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XXIV. I. EQUUS MONTANUS. - THE MODERN ZEBRA.  
 II. OREOTRAGUS SALTATRIX. - THE KLIPSPRINGER.

PLATE XXIV.

1. EQUUS MONTANUS.—THE ZEBRA OF MODERN NATURALISTS.

*Wilde Paard* (wild horse) of the Cape Colonists. *Daow* of the Hottentots.

GENERIC CHARACTER.—About four feet high at the withers, and eight feet two inches in extreme length. Shape light and symmetrical. Legs clean, wiry, and slender. Feet small, terminating in a compact solid castled hoof. Head light and bony. Ears and tail asinine—not equine as in the Quagga and Burchell's Zebra—the latter sixteen inches in length, transversely banded at the root, and tufted with black hair at the extremity. Ground colour of the coat pure white. The whole of the head, neck, legs, and body, the lower portion of the belly excepted, striped with glossy jet-black bands, some narrower, some wider, and placed closer together or further apart, according to the position they occupy; the upper portions connected with the dorsal line, and forming a plait over the crupper. Those on the neck continued through the bushy upright mane, which is thus alternately checked black and white. Legs gartered by narrow ribbons, which extend both within and without, down to the coronets. A bare spot inside of each arm, a little above the knee. Two transverse bay bands on the ears. Lively brown stripes on the face, terminating in a bay patch above the nose, which is black.

Female similar, with two inguinal mammæ. Gregarious in small troops. Found within and beyond the Cape Colony, but in mountainous regions only.

2. OREOTRAGUS SALTATRIX.—THE KLIPSPRINGER.

*Klipspringer* of the Dutch Colonists. *Kainsi* of the Hottentots.

GENERIC CHARACTER.—Adult male, about twenty-two inches high at the shoulder, and thirty-six in extreme length. Tail three inches long, almost rudimental, and only visible by the brush of hair which clothes it. Form robust and square. Head short and broad; compressed at the sides; suddenly contracting immediately in front of the orbits, and terminating in a pointed black muzzle. Ears large, open, and rounded; margined with black, and filled with long white hair. Eyes of the darkest hazel; full, lively, and surrounded by a black edging, as if collyrium had been applied. Arch of the orbits unusually prominent. Horns about four inches long; round, distant, vertical, and parallel, but slightly inclined forwards; obscurely wrinkled at the base, and annulated in the middle. Legs robust and caprine; long and broad in the arm, with short shanks or canon bones. Pasterns extremely high and rigid, preserving the same line as the canons. Hoofs upright and cylindrical; each subdivided into two segments, so jagged at their edges as to impart the power of adhering to the steep side of the smoothest rock—no portion of the toe touching the ground excepting the tip. Callosities on the knees. Fur of the upper parts extremely thick, long, and quill-like; hard, brittle, spirally twisted, and standing off the skin vertically, so as to form a natural pad; at base ashy, brown in the centre, and yellow at the ends; forming, in their combination, an agreeable olive-green. Under portions of the body sandy, tinged with ochre. Below the knees and hocks buff. Suborbital sinus circular and conspicuous. Muzzle naked.

Female hornless; in other respects similar to the male. Mammæ two. Common in and out of the Colony. Inhabits rocks and precipices in pairs.

## CHAPTER XXIV.

### THE ZEBRA AND THE KLIPSPRINGER.

"I plant no herbs nor pleasant fruits,  
Nor toil for savoury cheer:  
The desert yields me juicy roots,  
And herds of bounding deer. \* \* \*

"The buffalo bends beneath my yoke,  
And the wild horse to my rein, \* \* \*

My yoke is the quivering assagai,  
My rein the tough bow-string."

*Song of the wild Bushman.*

THIRD and last of the African Solidungula, but less equine in appearance than either of the species which have already been portrayed, the Zebra of modern naturalists—its limbs wreathed, sable and silver—is amongst quadrupeds one of the most symmetrically formed, as well as the most sumptuously arrayed by the liberal hand of nature. "With the figure and graces of the horse," observes M. le Comte de Buffon, "it combines much of the lightness and elegance of the cervine race—the black and white ribbons which decorate every part of its sleek yet muscular figure, being arranged with such apparently artificial precision, that one might almost imagine the rule and compass to have been employed in their distribution." Brilliantly contrasted, and placed alternately in parallel stripes, they extend over the fetlocks to the very coronets—following the contour of every part of the body—or widening, or becoming more narrow, according to the muscular development, and presenting under the glossy smoothness of the coat, a picture of such sparkling beauty, that of all the motley

"Denizens of wood and wild  
Nature's free race,"

it would seem to be pre-eminently fitted both to gratify the pride, and to contribute to the service of the vain lords of the creation.

Since the first part of this work has appeared, I have discovered that I have been misled by the most distinguished naturalists, in hitherto calling the animal here portrayed the true Zebra. Zebra is a native name of an animal of this genus on the plains of Congo, and first described by Pigafetta in his account of that part of Africa. He says it is regularly striped with three colours—white, black, and brown, white, black and brown all over. He has given an engraving, in which these stripes run diagonally across the animal, parallel with the collar line of the shoulder. He also says, it is commonly found in Barbary, and some other parts of *Africa*.

The two Capuchins, Michel Ange and Denys, whose descriptions of Congo are given by Labat, say that "the skin is varied by bands, white, black, and yellow, which encircle the body from the spine to the belly, so that it is very beautiful to see, and appears to be artificial."

Cavazzi, whose description of the same country is also given by Labat, but the original of which I have not been able to consult, calls it the "Zerba, of the size of a mule. The skin is white, with black stripes, *égales et bien compassées*. This animal is very swift; and if it could be tamed, there is no doubt it would be a *monture admirable*, and capable of carrying burthens. They are found in *great herds* in the kingdom of Benguela. The negroes hunt them because their flesh is good to eat, and that they may sell their skins to the Europeans."

The distance at which I am placed from Europe has unfortunately prevented my examining other authorities, to which I have been referred, and from this circumstance I have not been able to discover any other account of this animal, nor has any Zebra from Congo, or skin of one, ever been seen in England, that I can discover. But the description and plate of Pigafetta have been repeatedly copied by various persons, naturalists as well as others. When Dr. Burchell found the Bonti Quagga on the plains of Southern Africa, having black and brown, or lighter and darker stripes upon a ground varying from nearly white, through pale yellow, to rich brown, he suggested that it might be the true Zebra; but in the meantime the Wilde Paard, which Dr. Burchell called *Equus Montanus*, had been sent to Europe from the mountains of the Cape, and had usurped the title. The great Cuvier, in his work "Menagerie du Muséum," professing to correct Dr. Burchell's nomenclature, and possibly concluding that a Zebra being a striped *Equus*, the Wilde Paard being the *most striped*, was therefore the most a Zebra, added his sanction to the old error, called the animal of the *mountains* of the Cape, *Equus Zebra*, the name of the animal of

the *plains* of Congo, and committed the second error, of applying *Equus Montanus*, and Daow, the Hottentot appellation of the Wilde Paard, to the Bonti Quagga, or Burchell's Zebra, the animal of the plains. Frederick Cuvier, in his great work upon the *Mammiferes*, has repeated his brother's errors, one of which has been corrected by some naturalists; but the original confusion between the Zebra from Congo and the subject of the present plate, still exists. I will only draw attention to the fact of the Zebra of Congo being found in *great* herds, which furnishes another point of resemblance to the Bonti Quagga of the plains of Southern Africa, rather than to the Wilde Paard of the mountains of the Cape.

The *Equus Montanus* is supposed to have been known to the Romans under the name of *Hippotigris*, but even this is a matter of doubt. Dion Cassius, speaking of the rapacity of Plautianus, says, "he even took from one of the islands in the Red Sea, the Horses of the Sun, which were "τιγροειδεις" (resembling tigers), and sent them to Severus." And in his account of Caracalla's reign, he says, "for the elephant, indeed, and the rhinoceros, and the tiger, and the *Hippotigris*, slain in the theatre, one will perhaps reckon of no account," in comparison with the blood of gladiators. These are, I believe, the only notices found in the ancient writers, and there can be no doubt that Burchell's Zebra more closely resembles a tiger in colour than does the Wilde Paard. But this point must remain a doubt until we are able to ascertain whether both species are to be found in the vicinity of the Red Sea.

Restricted to the mountainous districts of Africa, from Abyssinia to the southernmost portions of the Cape of Good Hope, this beautiful and wary animal never of its own free will descends into the plain, as erroneously asserted by all Naturalists, and it therefore never herds with either of its congeners, the Quagga and Burchell's Zebra, whose *habitat* is equally limited to the open and level lowlands. Seeking the wildest and most sequestered spots, the haughty troops are exceedingly difficult of approach, as well on account of their watchful habits and extreme agility and fleetness of foot, as from the abrupt and inaccessible nature of their highland abode. Under the special charge of a sentinel, so posted on some adjacent crag, as to command a view of every avenue of approach, the chequered herd, whom "painted skins adorn," is to be viewed grazing on the steep hill side, or perambulating some rocky ledge, on which the rifle-ball alone can reach them,—many a keen-eyed vulture sailing majestically at their feet, over the bosom of the deep blue valley. No sooner has the note of alarm been sounded by the vidette, than, pricking their long ears, the whole flock hurry forward to ascertain the nature of the approaching danger:

"On high their glittering crests they toss,  
As springs the wild-fire from the moss,"

and having gazed for a moment at the advancing hunter, whisking their brindled tails aloft, helter-skelter, away they thunder down craggy precipices, and over yawning ravines, where no less agile foot could dare to follow them.

Although inhabiting the lofty and broken mountain chains to the eastward, that divide Caffraria from the country of the Bechuana, the Zebra occurred in none of the more tropical hills that we visited, and thus proved one of the few game quadrupeds of which no specimen was observed by our party. Small herds still exist within the colonial limits, among the rugged environs of Graaff-Reinet especially, as well as in the mountainous districts of George, which notoriously form one of the chosen cantons of the species; and it was during a visit to the proprietor of a farm in the latter neighbourhood, that I realized, on our homeward journey, the gay spoils of the *Wilde Paard* which now grace my collection of trophies. The capture and sale of the foals forms no inconsiderable addition to Mynheer's revenues, his numerous sturdy scions devoting a large portion of their time to the chase of the shy herds—forcing the stragglers occasionally from the mountain fastnesses, and annually disposing of the fruits of their skill with the lasso, for exportation, chiefly to the Mauritius, where they are often whimsically trained to harness. Under these circumstances, it was not without some difficulty that I obtained permission to invade the haunts of the quarry, whose humiliation I desired to encompass—Mynheer finally granting the same; but reserving to himself the conviction of my total inability, as a *recht Engelschman*,\* to approach within rifle-range of the wild troops, much less

"To fright the animals, and kill them up  
In their assigned and native dwelling-place."

Ill, therefore, could he conceal his surprise and disappointment, when, on the third morning, I returned from the rugged hills which bound his demesnes, laden with the painted spoils of a stallion and a mare,—the numerical extent to which my depredations had been permitted.

Mine host of Attaqua's Kloof, whom I must positively introduce to the reader, was one of those patriarchal characters so frequently met with in the Cape Colony, who, like those of old, described in Scripture, possess extensive tracts of land, whereon are located their children and their children's children, with their bondsmen and bondswomen, their flocks of sheep, and their herds of cattle. The entire country, in fact, for miles around his primitive abode, was tenanted by the old man's married progeny, the proprietor each of as good a farm and as extensive flocks as himself, whilst all possessed in the same rude abundance, the good things of this life which are there esteemed the essentials of happiness. Rough, but courteous, Mynheer fortunately entertained less of that hatred towards an English *Heer*† which now so commonly sours the once vaunted hospitality of the Dutch-African boor; yet did he not fail to complain long and loudly of taxes and the abolition of slavery, invariably concluding his harangue with the reproach, that in him I beheld a "once wealthy man, reduced to positive penury by the British Parliament." In this, as in every other asseveration, he was stoutly toadied by two most interesting personages,

\* A real Englishman. † Gentleman.

whom gratitude for a fund of diversion will not suffer me to pass without special notice. The one was a taciturn butcher's rider, who, under the high-sounding title of *slagter kneght*, was performing an equestrian tour through the grazing districts, to make extensive purchases for the shambles. Among sundry other emblems of his bloody profession, he carried in his ample pocket a crooked clasp-knife, which did the duty also of both fork and spoon, and conveyed every sort of aliment to its destination with the dexterous rapidity of the China-man's chop-sticks. The other worthy was a diminutive itinerant pedagogue, of French extraction, who was honoured by the domestic circle with the title of *meester*; and who, inheriting all the grimace and vivacity of his progenitors, afforded by his drollery a ridiculous contrast to the staid demeanour and phlegmatic gravity of the knight, whom he was pleased to consider his especial *butt*. Pedantic, disputatious, and garrulous to the most wearisome extent, Monsieur's tongue rattled on in mixed Dutch and French, without the smallest cessation; and having only lately made his way into the family for the purpose of affording to some of its juvenile members the benefit of his erudition, he deemed it requisite on all occasions to refer to myself for confirmation of his boasted talents for the task he had undertaken, and for which, he told me in the strictest confidence, he was boarded and remunerated in cattle. "*Et cela monsieur, n'est il pas vrai?*" the little man would exclaim in a shrill querulous voice, accompanied by a confident expansion of the paws, after every assertion that ahd curled the lips of his feminine auditors with a smile of incredulity—"dat is ney var mynheer." A loud guffaw at the tutor's expense invariably followed each of these appeals, the young ladies choosing to be especially sceptical on all points connected with the boasted charms of the fair Parisians, a specimen of whose accomplishments their champion volunteered at a dance given, during my visit, by a neighbour, in honour of his third wedding. To the equal amazement and delight of all beholders, the little tutor, after dancing with every female in the assembly, until there was not one who could dance longer, volunteered a waltz with the surly *slaughter knight*; and being indignantly repulsed, suddenly commenced a most energetic *pas de seul* upon his own private account—whirling round upon his proper centre, after the manner of a teetotum, and flying from corner to corner of the room like a parched pea, until the perspiration streamed over his bald forehead. Fairly worn out at last with his exertions, he strove, with the aid of a chair, to climb on to the back of a tall restive mare that was to convey him home—but throwing up her head, she struck the book-worm so violent a thump on the nose, that a torrent of blood forthwith sullied the lustre of his white waistcoat. Nor could he be satisfied of the escape from total annihilation of his prominent feature, until one of the demoiselles had obligingly enabled him to view its true condition in a cracked pocket mirror, when he acquired sufficient confidence to inhale a pinch of snuff, and finding the organ fit for the discharge of its most important duty, took his leave amid peals of merriment.

In Attaqua's Kloof I was greeted with scenery of a wilder and more romantic character than is usually to be met with in the Cape Colony, whose cold, forbidding, and almost woodless mountains present an appearance strikingly bleak, as contrasted with those of other quarters of the globe especially. Even here a stiffness and formality pervades much of the outline of the landscape, owing to the unbroken chains of nearly uniform height, that as if in ridicule of the tiny efforts of human industry, stretch away like an artificial wall, and form a barrier to be surmounted only with extreme labour. Conducted by a steep and rocky pass to the summit of a lofty knoll, riding like the "proud Queen of wilderness" above all her compeers, see stretched for miles before us a view of the tortuous path up which we have toiled—now hugging the base of the vast pile, and now climbing the perpendicular face of some abrupt crag—next losing itself in an intervening hollow, again to wind upward amid ravines choked with brushwood, or to emulate by its serpentine course the thread of that silver rivulet which divides the shadowy glen at our feet. At certain seasons the nakedness of the land is relieved by the gorgeous aloe, with a variety of dwarf fleshy plants of singular appearance and brilliant hues, which, being scattered in the wildest luxuriance, impart to some of the most sterile steppes the aspect of a garden of rare exotics. Other spots again are perfectly bare of vegetation, huge mis-shapen blocks, cast rude and rough from nature's foundry, composing no inappropriate representation of the ruins of a world hove up from the chaotic abyss. Bluff perpendicular crags overhanging the dark bosom of the shadowy ravines, next present a prospect of gloomy magnificence, which is at long intervals varied by some sequestered nook, clothed from the very summit with stupendous forests, of which the ramifications extend far into the vale below.

"All that thou see'st is Nature's handy work:  
Those crags that upwards throw their mossy brows,  
Like castled pinnacles of elder times!  
Those venerable trees that slowly rock  
Their towering branches in the wintry gale."

During the pursuit of the Zebra, which was confined to the most steep and elevated parts of this rugged range, I repeatedly fell in with and killed the Klipspringer, of which singular little species the portrait is here given. Once extremely abundant in the Cape Colony, it is now daily becoming more rare—the venison being deservedly reputed among the first that the country affords, whilst the elastic hair is sought above all other materials for the stuffing of saddles. Long, padded, and standing out vertically from the side, it resembles moss in texture, and constitutes, as in the chamois of the Alps, a natural cushion to protect the animal from the contusions to which its habits must render it constantly liable. No antelope possesses more completely the lively gamboling manners of the young kid—none bound with greater force or precision from rock to rock, or clear the yawning abyss with more fearless activity. Found usually in pairs among the most precipitous rocks, and inaccessible summits, the Klipspringer would appear in Southern Africa to supply the place of the ibex and chamois; and such is the rigidity of its stiff pasterns, and the singular formation of the high cylindrical hoof, that even when at speed there is no track left but by the tips of the toes, whereas every other class of ruminant would leave, under similar circumstances,

some trace also of the spurious hoof. The most trifling obliquity or ruggedness of surface thus affording a secure foothold, the little animal, "whose house is on the hill top," entertains a sense of self-security which oftentimes proves its ruin. Looking down from some craggy pinnacle, as if in derision of the vain efforts of its pursuer, it presents to the rifle the fairest of targets; and tumbled headlong from its elevated perch, pays the penalty of its rashness. Missed, it bounds from ledge to ledge, on which the human eye can mark no footing—balancing at one moment upon the giddy verge of a precipice where barely sufficient space exists for the hoof to rest—at the next casting itself recklessly into the bottomless chasm, and pitching, as if by miracle, upon some projecting peak, where all four feet appear to be gathered into the space of one. Another spring, and, clear of the intervening gulf, it is nimbly scaling yon perpendicular barrier, that resembles the wall of a lofty citadel—and now it is sweeping securely away over the naked and polished tablets of granite which pave the summits of those elevated regions, where

"We listen, and hear but the wild river sounding,  
We gaze, but see only the klipspringer bounding,  
And the eagle of Winterberg, high o'er the woods,  
Sailing supreme 'mid his still solitudes."



*Skin of Zebra of modern Naturalists as preserved by Capt. Harris.*