

civilisation, that soon after the death of that remarkable man, another individual was sent out by the London Missionary Society, to examine and report upon as much of the country as he was able, in one journey, to explore. The person thus appointed was the Rev. John Campbell, a man possessed of the requisites of a Missionary traveller in a very considerable degree; but as his sensible and matter-of-fact accounts of his several journeys are already before the public in an extended form, a brief digest of them, as far as they relate to our immediate object, is all that we propose here to offer.

Arriving at the Cape, on the 22nd of October, 1812, after a voyage of ten weeks, from England, Mr. Campbell was kindly received by Mr. Kircherer and others, but was advised not to proceed on his long journey until the sultry summer months, just begun, should be over. It was not, therefore, until the 29th of December, that he set out from Stillenbosch, a small town in the neighbourhood; designing to travel along the coast, by nearly the same route formerly taken by Vanderkemp; to proceed first to Bethelsdorp and Graaff Reynet, and next to penetrate several hundred

miles further into the interior. Crossing the country westward afterwards, by the banks of the Great Orange River,—which runs through a vast extent of wilderness region in that direction; until it joins the Atlantic Ocean on the same side of the continent,—his intention was to leave this river at some interior point, and to return to the Cape by a route at no great distance from the western coast.

Directing therefore his course eastward, he mentions that there is a chain of mountains about thirty-six miles from the Cape, which, commencing at the sea near to which he was travelling, runs more than half-way across to the western side of the continent. These mountains are so steep as to resemble a wall raised towards the heavens, as if to prevent all access to the interior. Yet the flowers which every where adorned the face of this natural wall, were exceedingly beautiful and refreshing to the sense, as if planted there to cheer the mind of the toiling traveller, who courageously attempted to scramble up the rugged cliffs of this precipice. Up this mountain, however, he did climb, by its single practicable pass; while he witnessed with pain the

struggling of the horses, as they dragged the waggon up the cliff. Were a thousand men posted at the top of this pass, they could defend it, he says, against all the armies of the world. When he had reached the summit of the mountain, the immediate prospect was that of an extensive desert.

As they journeyed on, they saw a species of field-burning, which has not been noticed by Dr. Vanderkemp. At the dry season of the year, it is the practice of the Dutch settlers, or boors, to set fire to the heath and long dry grass upon the extensive grounds, which, when in a state of combustion, has a peculiar and imposing effect upon the traveller in the distance, however fatal it must be to the myriads of reptiles and other noxious vermin who swarm among the herbage. After the ground is cleared by these burnings, if it happens to rain, a fine crop of grass soon springs up.

Mr. Campbell saw much diversity of scenery as he journeyed on. Occasionally, the land he passed over was desert, with abrupt and craggy rocks. More generally, it was a wild and luxuriant wilderness, in wandering through which,

the mind was filled with a sentiment of loneliness, and of abstraction from all social nature, which was almost oppressive. In these situations the wildest beasts were not rare, but the birds were seldom met with ; for though the songsters of the grove, and the rich plumaged birds of all sorts, evidently fear man, they love to hover near to human habitations. Sometimes he travelled for days without seeing a house of any kind, and fell in with districts where the bushes were so close, that none but wild beasts could penetrate through them. Wastes and wild tracks of rich woodland seemed to alternate with low hills, peaked mountains, rocks, and streams. "Halting at one place, I walked to an eminence," says he, "whence I had an extensive view of the wilderness around. Lions and tigers have surely a right to reign and roam here, as neither man nor domesticated animals appear to inhabit it. The sight of a bird does not remove the gloom, which seems to overhang every thing ; for its solitary situation rather excites pity than conveys pleasure."

Sometimes the tract was sterile, yet agreeable,

but the romantic and rich views, to be seen occasionally, were cheering and often grand in the highest degree. In one place near the house of a settler, he counted twenty-nine aloes in flower; some of the stalks of which measured thirty-eight feet in height, and two and a half in circumference at the bottom, being the growth only of one year. "What a curiosity," he exclaims, "would these be esteemed in the vicinity of London, where it is believed they only come into flower once in a hundred years; at which imposition on London credulity, the Africans laugh heartily. If an aloe produces seed when it sends up a flower, it dies that year; if not, it lives and sends forth a flower again." In some places he found the country to abound with geraniums and wild flowers, which are preserved with care as great curiosities in Europe, and found that the wheels of his waggons, as they crushed the bushes and shrubbery on their passage, produced a smell which reminded him of an apothecary's shop in England.

High and craggy ridges and mountain passes, most dangerous to travel over, were contrasted

with low tracts of bushless plains, or morasses between the vallies, extending many miles and filled with tall bull-rushes and rank water-plants. His road lay at one place through a forest of most venerable trees, whose loftiness and great size convinced him that many of them must have flourished there for ages, unseen perhaps by mortal eye. A thousand of these enormous trees, he adds, could scarcely be missed out of this immense forest, yet here they grew for centuries and decayed without use; but could they be transported to such a place as London, their value as timber would be very great indeed. The extraordinary tree from the highest branches of which hangs a sort of vegetable rope, he found also in the woods, which is named by the natives Bavian's low, or Baboon's rope; as also wild vines in abundance climbing up the trees, some of which might have measured about two hundred feet in height.

The orange groves near the houses of the settlers, often grew with great luxuriance, and besides geraniums and myrtles rising to a great height in the wilderness, he found the passion flower growing in great perfection among the

trees and shrubbery. But the immense variety of flowers, flowering plants, and trees, to be found in this part of the African Continent, struck him, as they had done many others, with admiration and astonishment. Yet does not the luxuriant vegetation of the Colonial wilderness, appear to be attended with those unwholesome effects here, which the same growing richness and rapid decay, produces on many other thinly inhabited continents. At one place in the forest, the travellers found a path made through it, probably by the elephants, which was nearly dark, being completely arched over with branches of trees. Crossing a river which ran through this wood at the bottom of a mountain, they stopped, and got upon an island in the centre, to obtain a proper view of the striking scenery around. The steep sides of the hills, were covered with ancient trees similar to those formerly mentioned, and the whole appeared to hang completely over the pigmy beings who passed this way. On looking upwards and around him, to all that was in his view,—“grandeur upon grandeur !” was the only exclamation, by which the admiring Missionary could express his involuntary emotion.

The difficulties that the travellers encountered in impelling their oxen and waggons over all this variety of country, were often as trying to their feelings as to their patience. Sometimes in ascending rocky cliffs, or labouring their way through narrow passes in the mountains, though twenty-four oxen were employed in dragging the waggons up steep places, the poor animals were frequently on their knees, and by their falls and groans excited the compassion of those who were forced to urge them on in their arduous labour. In clambering over these difficult passes, the noise of whips and tongues, the rattling of wheels over stones, and the uncouth cries of the Hottentot drivers, often echoed strangely among the mountain solitudes, through which they were thus urging their way. In one place they came to a descent of about ninety feet ; but this comparatively short pass was so exceedingly steep, that the attempt to descend it seemed like dropping the waggons from the top to the bottom. On looking down this steep, which might almost be called a precipice, the traveller was startled fully as much as his cattle ; but the drivers comforted

him with the pleasant consideration, that it was not quite so difficult as some others that he had yet to encounter. The trained animals slid down the descent, and often lay down entirely; and thus, by their own instinctive art and caution, at length safely reached the bottom.

Of all Mr. Campbell's drivers, who had led his poor oxen through these difficult passes, he was, strange to say, most indebted to the skill and boldness of a slave girl, about seventeen years of age. This courageous female led the cattle forward, cheerfully and without fear, over places where the beasts were in perpetual danger of falling upon her, and crushing her against the rocks; or where the Missionaries were afraid every moment, from the rugged nature and inequalities of the road, that their waggon would be tumbled over the precipices, and dashed to pieces. In one place a spot was pointed out to them where this species of accident had befallen a former traveller, and the sight of the broken remains of a waggon at the bottom of the rocks, could not be very comforting to those who were at the moment running the same risk.

Throughout this and the greater part of his journey eastward, Mr. Campbell and his friends occasionally encountered, on the most remote spots, among obscure kraals of the natives, solitary Dutch or Moravian Missionaries, who were labouring to teach the poor natives the things known to the Europeans, and partly living like other colonial settlers. At intervals, also, in this quarter, he fell in with small settlements or forts, erected by the Dutch or British, in which lived a few secluded individuals, and perhaps an officer or two appointed over the European and native people. Of these, a town called George, situated near the coast, fully half way on between the Cape and Bethelsdorp, appeared to be the most considerable in all this district.

The town of George was founded the year before, by the advice of Lord Caledon, late Governor at the Cape, and its situation seemed to our traveller exceedingly well chosen. The scenery around is majestic; the soil good for either corn or pasture: there is plenty of clay for making bricks, as well as abundance of lime

on the sea shore, only a few miles distant. Already many new buildings had been erected to form the town. Two principal streets were planned, which should cross each other at right angles, and a handsome church was to be placed in the centre. The streets, then building, were two hundred feet in width, with a row of trees on each side of them, agreeable to the fashion in warm climates.

This town is well supplied with water, which, Mr. Campbell says, is wholesome and good, though quite the colour of Lisbon wine. This is no uncommon circumstance in Africa. In some places it looks as if mixed with milk, but yet is found to be very fit for use. In others it has a more unsightly appearance, being of all colours, except such as implies purity. Much of this town, our traveller says, is built of the iron tree,—a wood so hard as to be almost like iron, and solid and heavy, resembling marble. So rich and extensive is the wood in the neighbourhood, that there is sufficient timber in it at present to supply all the inhabitants which may settle here for a thousand years to

come. The great variety of plants, too, intermixed with these trees, seemed to supply endless subjects of observation and enquiry to intelligent travellers; and, indeed, says our Missionary quaintly, "it would require a life prolonged to the age of Methuselah, to be able to view all the wonders of nature on this continent."

CHAPTER II.

Some Account of Bethelsdorp—Its barren situation and wretched appearance—Amount of Population, and general state—Arrival at Graaff Reynet—Travels through the Boshemen's country—Arrival at the Orange River—The Country and its Banks—The Travellers cross the River, and arrive at Griqua town.

ON the 20th of March, 1813, our travellers arrived at Dr. Vanderkemp's village of Bethelsdorp. In the founding of this settlement, as in many other of his proceedings in the latter part of his life, the Doctor seems to have courted for the scenes and subjects of his labours, sterility and barbarism, difficulty and danger. How any man whose mind was in a sane state, could select such a wretched waste as the miserable bare flats near the little Zewartkops River, by Algoa bay, it is difficult to conceive; while the wide continent of Africa presented so infinite a variety—scenery so charming—situations apparently so convenient,

and even tribes of people so comparatively interesting. But all things that are done from motives avowedly pious, will find numerous defenders, and with such it is not our business here to argue.

The journal of Mr. Campbell's proceedings, during his stay at Bethelsdorp, does not consist entirely, as is often the case, of an account of the number of times he preached, the pious expressions of converts, or the respect and attention paid to himself. He gives a very candid account of the extremely "miserable appearance" both of the place and people, defends the wretched mode of building the rude huts, by a reference to the uncertainty of any prospect of permanency for the settlers; and the state of the sheep-skin clad people, by a reference to their savage habits, which had not as yet been materially improved. The village, however, or town, is admitted to be built in a style fully "as irregular as the city of Norwich, or town of Manchester," in England; but "the ground on which it stands," to use our traveller's own words, "is barren in the extreme, so that nothing green is to be seen near the houses; this also adds to the gloominess of the village.

Neither trees nor gardens are to be seen to relieve the eye ; but all this arises from the total want of good water on their ground, except in the barren spot where the village stands. In consequence of the miserable appearance of the village, the settlers are by many people reported to be extremely indolent." The people were not only as indolent as Africans generally are, and as any people would be, inhabiting a waste where they had so little encouragement to industry, but a loathsome disease was prevalent among them, and this village was reported to be the seat of it ; but only, however, as our traveller says, " in the same way that the Lock Hospital, Penitentiary, Magdalen, or other hospitals in London, may be so considered."

As to the population of Bethelsdorp, the number of men, women, and children, then belonging to it, Mr. Campbell reports as amounting to fully a thousand, but he only found present about six hundred. Although little improvement had at that time taken place in the external circumstances of the people, notwithstanding the continued labours of Mr. Read, the former companion of Vanderkemp, and others whom Mr. Campbell

found at this place; and who still persevered in confining their exertions to a spot so ill chosen;—a number of converts had even then been made, and although, also, no regular attendance was given by the children at the Missionary schools, they could generally calculate upon about fifty pupils at a time, and some of the people at intervals practised various trades, which had been taught them by their instructors.

The people of this settlement seem, from the vague statement of our traveller upon this subject, to live chiefly on their cattle, which are fed on such pasture as they can find at a considerable distance from Bethelsdorp. No gardens cheer the eye, on the whole face of the barren slope on which the village stands; for little cultivation can take place so near. Of the trades said to be practised by the natives at Bethelsdorp, of which Mr. Campbell diffidently enumerates *eighteen*, Mr. Latrobe, the Moravian traveller and Missionary, who also visited this spot, speaks with the greatest contempt. The “carpenters” and “builders” could certainly build a house or hut with reeds, and the “thatchers” could thatch it with rushes and leaves. The “blanket makers” could sew sheep-skins

together, and so make excellent *blankets*; and the "tailors" could cut out the skins of several animals into certain shapes; the "lime-burners" could gather lime-stones together, and set fire to the wood beneath them; and the "auctioneer" could practise such a calling, when he had ought to sell, or when there was any body to buy; but, according to the travelling Moravian's report, the mill of the "miller" would not grind, and the blacksmith's shop was without a bellows, or, at least, the bellows would not blow, and, therefore, the skill of the artificer was but little put to the trial. Since that time, however, by great perseverance, Bethelsdorp has been much improved in every respect.

In this quarter of the world, at least, the Moravians seem to have chosen their settlements with more judiciousness, and to have better understood the art of civilising their converts. On the part of the supporters of missions at home, the error seems to be, in never seeing any thing faulty in the conduct of a man who talks loudly and enthusiastically about making converts. Upon this subject, referring to the state of this settlement, Mr. Campbell sensibly says, "Truth,

however, obliges me to confess, that had the founder of Bethelsdorp, Dr. Vanderkemp, been more aware of the importance of civilisation, there might at least have been more external appearance of it than there now is. He seems to have judged it necessary, rather to imitate the savage in appearance, than to induce the savage to imitate him ; perhaps considering his conduct countenanced by what Paul says of his becoming all things to all men, that he might gain some. The Doctor would appear in public without hat, stockings or shoes, and probably without a coat." He even approximated nearer to the savage than by the mere omission of certain garments of decency, when, as our traveller says, he appeared " in public."

From Bethelsdorp, Mr. Campbell departed early in April, together with Mr. Read, who had agreed to be his companion during the whole of his interior journey. Arriving at Graaff Reynet on the first of May, the travellers soon after departed thence, and shaping their course nearly due south, over the mountainous and somewhat barren district called the Snewberg, they, about the twentieth, passed the last habitation of white men, and came into the wild tract formerly

travelled by Vaillant, now called the Boshemen's country. The frost in this quarter was extremely keen during the night. At first, they often saw lions on their way, with elks and a few other animals, who, however, offered them no injury. Afterwards, for days together, not even an animal was to be seen, far less a human face. It appeared, says the traveller, to be a land forsaken. Though the vegetation of some sorts was plentiful, and the country picturesque, yet grass for their cattle, and water to drink, now became objects of constant anxiety to him. This part of Africa, says our traveller, "must, from the want of water, remain a wilderness to the end of time; it cannot be inhabited, though its general appearance is charming." Extensive plains, interspersed with hills of various, but beautiful forms, was pretty generally its character; and, as for the weather, though the season was winter, it was delightful.

At one place they came to a large plain, perhaps 100 miles in circumference, at one end of which was a considerable lake, the first that our travellers had seen on their route, for in no country in the world are lakes so scarce as in Africa. The plain, beside this lake, they found to abound with

game, particularly various kinds of bucks. They shot nine bucks and one ostrich, and one of their Boshemen followers managed to kill a quacha; the wild species of horse so abundant here, of the flesh of which these Boshemen are extremely fond. After travelling near a month without seeing a human face but those of his own followers, and one single Bosheman's family, he, on arriving at a height, obtained, with joyful sensations, his first view of the Great, or Orange River, which crosses the continent directly westward, about the twenty-ninth degree of south latitude, until it falls into the Southern Atlantic Ocean.

The delight of men and cattle, on reaching the water in this dry and thirsty land, can hardly be described. The oxen ran into it, and drank, and drank again, as if they could never have enough, and then began to eat of the long rich grass which carpeted its banks. The travellers now found some natives, who told them of a place that was fordable considerably higher up the stream, and they then journeyed along its banks for several days. As they proceeded on, Mr. Campbell says, "thousands of acres of fine hay, upwards of two feet long, surrounded our waggons; but it must all

be suffered to rot, being of little use in this forsaken land. Could it be transported," continues the Missionary, with great simplicity, "*free of expence* to London, what a fund *for doing good* would it not produce!"

Travelling along these pleasant banks, among other curious plants and shrubs, our author found a bush, very abundant here, which has been significantly named, in the native dialect, *stop-a-while*. This bush is furnished with very peculiar thorns, exactly shaped like a fishing-hook, so that, says the Missionary, "if they catch hold of your clothes as you pass, you *must* stop a while, sometimes a long while, before you get clear of them, as I frequently experienced afterwards." The reason of this catching quality in the thorn tree is, that in freeing himself on one side, the person who is caught is almost sure to get freshly entangled on the other, and, if no second person is at hand to help him, and to hold back the branches of the bush, it is hardly possible to get off without leaving his dress behind, attached to the bush.

Proceeding still easterly, along the margin of the river, they found the soil red, and rather

stony; and among the flowers which here and there sprung up, the primrose was at this time in full bloom. The water of the river having fallen considerably, a ford was tried by a Bosheman on horseback, and afterwards, with some difficulty, the whole cavalcade passed safely over. Mr. Campbell does not think fit to give us any particulars of the breadth of the river, even at the place where he crossed it. Shortly after they had passed over, they came to a rising ground, on which was a kraal of the Boshemen. The huts were low and shaped like an oven, and were covered with mats made of reeds.

The people in these poor huts appeared cheerful; and yet, in respect of clothing, or any thing like comfort, they seemed to the Missionary exceedingly wretched. One of the women who came out to look at them wore, hanging from one ear, a long piece of copper, and from the other a round piece of the same metal, as large as a dollar. The men wore similar ornaments, were clothed in sheep skins, and carried in their hands the assagai or spear of the Caffres. The chil-

dren were healthy-looking and even handsome, but entirely naked, wearing nothing whatever except a row of beads round their necks.

The next place the travellers halted at was a Missionary station, called Klaar water, or Griqua town, where they found friends to talk to on their own affairs, and a congregation of natives, to whom they preached. The Missionaries settled here, had a large and productive garden, in which, with some smaller ones that the natives had also cultivated, grew excellent potatoes, with cabbages, kidney-beans, peas, pumpkins, tobacco, and millet or Indian corn. A vineyard was also here, which was but indifferent, but plum and peach trees thrive well. The fountain or spring from whence the place takes its name, is sweet at its head, about half a mile from the village, but by the time it arrives there it tastes brackish, from the abundance of saltpetre with which the ground over which it passes is mixed.

Having rested here a few days, and made further preparations for prosecuting their journey to the great Bosheman town of Lattakoo, Mr. Camp-

bell travelled on, being now accompanied by two other Missionaries, named Anderson and Kok, who also meant to visit the Bosheman capital; and now their whole cavalcade consisted of three waggons, with the necessary oxen and attendants.

CHAPTER III.

Description of the Shining Mountain and Cavern—The travellers arrive at Lattakoo—Hear of the murder of an exploring party—Conference with nine Chiefs—Visit from the King—Peculiarities of the people—Fantastic dances—Want of sympathy—The King's dinner—Story of the Cayenne pepper.

THE next object worthy of mention, which the travellers met with in the course of the remainder of their journey towards Lattakoo, was the Blink, or Shining Mountain, which from the pilgrimages made to it out of all parts of the neighbouring country, deserves to be called the Mecca of the Boshemen.

These pilgrimages to the Shining Mountain, however, are not like those of the Mussulmen to the tomb of the Prophet, of a religious character, but simply to obtain a blueish powder which the mountain furnishes, and which the natives

use for sprinkling among their hair; it having been the fashion from time immemorial in this country, for the natives to use a hair powder of this peculiar colour. The powder is chiefly found in a cavern in the mountain, and is composed of a species of lead, somewhat like that of which the pencils are formed in England. Another part of this low, flat-topped hill, produces a species of red chalk or stone, with which some of the surrounding nations paint their bodies. It is, therefore, little to be wondered at, that the place should be one of great resort.

The dull sameness of life in these wilds, forms a constant excuse for such pilgrimages, which, as the variety of scene and adventures that they bring, affords much entertainment to the rambling savage, the relief that is thus given to the torpor of his kraal existence, makes these pilgrimages always pleasant and popular. Mr. Campbell and his friends ascended the hill, which consists, at the top, of an assemblage of dark brown rocks, and seems entirely to have been produced by some volcanic eruption. The travellers also descended into the cavern with lights, and penetrated above a hundred feet into the interior of

the mountain; sometimes wading through the blue dust until it reached half way up their legs, and in other parts of this gloomy cavern, this dust so flew about, that it almost extinguished their lights.

The roof was arched, and studded with the projecting pieces of the Shining Rock, between which there seemed something closely wedged and, which as the explorers of the cavern looked up, appeared exactly like carved work. Putting up the lights, however, close to the part, to satisfy their curiosity more fully, they found that the supposed carved work was nothing but myriads of sleeping bats; which, crowded together in a dormant state, adhered to the roof by the claws of their hinder legs. These bats could not be roused otherwise than by putting the torches close up to them; upon which some of them letting go their hold, flew off to another part of the cavern. When the travellers left this gloomy place, and again emerged into the daylight, they were almost as black as chimney sweeps, from the dark powder that adhered to them.

Journeying on from the shining mountain and

its cavern, the travellers found the country here much better watered than on any former part of their journey; and in one place they saw a fountain flowing out of another cavern, which issued forth in a gush of water several yards wide and nearly eighteen inches deep. Fountains and kraals became now more plentiful as they proceeded on, and at the latter end of June, they arrived at what Mr. Campbell is pleased to call "the city" of Lattakoo.

The irregular assemblage of Boshemen's houses, which has been dignified by the title of a city under the above name, lies in a sloping valley, and is situated nearly in the centre, between the eastern and western shores of Africa, and about the 27th degree of south latitude. What the probable amount of the population is, our travellers have informed us as well as they could, by mentioning that the town contains fifteen hundred houses, which, calculating their inmates at five to each dwelling, will make it seven thousand five hundred persons. The waggons of the Missionaries having been conducted into a square enclosure opposite to where the chief lived, whom the travellers also call the king, they ascertained

that his majesty was not at home, but the people, including the women and children, soon crowded round them to the number of above a thousand, deafening them with their horrid bawling and chatter.

On arriving at this large kraal, the travellers learned that an exploring party had sometime before been sent by Lord Caledon from the Cape, consisting of twenty-two men, besides a Dr. Cowan, and a Lieutenant Donovan; and that after penetrating to some distance beyond Lattakoo, they had never more been heard of. The murder of these unfortunate persons being by this time acknowledged by a neighbouring tribe, and known to this people, they imagined that the Missionaries were now come to revenge that atrocity. Perceiving the people whispering strangely together, from this suspicion, Mr. Campbell thought it prudent, notwithstanding the temporary absence of the king, to request a conference with the chief men among the people, in order that he might at once explain the real objects of his visit.

A little after sunset, therefore, on the same evening, nine of the principal men, having

accepted of the invitation of the strangers, entered their tent, and sat down upon the ground. Three interpreters were ready in attendance upon this conference; to wit, one for the Dutch, another for the Coranna, and a third for the Bootchuana language. The faces of the chiefs who thus sat on the ground, were painted red, and their hair was highly powdered with the blue powder. "Their countenances," says Mr. Campbell, "indicated the possession of good natural parts; and had they been dressed with wigs and gowns, like our English judges, I think their appearance would have been highly respectable." We cannot doubt the opinion of the good Missionary, but our "English judges" would not, we think, be particularly proud of the comparison.

Mr. Campbell made a speech to this respectable deputation, in which he informed the powdered chiefs that he had come from a far country, beyond the sun, where was known the true God, who made all the things they saw around them, and concerning whom they were willing to teach them all they knew; or, he added, they would at least send them teachers who should instruct them, provided they and their king signified

their willingness to receive and attend to such teachers.

To all this, however, the chiefs replied they could give no answer, excepting that they would tell the king what had been said ; and they sent forthwith a messenger to request his majesty to return to the city, that he might attend upon this important business. Seeing that the conference was ended so agreeably, one of the chiefs remarked to Mr. Campbell, that he had not yet tasted any of his tobacco. The Missionary, considering this as an intelligible hint, gave the chief a portion of the herb, which was accepted with every satisfaction. A woman now entered, whom the travellers designate as "one of the queens," and brought them some milk. In requital for this politeness, the Missionaries gave the lady a little tobacco ; but she, in addition, asked Mr. Read for some snuff; and upon his replying that that was an article which he did not use himself, her majesty shrewdly replied, that "he would have the more to give away on that account."

The king's name, it appears, was Mateebe, and it was several days after this before he

returned to his city of Lattakoo. On arriving, however, one day after sunset, he, attended by his brother and some of his chief men, entered the tent of the Missionaries. He sat down, and was silent, waiting until he should see the presents he was to receive. Some trinkets were given to him by Mr. Campbell, and also the lid of his shaving-box, which contained a looking-glass. As these articles were taken out of the parcel and offered to him, the king continued to look slyly towards it, to see what might be coming next. When he saw no more presents coming, he opened his mouth for the first time, and said that the Missionaries were perfectly safe in visiting him, even although they had brought him no presents. When the Missionaries further stated that they had, in addition, some presents of tobacco, which they intended for him, he requested that they would not give them to him just then; "for these people," said he, pointing to those without the waggons, "will ask it all away from me."

The Missionaries next explained to the king how that they had come over the great water to his country in a wooden house, which the

wind took four moons in blowing so far ; and that they had also undertaken this inland journey to see him, and to ask his permission for them to send men to teach his people various things which, as yet, they knew not. To this, the king replied that he did not wish any such teachers, because his people had no time to attend to their instructions, having to mind their cattle, their sowing, and cultivation. The whole result, however, of this conference was, the king's ultimately giving his consent to the settlement of Missionaries among his people, and promising his protection to such, whenever they should come.

Before the arrival of this powerful king in his city, the Missionaries had been dreadfully annoyed by the people crowding into their tents, and following them, wherever they went. Their constant and savage dances, and fearful shouting which they call singing, was a deafening vexation, but the presence of his Bosheman Majesty, on his return, completely put a stop to those annoyances. Passing over many details of this visit which we cannot notice, one reply of Mateebe is worthy of mention. When the Missionaries were reasoning with him about the book which

they brought for his instruction, and the God of their religion, he is reported to have said, "I believe there is a God who made all things; who gives prosperity, sickness and death; but I do not know him;"—a remarkable saying for a savage.

The people of Lattakoo obtain copper and iron from some nation beyond them, but Mr. Campbell found that they studiously concealed where or from whom they got it. The Lattakoo people are very ingenious, manufacturing from these metals, viz. from the iron, axes, adzes, knives, spears, and bodkins; and from the copper, rings for the legs, arms, fingers, and ears. They construct their houses also in a manner far superior to those of the natives near the Colony; and as for the art of habit making, their cloaks, he tells us, are made and sewed as well as could be done by Europeans.

The city is divided into districts, each of which to the number of about fifty, is governed by a sort of magistrate, called a headman; and a place near the centre is inclosed for public resort. The women here are the farmers, and dig the ground with a kind of pick-axe. They

all sing while at work, says Mr. Campbell, and strike the ground with their axes, according to time, so that no one gives a stroke more than another ; and thus they make labour an amusement. They seem, he observes, in many respects to be a cleanly people, for no filth of any kind appears about their houses, nor indeed even in any part of this large town.

The men are intelligent, but spend their life in savage idleness. The women here are perfectly free, and appear on an equality with the men. The vice of thieving is almost unknown among this people ; and when one young man was tempted to pilfer two buttons off the trowsers of the Missionaries' interpreter, the noise the people made in charging one another with the theft, was as deafening as the affray that it caused was ludicrous. " And had it been," says Mr. Campbell, " the great seal of England that had been stolen, in place of two metal buttons not worth a half-penny, there could not have been a greater disturbance made upon the occasion." When the thief was discovered, he was driven forth out of the square, with all possible dishonour, amid a crowd of approving people.

At their large dancing parties, with which they constantly disturbed the Missionaries, the people were painted and dressed in the most fantastic manner. Some of the dancing-girls had one side of their faces painted black, and the other white; others had the upper part of the face coloured white, and the under black; which, with the straw ropes, reeds, fur-cloaks and other articles which they wore, made them look often frightful. Clever and tractable as these people are, and even free as they seem to be of any cruel customs, such as are often practised among savage nations, they seemed to our traveller, to have no idea of sympathy or generosity, such as barbarians often evince. Mr. Campbell found a wretched starving child, which had been deserted by its parents, who were poor; and who was weeping in the midst of the public square for want of food. The people around, told him of the destitution of the child, but seemed to witness its famishing state, and to hear its cries without emotion. The humane Missionaries brought the child (it was about eight years old) to their waggons, and gave it some food, which it devoured with the eagerness of a young tiger.

Though cleanly about their houses, these people are by no means nice in regard to their food ; eating the flesh of elephants, lions, tigers, cameleopards, quachas, &c., with good relish. At a dinner of the king's, his distinction was to sit next the pot that contained a mess of boiled beans, and to possess the only spoon that appeared to belong to the establishment ; with which he helped himself, and also those around him, by putting a spoonful into each of the hands that were held out for the food. While this was going on, his wives and the other women of his family, were chopping up, and putting pieces of flesh into another pot ; and cooking it over a fire.

On one occasion, while the Missionaries were at dinner in their own tent, some of the native chiefs and their wives being present, one of them seeing Mr. Read help himself to a little cayenne pepper, its red colour attracted his attention, and he asked for some of it. On getting the cayenne, he instantly threw a quantity of it on his tongue, but on feeling its pungency, he shut his eyes, clapped his hand upon his mouth, and holding down his head, endeavoured manfully to conceal

the pain. When he was able to look up, he slyly touched Mr. Read with his foot, to intimate that he should say nothing, but give the same dose to the others present. Another chief next got some, who also instantly felt its power; but understanding the joke, as soon as he was able to speak, he asked for some for his wife; and thus it went round, to the great diversion of all afterwards. We have known the same trick played upon each other by the stern chiefs of the North American Indians, with mustard; of which each took a spoonful, when dining at a white man's table; but though the pungent condiment caused the big tears to roll down their black cheeks, they scorned to show that they felt pain, until it had gone round; and then they smiled at each other with taciturn gravity.

CHAPTER IV.

Departure from Lattakoo, and arrival at several Rivers—Enchanting Scenery—Return to Griquatown—Arrival at Hardcastle—The Asbestos Mountains—Journey across the Continent by the Banks of the Orange River, and Description of the Country—Arrival at Pella—Return to the Cape.

LEAVING Lattakoo, on the 7th of July, the travellers proceeded eastward for several days; met with one or two kraals of wretched looking natives; crossed a small river, which they named Arrowsmith's River; and travelling at the foot of a range of mountains on their left, which they named Wilberforce Mountains, came at length within sight of the Malalareen River. This is, in fact, the first portion or highest branch of the Great Orange River, which, rising in these mountains, crosses in a westernly direction, as before mentioned, the whole African continent, from this point to the Atlantic.

Here they found again a charming country, and at a kraal of natives which they fell in with, the people, particularly the women, never having seen white men before, were terrified beyond description at the sight of them. On the first approach of the Missionaries, the poor Boshemen drew themselves up in battle array, and prepared for an attack, jumping wildly into the air, and brandishing their weapons, to endeavour to intimidate the strangers whom they thought their enemies. When, by signs, they were at length made to understand that the Missionaries were friends, they laid aside their bows and poisoned arrows; but the women fled to their huts. Nothing could exceed the astonishment and terror with which these people were, seized, when at length they got a view of Mr. Campbell's watch.

Travelling to the south-west, along the banks of the Malalareen, which does not take the name of the Great River, until its junction with another, called the Yellow River, above 100 miles from its source, Mr. Campbell says, that about the confluence of these two rivers is one of the most charming spots on earth. The Yellow River alone is considerably larger than the Thames, a

little above London, and thus the Great River, at its proper commencement, is of an exceedingly respectable breadth. The high banks of these delightful streams were here, as well as below at another junction, crowned and ornamented with lofty trees; and the plains beyond were rich and extensive, almost resembling an English park. This beautiful scenery was probably never before seen by any European eye.

Proceeding further, a little inland from the banks of this river, Mr. Campbell found saltpetre so abundant, that the ground was covered with it, as with snow, half an inch deep. In this part of Africa, he says, there are every where to be found, inexhaustible magazines of materials for rearing great cities, especially stone, lime, and slate; and all this with the convenience of a fine river, which may almost be called navigable. Returning close to the river, on a delightful day, the thermometer at 70° , he observed small parties of cattle, sheep, and goats, occasionally wandering down to drink of the clear wide stream, which, to quote his words, "glided silently along, as if afraid to interrupt our discourse: the banks were ornamented with trees,

decked in green and yellow. The whole scene," he adds, with much simplicity, "appeared charming and enchanting, *far surpassing* the heaven described by Mahomet."

On the 26th of the same month, July, the travellers again arrived at the station of Griquatown, or Klaar Water, which they had formerly passed; and on the 11th of August came to another Missionary settlement, called Hardcastle, which is situated in a beautiful valley, at the foot of a range, named the Asbestos mountains. Here, between the strata of the rocks, is found abundance of that rare mineral, which has the quality of becoming soft as cotton by a little beating; and when woven into cloth, of which also it is capable, resists the action of fire, and was on this account used by antient nations in the burning of their dead. This remarkable substance our travellers found here not only in great quantities, but in a considerable variety of colours. The easiest softened was of the colour of Prussian blue; that which was less pliable was of a gold colour; other portions found were white, brown, and green. It is strange that this peculiar mineral is not more sought after by modern Europeans; and not less curious that, from the ignorant Gri-

quas it should have received a name signifying handkerchief stone.*

Here there is plenty of stone, which is naturally finely shaped for building, and of which the neighbouring mountains appear to be chiefly composed. This stone is probably metallic, for it sounds like bell-metal, on two pieces, being struck together; and is of a yellow colour. Proceeding farther westward, after leaving this settlement, the Missionaries again found it necessary to cross the Great River, at a spot many leagues lower than where they had before effected that feat. Here, Mr. Campbell says, the stream is about 300 yards in breadth, and with great difficulty they accomplished the crossing of it, in about three hours time.

From this point they travelled almost due west, over an immense tract of country, generally following the course of the river. Almost every

* How the asbestos is spun and woven is not well known to Europeans, but according to the Philosophical Transactions, it is still in use by the princes of Tartary in the burning of their dead. The ancient Brahmins are said even to have made clothes of it, and to have used it at least, for their perpetual lamps.

variety of scenery, of course met their view by turns ; and the heat, as they proceeded, became very oppressive. Huge mountains, in small groups, or low, and broken chains, they encountered in every variety of form and appearance. At some places the mountains rose up, steep and bare, from the banks of the confined river. At others they ran in one dark chain, many leagues, on one hand, and so steep and uniform in shape, as to give the Missionaries the idea of the great wall of China. In the course of their journey, they found on a plain, an assemblage of rocks, so extensive, closely congregated, and lofty, (some of them being 500 feet in height,) that the travellers thought if the whole were named the metropolis of rocks, it would be giving this singular group an appropriate appellation.

The prevailing character of this inland scenery, however, was that of a succession of dreary wastes, here and there relieved by scenes of great beauty, and prospects stupendous and interesting. Many of the plains appeared of endless extent, and the view of their lonely barrenness communicated sadness to the heart, and a disagreeable monotony to the eye, of the weary and thirsty

traveller. In these deserts, animals became now as scarce as men, not a living inhabitant being visible; and the tired oxen, as they plodded heavily on, often groaned from fatigue, and for the want of grass and of water. In some places, however, where the larger animals were seldom to be seen, the lizard and the field mouse were found among the rocks in great numbers. The curiosity of the travellers was excited to know how these little creatures could live in a country from which want of water had banished every other living thing. They found, on enquiry, that by the beneficent provision of nature, certain bulbous plants, and water berries, were made to grow in abundance even in this dry and parched land, by which these little animals easily quenched their thirst. Mr. Campbell observed these little field mice rolling into their holes a species of large berry, out of one of which he obtained about three tea spoonfuls of clear water, as easily as men would do a cask of liquor.

Coming to a scanty kraal of natives in the Namanqua country, they found some very old people, who had never even heard of the sea, and could form little notion of the great world of waters. In

one place, a small party of wild Boshemen, having watched their opportunity, shot one of the most experienced of the ox drivers with their poisoned arrows; but fled before they thought fit to attempt any further depredation. The Missionaries did all they could to relieve the wounded man, who patiently submitted to have the piece round the wound cut out; and when he felt the poison taking effect in his face, he even requested them to cut away his cheek, which they declined to do, as they saw what must be the inevitable result. The blood evidently carries this subtle poison in the circulation; for the poor man intimated that he found it going down to his toes. Though laudanum and other drugs were given to him, and every convenient means used; the natives, his companions, said he would die as soon as the sun was down. Scarcely had it sunk five minutes below the horizon, before this strong young man expired.

On the 12th of September, our travellers having now crossed nearly the whole African continent, in latitude 29° south, arrived at a Missionary station, called Pella, within a few leagues of the Southern Atlantic, or Ethiopic Ocean; this

being the most western point to which they meant to proceed. Pella is a small Missionary station, situated in a romantic nook, near the banks of the Orange River; but vegetation here does not flourish, and the gardens of the Missionaries and others, were found to be in an unprosperous state. Of the state of the mission at Pella, Mr. Campbell gives no account.

Leaving this spot, and proceeding direct south, the travellers, in a few days, again entered the colonial district, and soon after, coming to a lofty range of hills, obtained, once more, a sight of the Atlantic Ocean. The Dutch settlers entertained them well, when they arrived amongst them; and seemed, in general, to be in prosperous circumstances. Proceeding onwards, the travellers arrived in safety at the Cape, on the 31st of October, having now been absent nearly nine months; and were received with all respect and welcome by their friends.

REV. JOHN CAMPBELL.

SECOND JOURNEY INTO THE INTERIOR OF
AFRICA.

CHAPTER I.

Departure from the Cape, and journey to Lattakoo—General scenery of the Tammaha country, and arrival at sundry towns—Interview with the inhabitants of Meribohwey—Astonishment of the Chiefs at the sight of sundry European articles—Further Travels, and description of the country—Arrival at Mashow—Conference with King, &c.—Departure towards the North.

THE intelligence brought from the interior of Southern Africa by Mr. Campbell, on his return to England, after his first journey, was found so

satisfactory, and the account of his travels so interesting to the supporters of Missions, that in a few years afterwards it was determined that he should go out again, in order, if possible, to penetrate still farther into the interior, and to reach other nations, of which he had only heard, who inhabited the regions to the north of those he had formerly visited.

Leaving England again, at the latter end of the year 1818, accompanied by Dr. Philip, it was not until the 18th of January, 1820, that he was ready to proceed upon his long journey; previous to which, his companion visited several of the stations along the eastern coast of the colony. Leaving behind him Dr. Philip, he was now accompanied by a Mr. Moffat and his wife, and being well provided with oxen and necessaries for his travels, he took his departure; but instead of proceeding, in the first instance, along the coast as formerly, he took a direction nearly north, and soon crossed the colonial territory, and journied on through the Boshemen's country towards the Great Orange River.

Crossing that stream, on the 11th of March, the travellers arrived at Griqua town on the 13th,

and next day there was nearly a total eclipse of the sun, so that the planet Venus was perfectly visible for upwards of an hour. About the 20th they reached Lattakoo, where, by this time, were settled several Missionaries, who had good houses, gardens, and corn fields, and had made some progress in instructing the natives. Their purpose being to penetrate farther, as before observed, the travellers went onwards through an agreeable undulating country, much better watered,—chiefly by small lakes scattered over the face of it, and by the frequent rains falling here, — than any they had passed through since leaving the colony.

Mr. Campbell observes, that during the whole of his journey from the Cape to Lattakoo, he found little vegetation, excepting near the banks of rivers, the face of the country being generally bare, excepting on such spots ; but here, in about the 26th and 27th degrees of south latitude, there was a fine thinly wooded country, the trees scattering and congregating in groups of park-like and picturesque wildness. He had, however, mentioned before, that as he proceeded, he found some tracts, not very near rivers, where the grass