

## CHAPTER XIV.

*Return to Uitenhagen. Commandant Nels. Ostriches. Wild Peacocks. A Puffader killed. Herds of Springbocks. Restless night spent at Engelbrecht's farm. Tarantula. Encampment on the Zuurberg. Night's lodging at Kourney. Destruction of the garden by three elephants. Part of the company go to the Witte Revier. The Ados Drift on Sunday's river. Arrival of both parties at Uitenhagen. Report concerning the Witte Revier Vale. Journey from Uitenhagen to the Chamtoos Revier. Visit to Klein Revier. Observations made by farmers on the measures of Government. Wild oxen. Elland's Fonteyn. Kliphübel.*

ON arriving at Mr. Van Klerk's farm; we spanned out in the field. The provision made for us by Dr. Mackrill, was such, as to render us independent of the assistance of the family. It was not till after sunset, that we left this place, and set out for Commandant Nels' farm. Here we were kindly and hospitably received both by him and his wife. They have no family of their own, but have adopted six children of poor neighbours. In this, as in other instances, they showed much superiority of character. Mr. Nels was sent by Colonel Cuyler to the rebellious boors, to endeavour to bring them to reason, and to promise forgiveness of the past, if they would only return to their dwellings in peace; but they not only paid no attention to his remonstrances, but when he was gone, said, that they were sorry they had not shot him. As a reward for his courageous conduct on many occasions, he received a beautiful double-barrelled gun from Lord Charles Somerset.

We found here, our friend Melville, Mr. Swann, Mr. Oakely, and very comfortable accommodations. Nor would Mrs. Nels take any pay for our excellent supper, breakfast, provender

for the horses, and several articles of house-keeping, given to us. Brother Stein had slept in the tent, but was much disturbed by the howling of wolves, by the cattle breaking out of the kraal, and the attempts made to secure them again. Indeed we were thankful to find, that none of our loose oxen had fallen a prey to the nightly depredators.

16th. We set out about nine o'clock, accompanied by Messrs. Swann and Oakely. The road was hilly and stony, and the country barren. After about three hours' ride, we halted on the waste to dine. The horsemen preceded us, in hopes of shooting some game, but were unsuccessful, though many ostriches, wild peacocks, korhans, (black-cocks), and antelopes were seen. A large puffader, however, received the contents of Brother Schmitt's gun. This powerful and venomous serpent was crossing the road, under the feet of the oxen. It was a novel sight to see him twining his clumsy body upon the sand, which he did with a scraping noise. The Hottentots were extremely eager to pursue and destroy him; but to approach this serpent is dangerous, as by throwing himself backward, he is sure to wound any object near him. He would have escaped, but for the gun being ready loaded. He was about three feet long, and three inches in diameter.

We made halt for half an hour, at Mr. Van Vyv er's farm, and proceeded across a flat country, covered with heath and a few low bushes. Here we were amused by the sight of some hundreds of springbucks, one of the most elegant antelopes of this country. They stood in parties of twenty or thirty together, and our sportsmen were all alive, endeavouring to approach near enough to make sure of their aim. But all attempts were vain. The bucks suffered them to approach to within gunshot, when they set off full speed, leaping sometimes over each other. They bounded along, in a species of dance, springing with all four feet at once from the ground, then, swiftly facing about, surveyed their pursuers. Sixteen shot were fired at them, but not in a single instance did it appear that one had been wounded. ,

This afforded me great pleasure, for as we had no dogs to run down and secure any one that might have had a leg broken, or been otherwise hurt, it must have given pain to any feeling mind to know, that the poor animal was lamed, and grievously suffering, without benefit to us, and would most likely be made the prey of some cruel, ravenous beast. Could we have obtained one of them for our subsistence, the killing of it would have been excusable. The shot fired contributed, though not to our gain, yet to our pleasure, for it set them in motion, and the swiftness and elegance of their movements were well worth observing. Nor did we fail altogether, for Brother Schmitt brought down a wild peahen, which increased our stock of provisions. It was a beautiful bird, though not equal to the cock in brilliancy of colour, being chiefly of a brownish grey and black.

At night, we arrived at Cornelius Engelbrecht's farm. The old man was not at home, and the family, consisting of several young men and women, hardly bid us welcome, but suffered us to put up our tent on their dirty werft. We placed it between the waggons, and after a dish of coffee, went to rest, intending to set out as early as possible in the morning. About one o'clock, I was waked by a snuffing and bellowing noise close to the tent. In a short time all were roused from sleep, by the frightful roar of a bull, which, having broke out of the kraal, was parading up and down the werft. Sister Schmitt rising and looking out, saw him coming straight towards us. He pushed on between the waggon and tent, and had his feet got entangled in the tent-ropes, the overthrow of our dormitory, and perhaps worse mischief, might have been the consequence. The whole place was soon in an uproar. All the oxen in the kraal, availing themselves of the breach made by the bull, went off full trot into the wilderness. Our oxen did not stay behind. All the young men were up, shouting and hallooing, calling the slaves, and, as the whole herd rushed with great impetuosity by the tent, they had the kindness to order them to be kept off, lest we should be overrun. The sheep and goats in an

adjoining kraal, whether from fright, or envying the horned cattle their happy escape, bleated aloud, the dogs barked, the children screamed, and even the geese and ducks joined in the horrible concert. This hubbub lasted for more than two hours, and when we arose, in the morning of the

17th. Not an ox was to be seen, far or near. Men were sent in every direction, but it was nine o'clock before our cattle were brought back. Meanwhile the young people had grown more friendly, and inquired for Gnadenthal knives, called Boschlemmer.

Being anxious to get across the Zuurberg before dark, we thanked God, that the weather remained fine and clear, and about noon reached the same valley, which had been consecrated by our Good-Friday's service. But now we found the brook perfectly dry. The poor thirsty oxen, as soon as unyoked, rushed towards it, and thrust their noses into the reeds, which filled its bed; first into one place, then into another, where they hoped to find water, but in vain. They then lifted up their heads in bitter disappointment, and bellowed forth their complaints. Having sent our people to the old forsaken kraal, to search for water, to our great joy, a pond was discovered, with fresh water in abundance. When driven to it, the oxen could hardly leave off drinking. Meanwhile the wind rose, and before we arrived at the top of the mountain, it blew a hard gale. We therefore hurried down the other side into the woods.

Having left the waggon, I walked down the steep declivity with Mr. Melville, at a little distance from the road; he, in search of plants, and I, examining the stones. Having discovered some small crystals in a vein of quartz, I took up the stone, and feeling something soft under my thumb, turned it up, to see what it was. I found, that I was pressing upon a young tarantula, about the size of a halfpenny. Its legs, which were chequered with brown and white, were doubled under its body, the creature being probably asleep. I shook it off, and called my friend to inform me, what

sort of a spider I had encountered, when he congratulated me on my having escaped its bite. I felt, in truth, thankful to God for my preservation. We descended, till we arrived at a snug place, enclosed with high trees and bushes, where we pitched our tent, and made two large fires, partly with a view to keep off wild beasts, with which these forests abound. Our weary oxen found good grass and some water in pools, and we suffered them to feed for two hours. They were then tethered to the waggons, for security's sake, but disturbed us much during the night. Some needless alarm had also seized our people, as to danger from Caffre thieves, who were said to be hid in the woods. We commended ourselves, with full trust, to the mercy and protection of our Almighty Preserver.

18th. We set off early, and at the place, where, in the late Caffre war, the Caffres had their principal camp, we met five waggons with a detachment of infantry, going to establish a military post on the Boschberg. At Sand Vlachte, neither bread nor milk was to be procured, the soldiers having consumed the whole stock. After a short stay, we pushed on to Kourney, where we arrived at four o'clock, and resolved to spend the night. Mr. and Mrs. Osterhuysen received us with their usual friendship and hospitality.

Our Hottentots having expressed a desire to see the valley of the Witte Revier, we held a consultation with them in the tent, to contrive how they, with Brother Stein and Sister Schmitt, might accomplish it. We wished our people to judge of the fitness of the place by their own observation, as much depended upon the report they might make to their brethren, on their return to Gna-denthal.

19th. We rose about five o'clock, and after another conference, resolved, that as our oxen were too much fatigued to undertake the journey, Mr. Osterhuysen should furnish a spann, which should convey the abovementioned party to the Witte Revier, while Mr. Melville, with myself, Leonhard Paerl, and Johannes, should proceed straight to Uitenhagen.

During the night, three elephants had entered the officer's garden, at the bottom of the eminence on which the farm was situated, and demolished nearly all the produce. They had pushed down the gate and a fig-tree near it, trampled upon several beds of onions and cabbages, eaten what they liked, and marched off through the fence, towards a pool of water. Captain Terry, who commanded here, walked with Mr. Melville and me through the garden and fig-orchard, where we measured the diameter of their round foot-marks. They were of three different sizes, of fourteen, ten, and eight inches in diameter, the latter probably of a calf. Having breakfasted with the captain, we set out and took the road to the Ados Drift, on Sunday's river. By the way, we saw abundant traces of recent works of elephants, trees pushed down or pulled up by the roots, and near the road a great quantity of fresh dung, as likewise a large thorn-tree, with a stem nearly a foot in diameter, standing topsy-turvy, on its crown, with only one large root, at the top, all the smaller being devoured, as well as the more tender parts of the bush and the leaves.

At noon we reached some hovels near the drift, where we found a slave, a Hottentot woman, and a few children, got some milk and butter, and a miserable dinner. Our few biscuits were spoiled by a poisonous lizard, which had crept into the basket, and were given to the hungry dogs. Near the place lay the horns of a large koodoo, with the tips cut off to make tobacco-pipes. I had hoped to have gained an opportunity of examining the steep banks of the river, but now saw with concern that I could not possibly reach the limestone-rocks on the opposite shore. They have many extraneous fossils imbedded in them. We found the ford very practicable, and in the evening, sought shelter from drizzling rain, behind a bush of speckboom, where we got a good night's rest in the waggon.

20th. We set off early, got a little refreshment at Sandfonteyn and reached Uitenhagen about noon, where we were cordially re-

ceived by Colonel Cuyler, and dined with him, in company of Major Fraser, the deputy-landdrost from Graham's-town, and two other officers.

Our company returned from the Witte Revier late at night.— Their report was very satisfactory. The Hottentots were much pleased with the situation, and declared, that a settlement might be made there with every convenience required by a Hottentot congregation, there being much sweet grass, which, in their opinion, is a point of the first consideration. They had with much difficulty reached the Ados Drift yesterday night, and spanned out among the bushes. Elephants and rhinoceroses had left so many traces of their existence in the wood, that they were not without apprehensions of being disturbed. In the morning early, they forded the river, but the weariness of the oxen was so great, that they could hardly creep along.

On leaving the Witte Revier, Brother Schmitt addressed the party on the aim of our visit, and prayed the Lord, if it were His gracious will, to establish here a place, in which his name might be glorified. He then opened the collection of Scripture-texts for every day in the year, and the text which immediately presented itself to his view, is so remarkable, that I cannot help quoting it.— It was the 12th verse of the 33d chapter of Jeremiah: “ *Again, in this place, which is desolate, without man and without beast, and in all the cities thereof, shall be a habitation of shepherds, causing their flocks to lie down.*” We pray, that with respect to this desolate spot also, this encouraging prediction may be fulfilled.

21st. During the day, our old friends, and several Hottentots visited us. I called upon Colonel Cuyler, who kindly furnished me with the needful orders for relays, both through his district, and to George. The whole party dined with Mr. Buchenrode, who approved himself our true friend, both during our former and present abode at Uitenhagen. Mr. Allen, the secretary, again offered us every assistance in his power.

22d. We left Uitenhagen at nine o'clock, and at half past three, reached Kaffre Kraal, Mr. Neukirch's farm, on Van Staades' Revier, where we were again hospitably treated. The charming glen and woods, through which the river runs, delighted us anew; and finding oxen ready, we proceeded, without much delay, to Klaarefonteyn. Mr. Neukirch's brother received us with expressions of much pleasure, and I found here time and opportunity to continue my diary, with ink, made of the leaves of the Wageboom. The process is simple. The leaves, dry or fresh, are boiled, with a rusty iron nail, and a piece of sugar-candy added, when the decoction becomes a fine black ink, used for writing, dying, or as a black-reviver. I purchased here from a poor tenant, a pair of buffaloe-cow horns, and Mr. Neukirch presented me with a beautiful pair of buschbock horns. I was happy to be able to return his civility, by giving him an eight-bladed knife, which was greatly admired and valued. He had a buffaloe calf in a kraal, with other young cattle. Its hair looked very rough, and it was said to be wild and unruly. Among the mountains, there was much vivid lightning.

23d. On leaving Klaarefonteyn, we again very much admired the beauties of that tract of country, called the Galgenbosch, and the weather being fine, we beheld it to great advantage. To the right of the road, and towards the hills, the character of the country is truly singular.

About noon, we arrived at the Louri Revier, when Mr. Melville and I, mounting our horses, crossed the river, and rode up to the farm-house, half a mile distant, to pay a visit to the farmer, Mr. Van Roy, of whom we had heard a good character from the Neukirchs. I had likewise an intention of purchasing the horns of a buffaloe bull, which he had shot some days ago. Having an opportunity of conveying such subjects of curiosity to England, I had begun to make a collection of the horns of animals, peculiar to this country, which, with other curiosities, I



wished to present to the College of the United Brethren, at Nisky, in Saxony.

We found Mr. and Mrs. Van Roy at home, and well pleased with our visit. After some conversation, we inquired about the horns. He related, that about ten days ago, he had met with and shot at the buffaloe, in a wood not far off, and wounded him in the leg. The animal fled, but being pursued and brought down by the dogs, was shot a second time through the head. When Mr. Van Roy showed us the head, he said, that he meant to make a tobacco-pipe of the points of the horns. We expressed our regret, that so beautiful a pair of horns should be destroyed in that way; but he replied, that it would cost him five dollars to get a pipe of that kind. Mr. Melville, supposing him to mean that each horn would make one pipe, asked me, in English, whether I would give ten dollars for the head, to which I agreed. On hearing this, the truly honest farmer exclaimed:—"Ten! no, I said, five would be required to get a tobacco-pipe, and I will take no more from that gentleman." A slave was then set to work to cut off the superfluous bone, and make it more portable. He now brought the head of a buffaloe cow, shot some time ago, and would have given it into the bargain, but I paid him what I had given for the first of the kind I purchased.

He invited us to stay and dine with him. Among other questions respecting England, and English customs, he laid a case before us, wishing to know, how he was to act, consistently with English law. One of his Hottentots had shot his neighbour's bull, mistaking him in the dark for a wild buffaloe. The neighbour required, that he should pay the damage, which he refused, on the ground that *he* had not shot it, and the Hottentot had nothing to pay. We told him, that in England, a master was responsible for the deeds of his servant, and the Hottentot having done it, while employed by him, and with *his* gun, we thought, that he would get nothing by a suit, but do best to

compromise the affair, and pay for the bull. He spoke as a friend to the English, but regretted, that they were losing their popularity in the colony, by taxation, and the mode of settling the quit-rents. He thought it hard, that when a man had done every thing in his power to improve his farm, by making water-courses for irrigation, clearing land, &c. that those very improvements should tell against him, and he be charged a higher rent than his neighbour, who was an indolent man, suffering his estate to go to decay, when, in fact, it was better land, and more productive, and therefore more able to bear the burden; "But," added he, "we would bear taxation, if the English would only keep a large military force in the country, as by that means, we should obtain a ready sale for our corn and other produce, and have wherewith to pay. But now they are withdrawing their troops." As staunch friends to our country and its Government, we heard this man's very sensible remarks with concern, and wished, that means might be devised, consistent with the just and benevolent disposition of our present administration, to grant relief, and make the occupation of this land by the British, considered a blessing, and not a curse, as we have sometimes heard it called.

We now returned to our encampment on the river, and found that Brother Schmitt had meanwhile proceeded with the baggage-waggon to the Chamtoos Wagendrift on Klein Revier, whither we immediately followed, and reached the ford about sun-set. The farm-house was a miserable hovel, and could not afford a lodging to our party; yet, as it lightened much, and threatened to rain, we were desirous of obtaining better shelter than the tent. After some search, we fixed upon a forsaken blacksmith's shop, consisting of two small rooms, one containing the forge and anvil, the other empty. We got them well swept, and put down our mattresses.

Not feeling much disposed to sleep, I placed my desk upon the anvil, and, seated upon a wooden block, continued writing,

while my friends rested. It was a providential circumstance, that I remained awake. The door was made of rushes, fastened together with thongs, in a slender frame, and had no lock. The rushes did not reach to the top of the door-way, and I was twice disturbed by a cat, scrambling up from the outside, and jumping over into our dormitory. This, however, proved a slight disturbance. About midnight, the bull and other cattle broke out of the kraal, and the unruly beast came bellowing up to the door, which he began to push about with his horns. I was much alarmed, as very little force was required to throw it down, when we should have had a very troublesome guest in our quarters. Being afraid to face him in the dark, I made some noise within, when he took himself off, yet every now and then approaching, in his perambulations. I therefore immediately fell to work, to make a fastening to the door, with a piece of iron, found in the forge, which I worked into the wall, and tied to the door with a strong thong. Yet, after all these precautions, I hardly ventured to lie down. Between four and five in the morning, two thunder storms, with heavy rain, passed successively over us, and we were thankful for the shelter we had found. They followed the course of the Chamtoos Revier from north to south.

24th. The Klein Revier farm, mentioned above, as recommended to me both by the Colonial Secretary, and the landdrost of Uitenhagen, as a place suitable for a missionary establishment, lies about two or three English miles from the Chamtoos Wagendrift, in the hills, higher up the river. Though a farmer had applied for it, and it was therefore contrary to our views to take advantage of his not having obtained a grant, yet I felt it my duty to go and look at it, both that it might not appear, as if we were indifferent to the kindness, that had dictated the offer, and that I might obtain more information on the spot, respecting the intentions of the present claimant. After breakfast, therefore, I rode with Brother Schmitt and Marcus to the place, our host very civilly accompanying us. Brother

Stein, and Lebrecht Aris followed on foot. We crossed the Klein Revier at two fords. The vale is full of bushes and large timber, and pleased us much. The hills on each side are not high, and covered with wood to their summits. Large thorn-bushes occupy the greatest part of the banks of the river. Tall Geelhoutboom trees and other ever-greens exhibited some fine forest scenery. As we approached the place, we met the farmer going with some Hottentots to cut down bushes, and open a better way from the drift. He sent his men on, and returned with us. The dwelling-house was on a rising ground, and little better than a Hottentot bondhoek. A hut stood near it, and these two miserable tenements contained at present the whole family. The farmer's wife appeared to be a sensible and civil woman, and presented us with all her house afforded, sweet milk. The vale is not to be compared with that on the Witte Revier, either for extent, fertility, or beauty, but the Klein Revier is a clear, ever flowing, rapid stream.

On our return, we were accompanied by the farmer, to whom, however, we did not explain the aim of our visit. The strata of red rocks, forming the western bank of the Chamtoos Revier, have a striking appearance, of which, during our absence, Mr. Melville had made a drawing. We had to wait till noon, before the oxen were sent, according to order, to put us forward on our journey, when we got well through the Wagendrift, the ford of the Chamtoos river, and the Soute Kloof, and passing by Mr. Simon Ferreira's farm, arrived at night at a farm-house called the Ausflucht, (Emigration), where we were accommodated with a chamber. Mr. Melville went with the young farmer to the gardens, lying at a little distance, to hunt porcupines, which is done by night; but none made their appearance.

25th. Before we set out, I took a walk with Mr. Melville into the garden, where the dogs had killed one of these singular animals. We left this place at eight, called at Mr. Miller's farm, and provided ourselves with a supply of necessaries.

Between this and Essenbosch, we met Mr. Akkerman, who re-

turned with us, that he might not lose the bargain he proposed to himself, by selling us a spann of oxen, according to a former offer. By the way, we dined in a pleasant valley, under some trees. At Essenbosch we staid but a short time, to purchase some wheaten bread, and a rehbock antelope, shot by a Hottentot lad, for which he asked a dollar and a half. Brother Schmitt proposed to him, to take a boschlemmer knife instead of the money, lest he should spend the latter in brandy, and lose all advantage of his day's work. Our Hottentots likewise urged him to take the knife, which, after long demur, he agreed to; but, still undetermined, fumbled about, and among several knives, could not find one to suit his fancy, while his sheepish, suspicious looks, and confusion in examining the knives, afforded much merriment to his countrymen. At last, he chose the worst, and sneaked off, with silent murmurs at not having turned the rehbock into brandy.

We had no time to pay a farewell-visit to the lady on the other side of the glen, (p.189), but after a tedious ride in the dark, along the Kromm Revier, and through some deep ravines, reached a farm-house, pitched our tent near it, and enjoyed a quiet night's rest. It lightned much in the east and north.

26th. We set out before day-break. It was a clear, autumnal morning. The high peaked hills, to our left, had emerged from the dark mists, which surrounded them last night, and the sun broke forth with splendour. The farm we had just left was forsaken by the former possessor, who declared himself unable to pay the new duties, charges for measurement, and high quit-rents. Another farm in the neighbourhood, was forsaken by the husband of the lady of Essenbosch, for the same reason. These effects of the present system seem to demand a revision of the mode of carrying it into execution, which so many farmers, in the interior, assert to be done, without due discrimination or knowledge of local circumstances. We trust, that, as his Excellency the Governor is about to undertake a journey to the frontier, he will hear and judge for himself, how far these repeated complaints are well founded; for it is to be

supposed, that as all innovation is generally resisted by uninstructed people, many may too soon have taken the alarm.

After a pleasant ride through the Kromm Revier Valley, we reached Jagersbosch, Mr. Akkerman's farm, about nine o'clock. Mr. Melville had rode on to farmer Marcus, to procure oxen.

27th. Mr. Akkerman's house was full of people. Some were sick, and every thing within the wretched rooms looked very uncomfortable. Sister Schmitt therefore prepared breakfast for us in front of the house. After some time, Mr. Akkerman's oxen arrived, and Brother Schmitt, assisted by our Hottentots, chose ten of them, for which, as they were picked, we paid what was asked, viz. two hundred and fifty dollars. Mr. Akkerman was satisfied to receive part of this sum in Gnadenthal knives, which, being a very saleable article, would leave him a further profit. The Hottentot, mentioned above, who had killed and skinned the tyger during our former visit, had not forgotten my promise to purchase the skin, in case he tanned it properly. It was well done, and a beautiful skin. I gave the poor fellow the sum he asked and richly deserved.

Lebrecht Aris being appointed driver of the new-purchased oxen, we set out. The road along the Kromm Revier, is a succession of ups and downs, on a sloping bank, which, in some places, renders travelling dangerous, on account of the sudden descent towards the river. The scenery is, in many parts, singular, and a few spots appear fertile, especially where the vale widens.

Mr. Mey's farm, our next station, lay at the head of the river, in a dreary glen. He is a German by birth. Mr. Melville was here, and having provided one spann of oxen, called to us to come down from the road, to see the place. The dwelling was miserable, with a carpenter's shop adjoining, but the people were friendly. No other spann arriving, we were obliged to employ the oxen we had purchased this morning. Among them were two or three, which never before had submitted to the yoke. They now expressed their objections to serve the lords of the creation, in a manner, that endangered the safety, both of our waggons and persons. But

here, the superior courage and skill of Hottentots, in the treatment of oxen, were manifest. They would not hear of permitting the unruly beasts quietly to follow, but by dint of perseverance, at length brought them all to the yoke. Herein, they were assisted by the habits of the oxen themselves. Though they ran about, tossing their heads, and kicking furiously, and it sometimes seemed, as if they would escape altogether, yet they were made to return, by driving two or three tame ones after them, whom they immediately joined; when, taking no particular notice of the wild, and the tame ones being easily driven back to the waggon, the wild followed quietly, and were again caught, by passing a thong with a loop round their horns. Though they now threatened to run upon the person holding them, and more than once got loose, yet, by a repetition of the same stratagem, they were at length subdued, and stood still. When urged forward, feeling the yoke, they resisted so much, that the other spann was sent down to assist their refractory companions, and after much hallooing, cracking of whips, and lashing, the waggons were at length brought to the top of the hill.

By this delay, we did not reach Ellandsfonteyn, till long after sunset, but were received with civility by Mr. Piet Ferreira and his wife, and permitted to spread our bedding on the floor of the vorhaus, or hall.

28th. The poor German farmer, Mey, having witnessed the trouble we had with our oxen yesterday evening, of his own accord sent four tame, and, as they are here called, learned oxen, to our assistance, with which we proceeded, passing over the spot, where, on the 29th of March, one of our waggons overturned. We remembered, with thankfulness, the merciful preservation then experienced, and rejoiced with Brother Stein, that, except in some degree of weakness, he no longer felt the injury done to his arm. When we reached Olivier's farm, it was with difficulty, that we prevailed on Mr. Mey, to accept of some remuneration for the loan of his beasts. I gave him a certificate for two spans, which he justly deserved, for without his assistance, we should not have been able to

proceed with our own oxen, without much trouble and delay. Fresh oxen being soon procured, we passed by two farms in the Lange Kloof. At one of them, Brother Schmitt and I endeavoured to gain entrance, but a broad sheet of water prevented us. The people called out from the opposite side, desiring that we would come over with the waggons, but wishing to reach Kliphübel, before it grew dark, we thanked them for their kind offer, and pushed on as fast as our weary cattle would bear it.

On our arrival, we met with a very dry reception. Card-playing occupied the attention of the family, and an officer of dragoons, contrary to the general practice of the military, bestowed no kind of attention upon his countrymen. No invitation was given, nor any assistance offered. Pitching our tent upon the werft could not well be refused, but we were left to get fuel, where we could find it, and to cook our own victuals. Though, in general, we were most happy and independent in our tent, yet we could not but feel the affront as intended; and the night being very cold, it proved injurious to Sister Schmitt's health. Meanwhile, the Veldcornet's house rang with mirth and jollity. A miserable flute whistled in accompaniment to the heels of the merry party, the clatter of which disturbed our night's rest, almost as much as the tournament performed by the bull and his associates at Engelbrecht's, in Bruntjes Hoogte.

28th. While we were at breakfast, we had the honour of a visit from our ungracious host. He came with his pipe in his mouth, and squatting down on the ground, commenced a conversation on various subjects. But he seemed principally to wish to know, whether we had found a place, suitable for a settlement. He was told, that we had seen several, but fixed on none. He then surveyed the waggons, observed, that they were well constructed for a long journey, and made a great merit of putting us forward immediately, with two spans of cows. His slaves and domestics, by his own order, durst not take any notice of, or assist us, and the English officer afterwards pretended to say, that he had not known that Englishmen were on the werft, though he had spoken with both Mr. Melville and me.

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