

houses, and their blossoms and fruit, although within reach of all, are respected. The houses are painted of various colours, without any regard to taste, and are of a clean though antiquated appearance. No two of them are alike, yet their styles are so marked, that the country whence their builders came may be judged with tolerable certainty from each. Badly-painted signs are as numerous as in our own country, and vanes pointing in every direction surmount the gables. The Dutch costume still prevails among the inhabitants, and afforded us much amusement. In the schools the Dutch language is still taught; though in many the English is a branch of education. Considering the number of years that this colony has been under the British dominion, it surprised me to find that a knowledge of the Dutch was much more necessary than that of English, while dealing with the inhabitants.

There are two hotels in Cape Town, the Royal George and the Victoria, both kept on the English plan. The former we frequented during our short stay, and found it comfortable, although far inferior to what might have been expected from the size of the town.

The Cape of Good Hope was originally settled by the Dutch in 1652; captured by the British in 1795; restored again after the peace of Amiens in 1802; again taken possession of in 1806; and finally ceded to Great Britain in 1815. During its occupation as a Dutch colony, it had twenty-eight governors, and since it has been under British rule it has had eighteen. By this it will be perceived that the changes in its administration have been frequent, and what might naturally be expected to follow, the policy and character of its governors have been vacillating. It has been generally ruled very much after the ideas of those who presided for the time being. The government is nominally vested in the governor, and an executive and legislative council, who are all appointed by the crown, or with its approbation and consent.

Under this system of government it has been the misfortune of the Cape colony to be placed; and the advantages it has possessed under some, have been counterbalanced by others, and not unfrequently the salutary regulations made by one, have, without any apparent reason, in the minds of the colonists, been annulled or set aside by others; which, of course, has tended to foment discord and produce a feeling of opposition to British rule: this has prevented the advancement of the colony, and retarded its usefulness by giving license to crime that otherwise would not have existed.

Of late years, however, although the government still remains the same, yet they have been more fortunate in the individuals who have