

Fat that is rank; which renders them offensive to the Nose of an *European*, who may smell them at a considerable Distance. But the better Sort are very curious in the Matter, always besmearing themselves with the freshest and choicest that can be had. No Part of the Body, from the Crown of the Head to the Sole of the Foot, escapes this Paint. The Skins, which they wear as Cloaks and fasten about their Necks, must likewise have a thorough Dawbing, unless they are so poor they cannot afford it. And thus equipp'd they are the fondest of Themselves of any People in the World.

The richer a *Hottentot* is, the more Fat and Butter he employs in anointing himself and his Family. This is the grand Distinction between the Rich and the Poor. A wealthy *Hottentot* is very lavish in the Matter. In this lies his whole Parade; and by this he is presently known.

XI. I must here take Notice, that they abominate the Fat of Fish; and will not patiently suffer the least Touch of it on their Bodies or Mantles. And *Dapper* is certainly out, where he says, that on a Time a dead Whale being thrown on the *Hottentot* Coast, the Natives swallow'd the Fat of it by whole Handfuls with the utmost Greediness. The *Hottentots* of this Age, whatever they were of the last, have certainly the Fat of all Fish in the utmost Abhorrence, and particularly of the Whale. I have seen them, when they have been employ'd to remove the Fat of this and other Fish from Place to Place, take the utmost Care, that the least Part of it should not fall on their Bodies or Mantles, looking on it as an utter Abomination.

They

They will eat the Fish with the greatest Pleasure and Rapacity, but hate and avoid the Fat of it. This I have seen in two Instances of their taking and devouring a Whale.

XII. Authors neither agree, nor seem to me, any of 'em, to have enter'd thoroughly into the Matter, in assigning the Reasons of the *Hottentots* for the Custom of besmearing their Bodies in the Manner just now describ'd. *Merklin, Vogel,* and Father *Tacbart* are of Opinion they do it only by Way of Ornament, every one's Wealth, Magnificence and Finery being measur'd by the Quantity and Delicacy of the Butter or Fat upon his Body and Apparel. But this I look not upon as the primary but as a secondary Reason.

Boving says, they anoint themselves thus to make 'em agile and nimble of Foot. Such Anointing will indeed promote the Suppleness and Activity of the Body; and the *Hottentots*, tho' a lazy Race, are perhaps the People the nimblest of Foot in the World. They not only dart away from the swiftest *European*, but frequently outstrip a very nimble Horse. I knew a *Hottentot*, a stout clever Fellow, who set out at Night from the Governour's House at the *Cape*, for a Country-Seat of His Excellency's, at Five Hour's Distance, and return'd the next Morning by Break of Day, with new-bak'd Bread from thence, so warm from the Oven as to melt Butter. Yet the *Hottentots* do not anoint themselves for the Sake of a light Pair of Heels. At least, I could never learn of 'em, that this was any Reason for it.

A better Reason, and which I look on as the true One, for this Custom, is drawn from their Manner of Life, and the Climate they live in. They go naked, save only a Sheep's Skin flung over their Shoulders: And they live in a Region where the Sun's Heat rages the Year round. Were they not therefore to anoint their Bodies with Butter, Fat, or some such Thing, the continual excessive Heats would, in all Probability, exhaust and destroy them.

XIII. Authors have again exceeded in the Accounts they have given of the Shape, Stature and Features of the *Hottentots*. They are by no Means so hideous as the Prefs has hitherto made them. The Worst of 'em is their Nastiness (among other Tokens of which, they leave their Hair to mat together with Dirt, so that it look like black Wool clotted with Treddles) and their offensive Smell. Their general Mien is so far from being wild and terrible, as we have been told, that, on the Contrary, it is sweet and compos'd, and indicative of the highest Benevolence and Good Nature.

The worst Features they have are their large flat Noses, and their thick Lips, especially the uppermost; in which, however, they resemble but the Generality of *Negroes*. But, as I have told the Reader already, the Flatness of their Noses is not natural to 'em. How they make them flat I shall tell him hereafter.

What a frightful Picture has *Anderton* drawn of this People in his Travels! After saying, the Features of the *Hottentots* are monstrously ugly, he adds,

the CAPE of GOOD HOPE. 53

adds, their Faces are shrivell'd. Yes, those of Old People. And where live the People that have not Wrinkles in Old Age? But the Face of a young *Hottentot* is as smooth and plump as that of any Youth in *Africa*, or even in *Europe*.

For a general Description of the Persons of the *Hottentots*, they are not so small of Stature as we have been told, most of the Men being from 5 to 6 Foot high. The Women are a great deal less. Both Sexes are very erect and well made, keeping a due Medium between Gross and Meagre. Their Heads being generally large, their Eyes are so in Proportion. The Noses of both Sexes are flattened, & their Lips thick. Their Teeth are white as Ivory. And their Cheeks have Something of a Cherry; but, by Reason of their continual Dawbings, it is not easily discern'd. Their Hair is like that of *Negroes*, short, and black as Jet. The Men have large broad Feet: The Women have them very small and tender. Neither Men nor Women cut the Nails of their Fingers or Toes. Among the many Thousands I have beheld, I remember not to have seen more than two *Hottentots* that were Cripples. There was not a bandy-legg'd Fellow among 'em; nor a crook-ed Limb; nor any other Piece of Deformity that I could discover, besides the two Cripples. This is the more remarkable since they take nothing of the Care that is seen in *Europe* in the Rearing of Children. The Women, in eight Days or less after their Delivery, take their Infants upon their Backs; and thus, with little or no Regard to the Ease of the Babes, lug them about till they are able to crawl by themselves. They then set them down, and leave them to find their Legs as soon as they can.

The Colour of the *Hottentots* has been deliver'd by several Authors, as black from their Birth. What a Mistake is here ! since they are at no Time black ; and Infants are still farther from that Colour than the Adult. I have seen a great many new-born Children of the *Hottentots*, and always found them of a bright Olive ; which catches a Shade as they grow up, but always remains an Olive or thereabout, let them do what they can with their Paints or Ointments.

Father *Tachart* says, the *Sieur Van der Stel*, Governour at the *Cape*, in a Journey he made, of Five Months, up into the *Hottentot* Countries, met with many *Hottentots* who were as white as *Europeans*. This Journey, says he, was prosecuted Ten Degrees Northward. Consequently they must lie somewhere between the *Cape* and the *Tropick* of *Capricorn*. And be they where they may, between the *Cape* and the *Tropick*, one might expect, if this Relation was true, to find *Hottentots* of the same Complexion somewhere upon the Coast. But I have several Objections to this Account of white *Hottentots*, which, in my Opinion, are so many Bars against the giving any Credit to it.

The First is, I could never learn, that any white *Hottentots* were ever either seen or heard of upon the Coast between the *Cape* and the *Tropick* : Nor have I been able to meet with any other Account of white *Hottentots* any where about the *Cape*. The Natives of *Macassar*, *Javan* and *Ceylon* are certainly not white, but of a Colour only a little more yellowish than that of the *Hottentots*.

The

the CAPE of GOOD HOPE. 55

The next is, that if the Governour had really met with such People, he would not have fail'd to bring one of them with him to the *Cape* as a Curiosity, and as the Trophy of his Penetration into the Country. At least, methinks, he would not have fail'd, on his Return to the *Cape*, to give such Accounts of so remarkable a Discovery, as that the Memory of it had not remain'd only in the Writings of Father *Tachart*.

Another Objection is, that this Father was so often and so grossly misinform'd in other Matters, that he may easily be judg'd to have met with the like Misfortune in this.

Again: How comes it to pass, that the Governour himself the Father speaks of, who was a Native of *Mauritius*, near the Tropick of *Capricorn*, tho' his Parents were Natives of *Holland*, did not preserve a white Complexion, if there are any white *Hottentots* in any Part of *Afric* between *Mauritius* and the *Cape*. The Governour took and always held a yellowish Complexion, approaching to that of the Nation in which he was born.

The nearer the Equator, the darker the Complexions of Nations. In this they are determin'd by the Degree of the Sun's Action. Thus, the *Spaniards* and *Portugueze* are Nations of a darker Hue than those that live to the Northward of 'em, because they inhabit warmer Countries. And the Natives of *Fez* and *Morrocco* are swarthier than the *Spaniards* and *Portugueze*, because more within the Sun's Action. And thus, on the other Side the *Line*, the Natives of *New Holland* and the

South Americans in the same Latitudes, do, indeed, differ in Colour; but the *Magellamcans* are Whites. From them the Colour darkens in *America* all the Way to the Tropick of *Capricorn*, and, in the *Torrid Zone*, is fix'd to Olive, dark brown, or dark yellow. This certain Gradation of Complexions, from both the Poles to the Equator, is an effectual Objection against Father *Tachart*, tho' all the other were good for Nothing.

But I my self, as well as Father *Tachart* and others, was grossly deceiv'd and misinform'd in a thousand Matters at my first Settling at the *Cape*. I soon got up a Parcel of Materials upon Information, which I believ'd would make very good History; and, without Doubt, had publish'd it as such, had I return'd immediately, without staying to look into Things my self. But I had not been at the *Cape* a long Time, before I saw the Folly of trusting almost to any Report there. Upon which I threw away the Historical Rubbish I had gather'd upon Information, and made it a Rule, not to believe any Thing I did not see, of which a Sight could be had.

I take this Opportunity to tell the Reader (a Matter I have seen and affirm) that *Negroes* are born White. But in Ten or Fourteen Days after the Birth, the Colour changes into a deep Black all over them, excepting the Palms of their Hands and the Soles of their Feet, which remain whitish as long as they live.

C H A P. V.

Of the Alliance and Friendship subsisting between the Dutch and the several Hotterot Nations.

Be-

BEfore I proceed to an Account of the several *Hottentot* Nations, it may be necessary to clear the Way a little, by telling my Reader how they stand with the *Dutch*. For as when Peace and Friendship reign between two Nations, it is easie for each to come at a particular Account of the State of the other ; so when two Nations are divided by Wars or Jealousies, 'tis a difficult Matter for each to know the other's Condition ; and most Accounts of each other will at such a Time remain doubtful.

There are at this Time the strictest Alliance and the closest Friendship subsisting between the *Dutch* and the several *Hottentot* Nations. Perhaps the Reader will be pleas'd with some Particulars.

The Lands, first possess'd by the *Dutch*, they bought of the *Hottentots*, call'd the *Gunjemans* Nation ; who were not, however, to quit their Dwellings, but remain, if they pleas'd, and live promiscuously with the *Dutch*, whose Eyes were only on the large Tracts of Land the *Gunjemans* did not occupy. The *Dutch*, having bought and paid for those Lands, and had them in a solemn Manner deliver'd up to 'em, as I have mention'd in a former Chapter, began immediately to divide and till the Ground, and to build for Dwelling and Defence. Whatever were the Notions of the *Gunjemans*, at that Time, of Bargain and Sale, or whatever their Jealousies, they oppos'd these Proceedings of the *Dutch*; and because they would not desist, made War upon 'em, calling in several neighbouring Nations to their Assistance. The *Dutch* defended themselves with a World of Gallantry; and from
Time

Time to Time joining Battle with the Enemy, made such dreadful Slaughter of 'em, that the Fields were cover'd with Carnage, and the Terror of the *Dutch* Arms was spread through all the Nations about the *Cape*. Thus scar'd at the Victories of the *Dutch*, and sunk with the Loss of so much Blood, the *Gunjemans* and their Confederates fled for Peace, the *Gunjemans* declaring they were ready to confirm their old Bargain, as was the whole Confederacy to enter into the most solemn Engagement to molest the *Dutch* no farther. The *Dutch*, who had lost some Blood too, and suffer'd very much in their Affairs by the War, I need not tell the Reader, were exceedingly rejoic'd at this News. A Cessation of Arms immediately follow'd; and next, a solemn Convention of the *Dutch* and the *Chiefs* of the Confederacy; when the Bargain of the *Gunjemans* was not only confirm'd, but the Lands of all their Confederates, unoccupied, were solemnly given and assign'd over to the *Dutch*, with this Saving to the whole Confederacy, that they should be at Liberty to live and settle on what Ground and in what Part of the Country they pleas'd that should not be found employ'd.

A Treaty of Alliance and Friendship, between the *Dutch* and the Nations that had engag'd in the War, was at the same Time set on Foot and concluded; whereby they mutually engag'd to assist one another, offensively and defensively, against all their Enemies. And into this came all or most of the *Hottentot* Nations in the Neighbourhood of the *Cape*.

The *Hottentots* at that Time knowing Nothing
of

of Writing, and having never acquir'd any Faculty at it since, these Treaties, which were then only made by Word of Mouth, subsist still only in the Breath of the Parties. But they are observ'd, notwithstanding, with the utmost Faith and Exactness. The *Hottentots* know Nothing of the Corruptions and faithless Arts of *Europe*. Their Word is sacred: And there is hardly any Thing upon Earth they look upon as a fouler Crime than Breach of Engagement. And, on the other Hand, the Governours of the *Cape*, as they are constantly instructed by their Principals, cultivate all possible Amity with their Allies. Through which amiable Simplicity and Probity of the *Hottentots*, and good Conduct of the *Dutch*, this Treaty has been observ'd on both Sides, from the Time it was made to this Day, without the least Infraction.

The Governour of the *Cape* is the Arbitrer of all Differences that arise among the *Hottentots* of a publick Nature; and by this Means often prevents Bloodshed and civil Confusions among them.

The Chiefs of the Nations often wait on His Excellency, for the Renewal of Friendship, with Presents of Cattle. They are always entertain'd in a very liberal and friendly Manner; and their Presents are compensated to 'em by others of Tobacco, Brandy, Coral, and such other Things as are known to be acceptable to 'em. And such Faith and Affection do these *Hottentot* Chiefs and the Majority of their People bear to the *Dutch*, that if they discover but the least Design of any of their Countrymen against the Interest and Quiet of the Settlement, they forthwith seize and deliver them

them up to the Governour, to be dealt with as his Excellency shall think fit.

The several *Hottentot* Nations may be consider'd as so many great Armies encamp'd, ready at a Moment's Warning to defend the *Dutch* against any Descent of an Enemy upon their Territories at the *Cape*. They fight with Lances and Bows & Arrows; at which being very dexterous, and their Lances and Arrows being poison'd, they make a very dangerous Enemy. Numbers of 'em are mix'd from Time to Time with the Garrison at the *Cape*, accoutred with their own Weapons; and are there form'd upon a Sort of Discipline, in order to their better aiding the *Dutch* upon Occasion; by their Commerce and Intercourse with whom, they are now grown so expert, that they would go near to guard the Coast against any Enemy whatsoever.

On such good Terms as these the *Dutch* and the *Hottentots* living with one another, the Reader will easily imagine the Freedom and Security with which a Man, who has any Countenance from the former, may visit and search into the several Nations of the latter. And so much I thought necessary to be premis'd before I enter'd into a particular Account of 'em.

C H A P. VI.

A Detail of the several Nations of the H O T T E N T O T S.

- I. *Of the Gunjeman Nation.* II. *The Kochoqua.*
- III. *The Sussaqua.* IV. *The Odiqua.* V. *The Chirigri-*

rigriqua.. VI. *The Greater and Lesser Namaqua*. VII. *The Attaqua*. VIII. *The Koopman*. IX. *The Hessaqua*. X. *The Sonqua*. XI. *The Dunqua*. XII. *The Damaqua*. XIII. *The Gauros or Gauriqua*. XIV. *The Houteniqua*. XV. *The Chamtourer*. XVI. *The Hëykom*. XVII. *Of Terra du Natal, inhabited by the Caffres*.

THE Details we have in *Dapper*, *Ander-ton*, *Father Tachart*, and other Authors, of the several Nations of the *Hottentots*, are made up, for the most Part, of Invention and Hear-say; which last Article has prov'd as false upon the Matter as it generally does upon any other. They are often out in the Names of those Nations; as often in the Distribution of 'em; and give such blind Accounts of some, that a Man, who has visited the Nations about the *Cape*, would hardly know whom they meant. But, perhaps, I have remark'd enough, in the preceeding Chapters, upon the Mistakes and Inventions of Authors upon the *Hottentots*, and the Vanity of Travellers who have pass'd this Way.

I. To begin, in our Detail of the several *Hottentot* Nations, at the *Cape*, the first is the *Gunjeman* Nation, who sold their Territories to the *Dutch*, as I have already related. These People still dwell promiscuously with the *Dutch*, but now hold only a very small Part of their ancient Possessions.

II. Bordering on the *Gunjemans*, Northward, is the *Kochoqua* Nation, call'd by *Dapper*, *Saldanbaters*. In this Territory is a great deal of fine Meadow, which is held by such *Europeans*, as are particularly employ'd to supply the Company's Ships with

with Provisions ; but the *Kochaquas* still possess the major Part of the Lands. In these Bounds are likewise several fine Salt-Pits, whither the neighbouring Nations repair for that Commodity. This Part is not the Residence of many *Europeans*, on Account of its having no Springs. Here the *Dutch* have always a Guard, as well for the Security of the Salt Pits, as to keep a good Look-out towards the Sea, and give Notice to the *Cape* (the Town or City so call'd) when any Ship comes in View. The *Kochaqua's*, as do the other Nations of the *Hottentots*, remove with their Cots and Cattle, from one Part to another of their Territories for the Convenience of Pasturage. When they find the Grass is too old and rank, they burn it on the Ground and depart, and return by the Time it comes up again, which is very soon ; the Ashes of the Grass exceedingly enriching the Soil, which rarely wants Refreshments of Rain. The Grass grows very thick and high ; and by this Practice of burning it the Country is sometimes seen in a Blaze for several Miles about. In this the *Hottentots* are imitated by the *Europeans* at the *Cape*, with this Difference only, that the *Europeans* make Ditches round the Grass they would burn, to stop the Course of the Fire, whereas the *Hottentots* give themselves no such Trouble.

III. Bordering on the *Kochaqua's*, Northward, are the *Sussiqua's*, or *Sassiqua's*, at some Distance from the *Saldhana* Bay, and not close to it, as Father *Tachart* places 'em. They were a numerous People, and had much Cattle, till they were plunder'd and dispers'd by the *Dutch* Free-Booters, who robb'd and did a World of Mischief to several *Hottentot*

tentot Nations in the Infancy of the Settlement. This Territory is now but thinly peopled. Few are the Villages ; and few the Cattle. A great Part of the *Suffaqua's* abandon'd their Seats here the sooner on Account of the Scarcity of Spring-Water, of which there is little or none in all this Territory. But I am of Opinion, enough might be found, if it was dug for.

The Country here is mountainous ; but, notwithstanding, affords Plenty of Grasse, not only in the Valleys, but on the Tops of the Hills, both which are deck'd with the gayest Flowers, and perfum'd with the most odoriferous Herbs. If a Wild Beast comes into this Territory, he stays not long, on Account of the Want of Water.

IV. Adjoining to the *Suffaqua's*, are the *Odiqua's* or *Udiqua's*. These two Nations have enter'd into a perpetual Confederacy against their Neighbours the *Chirigriqua's*, with whom they have had many long and bloody Wars. If one Nation is affronted or injur'd by the *Chirigriqua's*, the other joins in the Pursuit of Satisfaction or Revenge. They were at War with the *Chirigriqua's* in the Year 1706, when I arriv'd at the *Cape*. A *Dutch* Officer went at the Head of a good Party of Soldiers to mediate an Accommodation; and so far reconcil'd the three Nations that they have liv'd in Peace with one another ever since. But before the Treaty was concluded, an *European* was shot with a poison'd Arrow into the Mouth ; a Misfortune that had certainly prov'd fatal to him, had not the *Hotsentots* discover'd the Method of Curing the Wound.

But

But this Mediation was attended with a worse Accident than that. The *Dutch* Officer, sent upon this Errand, arriving towards Night, with his Party, on the Borders of the *Chrigriquas*, set up his Tents; surrounded them with the Waggon and Carriages in his Train, and planted Out-Guards in the proper Places, for a Defence against the Lions, Tigers, and other fierce and ravenous Beasts, abounding in this Territory. In the Night the Horses neighing, fretting, and falling into Disorder, and the Oxen beating their Horns tumultuously against the Waggon to which they were fasten'd, it was suspected a Lion was at hand; and the Out-Centries were call'd to, to be upon their Guard. One of 'em not answering, a File was sent out to see what was the Matter; who coming to the Post, found the Musquet without the Man. It being not so dark but they could see pretty clearly, they march'd forward to a neighbouring Rock; in a Nich of which, and behind a large Fragment of it, they discover'd a monstrous Lion feasting on the Body of their Comrade. They alarm'd the Tents; from whence almost every one ran out and join'd the File, in order to rescue the Corpse. They endeavour'd to shoot the Beast; but he was so closely fenc'd in the Nich, that tho' they made to the Number of 300 Discharges, they could neither touch nor rouse him. They then plied him with Fire-balls; but neither could they touch nor affright him with them. He gnaw'd his Prey, and feasted on, with the greatest Security; seeming to take no Manner of Notice of any of the Fire that was bestow'd on him. The Attack was continued, without any Effect, till Morning; when the Party being join'd by a Troop of *Hottentots*, these
Auxilia-

Auxiliaries so plied the Enemy with their *Hassagayes*, a Sort of short Lances they generally have about 'em, that they soon laid him dead. But by this Time, the Corpse had hardly any Flesh left on the Bones. What remain'd of it was decently interr'd in the Field of Battle, while the *Hottentots* took off the Lion's Skin, and stuffing it up with Hay, carried it about in Triumph, and in Token of their Readiness to encounter any Thing in the Defence of their Friends and Allies.

V. The Nation of the *Chirigiquas* is next, running along by the Bay of St. *Hellens*. They are a numerous People, remarkably strong of Body; and have the Vogue, above all the other *Hottentot* Nations, for Strength and Dexterity in Throwing the *Hassagaye*. The Soil is much better than what is found among the two last mention'd Nations. It is famous for the fine River which runs through the Middle of it, and is call'd the *Elephant-River*, because *Elephants*, delighted with the Stream, are found in great Numbers near the Banks of it. This Territory is full of Mountains, cover'd, like most others in the *Hottentot* Countries, with delicate Meadow at Top. The Soil is very generous in the Valleys, which are gayly adorn'd with various Sorts of Flowers of uncommon Beauty and Fragrancy. But the Valleys abound with Snakes; among which is a horned Sort, call'd *Ceraftus*; and Pebbles are found, here and there, of various Shapes and Colours.

In this Territory is a large Wood, consisting of several Sorts of very thick and tall Trees; which how to name I know not, for they resem-

ble none I have seen or heard of but in these Countries. Nor can I give any Account of the Fruit they bear. There was none upon 'em when I saw 'em. This Wood is inhabited by Lions, Tigers, Leopards, Wolves, and various other wild and ravenous Beasts ; which makes it dangerous to pass through it. It is divided by several Roads ; the Trees on both Sides of which, stand so thick, and the Branches meet and mingle athwart so closely, that the Ways are gloomy in the brightest Day, and in some Places so dark that you would think you were travelling in a Cavern.

The Natives of this Territory, having suffer'd extremely by the Free Booters, who had us'd to ravish away their Lives and their Cattle in a very barbarous Manner, they wish'd and fought the Destruction of every *European* they saw, till a regular Commerce was establish'd with 'em. Before they were acquainted with an honest One, a Party of *Dutch*, who had come to trade, passing through the Wood here, were surpris'd by an Ambuscade of *Hottentots*; who falling on with their Lances from the Bushes, among which they were so fenc'd that there was no Touching them with Fire-Arms, the *Dutch* fled in Confusion, not without several Wounds and one Man slain, to gain the open Field; where being arriv'd, they fac'd about, and drew up in Order; and upon the Coming up of the *Hottentots*, made such a Slaughter of 'em, that the Enemy quickly disappear'd, and was seen no more.

VI. We come now to the two Nations, call'd the *Greater* and *Lesser Namaqua*. The *Lesser* lies on the

the CAPE of GOOD HOPE. 67

the Coast; the *Greater* is the next Nation Eastward. These two Nations, though bearing the same Name, differ in their Form of Government and Manner of Living. Both are extremely respected by the other *Hottentot* Nations, on Account of their Strength, Valour and Discretion. They are able, on Occasion, to take the Field with 20,000 fighting Men. They are a People very able of Body, and of the best Sense of all the *Hottentot* Nations I saw. They speak little. Their Answers are short; and they never return 'em without taking Time to deliberate. Their Women are very gay and artful.

The Territories of both are full of Mountains, which are bare of Grass, the Soil being stony and sandy. Nor is the Soil in the Valleys any of the best. There is but little Wood, and but one Spring in all the Extent of Country belonging to the *Namaquas*. The *Elephant*-River, which runs through it, principally supplies the Inhabitants with Water.

Numbers of Wild Beasts are found in this Part, with a Sort of Spotted Deer, the like not to be met with in any other Countries about the *Cape*. They are not so large as the Deer of *Europe*, but exceed'gly swift. Their Spots are white and yellow. They are never seen alone, but keep by Hundreds, sometimes they are above a Thousand, together. The Venison is generally very fat and delicate; but tastes Nothing like our own.

Near the Spring I have mention'd, in these Territories, stands a Rock, scoop'd and fashion'd into a kind of Fortrefs, and call'd *Miro's* Castle; deriving its Name, according to the Tradition of the

Hottentots, from one *Miro*, a Captain of the *Namaquas*, who thus hollow'd and fashion'd it for his Diversion. But I can hardly believe, that a *Hottentot* could subdue his Supinity to the undertaking and finishing of such a Work. 'Tis the most curious one in all the *Hottentot* Nations. There is a great deal of Art and Labour in it; particularly two Lodgments, well contriv'd, and capable of receiving a considerable Number of Men.

If I have not rescued the Characters of the *Hottentots* already from the Brutish Stupidity to which it has been fasten'd down by all the Authors who have written upon 'em, what I have farther to say of the *Namaquas*, will, I conceive, be allow'd to do it effectually.

These People had been exasperated against the *Europeans*, equally with the *Chirigriquas*, by the Rapine and Cruelty of the Free Booters, when a Party of *Dutch*, among whom was the before mention'd *Claas*, came first into their Territories to trade fairly for Cattle. The *Namaquas*, taking them for Free Booters, stood not to hear what they had to say by *Claas*, but ran immediately to their Arms; and assembling in great Numbers, came up and attack'd 'em furiously with their Arrows and Lances. The *Dutch*, finding they could not bring the *Namaquas* to a Parley, to assure 'em they came as Friends and not as Enemies, resolv'd to give 'em some Proofs of their Courage; and accordingly stood a Battle, and maintain'd it for three Days successively in the open Field, the Enemy in all that Time not once quitting it. At Length the *Namaquas*, despairing of the Victory by
open

open Force, had Recourſe to Stratagem. Behind them lay a Sort of Defile, of a conſiderable Length, between a Number of Rocks. Taking a proper Opportunity, when the *Dutch* were pretty warm, they retreated, but, like the *Parthians*, ſtill fighting, into this Defile. The *Dutch*, not dreaming of the Snare, purſued them; and had flung themſelves half Way through the Defile, cloſe at the Enemy's Heels, when the *Namaquas* on a ſudden clamber'd up to the Tops of the Rocks on both Sides as nimbly as Cats; and from thence gal!d the *Dutch* with ſuch a Shower of Arrows, Lances and Stones, that they ran for their Lives, but with ſuch bruis'd and bloody Heads, that they were no longer in a Condition to look the Enemy in the Face, and ſo fled the neareſt way out of their Territories.

In the Year 1708, the two Nations having receiv'd Intelligence of the Arrival of a new Governour, *M. van Aſſenbourg*, at the *Cape*, appointed a Deputation, conſiſting of ſome of their Leaders and Principal Men, to wait on His Excellency with their Complements and a noble Preſent of Cattle: And to crave from his Excellency the Protection they had enjoy'd from his Predeceſſors: And to aſſure His Excellency of their ſincere Intentions to obſerve exactly the Treaty of Alliance; and of their Readineſs to ſerve and oblige His Excellency at all Times.

The Deputies accordingly waited on His Excellency, and diſcharg'd their Commiſſion with ſuch Ability and Diſcretion, as ſurpris'd His Excellency and every one preſent, and reflected a great deal of Honour on the two Nations. They were entertain'd for

some Days at the *Cape* very liberally at the Company's Expence; and understanding that the Governour had assign'd the Present of Cattle they had brought, to the Company's Use, and would not touch a Head for himself, tho' it had been (as they knew) the Practice of his Predecessors, on such Occasions, to swallow the Whole, they took Occasion frequently to applaud his Integrity, Disinterestedness and Generosity; and, in their Audience of Leave, complemented His Excellency on the same; telling him to this Effect, that they were returning Home with the best Impressions of the Greatness and Goodness of His Excellency's Mind; and that they would not fail to give the same Impressions of His Excellency to all their Countrymen, who would be exceedingly rejoic'd to hear that the Government was in the Hands of so worthy a Person; from whose Vertues they might promise themselves all the Peace and Security their Hearts could wish. Then, wishing His Excellency all Health and Prosperity, they withdrew, and were met by the Governour's Servants with His Excellency's Presents to Themselves and the Two Nations, of Tobacco, Brandy, Coral &c with which they return'd home extremely satisfied.

These Things, which were actually perform'd in the Manner I have here related, are by no Means of a Piece with the Stupidity and Ignorance that enter into the prevailing Character of the *Hottentots*.

Father *Tachart* says, the Country is Desert and uninhabited, from the *Namaqua's* to the 18th Degree; where, says he, begin the *Hottentots* of *Angola*.
Here

Here the Father has committed Two Mistakes : For neither is the Country between the *Namaquas* and *Angola* uninhabited ; nor are the People of *Angola* of the Race of the *Hottentots*. To the *Namaquas*, on the North, joins the Nation of the *Attaquas* ; and, if I am not very much mistaken, to them joins, Northward, the *Cborogauqua's* ; both of them great Nations, and possessing a vast Extent of Country. And there may be several others between them and *Angola*. There are, indeed, here and there, Northward of the *Namaquas*, vast Deserts that are abandon'd on Account of the Barrenness of the Soil and the Want of Water. For *Angola*, it is a Country inhabited wholly by *Negroes*, a People very different from the *Hottentots* : And from this, as from other *Negro-Countries*, the Plantations in *America* are supplied with Slaves, as the Trading World very well knows.

VII. The *Attaquas* are possess'd of but a very indifferent Soil, and but ill provided with Water. For which Reason they live in little Troops at a considerable Distance from one another, in Parts the most commodious. 'Tis owing to this too, they are not overstock'd with Cattle, having, for the most Part, only just so much as, with the Game they catch, is necessary to sustain 'em. They are, however, as brave, contented and lively as if they enjoy'd the most flourishing Country. They live in great Tranquility, and are seldom at War with their Neighbours. When they are in Danger of an Enemy, their Method of assembling their Forces is this: They hasten, like the *Switz*, to the Tops of their highest Mountains ; where they make Fires that shall cast a great Smoak by Day, and a

clear Flame by Night. Upon this Signal, every one, who is able to serve, hastens with his best Arms to one constant Place of *Rendezvous*; and there is immediately assembled a very numerous Army.

Being got, in my Detail, so far to the Northward, I shall now return to the *Cape*, and trace the several *Hottentot* Nations that lie to the South of it.

VIII. Next to the *Gunjemans*, Southward, is the Nation of the *Koopmans*, so call'd from *Koopman*, a Captain of that Nation. This was he who robb'd *Claas* of his Wife, and afterwards murder'd him, as has been related. This Territory is of great Extent Eastward; but does not extend it self far upon the Coast. A great many *Europeans* are settled here, and flourish in the Possession of large and rich Tracts of Land; to which they are continually adding others, which the *Koopmans* do not employ. 'Tis a very fruitful Part, well water'd, and abounding with Wood of several Sorts, and for several Uses; of which the Governour, *Van der Stel*, made a fine Perquisite.

Through this Territory, runs, winding it self through the Valleys, into the Sea, a rapid River, call'd *Palamit*, deriving its Source from the *Drackenstein* Mountains on the Frontiers, and receiving several Rivulets on both Sides of it; one of which, a pretty large Stream, is call'd the *Black River*. In the *Palamit* is seldom found any other than small Fry, such as Eels, Smelts and the like. When large Fishes appear in it the Inhabitants are so dexterous at Catching 'em, that they seldom escape 'em.

In

the CAPE of GOOD HOPE. 73

In this Territory is a Hot Bath ; and in a Valley call'd *Sutbenball*, and here and there in other Parts, are several fine Salt Pits.

IX Bordering on the *Gunjeman* Nation likewise lies that of the *Hessaquas*, call'd by Father *Tachart*, the *Gassaquas*. He is mistaken in the Situation of the Territory, as well as in the Name of the People ; for he says, they extend their Dwellings to the Sea-Side ; whereas they neither dwell near the Sea-Side, nor have a Foot of Land near it. He is right where he says, they are rich and numerous, but the least expert in the Art of War.

The *Hessaquas* are , perhaps, richer than any other *Hottentot* Nation ; that is, have more and better Cattle ; for Wealth among the *Hottentots* is seen in no other kind. The Pastures here are, all of 'em, cover'd with Drovers of Oxen and Flocks of Sheep. Their *Backeleys*, as they call 'em, or Oxen for Carriage, exceed all others in Strength and Beauty. In Consequence of the Wealth and Numbers of this People, they traffick, perhaps, more with the *Europeans* than any of their Neighbours, for Brandy, Tobacco, Coral and other Things ; and consequently are more luxurious and effeminate, and less fit to encounter the Dangers and Fatigues of War. They therefore cultivate with their Neighbours all the Arts of Peace and Friendship they can ; and do all they can at all Times to avoid a Rupture with any One. Yet will they not suffer themselves to be trampled upon downright. When they are invaded by some of their ravaging Neighbours for the Sake of their Cattle, which they often lose by their Inroads upon 'em, they
oppose

oppose Force to Force, and behave not ill. But they never pursue their Enemies beyond their own Frontiers. And this Love of Home exposes them to more frequent Insults. When they cannot easily repel the Enemy, they apply for Protection to the Governour of the *Cape*, who steps in between, and brings the Enemy to Reason.

It happen'd in my Time at the *Cape*, *Anno* 1707, that some Deputies of the *Hessaquas* waited on the Governour with a Present of Oxen. His Excellency return'd the Favour by a Present of Tobacco, Arrack and Coral; which the Deputies having receiv'd, they sat down with a Party of *Gunjemans* to taste the Arrack. The Bottle went briskly about, and the Company was very merry. But at Length (whether it was, the *Gunjemans* would have had more Liquor, and the *Hessaquas* grew stingy, I know not: I could never learn the Matter) the *Gunjemans* insulted the *Hessaquas*, as they were packing up to be gone; and immediately the two Parties went together by the Lars. The Field of Battle was near the Fort. Some went to Handy Cuds; some fought with Sticks, and some with Stones; and both Sides engag'd with a great deal of Noise and Fury. The Town was alarm'd; and People ran in Numbers to behold this Encounter; but they were forc'd to stand at a Distance, for the Warriors threw the Stones at one another with so much Fury as made it dangerous to come near 'em. At Length, the *Fiscal*, with several others, ventur'd in. But his Presence, though an Officer extremely respected by the *Hottentots*, avail'd nothing. They continued fighting and clamouring, utterly regardless of his Person; He was several Times

the CAPE of GOOD HOPE. 75

Times in Danger from the Sticks and Stones; and was forc'd at last to retire, *re infecta*, to secure a whole Skin.

The Governour being inform'd of this Fray, and of what the *Fiscal* had done ineffectually to quell it, order'd a large Piece of Artillery to be brought out and planted against them, and charg'd in their Sight, in hopes that the Appearance of this dreadful Machine, with Powder and Ball, would strike such a Terror into the Combatants as would part 'em at once. But neither the Sight of the Cannon nor the Ammunition made any Impression on 'em. The Battle continued in all its Fury. His Excellency, seeing this would not do, order'd the Cannon to be discharg'd over their Heads; and this had the desir'd Effect: For they no sooner heard the thundering Report, and the terribly rattling Echo between the Mountains, than they parted, and retir'd at once, without a Word, to their respective Homes.

The *Kraals*, as they call 'em, or Villages, of the *Hassaquas* are larger, more in Number, and better peopled, than those of any other *Hottentot* Nation. The Territory abounds with Game, and furnishes more of every Thing that is produc'd in that Part of the World for Accomodation or Pleasure than any other about the *Cape*.

'Tis a common Practice of the *Hessaquas*, when they have their Fortunes to make, to enter into the Service of the *Europeans*, and employ the Wages they get in the Purchase of Cattle; with which at length they return home and set up for Themselves,

X. Bor-

X. Bordering on the *Koopmans*, Eastward, lie the *Sonquas*, a lively, daring People, very dexterous in the Management of their Arms. And this martial Genius and Proficiency they owe to their Country, which is mountainous, rocky, and the poorest in all the Region about the *Cape*, yielding but a very little for the Sustainance of Man or Beast. The *Sonquas* therefore, for a Livelihood, take up, for the most Part, the Military Profession, and are Mercenaries to the other *Hottentot* Nations in their Wars, serving barely for Food from Day to Day. This Poverty of their Country brings them likewise to be dexterous at the Chace. They pursue all the Game they discover, and 'tis rarely it escapes 'em. And this is one great Reason why so little is seen among 'em.

The Reader will justly imagine from what I have said of this People, that they are not very numerous. A few little *Kraals*, or Villages, contain 'em all. And Cattle, both great and small, is so scarce and valuable among 'em, that they kill none, when any other Meat is by any Means to be had, but upon certain solemn and indispensable Occasions, to be mention'd hereafter. But Roots, Plants, and Herbs for Food are here and there found in Plenty among 'em. Setting aside which, the Territory produces little besides Wood which serves for Firing to keep off Wild Beasts from the *Kraals*.

The *Sonquas* often engage with the Bees, to get the Honey they have laid up in hollow Trees: And at this Work they are cried up at the *Cape* as very dexterous. But they care not for Honey themselves. They are put upon this Employment by

the CAPE of GOOD HOPE. 77

by the Demands for it among the *Europeans*, with whom they exchange it for Knives and other Implements of Iron and Brass, and for Brandy, Tobacco and Pipes. They put and dispose of it in rough leathern Sacks, and truck a Sackful for a very Trifle. This Honey, mix'd with Water, makes a very delicate and a very refreshing Beverage; and this is the Use the *Europeans* make of it.

XI. Next the *Sonquas*, dwell the People, call'd the *Dunquas*; who possess a very fine and a very fruitful Country, not so mountainous and uneven as most others about the *Cape*. It is well water'd, several fine Rivulets passing through it into the *Palamit* River. The Hills as well as the Plains are cover'd with Plenty of Grass, Herbs and Flowers. And Cattle and Game abound in all the Parts of this Territory.

XII. Next lies the Nation of the *Damaquas*, inhabiting a Tract of Land as fine and as fruitful as the Country of the *Dunquas*, and much smoother. This Territory produces Water Melons and Wild Hemp, and abounds with Cattle and Game. The only Incommodity here is the Scarcity of Wood, the Inhabitants being hard put to it for Fuel to dress their Victuals, unless they burn a Sort of Moss they have, which is very troublesome and offensive when set on Fire.

In this Territory are several Salt-Pits; but being a great Way from any Settlement of the *Europeans*, no manner of Use is made of 'em, for the *Hottentots* eat no Salt.

The

The *Palamit* River runs through this Territory, but with so many Turnings and Windings here, that, there being no such Thing as a Bridge upon it, 'tis very incommodious to Travellers; who either pass it in small Boats or Canoes, or on Floats of Timber.

The *Damaquas* are great Lovers of the Flesh of such Wild Beasts as are fit for Food. They are therefore often in the Chace, and are plentifully provided with Furs for their Apparel.

XIII. Next to the *Damaquas*, lie the *Gauros* or *Gauriquas*; beyond whom, says Father *Tachart*, the Country is inhabited by the *Hottentots* of *Monomotapa*. In the first Place, no *Hottentots* are to be found in *Monomotapa*. In the next Place, several other *Hottentot* Nations, not yet look'd into, extend themselves along the Coast, from the *Gauros* as far as *Terra de Natal*; the Beginning, on that Side, of *Monomotapa*, and inhabited by the *Caffres*.

The *Gauros* are a numerous People in a very small Territory. But the Soil is every where so rich and fruitful, and every where so well provided with Wood and Water, that every one lives in Ease and Plenty. The Pastures are cover'd with all Sorts of Cattle; and the Territory swarms with Wild Beasts of every kind more than any other about the *Cape*. In this last Article the Inhabitants glory not a little, since it calls for the frequent Exercise of their Courage and Dexterity, which they are fond of shewing; most of 'em wearing Tiger- Wild Cat- and other Skins of ravenous Animals, in Token of their Valour and Achievements.

the CAPE of GOOD HOPE. 79

XIV. North East of the *Gauros*, on the Coast, lie the *Houteniquas*; in whose Territory are several Woods, consisting of very stately Trees. Between the Woods lies Abundance of lovely Meadow, enrich'd with wholesome Herbs, and adorn'd with a wonderful Variety of Flowers, all charmingly fragrant and beautiful.

A Party of *Europeans* were once decoy'd by the *Hottentots* into one of the Woods of this Territory, and put to a thousand Distresses before they could get out again:

XV. On the *Houteniquas* border the *Chamtouers*; who are possess'd of a fine flat Country, well grass'd and water'd, and shewing several little Woods, consisting of the finest and tallest Trees in all the Territories of the *Hottentots*. Game, with all Sorts of wild and ravenous Beasts, abounds in this Territory; which is divided by several large Streams, enrich'd with several Kinds of wholesome and very delicate River-Fish, and sometimes with Sea-Fish. The Sea-Cow, particularly, often appears in these Channels.

I have been credibly inform'd, that a Party of *Europeans* found several Cherry- and Apricock-Trees, laden with Fruit, in the Woods and Thickets of this Territory. And 'tis farther remarkable, if I am rightly inform'd, that, though they travers'd the said Woods thro' and thro', they could discover in 'em neither Elephant nor Buffalo, tho' the Woods in every other *Hottentot* Country abound with these Creatures. The Inhabitants, perhaps, kill 'em or chase 'em out of the Territory as fast as they appear. Here

Here likewise a Party of *Dutchmen*, who were come to trade, was decoy'd by the Natives into a Wood, and there so suddenly and furiously assail'd with *Hassagayes* and envenom'd Arrows, from a Multitude that surrounded them, that it was a Hazard but they had been all slain before they could have levell'd one Fire-Arm. By Good Fortune, they form'd and discharg'd before they had receiv'd much Harm; and by that Discharge, breaking the Fury of the Enemy, they soon after put 'em to Flight. The next Day the Natives came to a good Understanding with 'em, and let them have as much Cattle as they wanted, in Exchange for *European* Commodities.

These *Dutchmen* reported, that the Captain of the *Chamtouers*, who, it seems, spoke a broken *Dutch*, among other Things he said to 'em on this Occasion, deliver'd himself to the Effect following:
 “ We have ever been of Opinion till now, that
 “ we were superiour in Arms to every other Nation.
 “ But the *Dutch* have vanquish'd us; and we submit to 'em as our Masters.

XVI. Bordering on the *Chamtouers*, North-Eastward, lies the Nation of the *Heykoms*, possess'd of a very mountainous Country, unprovided with fresh Water; and only fertile in the Vallies. Yet they are pretty well stock'd with Cattle, every Sort thriving upon the brackish Water of the Rivers and the Reeds on the Banks. They abound with Game and Wild Beasts of every kind seen about the *Cape*. But the Want of fresh Water puts the People to a great many hard Shifts and Inconveniences.

An

An Officer of the Garrison arriving here with Presents, and an Invitation to the People to enter into the Treaty of Alliance between the *Dutch* and other *Hottentot* Nations, into which they accordingly came, they desired and obtain'd of him a Drum, and an Iron Pot and Pan they saw in his Equipage. Of these Things they were infinitely fond, particularly of the Drum, and prided themselves extremely in the Possession of 'em. At Length a Party of *Europeans*, who us'd to deceive and rob the *Hottentots*, under the Pretence of Coming upon fair Trade, arriving here under the same Colour, robb'd the *Heykoms* of a great deal of Cattle, and, with them, of all their Glory, the Drum the Pot and the Pan; an Injustice and a Loss which to this Day they hold so much at Heart, that an *European*, who visits them, is sure to hear of the Treachery of that Party, and to have a Lamentation for the Loss of the Drum the Pot and the Pan; but this only from the meaner Sort.

XVII. We are now come as far as *Terra de Natal*, inhabited by the *Caffres*; who, according to all the Accounts I have met with of 'em, are so far from bearing any Affinity or Resemblance with the *Hottentots*, that they are a quite different Sort of People. Captain *Gerbrantz van der Schelling*, whom I have mention'd in the Story of *Claas*, was a Man of Intelligence and Veracity. He often touch'd at *Terra de Natal*; and from him I had the following Account of the Inhabitants. They do not anoint or grease their Bodies. They have Nothing of the *Hottentot* Stammering, or Cl. shing of the Tongue in Speaking. They dwell in Square plaster'd Houses, a Sort of Building not seen among

mong the *Hottentots*. They wear Crosses, hanging by a String about the Neck; an Ornament that has no Place in the *Hottentot* Countries. They manure their Land after a Manner quite different from that of the *Hottentots*. They sow a Sort of *Turkish* Corn, and brew with it; which the *Hottentots* never do.

The *Caffres* traffick with the Rovers of the *Red Sea*; who bring 'em Manufactures of Silk for Elephants Teeth. These Manufactures the *Caffres* exchange, as Ships from *Europe* touch at *de Natal*, for *European* Commodities; often for Tar, Anchors and Cordage; which they exchange again with the Rovers of the *Red Sea*. The Silk they put not off to the *Europeans*, they dispose of to the *Monomotapas*. The *Portugueze* of *Mozambique* trade not a little with 'em.

The Captain above mention'd met with an Englishman at *Terra de Natal*, who had deserted his Ship and settled among the *Caffres*. He had Two *Caffre* Wives, and several Children by 'em; was dress'd like a *Caffre*, and liv'd like one.

He shew'd the Captain several Piles of Elephants Teeth, and several Rooms full of Silken Manufactures; and purpos'd to take the Opportunity to embark with those Commodities for the *Cape*, and abandon his Settlement and Wives and Children for ever. The King of the Country (such Sovereignty is not known among the *Hottentots*) having Notice of his Design, sent for him, and rounded him in the Ear on his purpos'd Treachery and Ingratitude to a People who had receiv'd and cherish'd him

the CAPE of GOOD HOPE. 83

him after so generous a Manner; represented the miserable Condition of his Family if he abandon'd it, for that he (the King) would take no Care of it, and he believ'd No body else would; and, in Conclusion, admonish'd him so warmly on the Affection and Tendernefs he ow'd to his Wives and Children, and on the Cruelty of deserting them, that the Fellow's Heart melted. He was not Proof against the Eloquence of this Royal *Caffre*. He fell at the King's Feet; begg'd Pardon, and gave up his Design. This he related himself to the Captain; one of whose Men he afterwards prevail'd upon to desert the Ship, and settle, with him, among the *Caffres*.

I have finish'd my Detail of the *Hottentot* Nations. It is longer in it self, but I can pursue it no farther. These are all that were known at the *Cape* in my Time there; and it cannot be suppos'd there are a great many more. The Majority of these I visited my self, and had Accounts of the Rest from a great many Persons of Credit; some of'em Burghers at the *Cape*, who had made the Tour of several *Hottentot* Nations for their Diversion; and some of them the Company's Servants, who had pierc'd the Country several Ways by Command.

C H A P. VII.

Of the *Hottentot* Form of Government.

- I. *Of the Chiefs of the Hottentot Nations.* II. *Of the Captains of the Kraals, or Villages.* III. *Of the Physicians.* IV. *Of the Priests.* V. *Of a*

Sort of Hottentot-Banditti that infest the several Nations.

I. **E**Very *Hottentot* Nation has a Chief, by them call'd *Konquer*; whose Office is to command the Army, conduct the Negotiations of Peace, and preside in the Councils. And without his Consent they make neither Peace nor War. He was anciently distinguish'd only by the superiour Beauty and Magnificence of his Apparel, which is chosen him out of the finest Tiger- and Wild Cat Skins that can be got. But soon after the Establishment of the *Dutch* at the *Cape*, he began to be distinguish'd by a Brafs Crown, which he wears at the Head of the Army, and in Council, and on every solemn Occasion. The *Dutch* made a Present of this Ornament to the Chiefs of every Nation in Alliance with 'em. His Office is hereditary, but far enough from Regal. When War, Negotiations of Peace, or some Grand Council for the Reformation or Improvement of Civil Matters, do not require him, he has nothing to do but to govern his own *Kraal*, or Village where he resides. In Council, which consists of the Captains of the several *Kraals*, he sits in the Middle, the Captains planting themselves in a Circle round about him. He has Nothing allow'd him by the Publick for the Reward of his Labours or the Support of his Dignity: But his Person is always held in great Reverence. Tho' his office is hereditary, he is not admitted to it, without first solemnly engaging in a national Assembly, that he will not attempt the Subversion of the old Form of Government, nor any Thing against the Prerogatives of the Captains of the *Kraals*, or the common Rights and Privileges of the

the People. This done, he is install'd with great Pomp and Solemnity. On this Occasion he is oblig'd to feast the Captains of the *Kraals* with a fat Ox, and a Couple of Sheep. The Captains' Wives attend at the Solemnity, but sit not down with their Husbands to this Entertainment, nor touch a Bit of solid Victuals; for the Whole being boil'd, the Meat is serv'd up to the Men, and the Broth is sent to the Women, who must be content with that only. The next Day, or at some other convenient Time, the Spouse of the Chief, if he has one, makes a Feast for the Women. A fat Ox, and a Couple of Sheep are kill'd for them too. The Men attend, and have their Jest turn'd upon themselves; that is, they must be content with the Broth, while the Women devour all the Meat.

II. The Captain of a *Kraal*, or Village, looks to the Preservation of the Peace and the Administration of Justice in his Jurisdiction; and in Time of War, has the Command, under the Chief of his Nation, of the Troops furnish'd out by his *Kraal*. His Office is hereditary: But he cannot execute it till he has solemnly engag'd before the People, not to alter or deviate from the ancient Laws and Customs of the *Kraal*. And at his Instalment he feasts the Men in his Jurisdiction with a fat Ox and a Couple of fat Sheep; and his Wife the Women with the same Viands. At which Entertainments both Sexes pass the Jest of the Broth, related above, very merrily upon one another.

The Captain of a *Kraal* hears and decides all Disputes of Right and Property between the Inhabitants,

bitants, and tries and punishes for Murder, Theft, Adultery, and other Crimes committed within his Jurisdiction, assisted by all the *Men* of the *Kraal*; from whose Decision or Sentence in such Matters there lies no Appeal. But State-Criminals are tried by a Chief, assisted by all the Captains of Villages.

These *Kraal*- or Village Captains were anciently distinguish'd only by their Mantles, which are very fine Skins of Tigers or Wild Cats. But the *Dutch* long ago gave to every one of 'em, of all the Nations in Alliance, a Cane with a Brass Head; which has since descended along with the Office, and is look'd upon as an unalienable Badge of it. But these Captains, like the Chiefs of Nations, have no Revenue from the Publick, nor any Perquisite in the Executions of their Offices.

The Captains or Governours of *Kraals* are the Nobility of the *Hottentots*; and by them, conjunctively, each Nation is govern'd. They assemble for the Dispatch of Publick Business at the Residence of the Chief; who, as I have already hinted, presides in their Assemblies. The Resolutions of those Assemblies are made by a Majority of Voices, which are collected by the Chief.

Notwithstanding the Authority of these Governours of *Kraals*, Disorders are often happening which they are not able to quell. The People will go to Loggerheads and fight it out in Spite of them. This they know; and therefore have their Cue on such Occasions for the Saving their Authority from a publick Affront. They will lie still, tho' in the Sight and Hearing of all that passes, as
if

if they neither saw nor heard any Thing of the Matter ; unless it comes to a Murder or a General Commotion, for then they will interpose, and exert their Authority. And the People have generally so much Remorse when their Strifes issue in such a Catastrophe or general Confusion, that at those Times, the Captain of the *Kraal* no sooner appears than they return to their Duty.

'Tis a Complement, and a Token of Duty and Affection, often paid to the Captain of a *Kraal*, that when any of the Inhabitants have agreed to go a hunting together, the Party attends him, to know if he will please to honour them with his Company and partake of the Diversiion. He returns the Complement by applauding their Courage and Activity ; commends 'em for their Intention to save ther Cattle by living upon the Chace ; and sometimes goes along with 'em.

III. In every *Kraal* there is a Physician, in the large ones there are two, who are well skill'd in the Botany, Surgery, and Medicine of the *Hottentots*, and are chosen out of the Sages of each *Kraal*, and appointed to watch over the Health of the Inhabitants. This they perform without Fee or Reward. The Honour of the Employment is judg'd a Recompence for all the Trouble of it. But the Candidates for it must be no Youngsters. They have great Skill in the Vertues of their Herbs ; and cup, and handle a Lancet well. And such a Dependance the *Hottentots* have upon the Abilities of these Doctors, that none of 'em scruple at any Time to put themselves into their Hands. In every Case their Medicines are taken and their

Operations undergone very readily. And, indeed, their Practice is attended with surprizing Success. But they are not every Day call'd to it; nor lies it so much in Medicine as in Manual Operation. For, as I have already observ'd, the *Hottentots* are a stout hearty People, rarely troubled with Distempers. The Doctors suffer none to see 'em gather and prepare their Remedies. All their Salves and Ointments, Powders and Poullices, they pretend are *Nostrums*; and keep the Preparations very secret. And if a Patient dies under their Hands, they always assert, that their Remedies had been render'd ineffectual by Witchcraft; and they are always believ'd,

There are several Old Women in every *Kraal*, who pretend to great Skill in the Vertues of Roots and Herbs, and thrust themselves in upon any Neighbour that is out of Order, to give 'em Advice. These are mortally hated by the Doctors; and, like the prescribing Old Women in *Europe*, are had in Esteem by none but Old Women.

IV. Next to the Physician, comes the Priest, or the Master of the Religious Ceremonies; for the Physician has the Precedency at the *Cape*. He is call'd *Suri*, i.e. Master. His Office, which, like that of the Physician, is elective, is not to read Prayers, or instruct the People in Religious Matters. The *Hottentots* have no such Institutions among them. He presides at their Offerings, and has the Ordering and Conducting of all Ceremonies of Worship. He performs the Marriage and the Funeral Ceremonies. He is the Operator in the Custom of depriving the young Males of one Testicle. At this He has a great

great deal of Skill and Dexterity, with the additional Art of dressing the Wound, and sowing up the Lips of it. He crams it with the finest Fat. In these Things, which will be particularly treated on hereafter, lies the whole Mystery of his Function.

In Point of Fee or Reward he is as poorly off as the Physician, neither of the Offices having either Revenue or Perquisite. They are sometimes, indeed, by Way of Respect, invited to Feasts and Merry-Makings; and sometimes presented with a Calf or a Lamb. A good Bellyful, and a small Present now and then, are all the Emoluments of their Offices.

Such is the Government and Political Oeconomy of the *Hottentots*. They have no other Publick Officers that I know of. And I hope this Account of the *Hottentot* Policy, in which I have been very faithful, will gain Quarter for a People, whose Character is so unmercifully treated in *Europe*. I am sure it ruins one Half of the Jokes and Sarcasms that have been rais'd upon 'em.

V. I know not whether I shall have so fair an Opportunity in any other Part of this History to give an Account of a Sort of *Hottentot Banditti*, that infest all the Nations about the *Cape*. These are Troops of abandon'd Wretches, who finding the Laws and Customs of their Countries to be too great Restraints upon their Inclinations, repair to the Mountains; and there securing themselves in almost inaccessible Fastnesses, sally out from Time to Time into the Fields to steal Cattle for their
Suf-

Suffenance. They are call'd *Buschies*, or High-way Men; and are so abhor'd in all the *Hottentot* Nations, that when any one of 'em is taken, tho' he be the First born of the Principal Man in the Territory, he is instantly put to Death, not a Soul daring to say one Word for him.

The several Nations are often sending out large Parties in Quest of these Robbers. In this the *Heykoms* are more active than all others. But a Gang of those Rogues makes bloody Work for those that assail 'em. They are rarely able to save themselves by their Heels, their Pursuers being as swift as they: And they know, there is no Mercy for 'em if they are taken. They therefore engage with all imaginable Fury and Desperation, and rarely shrink or abate their Rage, till they have routed the Enemy, or are all slain.

C H A P. VIII.

Of the Religion of the *Hottentots*.

- I. *The Difficulty of obtaining from the Hottentots any true Accounts of their Institutions and Opinions.*
- II. *They believe there is a God who made all Things.*
- III. *They worship the Moon as an inferiour Divinity, the Representative of the Supreme, and acting under him.*
- IV. *They adore a certain Insect.*
- V. *They pay a religious Veneration to the Good Hottentots departed.*
- VI. *They worship a malignant Deity, to avert his Malice.*
- VII. *Their obstinate*

nate Adherence to their Idolatries, and Hatred of Instruction.

I. **I**T is much doubted by many, whether the *Hottentots* have any Notion of a Deity. Most Accounts of the Matter in Authors are very superficial and contradictory. Indeed, 'tis a difficult Thing to get out of the *Hottentots* What are really their Notions concerning God and Religion, or whether they have any at all. They keep all their religious Opinions and Ceremonies, as they do every other Matter establish'd among 'em, as secret as they can from the *Europeans*; and when they are question'd concerning such Matters, are very shy in their Answers, and hide the Truth as much as they can; for the Concealment of which, if they cannot easily avoid the Question, some of 'em will not scruple to utter a thousand Fictions. This Practice, of Course, throws them upon Contradictions; of which when they are admonish'd, they reply, "The *Europeans* are a crafty, designing People. They never ask a Question for the Sake of the Answer only; but have other Ends to serve, perhaps against the Peace and Security of the *Hottentots*: That the *Hottentots* are a silly ignorant People, easily trann'd, and by no Means a Match for the Understandings of *Europe*." Such is constantly the Tenour of their Apologies when they refuse to answer upon their Opinions and Customs to any Question put by an *European*, or when they are caught upon a Contradiction. From this Source, perhaps, have sprung most of the Contradictions we find in Authors upon the Matter of the Religion of the *Hottentots*.

I was

I was a considerable Time at the *Cape* before I could ascertain my self of the Religious Institutions and Ceremonies of the *Hottentots*, and the Notions they entertain of the Divine Being. Confining my self at first within the Territories of the *Dutch* there, I found the *Hottentots* of the Neighbourhood so evasive and contradictory upon those Matters, that I knew not what to believe about 'em. The *Europeans* there too, for the most Part, take an idle Pleasure in deceiving Travellers with fictitious Accounts of the Country and People. And tho', in Transactions for the Common Peace and Security, they cultivate and oblige the *Hottentots*; on other Occasions, they make downright Game of 'em; and sport and fool with their Persons, Institutions and Opinions in a very extravagant Manner. This the *Hottentots* about 'em well understand. And I know not whether the Reader will not look upon this as one good Reason why they avoid Coming to an Explanation with *Europeans* upon any Thing among Themselves. Who would care to do it with Persons, who, he had Reason to apprehend, only intended to make a Jest of him?

When I came to penetrate the Country I found the Temper of the *Hottentots* to alter much for the better. At a Distance from the *Cape* it was somewhat open. The *Hottentots* there, not having convers'd so much with the *Europeans*, had not suffer'd so much in their Simplicity. And I was quickly satisfied, that

II. The *Hottentots* firmly believe there is a God, who made all Things. Some Passages in certain Authors, who had the good Fortune to hit upon

upon this Matter, may be an agreeable Introduction to what I have to say on it my self.

Saar, in his Account of his Fifteen Years Service in *India*, says, that some *Hottentots* being question'd concerning their Religious Faith, very sedately replied, " They believ'd in him who
" made Heaven and Earth, the Sea, and every living
" Thing in them.

Father *Tachart* says, that some of the most sensible *Hottentots* declar'd to him, in a Conference upon the Subject of Religion, " That they believ'd
" there was a God, who made Heaven and Earth,
" and caus'd it to thunder and to rain; and provided them with Nourishment, and with the Skins
" of Beasts for their Apparel.

Boeving, whom I look upon to be the exactest Author upon the *Hottentots*, says, that as the Chief
" of a *Hottentot* Nation presides over the Captains
" of the *Kraals*, so the *Hottentots* call the Supreme
" Being the *Great* and *Supreme Captain*.

I am fully satisfied, from a thousand Enquiries I made among the *Hottentots*, and from a thousand Declarations they made to my self, that they believe a Supreme Being, the Creator of Heaven and Earth, and of every Thing in them; the Arbiter of the World, through whose Omnipotence all Things live and move and have their Being. And that He is endow'd with unsearchable Attributes and Perfections. The *Hottentots* call him *Gounja*, *Gounja*, or *Gounja Ticqvoa*; that is, the God of all Gods; and say He is a Good Man, who does no
Body

Body any Hurt; and from whom None need be apprehensive of any ; and that he dwells far above the Moon.

Some among them declare, and insist upon it very strenuously, that the Supreme God has, at Times, descended and become visible to 'em; and that he always appears, in Colour, Shape and Apparel, like the finest among themselves. But these are look'd upon as Visionaries and Madmen. And the intelligent *Hottentots* will reason thus against them : Is it to be believ'd, that the Supreme God condescends to come among us, since the Moon, who is an inferiour God, condescends not to do so ?

But it does not appear, that they have any Institution of Worship directly regarding the supreme God. I never saw, or could hear, that any one of them paid any Act of Devotion immediately to him. I have talk'd to 'em roundly on this Head; and endeavour'd to make 'em sensible of the Folly and Absurdity of Neglecting his Worship, while they worship What they call Gods that are inferior to and dependent on him. But they will rarely reason upon the Matter, or attend to any Thing that is said upon it. The most sensible of 'em, when they are in Humour to answer on this Head, will tell you the following very remarkable Matter : That their First Parents so grievously sinn'd and offended against the Supreme God, that he curs'd them, and all their Posterity with Hardness of Heart ; so that they know little of him, and have still less Inclination to serve him. The Reader, without Doubt, will be astonish'd to hear of such a Tradition as
this

the CAPE of GOOD HOPE. 95

this at the *Cape of Good Hope*. I assure him, the *Hottentots* have such a Tradition; and that I have deliver'd it here without the least Addition or Improvement of my own, beyond a proper Turn of Words. I am to be blam'd, that I omitted it in my Discourse on the Origin of this People, since it throws so notable a Light into that Enquiry. Who, (that will take my Assurances for the Truth of this Tradition's being found at the *Cape*,) will doubt the Reference of the Tradition, mention'd under that Head, to *Noah*, the Survivor of the Flood? The Evidence is so clear, there is no demurring on it. But to return.

III. Forsaking the Worship of the true God, tho' they acknowledge his Being and Attributes, the *Hottentots* adore the Moon. Yet *Boeving*, a Man of Learning and Judgment, and, as I have said already, the exactest Writer upon the *Hottentots*, does not allow this. I'll quote him. " 'Tis well known, says he, there is a common Opinion receiv'd among Travellers, and others living among and in the Neighbourhood of the *Hottentots*, that these People adore the Moon; and that they celebrate her Worship with Acclamations, Invocations and Dancings whole Nights in the open Fields. Most of the *Hottentots* deny this; and avouch, that their Dancing, Shouting or Singing in the open Fields in the Night, is only for Diversion, and to please themselves, without the least Intention to invoke or adore the Moon, or any Deity whatsoever." *Boeving* was abus'd in this Matter. Few *Hottentots*, as I have said, will, if they can help it, disclose the least Article or Ceremony of their Religion to an *European*. Other Writers have succeeded better. Fa-

Father *Tachart* was convinc'd, those Dancings and Acclamations were Acts of Religion, because at such Times they kill'd Cattle, and brought Milk and Flesh into the Fields, as Offerings to that Deity who dispenses Rain and Fair Weather.

Vogel says, “The *Hottentots* seem to have some Veneration for the Moon, on whose Appearance at certain Times, they assemble in great Numbers in their several Districts, and dance in Circles, clap their Hands, and cry and rave, as it seems, all Night long. They have sometimes been found assembled in Caverns, clapping their Hands, and uttering Words, of which no *European* has been able to get the Interpretation. Their Behaviour on those Occasions is very amazing. They throw themselves into various surprising Distortions of Body; stare wildly up towards Heaven; stretch every Feature, and cross their Foreheads with a red Stone. These things appear to be Acts of their Religion.

And so they are, let the *Hottentots* say what they will. These Dancings and Noises are religious Honours and Invocations to the Moon. They call her *Gounja*. The Supreme they call *Gounja Gounja*, or *Gounja Ticqvoa*, the God of Gods; and place him far above the Moon. The Moon, with them, is an inferiour visible God, the Subject and Representative of the High and Invisible. They judge the Moon to have the Disposal of the Weather, and invoke her for such as they want. They assemble for the Celebration of her Worship at Full and Change constantly. No Inclemency of the Weather prevents 'em.

And

Tab. I. fig. 1. p. 97.



The Hottentots Worship the Mopn.

Fig. 2. p. 98.



The Hottentots adore a certain Insect.

And their Behaviour * at those Times is indeed very astonishing. They throw their Bodies into a thousand different Distortions ; and make Mouths and Faces strangely ridiculous and horrid. Now they throw themselves flat on the Ground, screaming out a strange unintelligible Jargon. Then jumping up on a Sudden, and stamping like Mad (inasmuch that they make the Ground shake) they direct, with open Throats, the following Expressions, among others, to the Moon : *Mutschi Atzé.* i. e. *I salute you ; you are welcome.* *Cberáqua kabáchori Ounqúa.* i. e. *Grant us Fodder for our Cattle, and Milk in Abundance.* These and other Addresses to the Moon they repeat over and over, accompanying them with Dancing and Clapping of Hands. At the End of the Dance, they sing *Ho, Ho, Ho, Ho,* many Times over ; with a Variation of Notes ; which being accompanied with Clapping of Hands, makes a very odd and a very merry Entertainment to a Stranger.

In Shouting , Screaming , Singing , Jumping, Stamping, Dancing, Prostration on the Ground, and an unintelligible Jargon, lie all their Formalities in the Worship of the Moon. In Rounds of these they continue the whole Night, and till pretty far of the next Day ; never resting but by short Intervals when they are quite spent : At which Times they settle themselves into a squat Posture, holding their Heads between their Hands, and resting their Elbows upon their Knees. They lower their Voices too into a slow melancholy Hum ;

* Vide Tab. I. Fig. 1.

which they continue till they start up and go again to Singing and Dancing. These Intervals of Rest are so short and so few, that one would wonder where they find Strength and Spirit to furnish out such a Run of Noise and Action as they do in this Service. The Fervours of their Devotion are unequal'd. When they have done, they retire to their several Homes with as much Chearfulness and Satisfaction as do any other People in the World from the Performance of their Religious Duties. Of their Singing and Dancing I shall speak more particularly in another Place.

I shall only observe, by the By, that this Dancing-Ceremony gives a new Light into the Origin of the *Hottentots*; since, 'tis pretty certain, it enter'd into the Divine Worship in Times as early as the Flood. And the *Jews* retain it, on certain Festivals, to this Day.

IV. The *Hottentots* likewise adore, as a benign Deity, a certain Insect, peculiar, 'tis said, to the *Hottentot* Countries. † This Animal is of the Dimensions of a Child's little Finger; the Back green; the Belly speck'd with White and Red. 'Tis provided with Two Wings, and on its Head with Two Horns.

To this little winged Deity, when ever they set Sight upon it, they render the highest Tokens of Veneration. And if it honours, forsooth, a *Kraal* with a Visit, the Inhabitants assemble about it in

† Vide Tab. I. Fig. 2.



AFRIC. ODORATA FOLIIS PILOSIS

by the Kottentots call'd Buchu. p. 99

Transports of Devotion, as if the Lord of the Universe was come among 'em. They sing and dance round it, Troop after Troop, while it stays, in the highest Extasie; throwing to it the Powder of an Herb they call *Buchu*, our Botanists *Spiræam*. They cover at the same Time the whole Area of the *Kraal*, the Tops of the Cots, and every Thing without Doors, with the same Powder. They likewise kill Two Fat Sheep, as a Thank-Offering for this high Honour. And 'tis impossible to drive out of a *Hottentot's* Head, that the Arrival of this Insect in a *Kraal*, brings Grace and Prosperity to all the Inhabitants. They believe, that all their Offences to that Moment are buried in Oblivion, and all their Iniquities done away. They believe, that some signal Blessing attends the *Kraal*; and that all the Inhabitants shall at that Time prosper in their Undertakings. They look upon themselves as made, by the Presence of this Deity, a new People; and resolve to walk in Newness of Life; a Work in which they trust they shall then have this Deity's Assistance in a very extraordinary Manner.

If this Insect happens to alight upon a *Hottentot*, he is look'd upon as a Man without Guilt, and distinguish'd and reverenc'd as a Saint and the Delight of the Deity ever after. His Neighbours glory, that they have so Holy a Man among 'em; and publish the Matter far and near. The fattest Ox belonging to the *Kraal*, is immediately kill'd for a Thank-Offering; and the Time is turn'd into a Festivity in Honour of the Deity and the Saint. To the Saint are presented the Entrails, well cleans'd, with the Fat and the Caul. The Caul,