error fitting, he has, no doubt, done much good. But it would be unjust to Mr. Hall, and still more unjust to the public, to conceal the fact, that neither he nor any other can produce a remotely correct map of this Colony, before certain steps shall have been taken, which hitherto have been unaccountably neglected.

"The legitimate conclusions from the foregoing are:—that the topography of the Colony may be regarded as a blank, and those who have fancied the contrary have been misinformed—also that the documents in the Colonial Office referred to by Mr. Arrowsmith are unworthy of confidence."

Another who also made a similar evaluation of this map of Hall's was Rear-Admiral F. W. Beechy, who, in the course of an address to the Royal

¹⁵ He held this position from 1834-1870. He died at Mowbray, near Cape Town, on July 14, 1879.

¹⁶ Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Excellency the Governor, April, 1857.

¹⁷ See the informative essay of Vernon S. Forbes on "The First Modern Geographer and Geologist in South Africa: Sir John Barrow" in *S.A. Geographical Journal*, vol. 26, April, 1944, pp. 44-75.

Geographical Society of London on 26 May 1856,¹⁸ asserted that "a fine map has been published lately by Mr. Stanford, containing the Eastern Frontier of the Cape of Good Hope, drawn by Mr. Henry Hall, of the Ordnance Department in that Colony, whose merits as a cartographer are well-known. This map appears very opportunely, as it includes the country of the Bassutos [sic] where disturbances are apprehended."¹⁹

The following year, 1857, saw the publication of another similar undertaking of his under this heading:

"*Map of South Africa to 16° S. Lat.* Compiled from all-recent Authorities, by H. Hall, R.E.D. 1857. Engraved and printed by J. A. Crew, 8 Shortmarket St., Cape Town. Compiled from all the available official authorities in the Surveyor-General and Royal Engineer Offices, Cape of Good Hope, and numerous contributions by Messrs. Maclear, Astronomer-Royal, C. Bell, Surveyor-General, R. Moffatt, C. J. Andersson, A. G. Bain, J. C. Chase, Rev. Messrs. Shaw, Thomas Frazer, etc. etc. J. M. Wentzel, F. Rawstone, R. Southey, Dr. Atherstone, etc. etc. The Sovereignty, Transvaal,²⁰ and Northern parts of the Cape Colony from Mr. Moffatt's²¹ Original Maps. N. of 20° from Dr. Livingston, Messrs. F. Green, and Chapman, and respectfully dedicated to His Excellency Sir G. Grey, K.C.B., by Henry Hall, R.E.D. The compiler has specially to acknowledge his obligations to the Hon. Colonial Sec., R. W. Rawson, Esq. for the assistance rendered him during the progress of the work in giving him access to all official documents."

Smaller in size than the one alluded to above, this map is the first of its kind ever to be produced in South Africa. Declares thus a writer in the *Cape Monthly Magazine* of 1860, vol. 8, p. 126:

"The whole of the engraving, printing, colouring, and mounting—of upward of sixteen hundred copies, was performed with local resources, and the undertaking, small as at first sight it may appear, circulated £800 among the working classes of this city [Cape Town.] Its circulation, already mentioned, considering the sparse and scattered population of the Colony, may be considered very large, indeed. The copyright, in England, of this and other maps has been purchased recently by Mr. Stanford."

It may, too, be mentioned here that, in the mid-1870's, Hall, who was then resident in England, was partly responsible for another map of the Cape Colony. Abraham de Smidt records in his *Report of the Surveyor-*

¹⁸ *Proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society of London*, 1857, vol. 1, pp. 175-76.

¹⁹ A reference to the clash between the O.F.S. Boers and Moshesh, the Basuto Chief.

²⁰ It is interesting to note that Hall has on it the place-names "Pretoria" and "Witte Waters Rand"—in all likelihood being the first to do so in South African cartographical history.

²¹ See his "Report of a Survey of a Portion of the Orange River, Eastward of Little Namaqualand" (*Cape of Good Hope. Annexures to the Votes and Proceedings of the House of Assembly*, G.1—1858).

Accompanying his "Report" is a map of his route from Little Namaqualand to Eis, along the Orange River.

The *Cape Monitor* of July 1, 1857, reports that a manuscript map of South Africa was presented by David Livingstone on behalf of R. Moffat, Jnr. to the Royal Geographical Society in London on April 27, 1857.

General on the Tenure of Land, on the Land Laws and Their Results, and on the Topography of the Colony (p. 111):²²

"As to the work already done, I have to report that a part of the vote of £1,200 of last year has been expended in the commencement of such an experimental survey by myself during a part of September and October last year. A base-line of 510 Cape roods was measured and about 200 square miles triangulated in the districts of Worcester and Caledon. A part of the vote was expended in perfecting the various map-sheets on the scale of 1,200 roods to the inch; and three sheets of the scale of 400 roods and embracing the Cape Peninsula and part of Malmesbury, were sent to Messrs. Stanford to be lithographed. The general supervision of the work has been undertaken by Mr. Henry Hall, from whom I received favourable accounts as to the progress and moderate cost, which is estimated will not exceed seven shillings per sheet."

Coinciding with his drawing of local maps Hall was also gathering authentic and detailed knowledge respecting the geography of South Africa, so much so that by the mid-1850's he was able to present an expert view on the specific subject. For instance, this is how in the *Cape Monthly Magazine* of 1857, vol. 1, pp. 238-240, he appraises the *English Cyclopaedia a new Dictionary of Universal Knowledge*, by C. Knight (London, 1854):²³

"We do not presume here to enter into a criticism on the general merits of the work, but merely to offer a few words on the geographical division, especially with reference to the articles on the Cape. And here, we would say, generally, that in comparing the geographical articles in the *Penny* with those in the new edition, we find them anything at all but improved; they are much abridged, deal largely in generalities, and in many important cases give but poor and imperfect geographical descriptions. The first article we find connected with Cape geography is Algoa Bay. This, we are informed, is situated 33°56' south latitude, and 26°53' east long.; but we are not enlightened what part of the bay—its east, west, or middle point—is situated in that exact latitude and longitude; and on reference to our map we find Cape Receif, its western extremity, in lat. 34°02', long. 25°39', and Point Padrone, its eastern extremity, in lat. 33°40', long. 26°20'; so that the Algoa Bay of the *English Cyclopaedia* is no less than 33 minutes of longitude, or nearly as many miles, out of its true position. We are next told that this inlet is twenty miles broad from east to west, and that among the rivers it receives is the Kowie; whereas the fact is that it cannot be called an inlet at all, but an indentation of the coast, and its width from east to west is upwards of fifty miles, instead of twenty, and the Kowie enters the sea some thirty miles east of its eastern extremity. Port Elizabeth is barely mentioned, and not a word said of its present condition. Cape Receif and its light, the Bird Island and its light, the Roman Rock, the St. Croix Islands, and Point Padrone—all necessary names to be mentioned,

²² Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Excellency the Governor. G.30—1876.

²³ This work is introduced thus to the readers of this periodical:

"The *English Cyclopaedia* is a new, corrected and modernised edition of the *Penny Cyclopaedia*, originally published by the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge."

we should think in any description, no matter how short of Algoa Bay, are all passed over without the smallest notice.

“ We next come to Albany, which is a very meagre abridgment of the article ‘ Albany ’ in the *Penny Cyclopaedia*, retaining all its errors, and adding only a few incorrect statements, by way of bringing it down to the present period. We are first gravely told ‘ that Albany is bounded N. and N.E. by Kaffraria,’ which, indeed, it was thirty years ago, but certainly not in 1854—‘ that it is bounded on the west by Graaf Reynet,’ its boundary being the Sundays River; that after the Great Fish, the river next in importance is the Sundays, and after it the Bosjesman, Kamka, Kasowka, and, hear it, ye British Kaffrarians, ‘ the Buffalo! ’ The settlers have been trying (industrious creatures!) to improve the growth of wool, and ‘ many manufactories ’ have been established in the towns!

“ We are then informed, ‘ that the Portuguese established a settlement ’ in Albany in ‘ 1498,’ but could not retain it. Graham’s Town, we are gravely told, is ‘ situated on the banks of the Great Fish River,’ and the intercourse with Cape Town now ‘ renders necessary two mails per week.’ ‘ A court of justice is held there once a quarter! ’ and that ‘ in January, 1848, a mountain pass—over Mount Cradock!—was completed, called Montagu Pass! ’

“ Now the paragraphs quoted comprise three-fourths of the article in question, and the remaining one-fourth is made up of such platitudes as ‘ the coast is frequented by abundance of fish,’ ‘ the general appearance of the country is agreeable,’ and ‘ that the alternation of level gives rise to great variety in the produce of the district,’ quite as well applicable to any other country in the world, as Albany. Its geological and physical features, its botany, natural history, meteorology, roads, population, or even the settlement of the 1820, are not even glanced at; and yet, the conductor, in his preface, has the coolness to declare ‘ that in this department of the *Cyclopaedia*, which embraces the physical features of every country, and the statistics of its departments, its cities and marts of commerce, as well as recording its history to the most recent periods, it will be readily seen how extensive have been the changes and additions, to give completeness to the articles upon which this new work is founded. The conductor has been fortunate (?)—[seemingly, Hall’s question mark]—in securing the co-operation of accurate and intelligent labourers.’

“ Know then, most sapient Charles Knight, that thou art vilely and shamefully deceived; for as far as South Africa is concerned, thy fellow-labourers have neither been accurate, intelligent, or even commonly honest. If they had been so, we are sure you would never have printed your articles on Albany and Algoa Bay in their present form. Learn that Albany is not bounded N. and N.E. by Kaffraria, but by Fort Beaufort and Victoria; that it is not bounded on the W. by Graaff-Reinet, but by Uitenhage and Somerset; that the Sundays River is not, and never was, included in it; that the Buffalo is a river of British Kaffraria, 50 miles east of the Albany district; that very many manufactories are not established in its towns; that the Portuguese settlement of 1498 is but a myth or a fiction; that Graham’s Town is not on the banks of the Great Fish River, but at the head of the Kowie, fifteen miles from the nearest point of it; that there are three

mails a week, not two; and a circuit court every six months, not once a quarter; that Mount Cradock and Montagu Pass are at least 250 miles west of the Albany district; and that in fine, the articles in the *English Cyclopaedia* on Cape Geography are, with few exceptions, shams, humbugs, and delusions, and unworthy even of that poor, frail ghost of the *Penny Cyclopaedia*, which you, and your intelligent fellow-labourers declare 'truly to represent to the world a Dictionary of Universal Knowledge.'

"We shall again return to the subject, which is, at least, one of local interest, and point out the merits and demerits of the remaining articles on South African Geography, which if they had been correctly written, would just now have had more than ordinary value, and show how very inexcusable many of the errors committed are, as even the plea of ignorance can hardly be urged."

The year 1856 witnessed the publication, based on much original personal research and observation, of Hall's first major essays in South African geography. The first of these entitled "Geographical Notes on South Africa" saw the light in the *Eastern Province Monthly Magazine* of November, 1856, and of January and October, 1857. In these studies he described at length the coast of South Africa from Walvis Bay to Delagoa Bay. The first is called "Its Hydrography: Coast Line, Navigable Rivers, Bays and Harbours," while the second and third deal with the physical features, rivers, mountains and Karoos of this land. He concludes this survey of his with this remark (October, 1857, p. 66):

"We have now endeavoured to give our readers a general idea of the mountain system of South Africa; but owing to the want of maps, etc., there are many remarkable groups of isolated hills we have been unable to identify with any of the above ranges."

A year later, 1858, the *Cape Monthly Magazine* printed his article on "Modern Geographical Nomenclature, From a Colonial Point of View" (vol. 3, pp. 359-368).

But the work in this country and abroad, however, which brought him still greater fame was his *Manual of South African Geography*, which was printed at Cape Town, in May, 1859, by Saul Solomon & Co. It is the first authentic study of its kind ever to be produced here.

An octavo volume of 183 pages, and first sold at three shillings a copy, it was at the request of the Cape Colonial Secretary, Rawson W. Rawson, that he undertook this work, which was primarily written for the use of schools at the Cape and candidates for the Civil Service here.

Part I of the *Manual* gives a general description of South Africa, while Part II describes the various divisions of South Africa severally and Part III furnishes a sketch of the physical geography of the country: its geology, hydrology, climate and the form and distribution of its animals and vegetable life.

Also, in this book, is to be found an appendix, extending over fifty pages, comprising tables of geographical nomenclature; of the height of the principal mountains; of the length, sources, courses, and resources of South African rivers; of meteorological observations; of revenue and expenditure of the Cape Colony from 1 January 1835 to 31 December 1857;

imports and exports; a table showing the distances of the principal towns and villages of the Cape Colony, Natal, Orange Free State, and the Transvaal Republic, from the then four chief towns of the Colony—Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, Grahamstown and Graaff-Reinet; and a 27-page table of chronological events²⁴ relating to South Africa from the circumnavigation of Africa by the Phoenicians in the time of Pharaoh Necho to the events ending for the year 1858.

What particularly attracts the attention of the present-day reader of this work are his interesting observations on a number of local topics.

For example, this is how he describes animal life in the Eastern Cape during his residence there:

“ The lion, with the exception of part of Bushmanland, lying north of the Beaufort division and the most eastern portions of the divisions of Queen’s Town and Albert, we do not believe that a lion, at the present day, is to be found within the limits of the Cape Colony ” (p. 117).

“ The last rhinoceros killed in the Cape Colony was an old male which was shot in 1853 on the Coega, or Grassridge, near Port Elizabeth; another was killed in 1842 near the Ecca Valley in Lower Albany; and these, we believe, were the last survivors of the once numerous Chikooroo.” (p. 118.)

Elephants, which exist today in the Addo Bush, were, it seems, scarce in the Cape Colony of a century ago. The only localities in which a few were then to be found were “ the dense forests lying east of the Knysna and Plettenberg’s Bay, and also in the rugged jungles of the Kadouw bush between the Zuurberg Mountains and the Sundays River. The Fish River bush was formerly a very favourite haunt of theirs, but after the war of 1836, being much disturbed, they appear to have migrated in a body through the Buffalo forest and across the Great Kei into the almost inaccessible thickets east of the Umzimvobo, near the Natal frontier, where they are still numerous. Traces of their old paths and heaps of their gigantic bones are still commonly found in the thickets of the Great Fish River bush.” (p. 119.)

A hundred years ago the hippopotamus was, according to the *Manual* “ still numerous in all the rivers which intersect the sea-coast of Kaffraria, from the Keiskamma to the Zambesi ” (p. 119).

He goes on to add that an immense old male hippopotamus was killed in 1850 by Lieutenant McPherson and Dr. Barclay, of the 91st Regiment, near the mouth of the Keiskamma. “ Except in great forests of the Knysna division, the Kadouw bush and the Fish River thickets, the buffalo was [in 1858] no longer to be found in the Colonial territory, and will probably not be met with south of the Vaal or west of the Umzimvobo River ” (p. 119).

The author of the *Manual* goes on to state that during the years 1842 to

²⁴ It may be observed that Prof. P. R. Kirby in *Africana Notes and News*, September, 1945, p. 106 criticises Hall’s remark on p. 161 of his *Manual* that many of the female passengers (of the “ Grosvenor ”) “ taken as wives by the natives, from whom have descended the late Chief Daapa, the Queen Nonibi, and many other Kafir chiefs.”

1844 he often met a small herd of buffalo that frequented the country between the Koomes and Fort Brown, in Albany.

A question that is often asked these days is this: "Is South Africa drying up?"

In this connection, it is worth while noting what Hall has to declare on this specific issue in his *Manual* on p. 98:

"When Sebituane, the Makololo chief, passed through the Kalihari desert, some thirty years ago, the Sarotli fountain was a large piece of water; the burnt up and gaping Makoko, in the remembrance of many living, was a flowing stream; and the fountain at Kuruman gave, when Mr. Moffat first settled there, a much more copious supply than it does at present. Many deep pools formerly existed in the Kuruman and Malapo Rivers, now long dried up; and it would also appear that, in general, the fountains of the Nieuweveld, Winterveld, and Middenveld or the country forming the northern slope of the great mountain range, have been getting, for years, weaker; showing the very great necessity for the construction of artificial dams wherever the locality will permit of it. In the Hope Town and Colesberg divisions many have been lately made, with good success. This partial drying of fountains may be, probably, caused by a recurring cycle of dry seasons."

He then proceeds p. 99, under the caption "Artesian Wells, &c.": "It is not probable from the peculiar geological formation of the country, that except in a very few localities, any attempt at the formation of artesian wells would be attended with success, from the comparative absence of the later tertiary formations; and although theorists from the time of Barrow have attempted to account for the scarcity of water in South Africa, yet the cause seems simple enough. The surface of the country is deficient in beds of gravel or the softer permeable rocks to allow of the sinking of the rains into subterraneous reservoirs, and the rain consequently either runs quickly off into the sea, or is evaporated by the heat and general dryness of the climate of the interior; and as a general rule, perhaps, it will be found that the number and strength of springs and fountains will be in an inverse ratio to their distance from mountain ranges; thus travelling north from the Nieuweveld and Roggeveld mountains, the springs diminish on approaching the Orange River, and the country is consequently nearly a desert. Livingstone, however, considers that the geological structure of the Kalihari is such that the formation of artesian wells could be successfully carried out."

At this stage, it may not be out of place to record here that sixteen years later the *Cape Monthly Magazine* of 1875 (N.S.), vol. x, pp. 103 *et seq.* printed an article from his pen entitled "Notes on the Properties of Fountains. Chiefly from the Old Naturalists," which deals mainly with Cape fountains.

Of the Transvaal of his day he writes thus:

"The principal towns and villages are Mooriviersdorp, on the Klakua or Mooi Rivier, the seat of the local government; Rustenburg, a few miles north of the Magaliesberg; Zoutpansberg, the most remote European village in South Africa, and 1,260 miles north-east of Cape Town; Lydenberg and Origstadt are places of small importance, about 80 miles south of Zout-

pansberg, and other small villages. Pretorius, a few miles north-east of Rustenburg, has lately been founded" (pp. 53-4).

Concerning the O.F.S. one reads: "The country now forming the Free State was, a few years ago, a "howling wilderness," as Captain Harris²⁵ describes it, inhabited by wandering hordes of Bushmen and broken tribes of Bechuana and Kafir refugees from the armies of the great Zulu tyrants—Chaka, Dingaan and Moselikatse.

"The chief town, and seat of government, is Bloemfontein, about 150 miles north-west of Colesberg. It contains about 150 houses, a Dutch, Episcopal and Roman Catholic church.

"Cronstadt and Boshof are lately formed villages, as yet in embryo" (p. 51).

Regarding Natal he informs the reader that "report speaks favourably of the mineral wealth of Natal, but no mines of any metal have been as yet worked. Coal is found in two or three localities. Several sugar mills have lately been erected in the region near the coast, and are now working with considerable success. D'Urban or Port Natal has 1,200 inhabitants" (p. 49).

Not only was this *Manual*, of which a second edition appeared in 1866 and an anonymous Netherlands version was published by P. M. Bazendijk, of Rotterdam, in 1860, well received by his contemporary fellow-Colonists, but it was, also, in the 1860's and 1870's regarded as a valuable source of information by later writers of South African geographical works.

For instance, in the June 24, 1859, number of the *Cape Weekly Chronicle* (Cape Town), there is noted this item:

"The fifth edition of an elementary work in Dutch, on the Geography of South Africa, has been issued by Mr. de Kock, of the Tot Nut van het Algemeen Institution.²⁶ It is intended to be used as an introduction to Mr. Hall's book."

Another, A. W. Wilmot, in the preface to his *Outlines to the Geography of South Africa for the Use of Schools*, Cape Town, Juta, 1868, declares thus:

"This text-book is primarily designed for the use of the Elementary Classes in the Public and Mission Schools connected with the Department of Public Education [of the Cape of Good Hope], and to serve as an introduction to Hall's *Manual*."

Replying to the criticism of the first edition of his *Compendium of South African History and Geography*, Lovedale, Institution Press, 1873-74, the famous South African historian, George McCall Theal, in a letter penned at Lovedale and dated 19 August 1873, to the Editor of the *Port Elizabeth Telegraph* of 26 August 1873, makes these remarks:

"My own personal knowledge of South Africa barely reaches a term of seventeen years . . . But you are mistaken in thinking you would be

²⁵ Later known as Sir William Cornwallis Harris, author of *Narrative of an Expedition in South Africa, from the Cape of Good Hope to the Tropic of Capricorn in the years 1836-37*, Bombay, American mission press, 1838.

²⁶ The first edition of this appeared in 1837 under this heading: *Eerste Gronden der Aardeskunde, Hoofdzakelyk Ingerigt Ten Gebruike Voor De Tweede-Klas Leerlingen Der Maatschappij-School, 'Tot Nut van het Algemeen'*, Door Steph. J. de Kock, Kaapstad: Gedrukt by P. A. Brand.

nearer the mark if you termed the book an epitome of the collected ideas of Mr. Henry Hall, R.E.D., and Mr. Alexander Wilmot, of the Colonial civil service. I did extract a considerable number of items from Mr. Hall's chronological record, and gave the length of some rivers upon his authority; but further than that I drew upon neither of the gentlemen you name."

Another work Hall intended compiling whilst living in this country, was that of a Gazetteer of South Africa, for which he had collected much material, but, so reports the *Cape Argus* of 21 June 1860, "he was stopped by want of the information which would have been afforded by a correct census, as first proposed in the year 1858."

In 1876, Hall, whilst resident overseas, published another book called *Southern Africa Including the Cape Colony, Natal, and the Dutch Republics*, London and New York, E. and F. N. Spon. This 56-page volume issued by the Spons for "the information of Colonial Engineers," includes chapters on topics like "Physical Geography with Reference to Engineering Operations," "Preliminary Notes on Labour and Materials in Cape Colony," "Preliminary Geological Notes on Rock Formation in South Africa," and "Engineering Instruments for Use in South Africa," while elsewhere in this book are to be found items like "Table of Woods, &c., in South Africa," a "Note on General Upheaval and Dessication of Springs," a "Note on Animals Used for Draught Purposes," and the "Cost of Buildings in Cape Town."

Then, too, one discovers his contribution on South African natural history²⁷ to the first edition of S. W. Silver & Co.'s *Handbook to South Africa*, London, 1875, pp. 163-175. I surmise that he was as well the author of the chapters dealing with local physical geography and geology appearing in the latter work.

One finds him again two years later, in 1877, serving as editorial supervisor of Thomas Baines's posthumous *The Gold Regions of South-Eastern Africa*, London, Edward Stanford, for which volume on pp. x-xviii he wrote the memoir of Thomas Baines, an intimate friend of his Eastern Cape days in the 1840's.²⁸

It may be added that Hall was also partly responsible for the map and itinerary to be found in the latter volume. Of this map, one is informed by a writer in the *Cape Monthly Magazine* of 1877, N.S., vol. xiv, pp. 125-26, that

²⁷ Other similar studies are his "Notes on Animal Life in South Africa," in which he deals with the larger animals, birds and reptiles of this country, (*Cape Monthly Magazine* of 1857, vol. 1, pp. 3-11; 166-174), and "Gleanings from the Old Naturalists," treats of whales, mermaids, and other strange fishes, gorgons, griffins, dragons, cockatoos and other strange beasts, phoenixes, eagles, pelicans, owlets and other strange singing birds (*Cape Monthly Magazine* of 1875, N.S. vol. 8, pp. 103-107; 156-161; 366-368.)

²⁸ Especially in connection with the Eastern Cape military activities of that age, of which he published an account under the caption of "Recollections of the Great Fish River Bush. By an 'Old Campaigner,'" *Cape Monthly Magazine* of 1859, vol. 5, pp. 227-236; 299-309; 342-348.

According to the copy in possession of the South African Public Library, Cape Town, "Old Campaigner" was none other than Henry Hall, whose intention in printing these articles was "to give some idea of the privations and hardships borne by military men, often of the highest rank and family, on the miserable outposts which, a few years ago dotted the eastern frontier, before the present comfortable barracks both along the Fish River line and in British Kaffraria were erected."

it was compiled from Baines' own observations, assisted by Messrs. J. Chapman, Henry Hartley (of Magaliesberg, Transvaal), Captain Elton, St. Vincent Erskine, E. Mohr, R. Jewell, A. Bellville, R. J. Miller and other friends, and has been issued under the supervision of Henry Hall, Esq."

Another fact of cartographical interest one also gathers about Hall is that, in the 1850's, on his return to England on furlough, he "carried Baines' map of the Limpopo, which, with much other cartographical information the artist gave him, he incorporated in his own map of Southern Africa." (J. P. R. Wallis, *Thomas Baines of King's Lynn, Explorer and Artist, 1820-1875*, London, J. Cape, 1941, pp. 81-82.)

It may be observed that Hall not only enjoyed the personal friendship of Baines but also that of an explorer of the calibre of Frederick Green whose "Narrative of an Expedition to the North-West of Lake Ngami, extending to the capital of Debabé's territory, via Souka River, hitherto an unexplored portion of Africa," he communicated to the *Eastern Province Monthly Magazine* of 1857, pp. 252-57; 316-323; 385-392; 533-543; 595-601; and 661-669.

Another who also knew Hall, was Charles John Andersson, whose letter to him addressed from Otjimbgué, Damaraland, on 30 September 1857, was published in the *Cape Monthly Magazine* of 1858, vol. 3, pp. 197-209, under the caption of "Discovery of a Fresh-Water Lake and 'A Struggle for Life' on the Plains of Odonga." This communication deals mainly with Frederick Green's travels in Damaraland respecting which allusion is made in Charles John Andersson's *The Okavango River. A Narrative of Travel, Exploration and Adventure*. (London, Hurst and Blackett, 1861, p. 2.)

Yet another explorer who was on amicable terms with Hall was James Chapman who, in the preface to his two-volume *Travels in the Interior of South Africa*, expresses his thanks to Hall for the help he gave him in preparing the latter work for the press (London, Beal and Daldy, vol. 1, 1868, p. vii).

A fact that can also be mentioned here is that Hall was personally acquainted with Andrew Geddes Bain (1797-1864), the distinguished South African road engineer, geologist, explorer, trader and soldier. In her edition of the *Journals of Andrew Geddes Bain*, Van Riebeeck Society, Cape Town, vol. 30, 1949, Margaret Hermina Lister refers neither to his friendship with Bain nor to the following poem penned by Hall as a tribute to the memory of Bain. It was published in the *Cape Monthly Magazine* of 1875, N.S. vol. xi, p. 58.

Hall was inspired to write it as a consequence of his "first going down the Ecca Pass after the completion of the new road." Part of his seventeen-line verse runs thus:

" Then bless you! dear Bain, the best of road-makers,
We may travel this path without fearing neck-breakers;
May so smooth be thy way, not e'en fearing bone-shakers,
As we travel along now without the least pain
Let us think of the maker, and cry ' God bless thee, Bain ! '"

In addition to all this, he, too, during the years he resided here and abroad wrote on a variety of other local topics, both serious and otherwise.

Nearly all his efforts as such were printed in the *Cape Monthly Magazine* of 1857 *et seq.* He dealt with themes like "Cape Military Defences," "South African Military Men," "A Sketch of Basutoland," "Buck-Hunting in the Karoo" and "Babooniana." He was also interested in certain aspects of Cape history,²⁹ and even regaled local readers here with articles on subjects like "Dublin Streets" and "Tichborne Land."

That he was also a linguist of more than ordinary reputation is a fact that one cannot gainsay when one judges his translations both from the French and the German into English³⁰ of diverse themes that were published in certain literary journals at the Cape in the 1850's and in 1876. Let me cite here in chronological order some of his efforts as such that were printed locally:

"Adventures Among the Comanche Indians." Translated from *Das Ausland* for September, 1856. *Eastern Province Monthly Magazine*, November, 1856, pp. 137-145.

"The Midnight Walk." Translated from the German of Von Hauswald. *Ibid.*, March 1857, pp. 378-385.

"Memoir of the great inland sea of Uniamesi, or Nyassi, situated between the Equator and 10th degree of south latitude, and the countries adjacent to it," by J. Erhardt. Translated from *Mittheilungen aus Justus Perthe's Geographischer Ausgabe* for January, 1856. *Cape Monthly Magazine* for 1857, Part 1, pp. 369-373; Part 2, pp. 26-30.

"The Jews in Holland." Translated from the French of Alphonse Esquiros. *Ibid.*, for 1857, pp. 331-337, 411-415.

"The Chamois Hunter." From the French of Emile Souvestre. *Ibid.*, for 1858, vol. 3, pp. 79-87; 135-146; 217-23.

"Siva and Madhava. An Indian Popular Story." Translated from the German into English. *Ibid.*, for 1858, vol. 4, pp. 223-29.

"The Broken Oath." A Jewish tale translated from the German. *Ibid.*, for 1858, vol. 4, pp. 334-342.

"Naval-lieutenant Verney Cameron's Journey Across Central Africa." Compiled from Peterman's *Mittheilungen*. *Ibid.*, for 1876, vol. 13, pp. 87-90.

Then, also, in this regard, one cannot omit to record this remark made by a correspondent to the Beaufort West *Courier* of 26 September 1882:

"In addition, to his being a scientific man, he was a racy letter writer, and for a long time contributed a London newsletter to the *Mail* [namely, the *Standard and Mail*, of Cape Town] a fact known to few."

One other important matter in which he was more than ordinarily interested before he left the Cape in 1860 was in respect of the building of the Cape Town Museum and Library, which was opened on September 18, 1860, by Prince Alfred in the presence of Governor Sir George Grey. He was for some years a trustee of this institution, and it was in this capacity that he gave evidence on 6 and 7 June 1859, before a Cape Parliamentary

²⁹ See also both his note on "The Duke of Wellington at Cape Town" in *Notes and Queriers*, London, 13 March 1869, p. 237, and one on "French Huguenots at the Cape" in *Notes and Queriers*, London, 24 April 1869, p. 378.

³⁰ I surmise he must have also understood and spoken Afrikaans, seeing that he was no mean master of the German tongue.

Committee concerning the estimated price and the probable cost of erecting this building.³¹

Another Cape Town organisation with which he was then associated was the Mechanics' Institute, to the members of which he occasionally gave lectures on various subjects. One who was present at one of these talks of his, later noted that the last time "I had the privilege of hearing him was in 1859, while lecturing on music, when he oscillated between the reading desk and the piano, giving specimens of the pieces which he alluded to."³²

Finally, it may be mentioned that a friend of his was the well-known nineteenth century Cape artist, Thomas William Bowler, one of whose paintings, "Table Bay in a calm," was successfully drawn by him in a lottery conducted at Cape Town by Bowler on 30 September 1857.³³

Just before he left Cape Town for London in mid-June, 1860, there was sold at the former place by public auction the following:

"A valuable collection of Books on Architectural Engineering, and other Scientific Subjects; a well-assorted lot of Pianoforte and Flute Music, including the principal Operas of Rossini, Dousette, Mozart, &c.; some valuable Pictures; the remaining Stock of Tables of Distances; Maps of South Africa; Drawing Paper, &c., &c. Also a very valuable Solid Bronze Time-piece, by Carter, of London—being the property of H. Hall, R.E.D., about to leave the colony."³⁴

He died in London in 1882.

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³¹ See Appendix 2, to *Votes and Proceedings of Parliament*, 1859, pp. 55-75. I am grateful to Mr. A. M. Lewin-Robinson, of the S.A. Library, Cape Town, for drawing my attention to this fact.

³² So notes a correspondent to the *Beaufort West Courier* of September 26, 1882.

³³ The *S.A. Commercial Advertiser and Cape Town Mail*, 1 October 1857.

³⁴ The *Cape Argus*, 13 June 1860.