

SKETCHES

REPRESENTING

THE NATIVE TRIBES, ANIMALS, AND SCENERY

OF

SOUTHERN AFRICA,

FROM DRAWINGS MADE BY THE LATE MR. SAMUEL DANIELL,

ENGRAVED BY

WILLIAM DANIELL.

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1820.

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS

LEOPOLD,

PRINCE OF SAXE COBURG.

SIR,

THE zeal which Your Royal Highness has manifested in promoting the cultivation of Science, and the peculiar interest you have been pleased to take in Researches on Natural History, encouraged me to hope that these Sketches relative to Southern Africa, the results of my late Brother's Travels in that region, might not be deemed unworthy of your benign regard.

Availing myself of the gracious permission accorded to me, I have the heartfelt satisfaction of dedicating them to a Prince whose exalted qualities have for ever endeared him to the British Nation.

I have the honour to be
Your Royal Highness's gratefully devoted
and most humble Servant,

WILLIAM DANIELL.

Cleveland-Street, Fitzroy-Square, August 25, 1820.

From the avidity with which the Public is disposed to receive any information that may tend to increase the scanty knowledge we possess of the interior of Africa, or to elucidate the Natural History of that interesting quarter of the Globe, it is not unreasonable to presume, that the series of Engravings now submitted to its judgement will be found to merit a share of approbation. Their claims to the favourable notice of the Public, the Editor is aware, must rest on more substantial grounds than his affectionate regard for the memory of a Brother, whose early loss he has to deplore: divesting himself, therefore, of every consideration arising from such feelings, he takes the liberty to say that Mr. Samuel Daniell devoted himself early in life to the drawing of objects of Natural History; and, in order to extend the field of his research, he went to the Cape of Good Hope, from whence he accompanied Dr. Somerville on two expeditions into the interior of the country. The contents of his Portfolios evince the assiduity with which he pursued his favourite object, while many competent judges have borne ample testimony to the fidelity of his pencil. He was indefatigable in the pursuit of the various subjects he has delineated; and it was his constant care to see the animals alive, that he might make himself master of their actions and habits. To the knowledge acquired in this way, he added all that could be obtained in the country which produced the animals he has represented, by conversation with the peasants and natives. For the greater number of illustrative notices in this Work (which will doubtless be found highly interesting) the Editor has to express his obligations to Dr. Somerville and Mr. Barrow: and he has merely to add with respect to the Engravings, that he has endeavoured to transfuse into them the spirit of the originals by a process which appeared to him best calculated for the attainment of that object.

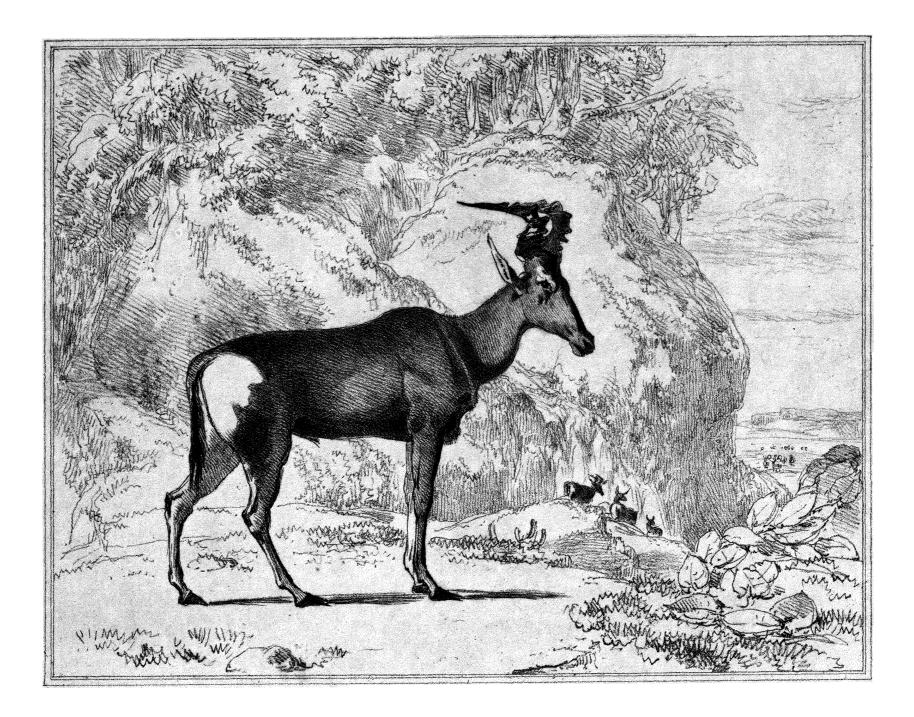
CONTENTS.

- 1. Harte-beeste.
- 2. Ant-eater.
- 3. Duiker.
- 4. Male Eland.
- 5. Female Eland.
- 6. Variety of Female Eland.
- 7. Spotted Hyena.
- 8. Jackal of the Cape.
- 9. Bosch-bok.
- 10. Cape Polecat.
- 11. Gems-bok.
- [kenstein. 12. Caracal. 13. Part of the Silver Mountain near Dra-
- 14. View on the Orange River, or Gareep.
- 15. Ratel.
- 16. Bunt Fox.
- 17. Striped Hyena.
- 18. Sasayby.
- 19. Rock Rabbit.
- 20. Red Reebok.
- 21. Spring Haas, or Cape Jerboa.
- 22. Residence of a Horde of Kaffers.
- 23. Cape Mole.
- 24. Gonah Hottentot.

- 25. Hottentot.
- 26. Female Hottentot.
- 27. Kaffers.
- 28. Hottentot.
- 29. Female Hottentots.
- 30. Hottentot—Bosjesman—Booshwana.
- 31. Hendrick—Kaffer.
- 32. Booshwana—Hottentot.
- 33. Kaffer.
- 34. Kaffer Girl.
- 35. Stein-bok.
- 36. Cape Tiger-Cat.
- 37. Kokoon.
- 38. Orabie.
- 39. Harte-beeste Fountain.
- 40. Blue-bok.
- 41. Korah Hottentot.
- 42. Korah Girls.
- 43. Booshwana.
- 44. Booshwana.
- 45. Korah Girl.
- 46. Bosjesman Female. 47. Booshwana.
- 48. A Korah Girl.

HARTE-BEESTE.

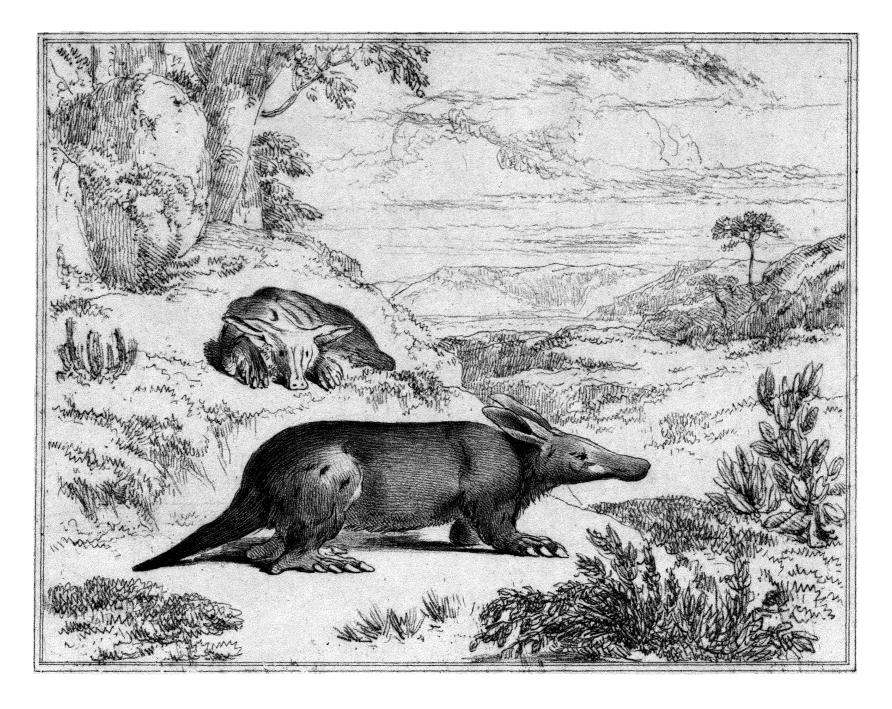
It is thus described by Mr. Barrow in his Southern Africa.—" This is one of the finest animals among the numerous family of the Antelope. The male is about seven feet and a half long and five feet high. The horns branch out of a single trunk, that projects about two inches from the forehead. The mouth, and indeed the whole head, resembles that of the bovine tribe; from whence it has obtained in the Systema Natura the specific name of Bubalis. The flesh is remarkably good, resembles very nearly that of beef, and is carefully salted by the boors."



HARTE-BEESTE

ANT-EATER.

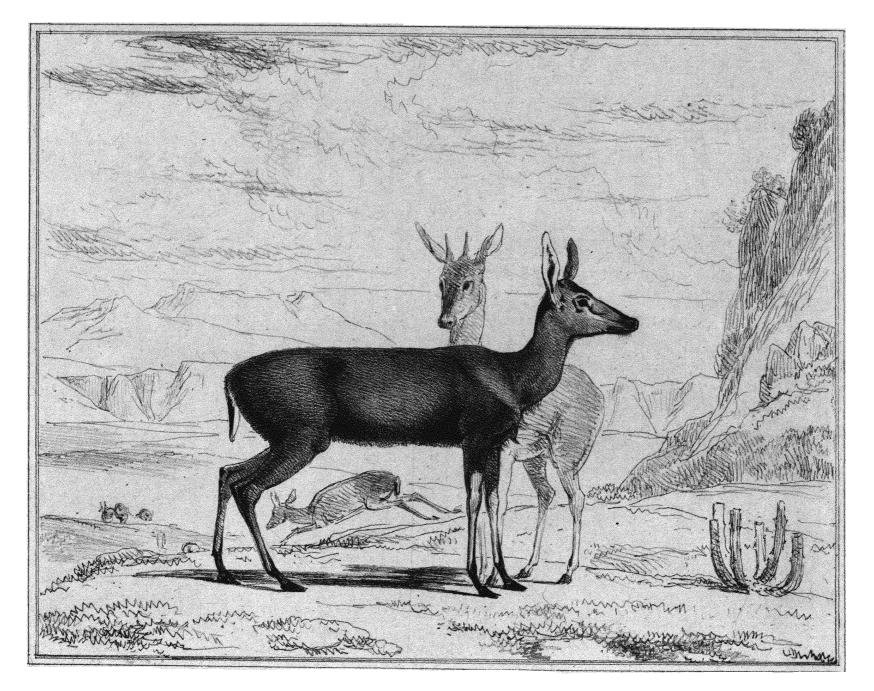
THE Myrmecophaga Capensis, or Ant-eater of the Cape, is very common, and, like the Porcupine, undermines the ground, seldom quitting its subterranean abode except in the night. The thighs of this animal are sometimes salted, and in that state are considered as very good hams. His muscular strength is so great, that it is scarcely possible to drag him out of his hole when wounded.



ANT-EATER.

DUIKER.

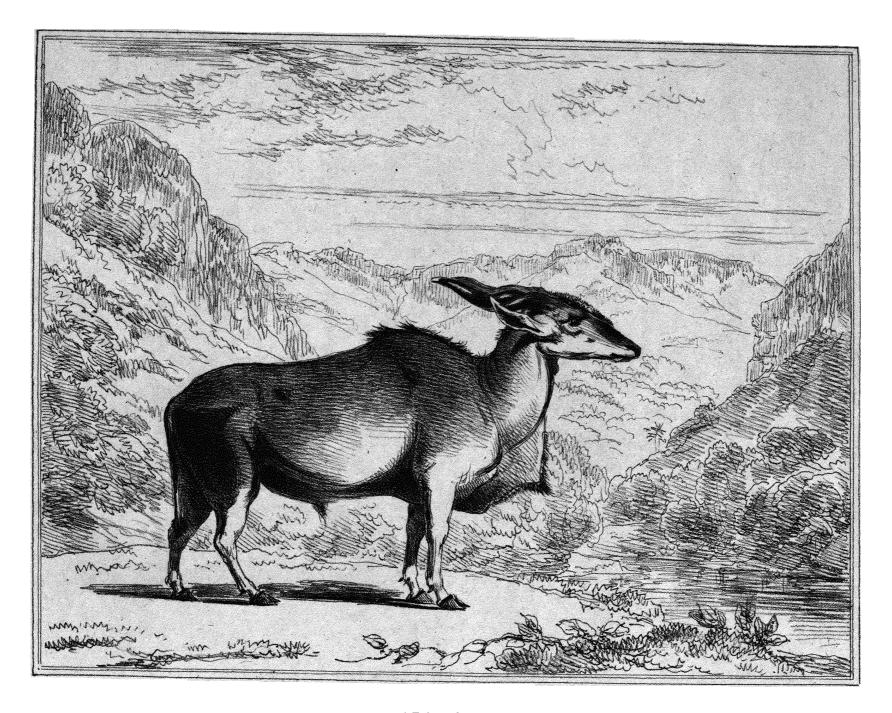
Duiker or Ducker, so named from the mode of ducking or depressing himself to the ground as he escapes, in order to conceal himself under the bushes. He is thus described by Mr. Barrow.—"The colour of the Duiker is wholly of a dusky-brown; he is about three feet seven inches in length, and two feet eight inches in height: the male has horns straight, black, and nearly parallel, but diverging a little towards the points, four inches long, and annulated close to the base. The female has no horns. The sinus lachrymalis, or subocular indent, which most of the Antelopes have, is in this species so conspicuous, that the Dutch say it carries the gall-bladder under the eye."



DUYKER.

THE MALE ELAND.

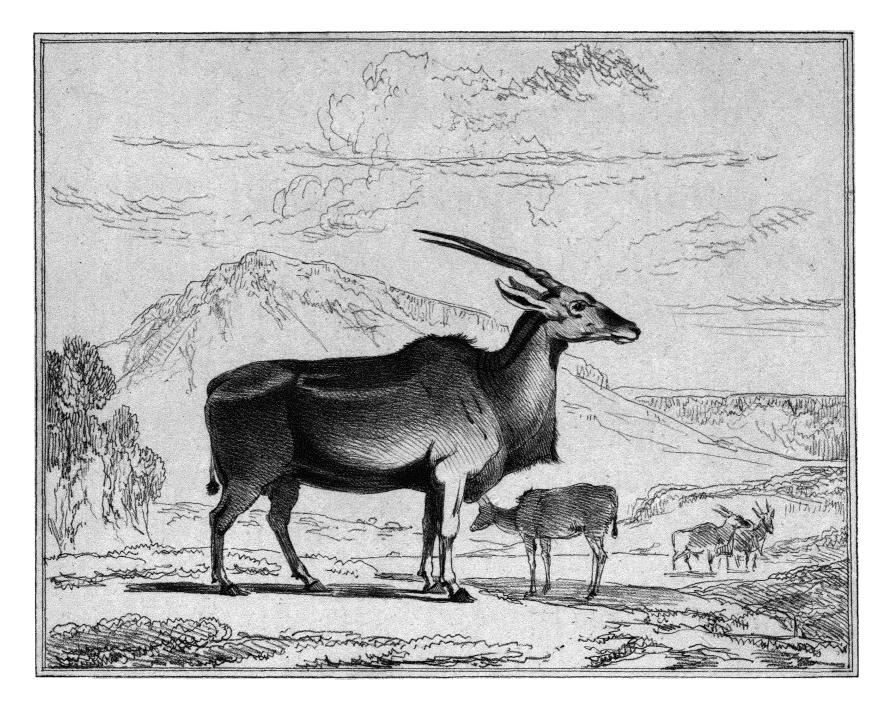
THE Oreas of the Systema Naturæ, the Indian Antelope of Pennant.—" Of all the Antelopes in Southern Africa," observes Mr. Barrow, "this species is by far the largest and most awkward. The head, the thick neck, and the dewlap of the male, the body, legs, and hoofs are completely bovine. The horns and tail only indicate its affinity with the Antelope tribe. Its habits, its gait, its size and general appearance are those of the Ox. On account of the ease with which this animal is taken, of the utility of its flesh as food, and of its skin for harness and traces, few of them now remain within the limits of the colony; and in no long space of time the Eland will in all probability be a rare beast in the southern angle of Africa."



MALE ELAND.

FEMALE ELAND.

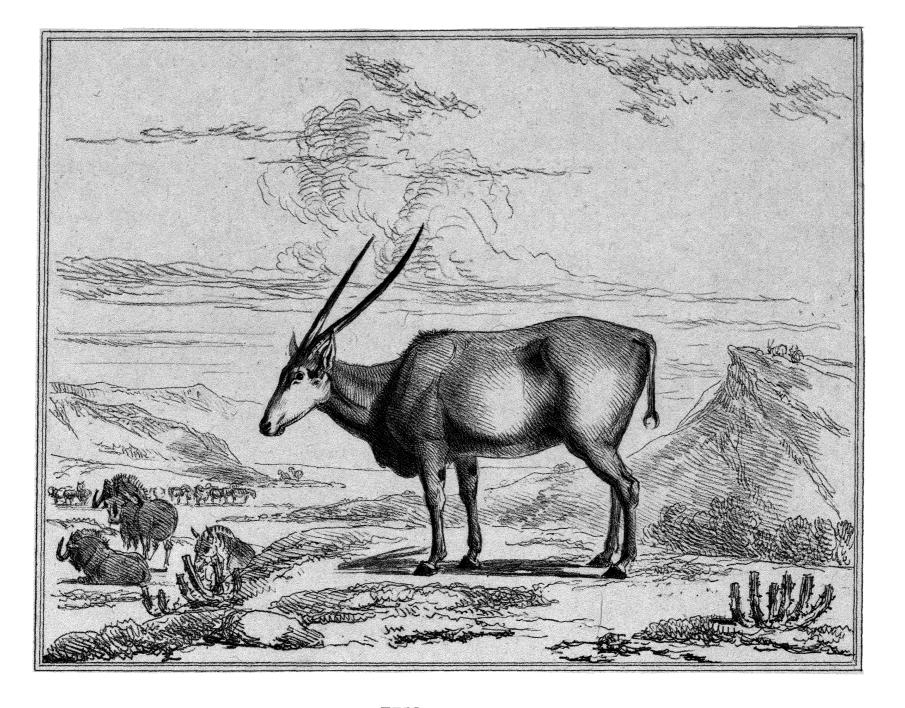
The same sexual difference exists between the male and female Eland which is found in all other animals; and it may be traced in the lighter structure and milder character of the present subject compared with the former. Numbers of herds are occasionally met consisting wholly of females; and the reason assigned is, that the bull, being much larger, fatter, and of a tougher hide than the female, is always selected from the herd, and hunted down by dogs or killed with the musket. They are subject to a cutaneous disease called the *brandt sickte*, which makes great havoc among the bovine tribe.



FEMALE ELAND.

VARIETY OF THE FEMALE ELAND.

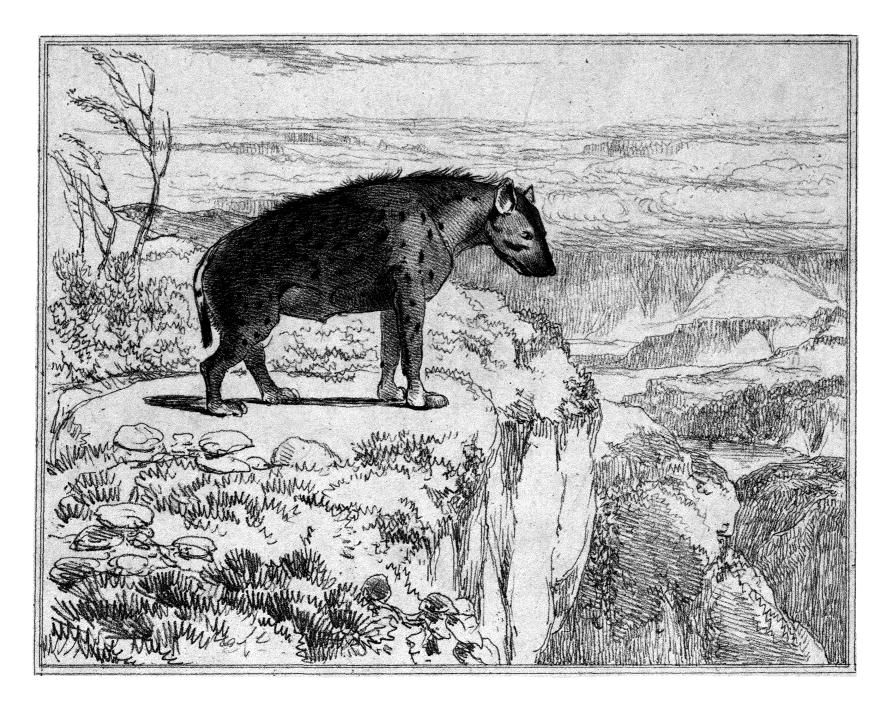
It is to be observed that the Eland herds with that singular animal the Gnoo, and with the Quacha, of which Mr. Barrow has given a very full and exact description. That fact is exemplified in the present sketch, which represents a variety of the female Eland having the horns plain, not twisted, and being of a feebler and more delicate structure than that which forms the subject of a preceding sketch. There is a group of Gnoos in the back-ground, and a herd of them and of Quachas in the distance.



FEMALE ELAND.

THE SPOTTED HYENA.

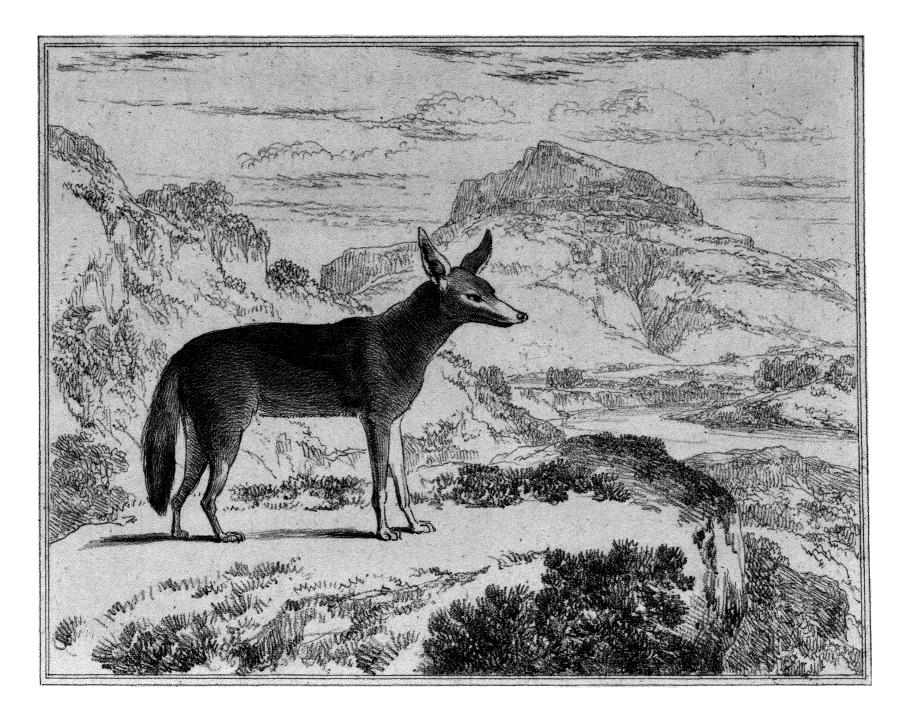
THE Spotted Hyena, or Wolf, as he is denominated by the Dutch inhabitants, is an animal by no means rare, especially in the more remote and consequently less inhabited parts of the province. His character and habits correspond with what we should infer from his aspect: he is sluggish in his motions, and is said to prefer carrion to fresh-killed food; he nevertheless commits great depredations on flocks and herds. He is never seen by day, but issues from his solitude at night, announcing his approach by a dismal howl. He was known in former times to prowl in the streets of Cape Town, and we have heard him in the village of Graafe Reynet. He is supposed to prefer horse-flesh to any other. His skin is so thick, that the natives assert he has the faculty of turning himself in it. The animal from which this drawing was taken, was caught at a farm on the Sundays River in a trap or wolf-house, a very common appendage to the residence. It consists of a small tower, with a falling door suspended by a rope, of which the other extremity is fastened to the ground within the building, having the entrails of a sheep or goat attached to it; so that, by seizing his prey, the Hyena lets the door fall. This animal was baited by some very powerful dogs for several hours; but they made very little impression, and were at length taken off exhausted by the heat of the day. The Hyena only defended himself from their attacks. He was shot. Though the skin was perforated in many places by the tusks of the dogs, the muscles below were scarcely injured.



SPOTTED HYENA.

JACKAL.

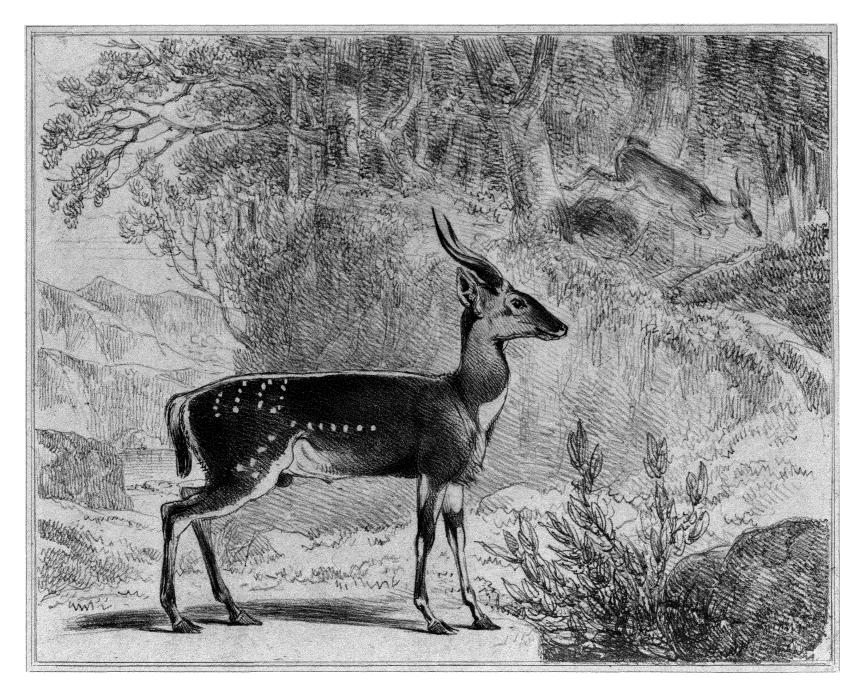
THE Jackal inhabits most parts of Africa from Barbary to the Cape of Good Hope. It is very easily tamed, when taken young, and in its habits and manners is so nearly like the Dog, that Naturalists suppose that faithful domestic animal to have originated from the Jackal.



CAPE JACKALL.

THE BOSCH-BOK.

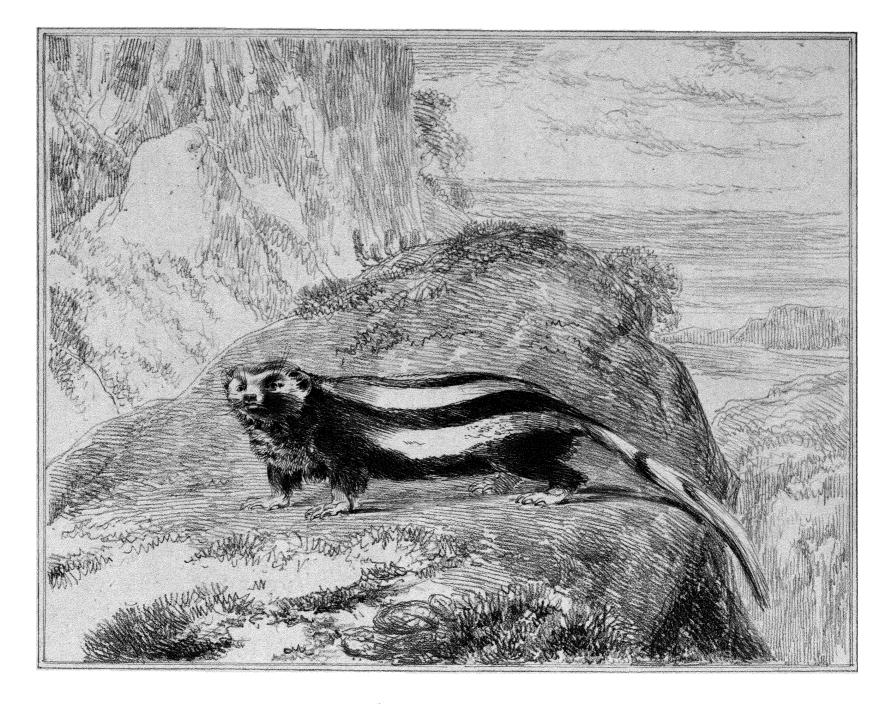
THE Bosch-bok, Antilope sylvatica, is the only variety of this beautiful tribe of animals which inhabits the forest, and he is of all perhaps the most elegant, from the delicacy of his form, the fineness of his coat, the rich brown colour of his hair, contrasted with the spots and other parts which are white, the shining polish of his twisted horns, and, above all, the brilliant eye of the Gazelle. They are never seen in greater numbers than a pair together. The breast of the Bosch-bok, as of all the Antelopes, is the most delicate part of the flesh.



BOSCH - BOK.

CAPE POLECAT.

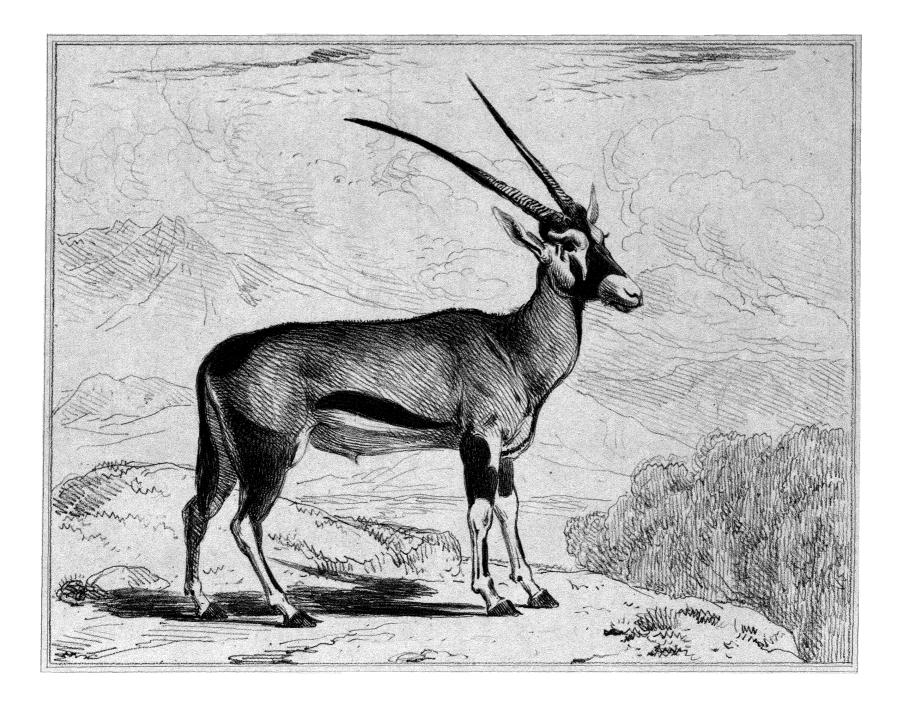
It is thus described by Mr. Barrow in his Southern Africa.—"One species of th Viverra is difficult, if not impossible, to tame. It resembles the Putorius or Polecat of America, with this difference only, that the latter has five white parallel lines along the back, and the African species only four, that diverge from the shoulder. When first taken they smell very strongly of musk; which odour, however, shortly wears off by confinement.



CAPE POLECAT.

GEMS-BOK.

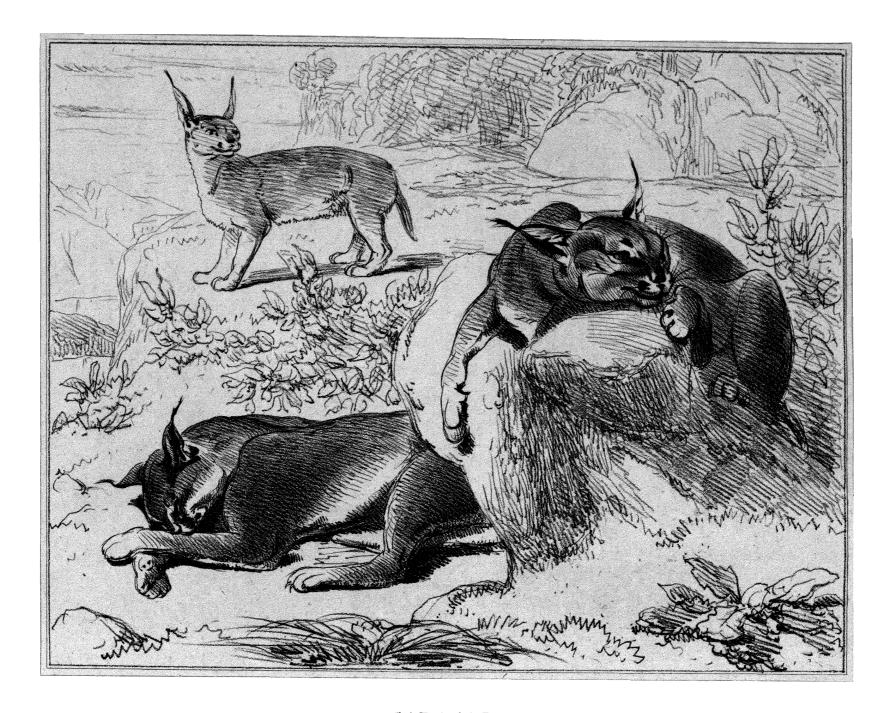
"The Gems-bok is a very beautiful animal, and of a size much larger than the Spring-bok. It has none of that timidity which generally marks the character of the Antelope; but, on the contrary, if closely pursued or wounded, will coolly sit down on its haunches, and keep both sportsman and dogs at bay. Its long, straight, sharp-pointed horns, used in defence by striking back with the head, make it dangerous to approach. Dogs are very frequently killed by it; and no peasant, after wounding the animal, will venture within its reach till it be dead, or its strength at least exhausted. The flesh of the Gems-bok is reckoned to be the best venison that Africa produces."—Barrow's Southern Africa.



GEMS-BOK.

CARACAL.

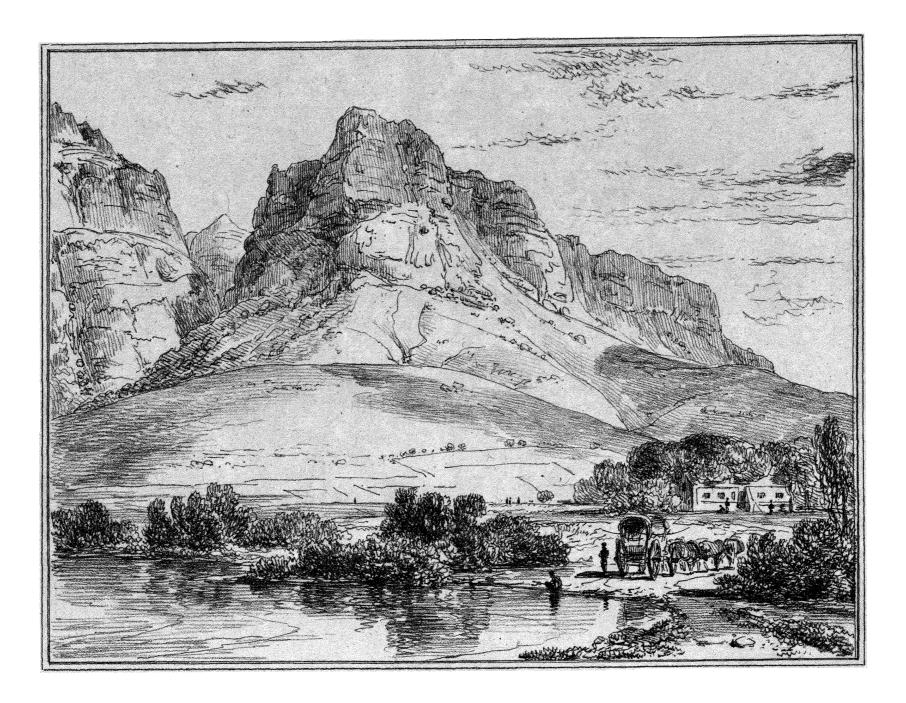
THE Caracal, from the Turkish Karrah ku-cale, or Cat with black ears, inhabits Persia and India as well as Africa. The tips of the ears, as in the Lynx, are distinguished by tufts of black hairs. It may be tamed, and used in the chase of lesser quadrupeds, but is very fierce when provoked. There is a vulgar notion that this animal, as well as the Jackal, is the Lion's provider, because both have been often seen gnawing such carcasses as the Lion is supposed to have fed upon the night before.



CARACAL.

PART OF THE SILVER MOUNTAIN NEAR DRAKENSTEIN.

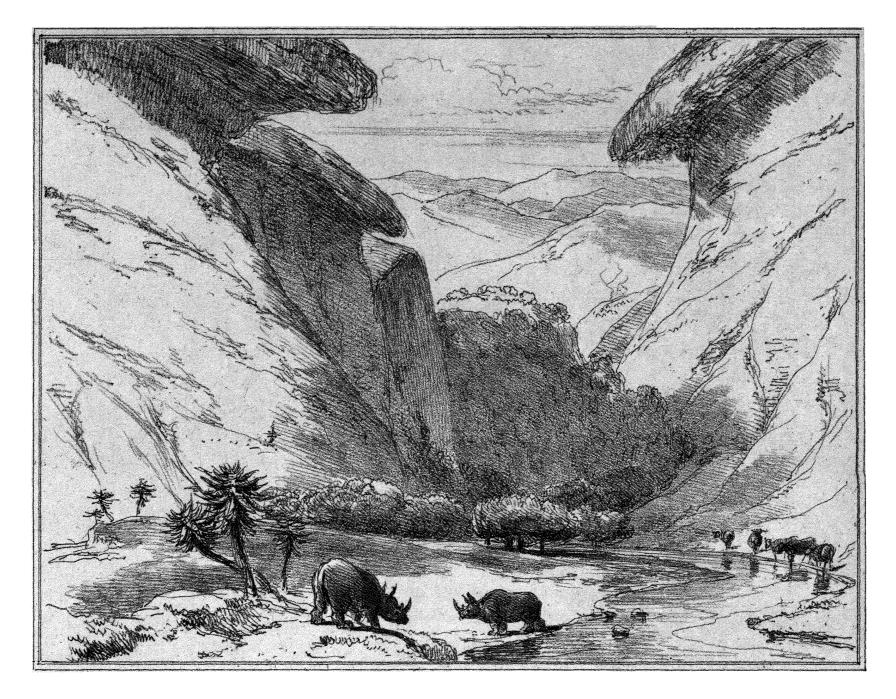
THE Silver Mountain is so called from the quantity of white mica shining in the granite.



SILVER MOUNTAIN, DRAKENSTEIN.

VIEW ON THE ORANGE RIVER, OR GAREEP.

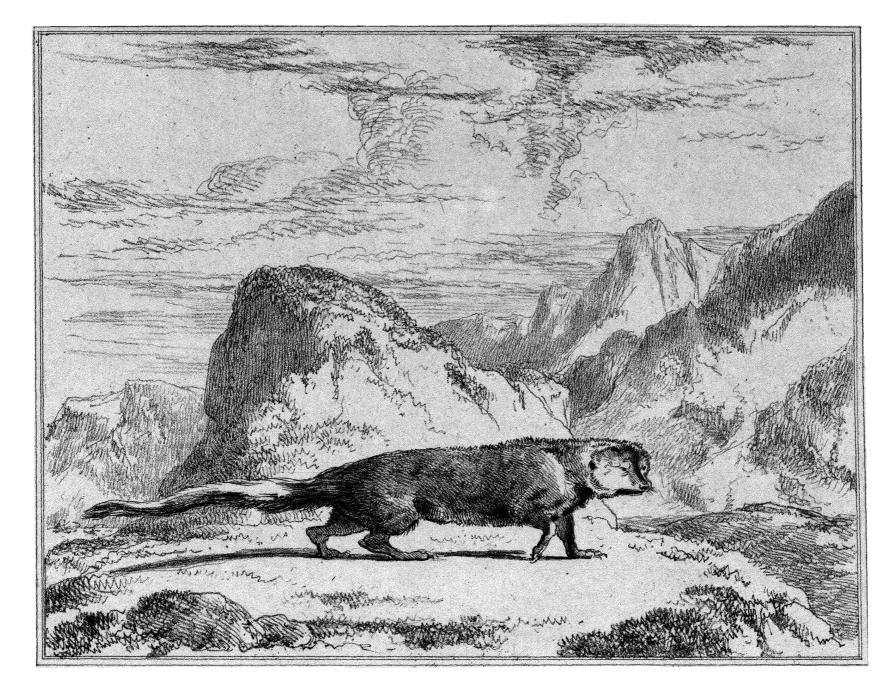
This view represents the Orange River emerging from one of those deep chasms which open out upon the plain near the sea-coast. This river, like the Nile, has its periodical inundations. When full, it exhibits a very grand object; and in its low state, when the waters are clear, the stream flowing over a pebbled bed, in which are found specimens of opal, cornelian, calcedony, agate, and other uncommon stones, has a beautiful effect. Its banks are the resort of the Hippopotamus and the Rhinoceros: two of the latter animals are introduced in the fore-ground. They are of the species common to Southern Africa, having two horns, of which the upper is a mere stump of about six inches in length. Some writers consider this animal to be the Unicorn, so poetically alluded to in the book of Job: "Canst thou bind the Unicorn with his band in the furrow, or will he harrow the valleys after thee?"



ON THE ORANGE RIVER.

RATEL.

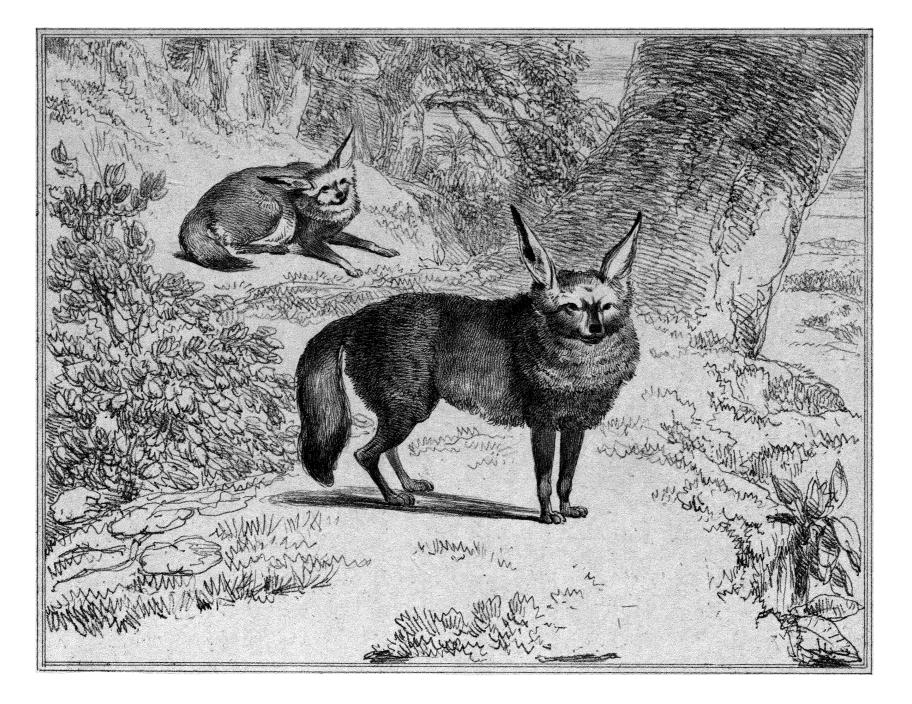
Barrow observes, that "the choice food of the Ratel is honey; and Nature has endowed it with a hide so very thick, that the sting of a bee is unable to penetrate through it. No animal is perhaps more tenacious of life than the Ratel. A dog with great difficulty succeeds in worrying him to death; and it is a species of amusement for the farmers to run knives through different parts of the body, without being able for a length of time to deprive it of existence."



RATEL.

BUNT-FOX.

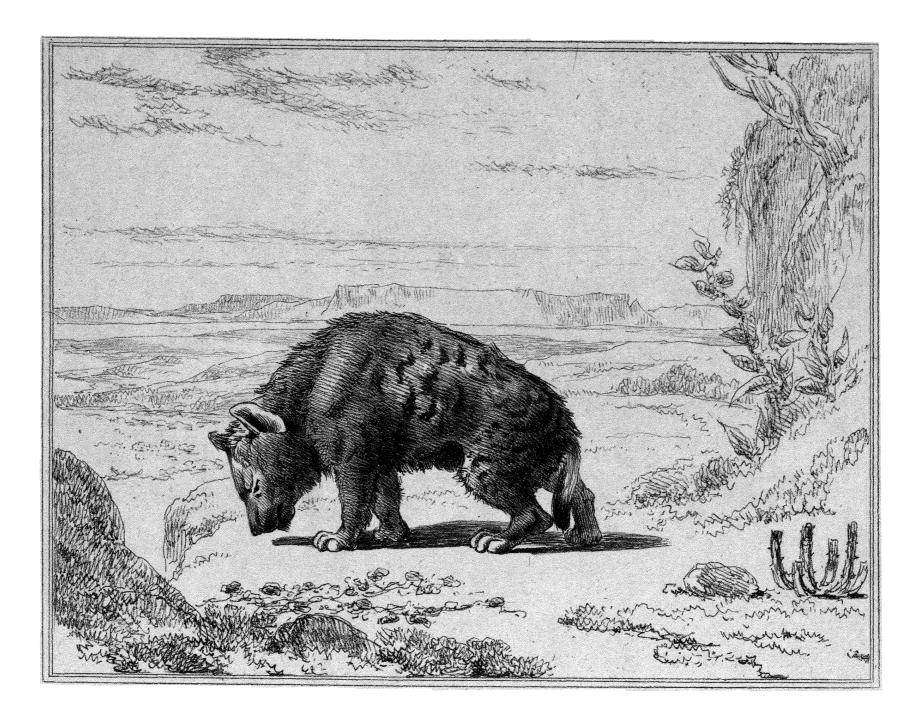
THE Bunt or Brown Fox is merely one of the many varieties of the common species. Their manners are the same in all countries, and they are equally cunning in Africa as in Europe.



BUNT FOX.

STRIPED HYENA.

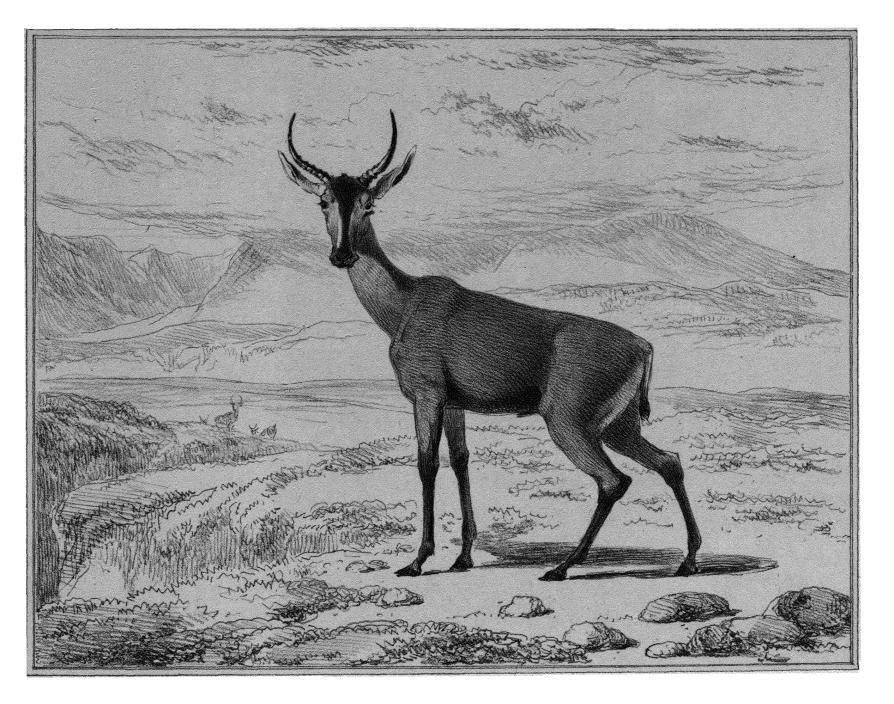
A VARIETY of the Hyena, similar in his habits to the Spotted Hyena.



STRIPED HYENA.

SASAYBY.

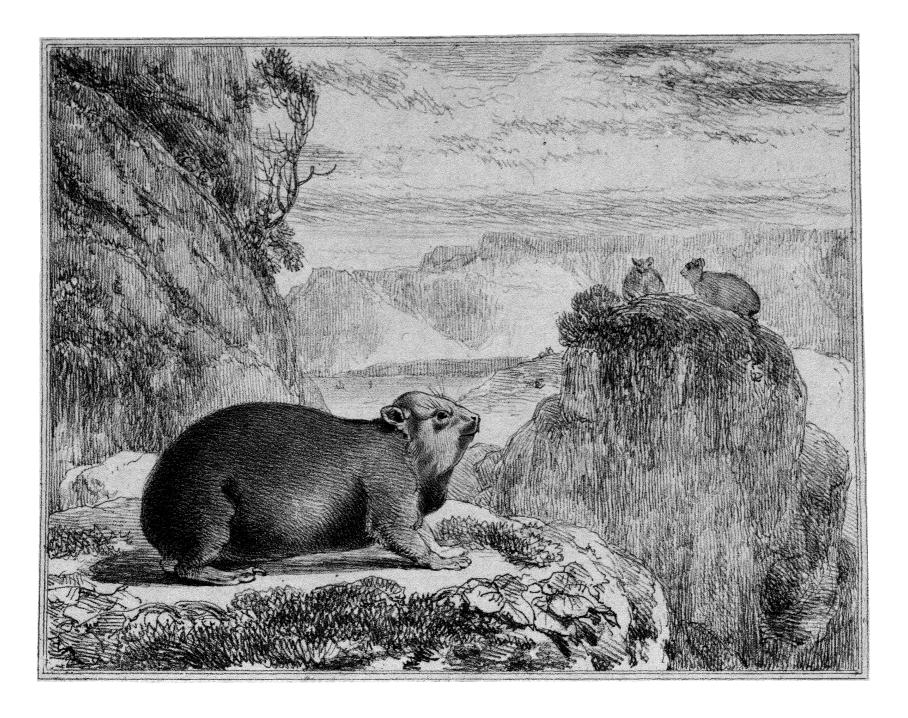
THE Sasayby is an Antelope, heretofore not described, found in the Booshwana country.



SASAYBY.

ROCK RABBIT.

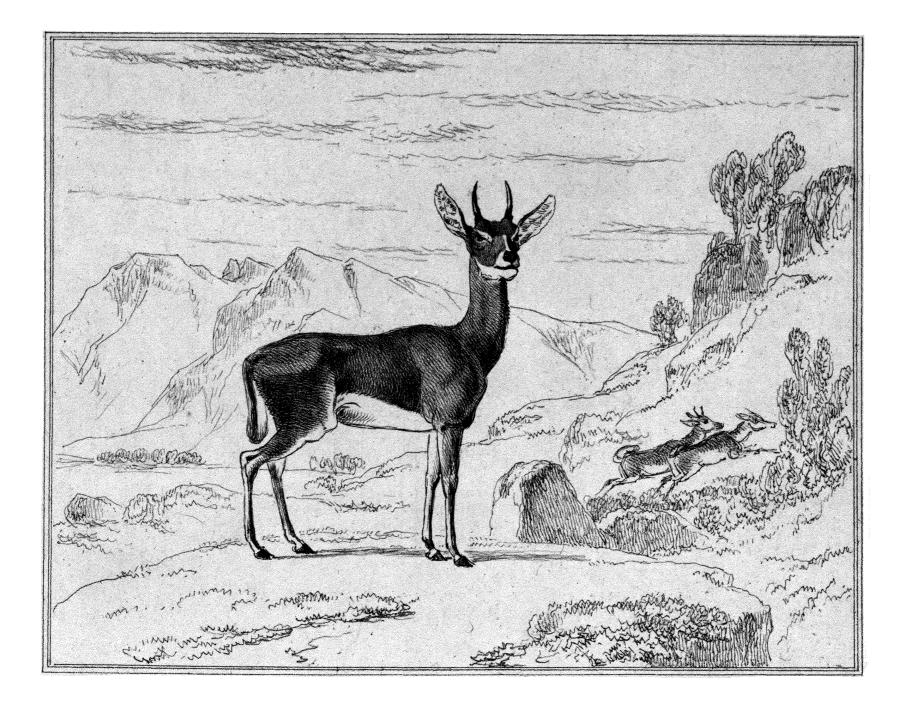
Thus described by Mr. Barrow.—" In the caverns of the Table Mountain, and indeed in almost every mountain of the colony, is found in considerable numbers a small dusky-coloured animal about the size of a Rabbit, with short ears and no tail, called the Das, and described in the Systema Naturæ of Linnæus under the name of Hyrax Capensis, and by Pennant under that of the Cape Cavy. The flesh is used for the table, but is black, dry, and of an indifferent flavour."



ROCK RABBIT.

RED REEBOK.

"This is an animal which does not yet appear to have been described in any systematic work. Its size is that of the domestic goat, but it is much more elegantly made. The colour is of a blueish-grey, the belly and breast white; horns seven or eight inches long, and annulated about a third part of the length from the base."—Barrow's Southern Africa.



REE-BOK.

SPRING HAAS, OR CAPE JERBOA.

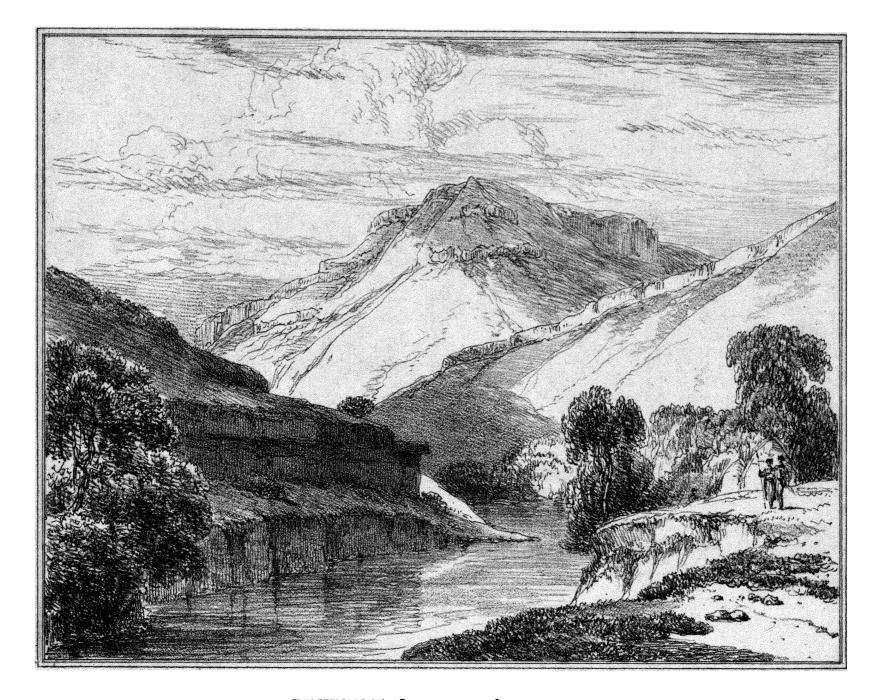
THE Dipus Cafer of Linnæus, by some called the Cape Jerboa. Like the Kangaroo of Botany Bay, it has the hind legs about thrice the length of the fore ones. When pursued it always takes to the mountains, knowing that the construction of its legs is better adapted to ascend their steep sides than to scour the plains.



SPRING HAAS.

THE RESIDENCE OF A HORDE OF KAFFERS.

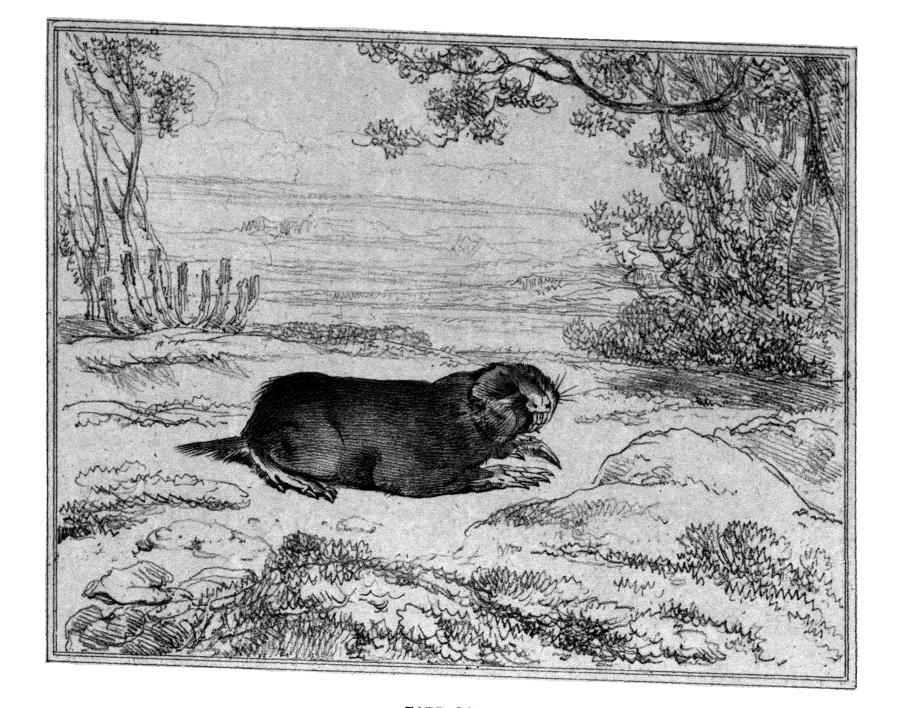
A PASTORAL nation never can have any permanent abode, from the necessity of removing, as often as the grass and water on which their existence depends, become scarce. Hordes of Kaffers are generally found in the most picturesque and inviting spots, dwelling in very compact huts, plastered with clay or cow-dung in the winter season, when the cold is severe; and in the summer they often content themselves with the shade and shelter afforded by the boughs of the trees, as was the case in this beautiful scene.



RESIDENCE of a HORDE of CAFFERS.

CAPE MOLE.

THE Cape Mole (Marmot) is twice the size of the common English Mole, and his colour is ash-grey.



CAPE MOLE.

GONAH HOTTENTOT.

THE traveller who visits those regions which are inhabited by rude and uncultivated nations, may observe many things which, however insignificant in themselves, still derive some degree of importance from the proof they afford of the similarity of the objects and pursuits of man, though varying in their shades and gradations, from the circumstances in which he is placed. Thus, it has been the custom in all nations, savage or polished, for those who had distinguished themselves by their valour in battle, or address in the chase, to display the trophies they had won, or to wear emblems of them; hence arose orders of merit and armorial bearings. We often find the young men among the natives of Southern Africa recommending themselves to their chiefs and mistresses by wearing tufts of the Lion's mane, the tusks and claws of the Lion or other animals, attached to their hair, tied round the neck, arms, wrists, knees, or ancles; rings of the Elephant's tusks are very common. The Gonah Hottentot, whose Portrait is represented, had adorned himself with the skin of a Jackal killed by him, fantastically arranged on his head.



GONAH HOTTENTOT.