

repentance. This was the first instance I saw of that great change wrought in the heart of a heathen, who in his former state, thought drunkenness no sin, but now mourned over his being again overtaken, and seduced to the commission of the crime.

In the afternoon, all the missionaries met in conference, with a view to the conclusion of the year, and offered up prayer and praise to God our Saviour for all His mercies vouchsafed to them as a family, during the year past. In the evening, we walked into the settlement, and entered several houses and huts. In one we conversed with a venerable old man, upwards of eighty, who had descendants in the fifth generation. The conclusion of the year was made at twelve o'clock at night, in the manner usual in all our congregations, and we felt ourselves truly united in spirit with all, who here and in every place call upon the name of the Lord, and constitute altogether the family of God on earth, however distinguished by names, forms, and customs.

CHAPTER III.

Account of Groenekloof. Burial-ground, and part of the Settlement, described. Conversation with the Hottentots. Arrival of missionaries from Gnadenthal. Father Marsveld. Conferences. Captain Klapmus. Order of Baptism. Journey to Capetown. Mr. Poleman's description of a Cave in Kango. Visit at Newlands. Mountains of Stellenbosch. Farms and Vineyards. Hottentot Holland's-Kloof. Journey to Gnadenthal. Arrival.

GROENEKLOOF is the name given to a district, situated about thirty miles to the north of Table-Bay, comprising several large farms. That, now occupied by the missionaries of the United Brethren, which is more particularly called Groenekloof, was formerly known by the name of De Kleene Post, (The Little Post).

The house and premises were originally in possession of the Dutch Company, but latterly let to a farmer. After the expiration of his lease, in 1808, the Earl of Caledon, then Governor of the Cape, having observed the benefits arising to the Hottentot nation from Christian instruction, prevailed upon the Brethren's missionaries at Gnadenthal, to form a settlement at this place, where many facilities existed for the maintenance of a congregation of Christian Hottentots. The Government at home having confirmed the grant, the Brethren were put in possession, and a number of Hottentots soon flocked to them from various places, both in and out of the colony.

The tract of land, given to the Mission, comprehends Groenekloof proper, with Lauwesklouf and Cruywagens-Kraal, two Hottentot stations. At the former, a Hottentot captain, with about a hundred persons of that nation, resided, previous to the establishment of the Mission. At the end of the year 1815, the number of inhabitants in the settlement at Groenekloof amounted to three hundred, old and young.

January 1, 1816. I took a walk to see the burial-ground, lying on the hill, north of the dwellings. It is a square piece of ground divided into four equal compartments by gravel-walks, and surrounded by a mound and ditch. On the mound is planted a fence of cactus or Indian fig, which, when grown up, will be a strong barrier against the intrusion of cattle. About thirty graves are at present in the ground, placed, according to the custom of our Church, in regular rows. The graves of the Hottentots are not marked by grave-stones, but by an upright piece of wood at the head of each, with a number painted on it, referring to the church-register, which shows the name and age of the person interred. From hence, the houses and huts of the Hottentots appear in the valley, the little wood separating them from the farm and missionaries' dwellings. The valley to the north and east is bounded by low bushy hills, on which lie several detached fragments of granite, of various shapes and sizes. A group of larger masses near the old stables forms a

very picturesque assemblage of rock, interspersed with trees, and in many parts covered with aloes, many of them at present in full bloom. Except in very dry seasons, there is a little rivulet running at their foot towards the village. These stones and the cavities among them serve as a retreat for mausehunde or mongooses, muskiliat cats, and other destructive animals, as also for serpents, salamanders, lizards, mice, and moles. From the heights above the burial-ground, a pleasant view of Table-Mountain and its companions presents itself, and towards the east, part of the Stellenbosch range beyond the Dassenberg, and some lower hills are visible.

At ten o'clock, public service was held, as usual on New-year's day. I counted one hundred and seventy Hottentots present. Brother Schmitt delivered a powerful discourse on the name of JESUS. The attention of the auditory was such, that not one turned his eye off the preacher, but they all seemed as if they would eat his words. After the sermon, a child was baptized. I was much struck with the solemn manner, in which the parents are always previously asked, in presence of the whole congregation, whether it is their intention to educate the child, now to be baptized, in the fear and admonition of the Lord, and to devote it from its infancy to Him alone, as His redeemed property. Their answer in the affirmative is generally given with an expression of great sincerity and earnestness. During the whole day, parties of Hottentots came to wish their *Teachers* a happy New-year. *Lehrer* or *Teachers* is the name they generally give to the missionaries.

In the evening, some of us went into the settlement, and visited several families. The cottages are of different dimensions, materials, and workmanship. Some of the inhabitants are building houses with stone walls, which by degrees will become more general. In one house, where the people were very neatly dressed, were we treated with a pie, usually baked by them for the New-year. It tasted well, and they were much pleased to see us partake of their humble meal.

2d. The morning was spent in conversation concerning the affairs of the Mission. After dinner, I took a walk up the hill to the

west of the farm. It is a steep bank, covered in most places with shrubs and brush-wood. A deep gully divides it from the hill, on which the burial-ground is situated, being the effect of torrents during the rainy season. The earth is everywhere coloured by iron, and of a deep brown or yellowish hue. The pebbles, with which the surface is plentifully strewed, are chiefly iron-stone, though mixed with some small fragments of quartz of so hard a texture, that it strikes fire, and was mistaken for flint. The waste produces some beautiful plants, among which I particularly noticed the Fahlblar, a species of aloe, the leaves of which are round, of a pale blue colour, and spreading near the ground, the stalk about a foot long, and the flowers, which are bell-shaped, and of a deep scarlet, hanging down in clusters. They adorn the bank behind Brother Schmitt's garden.

3d. Being a day appointed for the candidates for baptism, to converse with the missionaries and receive their advice, I attended, and was much pleased with the unreserved manner, in which they expressed their thoughts and the state of their minds. Whoever charges the Hottentots with being inferior to other people of the same class, as to education and the means of improvement, knows nothing about them. They are possessed of good sense and even of considerable gifts, in speaking on various subjects, within the reach of their apprehension. Some accompany their speech with gesticulations, which are natural and very unlike the grimaces of certain Europeans. The manner of the missionaries in conversing with, and instructing them, struck me as peculiarly calculated to call forth their confidence, as well as to impress their minds with great seriousness. When I ventured to address the Hottentots, I felt myself a great way behind these worthy men.

While we were thus engaged, a letter announced the approach of the missionaries Marsveld and Bonatz from Gnadenthal, whose waggons were seen moving slowly across the waste from the Dasenberg. Men and women went out to meet them. It was to me an affecting sight to see, with what joy the Hottentots bid them welcome as they alighted at the door. They flocked round Father

Marsveld to express to him that love, esteem and gratitude, which is so justly due to this venerable man, who, with his two younger associates, renewed the Cape mission in 1792, and now, at the age of seventy-one, is yet full of life and activity in prosecuting this work of God. I could hardly press forward to add my expression of joy, on beholding at length the face of one, whose character I have so long known and revered. All rejoiced to see Brother Bonatz, who had been long absent from Groenekloof, return in safety.

When the friendly bustle of bidding welcome was over, the people formed a semicircle in the yard, and sung a hymn of praise to God for having brought the travellers safe to their journey's end. All was yet new and highly interesting to me; I felt delighted to see and converse with the Hottentots from Gnadenthal, and to be a witness of that truly christian union of heart, which produced the most sincere expression of friendship and brotherly love between them and those of Groenekloof. Even the sight of the Gnadenthal oxen added to my pleasure, as they were shortly to draw us to that place.

During the following days, we were engaged in conferences relating to the affairs of the Mission in this colony, and made several arrangements. Brother Stein was appointed to remain as an assistant at Groenekloof, and the rest of the party to go to Gnadenthal. In my walks, I made daily some new discovery, and every portion of time was employed in becoming better acquainted with those subjects, which were, at present, to be the business of my life. God mercifully granted to me a continuance of health and spirits, nor did the heat affect me.

4th. In the evening-meeting, I was surprised to hear, with what lively zeal and strength of voice, Father Marsveld addressed the congregation. He observed, that as the time of his departure out of this world was drawing near, he rejoiced once more to see this congregation of Christian Hottentots, and to join them in praising the Lord, for gathering a flock from among their nation, at this place, adding suitable exhortations and admonitions. The

people could hardly restrain their desire of expressing their thanks, till he had finished his speech, when there was a general burst of thanksgiving from old and young.

6th. The festival of Epiphany was celebrated as usual, with much solemnity, being the commemoration of the first call of the heathen to their incarnate God and Saviour. The history of that event was read and explained to the congregation, from the second chapter of St. Matthew's gospel. After the public service in the afternoon, two catechumens were baptized. This was the first baptism of converts from among the heathen, at which I was present; and the whole transaction made an indelible impression on my mind. One of them, whom *I* baptized, was a daughter of the Hottentot captain Klapmus, of Lauweskloof. Her father had formerly been a noted enemy of the missionaries. His daughter, at the commencement of the Mission at Groenekloof, joined in opposition to the missionaries with much bitterness; but has since heard the gospel, and been convinced of the necessity of conversion. Though the old man persisted in his hostile disposition, he would not oppose his daughter's wishes to be instructed in the doctrines of Christianity, and even now declared his satisfaction at her being baptized. He was present, and afterwards visited the missionaries in their house; by whom he was kindly received, and admonished not to put off the day of his conversion. He even shed tears at parting, and we hoped, that, in his case also, by the Lord's unlimited mercy, "where sin abounded, grace may yet much more abound."

Having been requested to insert, in this narrative, some account of the internal course of the Missions of the Brethren among the heathen, as I wish to avoid prolixity, I will here, once for all, describe the order of baptism.

After the public service on Sunday morning, the infants of baptized parents are brought by them into the church; the mother being generally churched at the same time. First, a short hymn is sung, and a discourse delivered, addressed principally to the children, ex-

planatory of the nature and intent of this ordinance, and the sacredness of the covenant therein made between the Lord and the person thus initiated into His Church on earth. After the discourse, the usual liturgy is read, and the parents being interrogated, respecting their intention to educate their child in the fear and admonition of the Lord, as above described (p. 44), baptism is administered, in the manner usual in our European congregations, one or two of the missionaries and their wives generally standing sponsors.

Adults are baptized in a public meeting on Sundays and festival-days, in the afternoon. The candidates appear decently dressed in white clothes. A hymn being sung, and a suitable discourse delivered, a vessel, covered with a white cloth, containing the water, with a small basin or laver in it, is placed before the candidate. The liturgy, prescribed to be used at the baptism of adults from among the heathen, is then read; and the questions, therein contained, being put to the candidates and answered, a prayer is offered up, after which the baptism takes place. The candidate kneeling and bending forward, the water is three times poured upon his head with the basin or laver, at the words, "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost," when, if there are more to be baptized, the vessel being removed from one to the other by the chapel-servant, the missionary proceeds to the next, assisted by other ordained Brethren, if a larger number require it. The whole congregation then kneeling down, a doxology is sung, and the service concluded, by pronouncing the blessing: after which the newly-baptized come to the missionaries into the vestry, and are exhorted to faithfulness and constancy in the performance of their baptismal vow. They are likewise taught to know and pronounce the names given to them. Their gratitude and compunction of heart on these solemn occasions are generally expressed more by tears than words.

7th. Old Captain Klapmus attended the morning-service, and seemed affected both by Father Marsveld's sermon, and by the subsequent exhortations of the missionaries whom he visited.

Having, for the present, finished my engagements at Groenekloof, I resolved to accompany the missionaries going to Gnadenthal, but as part of our baggage was left at the Cape, and some other business required my presence in the town, I availed myself of the opportunity of a waggon going to fetch the goods, and set out in company of Brother Bonatz about sunset. At midnight, we made halt at Trefonteyn, and the wind being high and cold, had some trouble to get a fire lighted and coffee boiled under a bush, where we spent about two hours, while the oxen were feeding. The morning was fine, and I walked several miles. The Table-Mountain appears here so near, on the south side of the bay, that the hopes of soon reaching its foot made the journey round the head of the bay appear rather tedious, especially as the deep sand prevented much haste.

8th. On our arrival at Mr. Disandt's house, I found a letter from his Excellency the Governor, with an invitation for me to come and spend some days with him at Newlands. However, as a Dutch squadron had this morning arrived with troops, destined to take possession of Java, and other islands, restored to the Dutch by the English, and I was aware of the Governor's attention to the Admiral and officers, I went to the colonial office to inquire of Colonel Bird, how his Excellency was engaged. Here I met, both with the Governor himself and with H. Alexander, Esq. first colonial Secretary. An interesting conversation ensued on various subjects connected with our missionary establishments in the colony, during which his Excellency displayed great candour and willingness to render every assistance and remove every existing obstacle. He insisted on my dining with him at Newlands, and Mr. Alexander took me out and home in his phaeton. I met there Mr. Trutter, President of the Court of Justice, and his lady.

9th. Mr. Alexander, with whom we breakfasted, showed to Brother Bonatz and me his grounds, pointing out several particulars, in which the gardens in our settlements might be improved. I returned to him to dinner, where I had the pleasure to meet several gentle-

men whose conversation was in a great degree interesting and instructive; Professor Reinward, going out with the Dutch fleet on a scientific tour to Java and other islands; Mr. Poleman, a medical gentleman of this town, of superior merit, whose acquaintance proved most agreeable and useful to me, during my stay at the Cape; Captain Hamilton, of the royal navy, an old acquaintance, who having accompanied Buonaparte to St. Helena, gave us a very interesting account of the voyage.

10th. Mr. Alexander having proposed to take me to Hottentot's Holland, and to show me some improvements, both on his own property and on some farms near Stellenbosch, which might be applied in our settlements, Brother Bonatz resolved to return with the waggon to Groenekloof, and with his party to meet me at Hottentot-Holland's Kloof. I spent part of the forenoon at the Secretary's office, where I had much previous conversation with Mr. Alexander respecting the extension of the Mission in the interior, and perceived with gratitude the readiness shown to forward the undertaking, as recommended by the Government at home, and to furnish me with every useful information,

To-day, I became acquainted with the Rev. Mr. Hesse, minister of the Lutheran church, a man universally and deservedly respected, and found in him a true friend and adviser. With him and his family I spent much time most agreeably, whenever I visited Capetown.

Calling on Mr. Poleman, he gave me an entertaining account of a journey he had made some time ago to a remarkable cavern in Kango, a part of the district of Zwellendam, from whence he had brought some very singular stalactites. It is, by his account, one of the largest and most curious subterranean excavations in the known world, whose vast chambers and dark recesses have not yet been fully explored. The stalactites in some of its halls are from sixteen to twenty-four feet in height, forming majestic groups of columns, supporting, in appearance, immense domes. Mr. Poleman, whose ardor led him to venture into many passages and cavities never yet visited, was in some places prevented from pro-

ceeding by huge dunghills made by innumerable hosts of bats, which covered the walls and ceilings of the horrid dungeon. Contrast the life, which these leathern-winged animals are doomed to suffer, with that of the feathered tribes, sporting in the unbounded regions of the air above us, and one might almost be led, by comparison, to form an idea of the difference between the states of condemned and happy spirits hereafter. I also visited Mr. Villette's collection of the natural curiosities of this country. He stuffs birds, and preserves serpents and insects remarkably well.

11th. My intention to spend this day in writing and visiting some friends was frustrated, by Mr. Alexander's calling early to take me to Newlands to breakfast, at his Excellency's desire. As it appeared, that unreserved conversation with the Governor facilitated the business committed to me, I was glad of the opportunity to renew it; nor was I disappointed. After breakfast, we drove to Kerstenbosch, a country-house belonging to Mr. Alexander, at the foot of the rocky mountains south-west of Table-Hill. The country is wild, well wooded, and exhibiting a rich profusion of curious shrubs and plants, some in flower. Rocks of singular shapes overhang the dark oak woods behind the house, and a cascade, issuing from the upper regions of these romantic hills, shoots down a dark glen. Among the woods and rocks wolves, jackals, and tygers, have a safe retreat. The soil is sandy, well watered, and consequently fruitful. The witteboom (silver-tree) grows here in abundance. After a short stay, we returned to town, passing through several new plantations of various kinds of trees, skirting the ascent towards the mountains, to the country-seat of the Honourable General Meade, Deputy Governor of the colony. It is situated in the vineyards, and has extensive gardens, in which some curious plants from Botany Bay and China, were cultivated with great care and success by the General, who is highly respected both in his military capacity, and as a man of great taste and science. His having left the colony has caused universal regret. I spent the afternoon with the Reverend Mr.

Hesse, who showed me the church and premises belonging to the Lutheran congregation in this place. It is but of late years, that the Dutch would permit the Lutherans to have an establishment at the Cape. The spirit of toleration, introduced with the English government, has now set them quite at liberty; and it redounds much to their honour, that, though a small congregation, and not rich, they have made a most comfortable provision for their minister, and spared no expense in erecting a handsome church and parsonage-house. Mr. Hesse's garden is filled with a great variety of singular plants, trees, and shrubs, the produce both of this, and other southern regions. In his botanical researches, which serve him as a relaxation from the laborious duties of his station, he is encouraged and assisted by the friendship and skill of his neighbour Mr. Poleman; and it were much to be wished, that men so eminently qualified, would favour the lovers of botany with the result of their discoveries in that delightful branch of natural history.

12th. This morning I had some conversation with the Reverend Mr. M'Kenny, of the methodist community. He has been sent out to form a society of that persuasion at the Cape; but meets with difficulties, as his commission does not seem to be a mission to the heathen, but chiefly to regard the white settlers. The Governor is willing to promote every attempt to introduce Christianity among the heathen; but to the multiplying of different religious sects at Capetown, many persons have great objections.

At noon, I set out with Mr. Alexander and his lady for Stellenbosch. His travelling waggon was drawn by eight mules. The road to the half-way-house is through deep sands and a wild waste, but in most places covered with bushes and flowering shrubs, which though the summer was far advanced, still showed themselves with considerable splendour. The people at the house cooked some victuals, which we had brought with us, being themselves unprepared for visitors. The nearer we approached the mountains, the more magnificent their rugged outline appeared, reminding me,

both as to their height and general character, of the most picturesque part of the mountains of Cumberland and Westmoreland. The descent into Stellenbosch is long and tedious, and we did not reach the landdrost's house till after sunset. The landdrost, Mr. Van Rhyneveld was absent, but we met with a hospitable reception from the family. After tea, I accompanied Mr. Alexander to see some English friends. The moon shone bright, and the evening air was highly refreshing, after the heat of the day.

13th. I rose early, and walked out into the village. Nothing can be more delightful than the shady avenues planted in every street, defending the inhabitants and their dwellings from the burning rays of the sun. The Erste Revier is a swift-flowing torrent, issuing from a glen in the mountains above the town, and its bed a vast assemblage of large stones and pebbles, forming an embankment or beach on each side, showing what force and extent the river assumes, when swollen by heavy rains in the hills. I walked about for nearly two hours, and was much entertained by many surrounding objects, especially by the grotesque shapes of several hills and rocks in the grand chain. Returning, I stepped into the church, a plain building, in form of a cross, with an enormous door. It is furnished with chairs for the congregation, and a few pews for the men in office. An old organ adorns the west end. The landdrost's house is a handsome mansion, with spacious and well-furnished rooms. Some of the largest oaks I have seen in the colony overshadow its front.

After breakfast, we proceeded to the house of a wealthy farmer, Mr. Van der Byl, who showed us his vineyards, wine-press, cellars, gardens, and other premises. The family received us with great hospitality. Our road lay through the waste, along the great ridge of mountains, and presented us with beautiful scenery, especially wherever a farm-house, with its gardens and groves, furnished a foreground to the landscape. The next farm we visited was Mr. Meyburg's. The house and premises are well built, and the situation more pleasant than that we had just left. Our visit was but short,

and we now made the best of our way to Hottentot's Holland. After fording the Erste Revier, we passed through the charming plantations of a farm, belonging to a Mrs. Morkel, and crossing a dreary waste, arrived about four o'clock at Mr. Alexander's own farm. I was surprised to find here a Hottentot waiting for me. Brother Bonatz and the travelling party having arrived this morning at the foot of Hottentot-Holland's Kloof, spent the heat of the day at a miserable inn, intending, on my arrival, to pass over the kloof in the cool of the evening. I joined them immediately after dinner. Father Marsveld and his wife had already set out on foot, and we followed with three waggons. The pedestrians met a herd of ten or twelve baboons on the road. The cowardly creatures betook themselves speedily to flight, and with astonishing dexterity and swiftness, scaled the steep, and to man, inaccessible cliffs, where they made a stand, till the cracks of the Hottentots' whips so frightened them, that they in an instant disappeared, but kept up a hideous yell for some time.

This kloof is celebrated in the journals of our missionaries for its difficult and steep ascent and the badness of the road. My imagination therefore had presented to me the picture of a formidable passage across these mountains, and I now found the accounts given by no means exaggerated. Twenty-four oxen having been sent from Gnadenthal to meet us, our complement had increased to fifty four, and it was with difficulty, that even this number drew the loaded waggons up the rugged road. The lower part of the hill is richly covered with grass, flowering shrubs, and bushes, but the upper region is a wild, solitary, and vast assemblage of rocks, thrown together without any appearance of regular strata.

After passing the summit, the descent is more gradual, and a fine full moon lighted us on our way to the first station, where we unyoked our oxen. We forded the Palmite river without difficulty, the water being low, and met five large waggons with fourteen oxen each, coming from the interior.

After taking some refreshment and rest, we proceeded about midnight, and made halt again at four o'clock in the morning. Part

of our cattle were not with the waggons, but driven loose as relays. Among these a wolf descended from the mountain, and was choosing his prey, when he was observed by one of the Hottentots, and frightened away by the cracks of the long whip. The wolf of the Cape is a solitary, cowardly animal, when not impelled by hunger.

14th. We had now passed the great mountain called, the Haue Hoek, and again halted on the Botte Revier, where we breakfasted. Most of the company then retired into the waggons to sleep; but, always hoping to meet with some remarkable production of nature in this strange land, I walked along the banks of the river towards the hill. The country is dreary in the extreme. A solitary cottage attracted my attention, and making towards it, I overtook Sister Clemens examining the pebbles of various colours which cover part of the bank. They were fragments of sand-stone coloured by iron. We entered the cottage together, and found a friendly woman in it, with two slaves, and some black children. She informed us, that her relations lived on the other side, in two farm-houses. A slave-girl, who had been at Gnadenthal, offering to show us the way, conducted us across the river, over a rocky part of its bed, and through some vineyards and gardens, to the first house. Here an old Dutch farmer, with a grey beard of a week's growth, came out to meet us, but seemed not disposed to give us a friendly reception. At length, hearing that we came from the Cape, his curiosity to know, for what purpose a Dutch fleet had arrived in Table-Bay, made him ask us to sit down. Leaving his inhospitable dwelling, we walked on to the next farm, where our reception was very different. The good-natured housewife even asked us to pluck the fruit of some mulberry-trees, standing before her door. On our return, we found the black slave-girl waiting for us at the fording-place. She presented Sister Clemens with a nosegay of wild flowers, and very carefully helped her across the stony bed of the river.

When we again entered her mistress's hut, we were treated with

some tea and goat's milk, Brother Lemmerz joining us, the family resolved to accompany us to the waggons to pay their respects to Brother Marsveld, whom they had seen at Gnadenthal. We found our venerable companion ready to receive them, and hope that they derived benefit from their meeting. After some usual inquiries, he spoke most affectionately with the woman, her slaves and children, of the necessity of conversion, and that blessedness which is to be found in communion with the Lord Jesus. His address was heard with much attention, and drew tears from their eyes. It proved to us all a most edifying morning-service.

The Hottentots and their cattle not being yet ready to proceed, Brother Lemmerz accompanied me on a second walk down the river, till the steepness of its banks arrested our progress. The country has a most comfortless appearance. To the south, lies a chain of hills, among which the Tower of Babel is the highest. They are all barren, and chiefly rock. At length our phlegmatic drivers thought proper to proceed, but after three hours, on account of the heat, they halted again near a little valley, at the bottom of which flows a rivulet in the rainy season; but we now found only a few stagnant pools. Here I continued my researches, and saw the first land-tortoise, of the species called by the Dutch, Patlooper, from their generally keeping on the path-way or carriage-road. It was about four inches square, of a greenish colour, the compartments of its shell fringed with brown and yellow. Small broken fragments of white opaque quartz are here everywhere mixed with the iron and sand-stone, gravel, and pebbles. In the evening, we halted again, and proceeding slowly, arrived towards morning at the farm of a Mr. Klemm, a German, who gave us a very friendly reception. Here the road to Gnadenthal, turns to the left.

15th. As soon as the day dawned, we saw ourselves surrounded by the same dreary country as before. Very few shrubs and low bushes enclose the Serjeant's Revier in the valley, but the mountains begin to show themselves to greater advantage. To the right lies the Zwarteberg or Black-Mountain, under the south side of

which the Warm-bath is situated. It is high, with many dells and gullies among its rocky steeps. Before us, the higher and very picturesque range of hills, among which the great Bavian's mountain (or Gnadenthal mountain) is the most conspicuous, afforded a noble and interesting prospect. It somewhat resembles the higher ranges of the Cumberland and Westmoreland hills in the neighbourhood of Winandermere and Brathay vale, but its foot is not clothed with the rich verdure and beautiful plantations, with which our English vallies and the ascents of our hills abound. If *we* were impatient to reach the end of our journey, our oxen seemed more so, for on being again yoked to the waggon, the Hottentots could hardly keep them from going off in a wild gallop. They almost ran over the boys, who led the foremost. As the shaft-oxen cannot keep a waggon back on a steep descent, and a drag-chain does not always answer the purpose on these rough roads, the way of the Hottentots is, to tack down a hill. To a traveller, not accustomed to it, it appears rather dangerous to be driving among the heath, high bushes, mole-hills, and ants' nests, where in England there would be a certainty of oversetting, especially in turning so suddenly as these people do. But they guide fourteen or sixteen oxen with the greatest skill; and the length of the waggons, yielding to the unevennesses of the road, keeps them upright, notwithstanding the violent jolting experienced by the travellers.

The approach to Gnadenthal and the Bavian's Kloof, which now opened to view, was to us all highly interesting and affecting. The road winds among low heathy hills, behind which the high mountains rise in various shapes, forming a bold outline. Within an English mile from the river Sonderend, we were met by about a hundred Hottentots, men, women, and children, on horseback and on foot, who came to bid us welcome, accompanied by the missionaries Leitner and Beinbrech. We alighted, and the people, placing themselves in a semicircle, sung a few verses, expressive of their joy and gratitude to God for bringing us safely across the



Engraved by J. Black

Drawn by R. Cocking, from the Original Sketches of C. Leandre.

**APPROACH TO GNADENTHAL,
Crossing the River Sonderend.**

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ocean to this land. Having remounted the waggons, we proceeded with them and forded the river. The water reached to the middle of the bodies of our oxen.

Gnadenenthal lies about an English mile from the ford, and as we drew nearer, the number of those, who came to meet us, every moment increased. The entrance into the village is through lanes enclosed by hedge-rows, and the dwellings of the missionaries appear under a grove planted by the first three Brethren, Marsveld, Schwinn, and Kuehnel, sometime after their arrival in 1792.

Little do I now wonder at the rapture, with which this place is spoken of by travellers, who, after traversing a dreary, uncultivated country, without a tree to screen them from the scorching rays of the sun, find themselves transported into a situation, by nature the most barren and wild, but now rendered fruitful and inviting, by the persevering diligence and energy of a few plain, pious, sensible, and judicious men, who came hither, not seeking their own profit, but that of the most despised of nations; and while they directed their own and their hearers' hearts to the dwellings of bliss and glory above, taught them those things, which have made even their earthly dwelling, comparatively, a kind of paradise, and changed filth and misery into comfort and peace.

The missionaries and their wives received us with the greatest kindness and hospitality, while a fresh company of Hottentots, standing under some venerable and wide-spreading oaks, which overshadow the court, welcomed us by singing a hymn, and by every token of affectionate regard. We joined with our whole hearts in their thanksgivings to God our Preserver, for the numberless favours received at His hands throughout the whole of our travels by land and sea.