

Europe, will soon find that he has been entirely mistaken, for they are only to be met with after a troublesome long journey into the inhospitable interior.

There can be no doubt that when the English took possession (in 1815) they found that a firm foundation had been laid by the Dutch a hundred and fifty years before, but the real progress of the country, and the development of its natural resources, date only from the commencement of British rule. * * *

Within the past few years great impetus has been given to trade by the discovery of diamonds in the colony. But the means at present available for reaching the Fields are both difficult and dangerous; they are more than 600 miles in the interior, and from Zoutkloof to Saltpans Drift (386 miles) the road is over the Karroo Desert, which during the dry season presents considerable difficulties to travellers. Yet the wagons which start weekly are generally filled, notwithstanding the very high prices charged.

It appears that the first diamond was found by some children who had been gathering agates and other pebbles in the bed of the Orange River. This stone (weighing $21\frac{3}{16}$ carats) attracted the attention of an inland trader, and was sent by him to Dr. Atherstone, of Graham's Town, by whom it was pronounced an unmistakable diamond of the first water. Systematic search was then made, which resulted in the finding of numerous small diamonds