

able slavery. Previous to the English arriving at Ceylon, the Dutch by mean and cowardly insinuations, unworthy of a civilized nation, worked up their passions and minds against us to a state of desperation, and led them to attempt those cowardly acts of assassination for which the Malays are so much and so justly abhorred. How dearly have the Dutch now paid for their conduct! All confidence between a Dutchman and a Malay is lost, wherever the English have appeared. The most barbarous nations will discriminate between the conduct and dispositions of the Dutch and English. A little knowledge of our character soon brought them to revere us as a nation humane and generous. All those who had been in the military service of the Dutch, voluntarily offered to enter ours; and when they came to reflect on the cowardice of the different garrisons in the island of Ceylon, who sent them out to attack an enemy without officers, and without troops to support them, they then began to see, in its true light, the manner in which the Dutch had acted towards them. Nearly four years on service with the Malay regiment, I had every opportunity of noticing their conduct. To our government they were ever obedient and steady. Fully convinced that they were led astray by false reports of our inhumanity by their late masters, they have changed the objects of their hatred and detestation, and sincerely repented of their former acts of assassination and warfare against us.

## CHAPTER XIV.

*The White Inhabitants of Cape Town—Difference between them and those of the Mother Country—What People first colonized it—Manner in which they conduct themselves towards the Females—Their Women—Manner in which both Men and Women spend their Time—Occupations and Habits of Life—All Ranks keep Lodging Houses—Custom at Meals, and Food produced at their Tables—Coffee-Houses and Taverns first introduced by the English—Mode of Living.*

AS I have described the most prominent features in the character of the Dutch colonists, who inhabit the country parts of the Cape of Good Hope, I shall devote the present chapter to a more particular account of the manners and customs of the inhabitants of Cape Town. To a stranger these appear very singular; for there is no European nation to which they bear an exact resemblance, and yet some traits of most European nations are found amongst them. This is partly owing to the settlers here being descended from adventurers from almost every quarter of the world; and partly to the great fondness of the inhabitants for copying the fashions of various nations as they are transiently presented to them by the passengers who occasionally touch at the Cape. The dresses of the young women in particular

The inhabit-  
ants of Cape  
Town.

form a motley collection of French, English, and Dutch fashions; but imitated with so little elegance or neatness, that the original pattern can scarcely be guessed at.

*Degenerated.* Though most of the colonists are descended from the different Protestant, German States, and those emigrants from France, who fled from persecution after the repeal of the edict of Nantz, yet few even retain the least traits of the habits or customs of their ancestors, even the descendents of the Dutch themselves, except in their fondness for smoking and dram drinking.

To Englishmen they appear an unsocial, inhospitable, and boorish race, and their actions entirely guided by mercenary and interested motives. Where every thing in human form seems to be moved by mechanism, so much uninteresting sameness and tedious uniformity, could not but appear stupid to our countrymen; and their opinion of the inhabitants was still lowered when they considered that this dull and uncomfortable life was led in a country where the soil is capable of yielding most of the necessaries, and many of the luxuries which mankind require, where the climate and air favour not only a healthy existence, but even a particular cheerfulness of temper. During most part of the year the inhabitants are blessed with an unclouded sky, a salubrious climate, that enables them to indulge in any species of exercise, which tends to strengthen the body and invigorate the mind. Yet with all these advantages the colonists seem dead to the best affections of man; they marry without feeling any of that lively sympathy which is seen

*Want of natural affection.*

in all other countries; they enter into wedlock only because it is the custom of the world, and necessary to their existence by giving birth to another generation; but are utter strangers to love or that pure affection which arises solely from the heart. They unite as a species of traffic, in the hopes of gain; this is equally the case with the man and woman; and the friends of both endeavour to drive the best bargain for their own relations. From the want of an extended intercourse with strangers or people out of their own colony, they are all allied in some degree of relationship; and yet a sincere friendship, a strong and ardent affection, or an union of interests seldom exists among them. It is not to be expected that we should here meet with those endearing attachments, those sincere and tender affections, and that friendship and esteem which unite individuals of other nations in the bands of wedlock; or promote between man and man that social intercourse which is to be considered as one great portion of happiness in this life. A Dutchman regards his wife and family in a light different from most other nations; he looks on his spouse as fit only for one particular station through life, namely, to take care of his house, his children, and slaves. He considers her as a creature infinitely beneath him, and scarcely ever deigns to notice her but at the times of food and rest; whilst she, feeling herself so much inferior, is contented to remain in that humble and insignificant state. The ignorance of the females, which is considerably greater than that of the men, must naturally arise from their education, and the inferiority

Their  
women

in which they are constantly held. Satisfied with a few formal visits now and then to their acquaintance of their own sex, they have scarcely a wish for any further recreation. So much does their insipid apathy and dulness prevail, even in their parties which meet for amusement, that they themselves often become disgusted, and feel a vacuity and a want of genuine sociality, which they do not know how to remedy. That sprightly conversation and wit that freedom of intercourse carried on with so much modesty and decorum amongst all ranks of our countrywomen, are with them unknown; if any of them should attempt to imitate such manners, they are immediately suspected and traduced by their envious acquaintances, who take care to instil a jealousy into the husband, or sting the father, the brother, or the lover, with their malicious reports.

Extreme  
fondness of  
the men for  
smoking  
tobacco.

I have already noticed the fondness of the men for smoking tobacco; their whole soul seems indeed entirely given up to that habit. We all know how much it is the custom in Holland; but here it is carried to a still greater excess. The men rise early in the morning, and make their appearance in a loose robe and night-cap before their doors; then walk or sit in the porch for an hour or two with a pipe in their mouths, and a slave by their side holding a glass and a small decanter of gin, from which the master every now and then takes his soupkie or glass. Let an Englishman rise ever so early, he will see Mynheer sitting in his stoop or porch, or parading the front of his house in the manner I have described. There are many who get up two or three times

in the night to enjoy a pipe; and so much are they accustomed to this luxury that they cannot on any account dispense with it. About eight they dress, first smoking their quantum; after which they sit down to breakfast, which generally consists of a quantity of gross food besides coffee, tea, and fruit of all kinds. They then smoke another pipe, and go about their mercantile concerns till about one o'clock, when dinner commences, which also consists of a quantity of gross and oily dressed meat, with fruit, &c. as a dessert. A more particular description of their tables I shall give presently. When they have regaled themselves another hour with their darling pipe, they lie down to their nap, which continues till evening; they then rise, and perhaps take a walk or pay formal visits, but are always sure to smoke wherever they go. Coffee and gin succeed, accompanied with their pipe till about nine, when supper is introduced, and when that is finished, after another hour's fumigating, they retire to bed, gorged with heavy food, and perhaps destined to spend the remainder of the night with all the horrors arising from indigestion. A continual round of this mode of passing their time sums up the existence of the Dutch colonists of Cape Town, exhibiting a most lamentable picture of laziness and indolent stupidity. As their education is very limited, refined and polished manners, or any extent of knowledge, are not to be expected amongst them. The public schools at the Cape are few; and education never goes beyond a little writing and accompts, merely to qualify them

Way of  
spending  
their days.

for trade, and to enable them to hold places in the offices of the East-India Company.

Mercantile habits universal.

Every man at the Cape is a merchant in some way or other; the whole study of the inhabitants being to make money, and they contrive to do so in numberless ways. Every Dutch gentleman, no matter whether he be a Count, Baron, Colonel, Captain, Mynheer, or what rank you please, looks to trade as the main chance; though there are some of those titled merchants, and trading officers, who from pride endeavour in some measure to conceal their own immediate connection with mercantile concerns, and carry on business by means of their slaves, and the inferior order of people. The Governor excepted, every inhabitant both civil and military, keeps a lodging-house for the entertainment of passengers touching at the Cape. Colonel Dalrymple, the commanding officer of the regiment to which I belonged, was accommodated with board and lodging on his arrival at the house of a Colonel in the Dutch service. This they look upon in a different light from what we would in Europe; for how much we would think our service degraded if our officers keep board and lodging-houses, a genteel term for a tavern? However they plead the necessity of doing so, their pay being so very small, that they must have recourse to some other method of getting money to support themselves and their families; and their government have never made any objection or ever noticed this custom in their officers. This at first surprised us a good deal, as being so contrary to what

All ranks keep board and lodging-houses.

we were used to in Europe. All the English officers on their first arrival went to board and lodge at the different Dutch houses, eat at their tables, and in every respect were considered as belonging to the family. This of course gave our countrymen an opportunity of being soon perfectly acquainted with their domestic concerns, their manners and most private dispositions.

Under the Dutch government, and long after the English arrived, there were no inns, hotels, or taverns at Cape Town; No taverns or inns at Cape Town but no embarrassment or inconvenience arose to strangers from this circumstance, as every house was open to receive them without ceremony, or requiring any previous introduction. It was sufficient that you belonged to a ship going to or coming from India; in the latter case you were sure to be received with the greatest avidity under the supposition that you were a nabob, loaded with treasures from the East, who would pay liberally either in money or presents for their hospitality. On the first introduction of the English officers at the Cape into the Dutch houses, after its capture, they were for a considerable time obliged to conform to their hours, customs, and manner of living, which certainly was very unpleasant to Englishmen. Their early hours for meals, the heavy and greasy provisions on their tables, and the peculiar mode of dressing it, with the thin white wine they usually drank, were the chief objections our countrymen entertained against residing in Dutch houses. By degrees however, after being permanently fixed, alterations took place, and our countrymen persuaded the Dutch to

adopt more of the English customs, which the Mynheers with some difficulty entered into, so that there was a mixture of manners half English, half Dutch, in the hours of dining, and the mode of dressing the victuals. The greatest contest arose in the cooking department, from the attempt to prevail on them to substitute butter for grease, and less of it; as an Englishman does not require so much oily matter to enable him to swallow down his food as the Dutch do, for they actually bolt their meat. As soon as government could erect or procure barracks for the officers and men of the garrison, messes were established, and the inconveniences arising from the difference between the Dutch and English habits, and the great expense of living at their houses were done away.

Coffee-houses and taverns first set up by Englishmen.

Some time after the Cape fell into our hands, a few coffee-houses and taverns were established, by persons who came from England for that purpose; but from the extravagant prices they charged, and which indeed could not in some measure be lowered, an account of the dearness of every European article, the merchants charging two or three hundred per cent. on every article, and retailing to the inn or tavern keepers at that rate, these houses of entertainment were neither well kept nor much resorted to. Every regiment having besides established its own mess, they could be more easily dispensed with. Many occasional passengers who could not afford to live at so dear a rate, preferred boarding at the Dutch houses, where they could ascertain their daily expenses; and contented themselves

with now and then perhaps going to an English tavern to partake of victuals dressed after the manner of our country. One very excellent house of entertainment was established by subscription, called the African Club-House; and on a very extensive scale; most of the officers of the garrison being members of it. The subscription and expense of living in this house was however very high, particularly if you called for European wines. There were here to be found two billiard tables, a whist-club, and conveniences for other games of skill and chance; and these I have reason to believe were the cause of throwing many of the members into distressed circumstances, whilst they enriched others.

African  
Club-house.

The difference of the price of living, as well as of every article, was prodigiously raised after the arrival of the English: previous to that, every thing was reasonable and cheap; for, from one rix-dollar to one and a half per day, strangers might be accommodated with board and lodging, sharing in all respects the same fare as the Dutch themselves, as they never made a second table, or separate dinner; if they had twenty guests in their house, all sat down to meals with the family. After the English arrived, the Dutch raised the price of every thing. They were happy on all occasions to have Englishmen in their houses, as they well knew the little regard our countrymen had for money. Thoughtless and extravagant, our officers part with it readily at all times, both in our own country and in foreign places

All articles  
raised in  
price by the  
arrival of the  
English.

On my first coming to the Cape, which happened some months after its capture, I paid for board and lodging at the rate of two and a half rix-dollars a day, or about 10*s.* of their currency, and about 7*s.* 6*d.* British. The rix-dollar being a paper-money, worth there 4*s.* and about three British. The last time I was at the Cape, on my return from India, I was charged for diet and lodging three Spanish dollars per day, equal to five rix-dollars paper-money. The avidity with which the Dutch sought after the sterling money, or *haard gelt*, as they termed it, was very great; I suppose they had but a very indifferent idea of the stability of their bank. When I first arrived in 1796, I got seven, eight, and nine rix-dollars in paper, for each guinea, or from 28*s.* to 36*s.* of their currency; and ten had been given for gold immediately on the arrival of the English. I received for star-pagodas, valued at Madras 8*s.*, and intrinsically worth 7*s.* 6*d.*, 10*s.* of their money; and a rupee worth 2*s.* 6*d.* British, I have exchanged for a rix-dollar.

Hours of  
meals, and  
usual food.

The Dutch keep early hours, breakfast at eight o'clock, dine about one, and sup at nine. At each of those meals they have boiled, broiled, and roasted meat. At breakfast, besides tea, coffee, and fruits of every kind which this country produces, a boiled leg of mutton, and perhaps a dish of stewed beef is introduced; but so very full of grease, that it disgusts those who are not accustomed to this gross food so early in the day. The tea produced at

their tables is very indifferent, and is sweetened with coarse brown sugar. Every cup of tea is generally half filled with flies, which are here extremely troublesome, particularly in the summer season. I would recommend to passengers from India, to bring their own tea and sugar on shore with them. The Dutch have it in their power to get excellent tea from China and the East-Indies, yet they have always a very inferior sort. Coffee is much more used, and is tolerably good.

At dinner and supper their tables are covered with large quantities of meat. The manner of dressing and cooking it is highly disgusting to an Englishman's palate, being so full of grease, so indifferently and dirtily dressed, and served up by their slave cooks. Though the meat may be good in itself, it is spoiled to us in the cooking, being soaked in stinking grease, or rank oily butter, or oil made from the fat of the sheep's tail. Roasted beef, mutton, venison, fowls, and every substantial dish, are sent to table in this manner. A goose swimming in oil is no uncommon dish; or a piece of veal, roasted to rags, and covered with rancid butter turned into oil, with which the meat, when it gets cold, is quite incrustated. The fowls, which are indeed large and excellent, are also spoiled in the dressing. A leg of boiled mutton, which is a standing dish at all their meals, constitutes almost the only meat that an Englishman could eat. This being served up without grease, was my constant dish during my residence here.

The Cape sheep are very different from the English in *Mutton*.

appearance and shape, and equally so in taste. They are tall and lank, about the loins; their wool is coarse, and resembles more the shaggy covering of goats, being a kind of frizzled hair, of little use except for stuffing mattresses or to make coarse cloth and stockings for their boors and slaves.

The mutton is by no means so well-flavoured as ours, the flesh being coarse and in general lean; having little fat about the intestines, loins, or kidneys; all the fat of the animal seems indeed to be concentrated in the tail, which, as I have already observed, is exceedingly large and broad, being one solid lump of fat, weighing from nine to twelve and fifteen pounds, and sometimes more. This makes up to the inhabitants the deficiency of fat on the carcass, and is used in a variety of ways. Mutton is very plentiful at the Cape, and is the general food; from one and a half to two rix-dollars, is the usual price of a sheep; though latterly they made the English pay three and four rix-dollars.

Beef.

The beef is seldom fat and in good order, but generally tough and lean, from being killed immediately after a long journey from the interior. The flesh is not of so good flavour as that of our English cattle, not being fed on such rich and nourishing pasture, but chiefly reared on coarse sedge grass or acrid herbs, which they pick up among the sandy valleys, or on the sides of the hills. The cattle I saw seemed taller than ours, the legs being longer in proportion to the body. The manner of slaughtering is

different from ours; it is that commonly practised in Spain. A spike is introduced through the back of the neck into the spinal marrow, when the beast falls directly, and his throat is afterwards cut with a knife, to let out the blood.

I have already mentioned that the Dutch have a sort of antipathy to pork; and I never recollect seeing it at their tables. Nor is the rearing of pigs at all attended to. The usual reason given for this is, that these animals would be too expensive, and require too much food of the vegetable kind; a very lame excuse, where all sorts of vegetables are raised with such ease and in such plenty. Fowls, geese, and ducks are good and cheap. Turkeys are scarce. Vegetables of every kind are in the greatest abundance, and sufficient to supply all the ships which touch at Table Bay, besides their own consumption.

Before every guest that sits down to table, is placed a bottle of Cape wine, and another of water, with a large and small glass to drink as he pleases. The wine they give is not good, nor even scarcely palatable; nor to be compared in any degree to the most common of our European wines, being a weak thin white wine, which does not even cost them one shilling a gallon. None of our countrymen would drink it, when any other sort could be procured. Malt liquor is scarcely ever set before you, sometimes they may, by way of treat, present some Dutch cheese and beer, but those articles are very scarce, and consequently very dear. Though the Dutch have it in their

*Pigs, &c*

*Wine used at their tables.*

*Malt liquor scarcely ever made here.*

power to make both those articles at a very easy rate, they do not trouble themselves about it; they even affect not to wish for what they term luxuries. Their barley, which is usually given quite green to the horses and cattle, might afford them abundance of malt; and they only want hops to make excellent beer, having every other ingredient in great quantity. I once tasted a kind of beer made from bitter herbs, peculiar to this country, instead of hops, but very indifferent and poor in its quality.

Dining  
rooms.

The room they reserve for meals in most houses is the hall, terminating at the end of the passage which leads in from the front doors, and is called the back hall, from its being thrown so much towards the rear of the building. Those halls are generally lofty and spacious, well adapted to the heat of the climate in summer; though in the winter and cold months, I often wished they had occupied one of the sitting rooms adjoining, as they have no fire-places in any of their rooms, and stoves being sparingly used, even in damp and cold weather.

Dessert of  
fruit.

As soon as breakfast, dinner, or supper is announced on the table, the front doors are locked to prevent interruption, and to let people know they are at meals; if you walk through the streets at those hours, you will not see one Dutch house open. This is an invariable custom at the Cape. After the meat is cleared away, a dessert of fruit is placed on the table, consisting of every kind produced at the Cape; oranges, guavaes, pumpkins, melons, peaches,

apricots, plums, cherries, strawberries, figs, green and dried walnuts, chesnuts, fresh pulled and dried almonds, raisins, grapes, &c.; all excellent, and extremely wholesome in this climate.

As soon as the dessert commences, the Dutchmen call for their pipes, hats, and spitting vases; and smoke away with a solemnity and gravity that a stranger might imagine to be studied. They will at times sit smoking for a couple of hours with the most stupid composure, nor ever think of stirring, till they are inclined to take their afternoon's nap. This manner of proceeding would in England be thought rude and brutal, but it is the custom here, and indeed is of a piece with the rest of their manners. They prefer a pipe to either the dessert or a chearful glass; and the pleasures of conversation, from the time a Dutchman's pipe is put into his mouth, are with him altogether at an end. He never speaks a word afterwards, except to call to Africa, Januara, Februdara, (the names they generally give their slaves), for another pipe of tobacco. All the while they are smoking, they scarcely deign even to look around, seeming to be wrapt up in the most solemn and thoughtful dignity.

A Dutchman's hat seems nailed to his head, excepting when the meat is on the table; he is hardly ever without it, even in company with ladies. The latter are certainly treated with very little ceremony. After the first salutation, I have observed of the Dutchmen, that they are much more ceremonious towards each other than towards the

Stupid and  
unsociable  
manner of the  
Dutchmen at  
table.

women. A Dutchman's maxim is that the head is the proper place for the hat. I must here mention an instance which happened in Ceylon of their adherence to this custom. Being on a visit to Lieutenant M'Donald, the commandant of Caltura, a Dutch clergyman, and one of some rank and consequence amongst them, came in at breakfast time to call on the commandant, according to the usual custom of the place. On being asked of course to sit down, he did so without taking his hat off or shewing even common politeness, although there were two or three officers at table. Lieutenant M'Donald told one of his servants to take off that Dutch gentleman's hat and hang it up, telling him he was now at an Englishman's table, where it was the custom to be uncovered. The reverend gentleman bore this rebuke with great *sang-froid*, nor did it in the least prevent his making a hearty breakfast after his own manner.

Women  
more agreeable  
in their  
manners.

At Cape Town the ladies remain some time at table after dinner to entertain their guests, and endeavour to make up for the unsocial dispositions of their husbands and male relations. When I returned to the Cape, in 1801, I was agreeably surprised to find that they were considerably improved in their manners and mode of living, by the intercourse which necessarily took place between them and our countrymen, and that they had adopted a considerable portion of our manners and customs. I understood from some of my friends, who had been here since the capture, that it required a good deal of persuasion to make the Dutch

alter their hours of eating and other habits, and adapt themselves more to ours. Self-interest, the most powerful engine to work on their minds, was certainly one great motive which brought them over to the new fashions, and made them accommodate themselves to the British taste. Their prejudices were triumphed over by the fear of losing them as guests and inmates, for which they paid so handsomely; and there was also some reason to apprehend that they might also lose the profits of occasional passengers to and from India, who might be induced to go to the hotels and taverns which were established by Englishmen, and where if they paid dear they could have at least every thing after the manner of their own country. The victuals at the Dutch houses were latterly much better dressed, a great deal of that stinking butter and grease left out; and at least two or three dishes roasted and boiled *à la mode Anglaise*. The breakfast hour was altered to nine, dinner to four, and supper to ten. At each of those meals better fare was introduced; the wine they set down was purer and older, and tolerably good, and every thing came to be clean and in good order.

The Dutch are remarkably neat in their houses. The floors, stair-cases, and furniture, are kept exceedingly clean and highly polished; the floors of their halls, and most of their ground floors, are of broad square red tiles, highly polished, glazed, or painted; the walls and ceilings stuccoed or painted, and the wainscoting adorned with looking glasses and branches. Their sitting rooms are very neat and clean:

Cleanliness  
and neatness  
of the Dutch  
in their  
houses.

the furniture indeed is usually clumsy in the extreme, and looks very awkward though kept in excellent order. Several houses however are not inelegantly furnished. I must do the ladies at the Cape the justice to say they are most excellent housewives and managers. Every thing within doors is left to them, the men never interfering or taking any trouble but walking to and fro in their halls, or before their doors with a pipe in their mouths.

Beds very good.

The beds are very good; the sheets of calico, and the matrasses stuffed with feathers so fine and downy, that one sinks quite in a hollow immediately on getting into them. This was so different from what I had been used to in India, where a cane couch and a mat is all one requires, that on my first stepping into a bed at the Cape I could not help calling out, imagining I was falling through to the ground; and my exclamations brought in some of the family from the next room, who were highly amused with my alarm.

Slaves are very attentive to strangers.

The slaves are very attentive to the lodgers, and serve them cheerfully and willingly, receiving with thanks any little donation one pleases to give them on going away. They are exceedingly handy and expert in all domestic offices. They are also reckoned faithful and honest; and this may be the case towards their masters and mistresses, but it is necessary for strangers to be careful of their money, and not leave any articles of value in their way. One morning through forgetfulness I left my purse under my pillow on going out to breakfast; but missing it immediately I re-

turned to my room where I found a slave woman making up the bed. On inquiring for my purse she told me she had found it, and had given it to her master, to whom I applied and indeed recovered it, but somewhat lighter than I had left it. Previous to going to bed the night before, I had reckoned what money it contained, which consisted of about a dozen guineas, thirty pagodas, and twenty-five rix-dollars; a part of each coin was taken out, amounting to about ten pounds British, and all the satisfaction I could obtain was a reproof from the master not to leave my money in the way of a slave. The slave was an old Caffree woman, who had been upwards of thirty years in his family, and had several children, all the property of her master. I found in the course of the day similar losses had been sustained by officers who had lodged there, and they thought me lucky in having recovered any part of what I had lost. This Dutch gentleman had several very amiable and handsome daughters, who spoke English tolerably well; two of them were married to British officers, and were highly esteemed by every one who knew them. The eldest of these ladies married an officer of dragoons, and died immediately on her coming to England of the small-pox.

The Dutch inhabitants of Cape Town are by no means rich, five or six thousand pounds being thought a very great fortune, and but few possessing so much; yet on account of the manner in which they live, and the cheapness of most articles, they are generally in easy circumstances. It is to be considered that from their different habits the Dutch

Circum-  
stances of  
the Dutch.

Live com-  
fortably on  
moderate in-  
comes.

here can live on a fourth part of the income that a British subject could; and considerably less than for what they themselves could in Holland. House-rent with them is a very small consideration, their dwellings being for the most part their own property, purchased at a small price from the Company, or derived from inheritance. The garden ground supplies their houses with vegetables for their tables, besides an overplus which they convert into ready money. Poultry are reared by their slaves in the country, and brought to them at no expense; and the profit they derive from the labour of their slaves, who are easily fed and clothed for a trifle, is often considerable. They are subject to no casual or pleasurable expenses, such as plays and expensive private or public entertainments. Their houses and tables are supplied at a very moderate rate; the indulgence of their appetites with gross food at meals, being almost their only constant expense. Carriages and horses for pleasure and exercise are seldom kept; as they think the exercise of riding too laborious, they seldom ride for riding's sake. When they entertain company, 'tis at a moderate expense indeed. This they seldom do, though any one is welcome to come and sit down at their table, provided he is a neighbour with whom they are on a good and friendly footing; but in this number few can usually be reckoned. In visits of ceremony or friendship a few glasses of gin are their greatest treat. When they do keep carriages or horses, these come to but a very trifling expense, as they have no wages to pay to additional servants.

Reasons why.

The articles of clothing they buy are few, for they seldom have many changes of dress. The profit they receive from hiring out their slaves is often very great; to us their labour was very dear, particularly washing, making of clothes, and shoe and boot mending. The price an Englishman was obliged to pay for making a shirt was very nearly equal to the value of the cloth itself. A waistcoat cost as much in making as at the shop, and a coat in the same proportion. When those and many more circumstances of the same kind are considered, one may perceive that the Dutch at the Cape can live at a very moderate expense indeed; and that what to us would appear but a mere pittance would enable them, with all those advantages already stated, to maintain their families in a very good station. The English, on the contrary, who resorted hither for trade, or in situations under government, after the capture, if they did not chuse to board at a Dutch house, but rather took up an establishment of their own, found living here extravagantly dear and inconvenient in the extreme.

Great difference in the expenses of the English and Dutch.

## CHAPTER XV.

*Population of the Cape—Religion—Make but few Converts of the People of Colour; not apt to administer Baptism—Funerals—Disposition of the White Inhabitants—Young Women fond of Amusement—Are tolerably educated in Music and Dancing—Contrast between the Dispositions of Men and Women—Latter esteemed handsome whilst young—Marriages, Settlements, and Privileges from Birthright—Diseases—Causes of them—Afraid of the Small Pox; which once nearly destroyed the Colony—Are cautious of allowing Persons to come into the Settlement with any contagious Distemper—The People of the Cape in general not long lived—The Slaves—Various Nations and Classes—Laws concerning them—Their Qualifications—Mulattoes and Slaves of Colour the best and dearest—Bengal and Malabar in general faithful and good—Madagascar, African, Negro, sulky and untractable, strong and laborious—Malays useful, but dreadfully vindictive and revengeful—Instances of their cruel and sanguinary Disposition—Hottentot Slaves, Laws concerning them—Manner in which the Dutch treat their Slaves—Mode of punishing them—Vices and Passions to which they are addicted—Fuel and House-rent dear at the Cape.*

Population  
of the Cape.

**T**HE population of the Cape of Good Hope is uncommonly small, when compared to its extent. No regular

returns had been given to the Dutch government; and particularly with regard to the distant parts, the governors were equally ignorant of the number of the people, and the quantity of the produce; although upon the latter, in a considerable degree, the revenues of the colony depended. In Cape Town the free people are computed at about five thousand, and the slaves in a proportion to three to one; women and children of both classes included. The rest of the colony, a tract so extensive and in many places so fertile, is not supposed to contain above double the number of inhabitants in Cape Town. No circumstance can afford a stronger proof of the ignorance and want of management in the government of the colony, than this extreme thinness of the population, where its increase was obstructed by no natural causes.

The religion of the inhabitants of the colony is that of the established church in Holland, with the exception of some Lutherans and a few other dissenters. The principal church near the grand parade, is a very handsome building, ornamented inside with a great deal of carving and gilding; though the figures, which in some measure are emblematical of the Cape, being lions, ostriches, and other animals found in the colony, are exceedingly clumsy and ill-shaped. The church is well attended, and a great deal of solemnity and decorum observed in the worship.

At first a stranger might think the people here very devout and religious; yet although the government has in many ways paid much attention to the morals of the inhabitants, an

Religion of  
the Dutch  
colonists.

Their devo-  
tion in a great  
degree exter-  
nal.

intimate acquaintance with their private characters will soon convince an observer, that their devotion is in a great measure mere outward appearance. Notwithstanding their canting, which might lead one to imagine they are bigotted enthusiasts, and strict in the extreme in all religious duties, yet this is in fact not the case. It is only the outward shew of a Sunday morning; for, except on that day, they never have any concern with their Prayers or their Hymn book.

Make few  
converts to  
Christianity.

Dutch clergy  
remiss.

A small portion of the people of colour and free blacks are converted to christianity, and but a small portion. The Dutch widely differ from the Portugueze, who enforced religion with fire and sword wherever they came. The Dutch clergy indeed have got into the opposite extreme, and shew but little charity towards their unenlightened brethren; and where they expect to get nothing for their pains, give themselves no trouble to propagate the Gospel. The Dutch government have been very remiss in not urging the clergy more to the duty of instructing both the natives and slaves in Christianity. Even the people of colour, partly the offspring of Christians, have been often denied baptism. Whether this was meant to diminish the number of unlawful children by heathen women, or proceeded from whites being ashamed of having them equal in some measure with themselves, and entering the gates of heaven along with them, I know not; but not allowing such a number of children born of Christian fathers to share the rites of Christianity, was certainly a cruel and

uncharitable method of preventing sin. Pride will not let their black offspring mix with their own blood, or have the same privileges as themselves; but, as I have been told, their chief motive was the fear of their being lost to them as slaves, on their becoming Christians.

Burials at the Cape are carried on with the greatest solemnity. All the friends, relations, and neighbours of the deceased attend in the deepest mourning. All that day you will scarcely hear a word from one of them, though half of those who escorted the body to the grave, had been probably at variance during his whole life time with the deceased. The prayers are said over the body before it is brought out of the chamber; they say none whatever at the grave; but cover the coffin in silence, and then depart. A funeral with them is equal to a wake in Ireland, except that scenes of inebriety do not so often take place. Here they assemble to smoke, drink gin, and talk of the deceased's abilities in the mercantile way; for these constitute every virtue; and without caring much for the loss of their friend, they smoke and drink sorrow away.

To compare the different manners of the Dutch here with those of our countrymen, without knowing the natural apathy and phlegm of the Hollanders of all ranks, would indeed surprise any Englishman. Even between the dispositions of the men and women we are here presented with the greatest contrast. The men are insipid, dull, and unsociable: indolent and lazy in the extreme. Their amusements and enjoyments seem to consist of eating, smoking,

Mode of burial.

Disposition of the Dutch dull and phlegmatic.

and sleeping; a chearful, lively, and social conversation is rarely kept up among them. The joys of the bottle, for the sake of conviviality, are here unknown. They scarcely ever play at cards when they meet at evening parties, but sit over their pipe and glass of gin and water in a goup by themselves. The whole turn of their conversation, if any takes place, is constantly on the subject of their various mercantile affairs, though exceedingly trifling and of no extent or consequence. I have frequently been at their parties, where I met a number of both males and females; the men kept huddled together in one corner, sitting over their pipes, and leaving a number of agreeable young women by themselves, at the other end of the room, to be entertained by the English officers.

Women  
more lively  
and cheerful.

The women at the Cape, whilst young, are pretty and engaging, remarkably fair in their complexions, too much so indeed, as they want that expression and those animated tints which our amiable countrywomen possess. They really seem to have a greater share of liveliness and good humour than what naturally belongs to the national character of the descendants of Hollanders. Dancing and visiting are the principal amusements with them, and of these they are very fond. There are no public balls or other amusements at Cape Town, except those parties given by the English families and officers of the garrison, which the young ladies embrace with avidity. Any private house which has musical and dancing parties at it, is open to any stranger or inhabitant of respectable character. The Dutch here are

Fond of  
dancing.

certainly much more strict and select in their company than those at Ceylon, where a number of people of colour, and some nearly black, associate and mingle with the whites. This is occasioned by the inter-mariages of many of the Dutch on the island of Ceylon with women of colour and half-cast Portugueze, which rarely happens at Cape Town. The young women here are fond of copying the dress and manners of the English and other foreign ladies, who come amongst them; and in this they succeed tolerably well. As most of the Dutch inhabitants are respectable, and though not rich, have enough to live comfortably on after their own way, their daughters are pretty well educated in music and dancing. They are in general fond of the society of foreigners, particularly the English, though I must do them the justice to say they are not given to a spirit of intriguing.

Tolerably  
skilled in  
music.

The difference between the young men and women, in their appearance and dispositions, is very great. The former are in general clumsy and awkward in their gait, unsociable and sullen in their dispositions; without taste or fashion in their clothes, or manner of putting them on: whilst the young women are lively, innocent, and cheerful, dress well, and are given to society, in which their parents indulge them without restraint, and this privilege they seldom abuse. A Dutch father and mother behold with indifference their daughters frequent the balls and parties given by foreigners, without thinking it necessary to have a matron accompanying them, to watch over their conduct.

Contrast of  
character be-  
tween the  
men and wo-  
men.

Improprieties, which might be expected by some persons to arise from this latitude of indulgence, are really very rare; and prove that suspicious constraint is the very worst way to secure the virtue of women.

Though the young women are often so engaging in their persons, it is rare to see a married woman of a middling age who is not clumsy in shape, and indolent, and slovenly in her habits. In the married state they turn quite domestic, and seldom go out of their houses; they seem to copy their husbands in every thing but smoking. Indeed one good reason for their keeping so much at home is, that their houses being open for the reception of passengers touching continually at the Cape, have generally at all times of the year foreigners of every nation residing in them. This requires their being for the most part at home, to attend to their guests and the management of their houses. It has been alleged, though I speak not from my own observation or knowledge, that the married women are not so correct in their conduct, as before they entered into that state. I must however say of them, that to me they always seemed to be exceedingly attached to their husbands, and devoted to their family concerns. A few instances had certainly occurred of infidelity in married women, which were openly spoken of; but these were far from being so numerous as to throw any stain on the general character of the matrons at the Cape.

Children too  
much en-  
trusted to  
slaves.

The children here are too much entrusted to the care of their female slaves; but the ill consequences arising from

this method of bringing them up cannot be so much felt as in their East-India settlements; for they are earlier taken from the charge of the slaves here, and instructed in a few branches of education. The young men are initiated in mercantile habits, and a sufficient knowledge of writing and accompts to render them capable of holding situations in the government offices; this constitutes the whole of what is instilled into the minds of the young men. The girls, as I have observed, receive a moderate share of writing, dancing, and music; and some who have a taste for them become proficient in the latter accomplishments.

Manner in which they are educated.

Their first born here is not intitled to all those advantages as with us in Europe. The property is equally divided between the male children; a certain portion being previously set apart for the female branch. No child can be disinherited by the whim or caprice of the parent, without assigning a very strong reason to the government; and even then something must be allowed for his subsistence. Disobedient children are taken cognizance of by the fiscal, and certain laws and regulations made for their management and necessary punishment. When a Dutchman marries, a full and accurate account of his property must be given and registered in order to provide for his children, so that they may be in no danger of becoming a burthen on the colony. When those arrive at a proper age, and enter the marriage state, a certain proportion must be settled on them. The children are scarcely ever bound out to any trade, or indeed sent to the public schools, which are very few at the Cape. The

Privileges from birth.

Marriages and settlements of their property.

reason they assign for this is, that it assimilates them too much to slaves ; and, in consequence of this silly pride, their children are curtailed from receiving a liberal education, and a knowledge of several useful trades. No white freeman at the Cape, except the very lowest indeed, works at any trade which requires a regular apprenticeship, or a studious application under a master. The schoolmasters, who attend the children at their parents' houses, are generally low, illiterate people, who have probably spent the greater part of their lives in carrying a musket, and whose knowledge extends only to a little reading and accompts. The children both male and female are remarked for their beauty ; the boys whilst at that age seem to possess a vivacity and talent which, if properly attended to, might lead to very different habits, and a very different display of abilities from that which they afterwards exhibit in a maturer age. For want of a liberal and proper education, their course from infancy to manhood seems an uninterrupted course of degeneracy. One of their first lessons, as I have elsewhere observed, is to domineer over, and insult the unfortunate slaves, who are subject to all their whims and caprices. Observe the Dutch children, and those of the slaves playing and mixing together, you will see the former at one moment beating and tyrannizing over the latter, and at the next caressing and encouraging them ; so that from an early period they acquire an arbitrary and capricious habit of mind.

Education of  
their chil-  
dren.

Usual dis-  
eases at the  
Cape, and  
their causes

The diseases to which the inhabitants of the colony are subject are dropsies, apoplexies, and diseases of the liver,

with other chronical disorders proceeding from a gross habit of body, and their lazy and indolent manner of living. A Dutchman never thinks of riding by way of amusement to unbend the mind, and assist nature with wholesome exercise. Whenever he gets on horseback it is for the purpose of transacting business at some distance, or to visit his country house. Some few ride out of an evening, or take the air in a cabriolet, or clumsy two-wheeled vehicle of a most remarkable construction, probably derived from a model of the last century. But should a south-east wind arise they hurry to their houses and shut themselves up, laughing at our temerity in staying out and being exposed to its disagreeable effects.

Their children are subject to sore throats and eruptions on their bodies. Those epidemic diseases to which children are subject in Europe, such as the meazles, hooping-cough, and small-pox, are scarcely known here; but when they do make their appearance they prove very fatal. An inhabitant of the Cape, born there, rarely undergoes all those three. The small-pox when it takes place is almost certain to cause the death of the person affected. They look on it as a most terrible calamity; and no persuasions will induce them to suffer inoculation to be practised. Some years ago this disorder broke out in Cape Town, and carried off an immense number so as to cause the most alarming apprehensions for the whole colony. They allow no person to land without first examining whether he has had it or not. The moment a ship appears in the bay she is visited by the

Dreadfully  
afraid of the  
small-pox.

Cautious in  
allowing  
persons in-

fectured with  
it to come  
ashore.

health master, a doctor kept and paid by government solely for examining the passengers and crew of every vessel which touches here. This man goes on board and minutely examines every one from the captain to the cabin boy in the most minute manner, and the result must be registered and entered in the government books before any one can be allowed to land. A slight eruption, boil, or pimple, may be the cause of preventing a person from obtaining leave to come on shore. When this disease at any time broke out in Cape Town, those who had not had it fled immediately into the country, and it was some time before they could be persuaded to return. During the time the English were in possession of the Cape every argument was made use of, and daily examples shewn of the children of the soldiers, and those men belonging to the different regiments who had it not previous to coming here, being inoculated; but without producing any effect in removing their prejudices. On my first arrival in 1796, when coming with my regiment, this ceremony of being examined by the health master was not of course attended to, but on my way home as a passenger I was obliged to shew my arm to the doctor, as also certify under my hand that I formerly had the disease.

I am confident many more Dutch ladies would have been married to the British officers, but that the fear of going to Europe and catching the small-pox, deterred them. "If I marry you I must go to England where I shall be sure to catch the small-pox and die." Such was the language I have heard made use of by several of the young ladies.

This fear has been increased since two Cape ladies, who had gone from thence to England with their husbands, caught the infection in this country, and unfortunately fell victims to it. I have however the pleasure to know a very amiable Dutch lady who had come home with her husband, a captain of artillery, and had submitted to inoculation which terminated very favourably.

The inhabitants of the Cape are not long lived, owing to their habit of body and mode of living. Our countrymen find the climate of the Cape exceedingly healthy, nor are they subject to any diseases except those brought on by their own intemperance. Many of those disorders to which we are subject to in Europe are almost unknown here. On the whole, the Cape of Good Hope has the first climate in the world, and even preferable in my opinion to that of Saint Helena. The general hospitals at the Cape were, I am happy to say, inhabited only by about thirty of our troops; very little practice for a physician is indeed to be met with at the Cape.

The people of the Cape in general not long lived.

The slaves are very numerous at Cape Town, and compose a very large proportion of its inhabitants. Every Dutchman of any consequence or rank having from ten to fifteen or twenty, including females and children. Even those Dutch families of an inferior order have often in their families from six to a dozen, who are domesticated and bred up in their houses from their infancy. The Dutch keep no European or white servants whatever. The slaves are of various descriptions and nations. It must be allowed that

The slaves.

Laws con-  
cerning  
them.

in general they are well and humanely treated, particularly at Cape Town. There are of course instances of inhuman and cruel masters, and it has been observed that the Dutch treated their slaves much more rigorously before the arrival of the English than afterwards. Some severe laws were enacted to prevent the crimes of those unfortunate creatures, at the same time that there were wholesome, just, and humane edicts passed in favour of them to prevent their being cruelly and unjustly treated by their masters. From their being so very numerous, and composed of a mixture of various black nations, apprehensions of their rising and massacring the colonists, were often entertained, and the strictest care was taken to prevent such a contingency. From what I observed of this large body of people at the Cape, I could see no just cause for the Dutch to be uneasy on that account; yet their apprehensions were not unnatural, when we consider the great superiority of the slaves in numbers, and the variety of dispositions which characterize those natives of different parts of Asia and Africa. Many of them are known to be treacherous, cruel, and revengeful, whilst others are timid, passive, and obedient. All those slaves, who were not well known to be of the latter class, were strictly looked after, and care was taken to lock them up at night in a separate and secure part of the house; a lodge in the rear of each building being set apart for that purpose, and strongly blocked up and secured from the apartments occupied by the family, and their more confidential slaves. Every morning these nightly prisoners were set at

liberty to follow the various labours allotted for them. After the arrival of the English every apprehension of their rising seemed to be done away; the number of troops which composed our garrison, and their strict attention to duty, being sufficient to dispel any fears of that sort.

The different races of slaves and people of colour to be met with at Cape Town, consist of the following classes:—  
 The slaves from Bengal and the Malabar coast. Those of colour, descended from a connection between the Dutch and their slaves or black women. Malays from Batavia and the Eastern islands of India. The Baganese, half Malay and half African; the natives of Madagascar; those of the coast of Guinea, called Caffrees and Negroes; the Caffrees and Africans of the interior part of the Cape of Good Hope; and lastly, the Hottentots, the numbers of whom employed in service here are few; and rarely unmixed, but born either of a Hottentot father or mother, and on the other side a Caffree or Negro.

The slaves of colour, called in general Mulattoes, are the offspring of the whites with slave women. These are esteemed the first and best class, and a far greater value is set on them than on any of the others. The men of this description composing the class of house servants, are employed to attend at table as butlers and footmen, and wait on the strangers who have a temporary residence in their masters' houses. The women of this description are the house-servants, and attend to the bed-chambers; they also wait at table on their mistresses, about whose persons they

Various races  
of slaves.

Mulattoes  
and slaves of  
colour  
esteemed the  
best.

are chiefly employed. These are better dressed and more gently treated by far than the other slaves, and seldom put to laborious work; their leisure hours being employed in knitting, spinning, sewing, and the like light occupations. Most of them, particularly when young, are handsome and even beautiful. I have seen persons among them as fair as some I have met with in Europe; and if I had not been told they were slaves born of Mulatto women, I should certainly have thought them children of the poorer Dutch. Scarcely any of this description, whilst girls and young women, but are comely and well-shaped, and dress like our servant maids in Europe. The Dutch ladies take a pride in having them nice and well-dressed to follow them when they go to church or pay visits; they are employed to carry their mistresses' Prayer book or work bag, and to hold an umbrella over their heads to shade them from the sun.

Those of the  
Bengal and  
Malabar  
coast are  
faithful and  
mild.

The Bengalese and Malabars are considered the next to those I have described, and are also treated in much the same manner as the former. Every person who has been in India must allow those Asiatics to be faithful, mild, and submissive in their dispositions; never requiring ill-treatment or blows to stimulate them in their duty. An angry word actuates upon them like an electrical shock; they study their masters' looks, and as readily obey a nod as if it was a peremptory command. Those people are entrusted in all domestic concerns, and make ingenious artificers and craftsmen. Both the males and females are employed as

cooks, butlers, and household servants; and as their mild, peaceable, and gentle disposition is so well-known, no fears are entertained of their committing any sanguinary outrage.

The Madagascar, Guinea, Negro, Buganese, and Caffree slaves, are by far the most numerous at the Cape. In colour they are much blacker than any other, in person stronger, in disposition often sulky, untractable, and treacherous, requiring harsh and severe usage and chastisement to make them work; they are indeed always idle whenever they can find an opportunity. From their bodily strength they are used for the more laborious work, although they are occasionally employed in household and domestic offices. They commonly work at masonry, at wood work, and at all those kinds of handicraft which require much exertion. To carry burthens, and to go into the country, and to procure fuel, is their chief employment. They are capable of enduring great fatigue, and it is astonishing to see the immense loads they carry. Sometimes they have to go five, eight, or ten miles into the country to look for brush-wood, cow-dung, or stumps of trees for fuel. When they have obtained a sufficient quantity, perhaps often after a long day's excessive fatigue, they make it up into two bundles, each of which would be thought a sufficient burthen for an English porter. These are made fast to a flat piece of bamboe, about four feet in length; one bundle being suspended to each end. The bamboe is then placed on the shoulder, and the

Madagascar,  
Negro, and  
Caffree.  
Sulky and  
untractable.

Strong, and  
do much la-  
bour.

slave moves off with his weights balanced, one swinging before and the other behind. In such a manner they convey baskets of fruit, vegetables, and many other articles, and go at the rate of five miles an hour.

The slaves of  
the Malay  
race.

The slaves of the Malay race are tolerably numerous. They are employed in many kinds of laborious work, such as gardening, and attending the grounds belonging to the pleasure-houses round the Town; and in the kitchens, and the drudgery work belonging to them. They are also often employed in fishing and procuring fuel. This last class of people are extremely vindictive, treacherous, and ferocious; implacable in their revenge, and on the slightest provocation, or imaginary insult, will commit murder. They are indeed a scourge to the people they come amongst. When bent on revenge, or irritated at some supposed insult, they scarcely ever fail of wreaking their vengeance. Many shocking murders have been committed by the Malay slaves on their masters and mistresses; not for the purpose of robbing, but merely to gratify their thirst of revenge, which nothing but the blood of their object will satisfy, though at the certain loss of their own lives. When the Malay has determined on revenge, he takes a quantity of opium to work himself up to a state of madness, when he rushes out with a knife or dagger, which is called a kreesse, and after putting to death the original object of his infernal passion, he next rushes at every one he meets, till he is at length overpowered and taken, which perhaps is not the case till several vic-

Extremely  
vindictive  
and revenge-  
ful.

tims fall before him. Nothing but a lucky shot or blow that stuns him to the earth, will ensure the safety of his opponent, as he proceeds with such a savage fierceness and impetuosity, that it is reckoned a most arduous and dangerous service to encounter him in this state. This is what is called running a muck; on the slightest alarm of which, every one flies before him, and escapes the best way he can. Whoever kills a Malay in the act of running a muck, is intitled to a very high reward from government; and he certainly deserves it, for the most cool and intrepid are scarcely a match for the Malay, when worked to this pitch of desperate madness.

The two following instances occurred whilst I was at Cape Town:—A Malay for some insult or necessary chastisement received from his master, drew a knife and stabbed him to the heart, and immediately rushed out into the streets with the weapon reeking with the blood of his unfortunate victim. The first person he met was a very fine slave girl, about seventeen years old, into whose face he darted the dreadful weapon. Fortunately a country farmer was at the moment passing by Strand Street, where it happened, and having a gun loaded in the waggon he was driving, fired and killed the Malay on the spot. If this shot had not succeeded in bringing him down, I and a brother officer, who came to the spot a few moments after, would in all probability have been his next victims. The poor slave girl died in a few hours after. This was the second time that a slave of the Malay race, running a muck, was pre-

Instances of  
their cruel  
disposition.

vented from falling in with me. Once indeed at Ponamala, in the East-Indies, I very narrowly escaped, having been slightly wounded in the arm by a Malay who had attacked some Sepoys; and if I had not been fortunate enough to give him at the first cut so severe a wound as to disable him, he would certainly have put me to death. The krees he struck me with was poisoned, and my arm in consequence swelled to a very great degree, and for some time it was thought I should have lost it, if not my life. I must here remark, that I received the greatest benefit from the Eau de Luce, which I have every reason to believe is a valuable antidote against poison; it has been found to prevent fatal effects from the most venomous bites of snakes. Doctor Anderson, of Madras, was the first who administered it in those cases, and found out its beneficial effects.

Another instance of the barbarity of this race of slaves, which happened at the Cape whilst I was there, occurred in a Malay, who, on being refused leave by his master to go out to a festival or merry-making with his fellows, took a knife and stabbed him to the heart, then went to his mistress in the adjoining room, and committed on her the same barbarous and inhuman act. An old Malabar slave who was cutting wood before the door, having observed him perpetrate these horrid murders, watched the opportunity as he was rushing out of the door, and striking him on the head with the axe, with which he was cleaving the wood, killed him on the spot. The government was generous enough to reward the Malabar with his liberty, and

one hundred dollars. The Malays are certainly a most active and laborious race, do a great deal of work, and of every kind; equally useful in tilling and cultivating the ground, as at those works which require mechanical dexterity.

Very few Hottentots are slaves in proportion to the other races. By an ancient law of the government at the Cape, the Hottentots were exempted from slavery, as being the original possessors of this country; but the Dutch in many instances have contrived to evade this law by some means or other, and to lay hold of the children of those Hottentots in their service, though the parents are free.

Hottentot  
slaves.

All children born of a slave woman; though got by a white man, even by themselves, become slaves. It thus often happens, that the master has his own child a slave, and if the parent and master dies without its being enfranchised, then it is sold by the heirs or executors to some other master, if not kept as a slave in the surviving family.

The Dutch ladies have no reluctance to their slave girls having connection with their guests, in hopes of profiting by it, by their being got with child. I myself know instances where they have been ordered to wait on such a gentleman to his bed room; what followed does not require to be mentioned. One of my friends, whose veracity I have not the least doubt of, assured me that a very engaging slave girl, to whom he paid his addresses, and who seemed exceedingly coy and reserved, was one night pushed into

his room by the mistress of the house, who locked the door and left her with him.

Treatment of  
the slaves by  
the Dutch.

The treatment of the different classes of slaves at the Cape is by no means the same. The domestic slaves at Cape Town live equally happy as our own servants, and only retain the name of slaves. Few or none of them would even wish a release from this bondage, except a pretty Tawny or Mulatto young woman, who may have offers of marriage from one of the inferior order of Dutchmen, or an opportunity to go to Europe, to wait on a lady or her children on the passage. From eight hundred to a thousand rix-dollars and upwards, are often asked for them in that case. Far different is the case of the poor Negro, Caffree, and African slaves, who are employed at hard labour, and out of their houses; but I must say of the people of Cape Town, that they universally treat them well in comparison to the farmers and planters of the country parts. The poor creatures in the service of the latter, are obliged to work early and late, and go through a great deal of fatigue and bodily labour in the management and attendance of the farms. They are very indifferently fed and clothed; though they might get abundance at a very trifling expence to their masters, amidst so much waste of offal, vegetables, and milk, which are often thrown away. Black bread, half sand, and the offal of sheep and oxen, are their general fare. With respect to the punishing and chastising of slaves, those unfortunate creatures belonging to the country Dutch are at the mercy of their lords and masters,

and are often beaten most unmercifully for the slightest fault. With the greatest *sang-froid* imaginable, one of those haughty boors sits smoking his pipe, and beholding his unfortunate slave undergoing the lash. If it is a very heinous offence, it requires more pipes than one to see it out; for it is really the case with the farmers and planters that the punishment they inflict on their slaves is measured by the time they take to smoke so many pipes. If it is a small offence, they give him one pipe, and he is never taken down till that pipe is smoked out.

A regulation is laid down at Cape Town with respect to the punishment of the slaves. Here the master cannot domineer over or punish his slave unmercifully at his own will or through caprice; a slight discipline with a small cane, being all he can take upon himself to inflict. If a slave commits a crime of any magnitude, he is sent to the police, and it comes under the cognizance of a certain person appointed by the government to superintend the slaves' conduct. He is sent to the Tronk, or prison, and put to hard work for a certain time; and, excepting it is a criminal matter, which requires the life or perpetual imprisonment of the offender, he is sent back to his master after a few months of imprisonment, hard labour, and a certain portion of bodily chastisement.

Regulation  
concerning  
the slaves.

The fear of the prison keeps the slaves in good order at Cape Town, and but few instances happen where they commit great offences, or require such severe punishment. This regulation should certainly be extended to the coun-

try parts, and that severe and unmerciful treatment they inflict on their wretched slaves be prohibited by law.

Vices of the slaves; their passion for play.

All the blacks and slaves of every nation here have an extravagant passion for gaming, particularly for card playing and cock-fighting, in which they are well-skilled and reckoned great adepts. To so great a pitch do they carry the love of cock-fighting, that in every street you see numbers of black slaves with cocks under their arms ready to pit against any other that offers. They take post in some corner or other for a whole day, whenever they can find an opportunity to slip from their master's business, watching the appearance of some rival to contend with them.

Extravagant passion for cock-fighting,

and gaming.

In every bye street, or retired corner of the squares and areas, even in the sands of the outlets or environs of Cape Town, are seen groups of slaves playing at cards, and enjoying themselves. This temporary alleviation from their melancholy state of bondage, if it was not abused, might be allowed and indulged; but the consequences which arise from the passion for gaming bring many evils, and it is often their own destruction, as they will frequently rob their masters to gratify it, and even murder themselves when they lose all.

Bad consequences.

The police of the town, whenever they find the slaves employed in this way, are sure to take them up and punish them severely. The Malays carry the passion for gaming, and particularly for cock-fighting, much farther than any of the others. Their breed of cocks are remarkably fine, and they are as much attached to them as we are to our most favourite race horses. My reader may smile at the comparison of a

race horse and a game cock, but the Malays in the East-Indies prize their cocks above any other consideration, nor will any money make them part with a good and well-trained cock. Amongst some of their princes from one hundred to a thousand dollars has scarcely been thought equivalent to the value of one of those birds.

The overplus of the fuel procured by the slaves, in the manner I have before described, is sent to market and disposed of, which brings into the masters no inconsiderable sum in the course of a year. A small cart load of this brush-wood or fuel will cost from six to eight or ten rix-dollars. Fortunately this necessary article of life requires to be used only in the kitchens for cooking, washing, &c. the climate at the Cape being so mild that no fires are in general required in the dining or sitting rooms. Sometimes in the winter season, when the weather is uncommonly wet and damp, stoves are made use of.

The Dutch, after the arrival of the English in such numbers, raised the price of fuel, and indeed all the labour of their slaves, so exorbitantly high as often to occasion temporary distress to many individuals. None felt it so much as those English residents not belonging to the military establishment, who from having families, or from various reasons, were obliged to keep houses themselves instead of boarding with the Dutch, and therefore were obliged to supply themselves with every article of living. Lodgings and houses were also excessively dear; however I must do the Dutch the justice to say, their charges are not singular in this respect; many

Employments of the slaves.

Fuel very scarce.

parts of my own country are equally extravagant and unconscientious in their demands from military men.

The scarcity of fuel is an evil severely felt at Cape Town, and it will daily increase except the town shall come to be liberally and extensively supplied from the interior by means of vessels bringing it from the different bays along the coast. Every year the few remaining shrubs and stunted trees round Cape Town will be diminished till no farther resource will be left from them; and to obviate this approaching evil the government should seriously adopt proper measures. No coal is used here, none being ever brought from Europe, nor have any coal mines been ever properly sought after by the Dutch. I have already mentioned the attempt to discover a vein while Lord Macartney was Governor; but after going to a great deal of trouble and expense, the project died away. This was perhaps owing to Lord Macartney quitting the Cape soon after, and to its not being found to answer the expense, there being no regular mines or persons properly acquainted with this art to turn it to any advantage. It was thought at the Cape the idea was too soon given up, that the quality of the coal was not properly ascertained, that part tried being too near the earth, and too much incorporated with stone and a hard sandy stratum; at any rate I should imagine it might answer the purposes which they require here of fuel for kitchens, and the use of their slaves.

The dispositions and manners of the slaves summed up.

To sum up the characters of the different slaves is to give that of their several nations. I shall therefore sum them up in a few lines. The Caffree negro, and different races of

Buganese and Ethiopians, are given to vicious habits. Morose, sulky, and obstinate, but without having recourse to vindictive or sanguinary measures of revenge against their masters; requiring coercive measures to oblige them to labour, and avoiding it whenever an opportunity offers. The Asiatics of the Moor and Malabar race are humble, submissive, willing to do whatever lies in their power, fearful of offending and grateful for favours, seldom trespassing on indulgence; their masters' interests they consider as their own, and are highly attached to his children, and seem to have no wish beyond the state in which they are placed by fortune. The Malay character is that of implacable and blood-thirsty revenge; they undauntedly endure their masters' reproaches and blows, meditating all the while a severe and sanguinary revenge. With the same firmness they go to the place of execution, and whilst life is in them never regret the atrocious deed which brings them to an untimely end. Instances of murder have too frequently been committed by those people. The Dutch executed them by the greatest torments; and broke them on the rack and wheel. In cases where a clear evidence was not obtained of the fact committed, their court of justice extorted it by inflicting tortures like the court of inquisition in Spain and Portugal. Those laws, and this mode of execution, have been abolished by the English, and the criminal executed by hanging. It has been often observed that fewer instances happened of those murders being committed by the slaves, and fewer executions took place, during the time that we had possession of the Cape, than

in any one period of the same length under the Dutch government, by one to five; so that the cruel tortures which the Dutch inflicted were far from restraining the perpetration of crimes.

Runaway  
slaves.

Those unhappy slaves who had the misfortune of belonging to a cruel and tyrannical master, often took an opportunity of deserting to the interior, or the hills in the neighbourhood of the town, where they lay concealed all day in holes or caverns, from whence they issued out at night to the suburbs and purlieus to receive provisions, and other necessaries from their friends with whom they kept up a secret correspondence; and not unfrequently attacked retired farmhouses to support themselves. Now and then instances have occurred of their way-laying and robbing passengers, and people whom curiosity induced to wander about the neighbouring hills.

## CHAPTER XVI.

*Dispositions and Conduct of the Dutch to the English—Various Mixture and Medley of People meeting every Day together under the same Roof—Conduct of the English towards the Dutch—Advantages extended towards the Inhabitants of the Cape by our Government—Allowed all their Laws and Privileges in their fullest Extent—Generous Conduct of General Craig towards them; the great Benefit they derived from our living amongst them; still they were extremely averse to the English—Unfortunate Situation of Holland and the Cape by the Introduction of French Principles amongst them—Jacobinism nearly overwhelming the Cape, its dreadful Consequences averted by the Appearance of the English in 1795—Obliged to unite to oppose the English—Mortification and Chagrin at being conquered by so few and raw Troops—The civil and military Government at the Cape—Governor and Council—Fiscal or Deputy Governor—His great Power and Privileges—Martial Law existed some time after the Conquest—Police—Active in the internal Regulation of the Town—Laws and Regulations required by the Inhabitants—Restrictions on the Hottentots—Traffic with them only allowed to be carried on with the Government People—Military Establishment—Not sufficient for its Defence—Bad and impolitic Construction of their Towns and Ports—Description of the*