

TRAVELS AND ADVENTURES

IN

SOUTHERN AFRICA

PART II. CONTINUED.

**EXCURSION TO THE COUNTRY OF THE BUSHMEN,
KORANNAS, AND NAMAQUAS, &c.**

VOL. II.

B

TRAVELS AND ADVENTURES,

&c. &c.

CHAPTER IV.

**Return of Witteboy with Game.—Voracity of the Hottentots.
—Arrival on the Banks of the Gariep.—Hyænas and Lions.
—Journey down the River.—Band of Koranna Huntsmen.
—Excursion to view a remarkable Waterfall.**

THE tedious day wore on apace as we thus sat anxiously waiting the return of Witteboy, who, with his party, had been long hidden from our view by the undulations of the country. The old Koranna was talkative and friendly in his way, and did his best to entertain me; sometimes

4 SUFFERINGS FROM THIRST AND HUNGER.

supplying me with a morsel of gum to stay my stomach, sometimes sending a little girl to bring us water in an ostrich egg-shell. This water, though the best they could procure, was so much impregnated with salt, that it seemed only to increase the thirst it was intended to relieve. The hot dry wind from the north-east blew witheringly upon us,—parching up the lips till they cracked, and relaxing our wasted frames to exceeding languor. I felt oppressed by a torpid lethargy, but tried in vain to escape from my cares by sleep; a horrible night-mare constantly invaded my slumbers, and soon awoke me. Jacob was still worse than myself, and seemed already almost exanimate. It was with much difficulty that I could rouse him up now and then to interpret the questions I put to the old Koranna.

Evening at length approached, and still the hunting party appeared not. The pangs of hunger pressed sore upon us, and our only relief was to draw our “girdles of famine” still tighter round our bodies. I wished much that I had provided myself with a pair of dandy stays, which, in my present circumstances, would have been

invaluable. At length, just as the sun was sinking under the horizon, we descried Witteboy and his Koranna followers returning; and the sharp eyes of my comrades soon discovered that they were loaded with flesh. As they approached, this joyful news became certain. A zebra had been shot, and each was carrying a piece of it for immediate consumption. The Korannas, old and young, sprang forth to meet the huntsmen, skipping, dancing, and shouting for joy. Jacob and I, exhausted as we were, were reanimated by their jocund cries, and by the sight of so seasonable a relief, to a sense of joy and gratitude, less clamorous, but scarcely less intense than that of these half-famished savages. We had now been nearly four days without food, and but véry ill supplied with bad brackish water. Had Witteboy again failed of success in hunting, we must have killed one of our horses—a resource which the Hottentots were even more unwilling than myself to resort to.

Without questioning Witteboy how or where he killed the zebra, we all commenced roasting and eating. In a short time I had picked seve-

6 VORACITY OF THE HOTTENTOTS

ral of his ribs. As for the Hottentots, I do not exaggerate when I say, that each of them had devoured eight pounds of meat within an hour, and an additional allowance of three or four pounds more before they slept. The Korannas marched off in a body to the place where the zebra was shot, to feast upon the offals, and certain parts of the carcase which we had allotted them, on the condition of their keeping careful watch over the remainder until we joined them in the morning.

The sudden change in the appearance of my Hottentots this evening, after their hunger was assuaged, was remarkable. Hope and happiness again reanimated them, and that haggard and horrid appearance which had invested their visages, began to disappear. So voracious was their appetite, that I really became apprehensive they would kill themselves by repletion: and in the middle of the night, when I awoke, I again found them eating and smoking by turns.

We made our bivouac this night upon the high bank of the river; for the Korannas had warned us not to sleep again in the channel where we lay

the preceding evening; that being, as they said, literally "the lion's path." Our new lodging was but a bleak one. We could with difficulty collect fire-wood sufficient to warm us; our couch was the bare flinty gravel; and the night wind was so chill as to prevent us from sleeping comfortably. The moon also had deserted us, and we were disturbed all night long by the hungry hyænas howling around us.

13.—We saddled up at an early hour. Jacob, notwithstanding his ravenous appetite the preceding evening, was so weak and stiff, that he could not rise without assistance. We got him, however, on horseback, and proceeded north-east about seven miles, through a labyrinth of low rugged hills, sprinkled over with bushes of the *Wagt-eeen-beetje*. We found there the Korannas in charge of the remains of the zebra. The heavy incursions made upon the carcase, and the excessive protuberance of paunch now visible in these hungry guardians, evinced that they had made good use of their time and their teeth. We saved, however, the two hind-quarters and the head for our own use, and without delay tied them upon

our pack-horses. The Korannas were rewarded with the remainder. Our new acquaintance, well pleased with our generosity, would gladly have persuaded us to go in pursuit of a herd of zebras which we saw at no great distance; but having now as much meat as we could conveniently carry, it was a matter of too urgent importance to get forward to the Gariép, and to prosecute the remainder of my excursion without delay, to admit of wasting our time and strength in hunting for the natives, whose destitute condition we could not permanently relieve, even if successful.

We made the best of our way, therefore, towards the Gariép, which we reached to our great satisfaction, in about a couple of hours. After suffering so severely as we had done, from the want of water, what a glorious object did this river appear, flowing in a majestic stream, deep and rapid, and 500 yards in breadth! We hurried down to the channel, and plunged our hands and faces into the cooling waters, and at length assuaged a thirst which the briny wells of the Korannas seemed at every draught to increase. We then turned our horses out to refresh themselves

on the herbage along the banks, while we employed ourselves, under the shade of the willows, in cutting up our zebra flesh into thin slices, to dry in the sun. Having now abundance of meat, and a whole river of fresh water, we made a princely feast, though without either salt or sauce, or any sort of vegetable. We found the zebra flesh sweet and good; yet it never seemed somehow sufficiently to satisfy our hunger,—and we had scarcely finished one meal, before we found ourselves ready for another.

It was remarkable, that during the period of our recent sufferings from hunger and thirst, my imagination, both sleeping and awake, was continually conjuring up all manner of dainties, and delicious brooks of limpid water. Now that we had plenty of flesh, it seemed to me as if bread alone could satisfy me.

Our horses were so much knocked up by want of water, bad pasturage, and flinty roads that they required rest and refreshment not less than ourselves. We resolved, therefore, to remain here till next day at noon.

After all our privations, it was no slight sa-

tisfaction to me, to have so far accomplished one of the objects of my journey. I had reached the banks of the Gariiep by a route never taken before by any traveller, and had been enabled to add to the map of South Africa, the distinctive features of the intermediate region, which, dreary and desolate though it be, is not without a strong interest in the eyes both of the naturalist and the philanthropist.

The Gariiep must pour into the ocean a mighty volume of water at certain seasons. At this period it was at its lowest ebb, and only about 500 yards in breadth ; but the numerous vestiges of its overflowings extended over each bank at least a mile from the margin of the water, and at some places to three or four times that distance. At the spot where we had reached it, and for a considerable way downwards, its course was nearly north-west. On the opposite bank a ridge of mountains runs parallel with the river. This ridge, as I have ascertained, accompanies its course from a little below Griqua Town almost to the ocean, a distance of nearly 500 miles : I have called it the Gariepine walls. At no great dis-

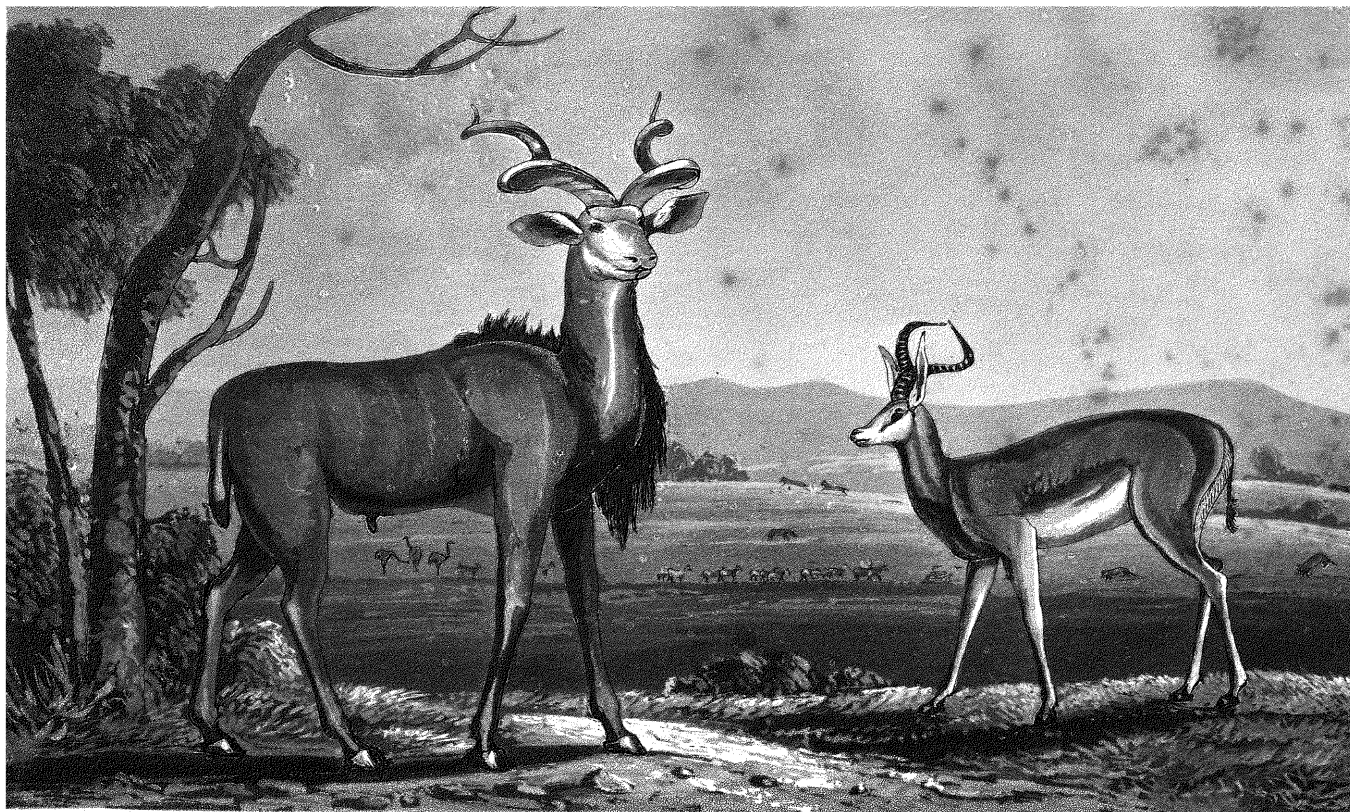
tance above our present station, a curious rapid is said to be formed by the approach of this Gariepine wall to the ridge called the Duke of York's mountains. At that place the river, forcing its passage between the hills, is to a considerable extent arched over by an immense cliff, suspended between two rocks. The roar of the waters rushing through this narrow gateway, was distinctly heard by us at a distance of many miles. But during the season, when the river is swollen to its full height, the scene must be infinitely more imposing; and the immense collection of waters above the rapid, then spreading out into a noble lake, studded with islands, must be a magnificent object to the lone dwellers in the wilderness. The Gariep is subject at all times to very sudden risings, occasioned by heavy rains in the upper part of its course, and on this account the natives are cautious not to sleep too near the margin of the stream. We had ventured this evening, however, to make our bivouac even in the channel of the river, for the sake of more easy access to the water. About midnight, we were suddenly awakened by a loud roaring, "like the voice of many

12 HORSES ATTACKED BY A WOLF.

waters" rushing down upon us. We started up in a terrible fright, and ran to our horses, thinking the floods, with all their "water-kelpies," were come to sweep us off to the ocean: when lo! the sound died away in distance, and was heard no more. We then concluded that it was the roar of the rapid, borne down to us by a sudden gust of wind, and ventured to return to our couch of sand, where we slept undisturbed through the rest of the night.

14.—A little before daybreak we turned out our horses to graze, being anxious to refresh them as much as possible before we again started. They had not been long at large, before we heard the hungry howl of the hyæna, and presently four of the horses came up to our fire at full gallop, as if claiming our protection. We instantly seized our guns and ran to the rescue of the remaining horse, and found him beset in a corner of the thicket by a ferocious tiger-wolf (*hyæna crocuta*,) who was attempting to break in upon him. We soon put to flight the hyæna, and brought off our poor old hack, trembling all over like an aspen.

We breakfasted this morning on the zebra's



G. Thompson Esq. del.

SPRING BOK AND KUDOO.

London. Publ. by H. Colburn, Jan. 1827.

head, which we had buried the preceding night in the hot embers. We then repaired the wear and tear of our riding gear, packed up our dried meat, and got ready to start about noon, having, as we conceived, now tolerably recruited ourselves and our steeds. I observed a variety of birds at this place, viz. herons, water-hens, wild geese, divers, three sorts of crows, several species of hawks and vultures, two species of swallows, three of pigeons, and a variety of finches and other small birds. The crows were extremely familiar, coming within a few paces of us, and picking up the bones we threw to them. The smaller birds also appeared, from their familiarity, to be very little annoyed by mankind. We observed no natives, nor any traces of them in this vicinity.

About two o'clock we left Junction Station, as I had called it, in reference to the confluence of the Hartebeest with the Gariép. The dry channel of the former river, which we soon after crossed, was here of vast extent, manifesting the gigantic force and magnitude of this torrent of the desert when it is in flood. We found the banks of the Gariép, as we proceeded downwards,

so closely beset with mimosa and willow groves and thickets, that it was extremely difficult to get access to the water. As we rode along, a herd of koodoos, which had been down to drink, bounded past us from the thicket, but too suddenly to enable us to fire with effect at them.* At these paths, made by the wild game through the jungle in resorting to drink at the rivers, the lion very frequently lies in wait, in order to spring suddenly upon his prey. Such places are, consequently, peculiarly dangerous, of which my Hottentots this evening obtained sufficient demonstration. We had unsaddled on the bank, and Witteboy and Jacob had proceeded with the horses down to the water, when a lion suddenly made a spring at one of them, but missing him walked off, (as that animal generally does in such circumstances,) without making a second attempt. The

* The koodoo is one of the most remarkable of the South African antelopes, but now too well known to all lovers of natural history to require minute description. The horns of the male are sometimes upwards of four feet in length; yet he is a lover of the thorny brakes on the river banks: the female is destitute of horns. The figures of this animal, and the springbok, in the accompanying plate, are accurately engraved.

Hottentots hurried back in terror, and we lost no time in tying up the horses, and lighting a large fire to protect them and ourselves from this powerful and insidious enemy. We experienced, during the night, no farther disturbance.

15.—Continued our journey at daybreak. The views we occasionally caught of the river from the rising grounds on its banks, were very magnificent. The rich foliage of the willows along the margin, and the thickets, or rather forests of mimosa-trees, spreading for at least a mile on either side, formed a striking contrast to the parched-up plains and hills out of the influence of its periodical overflowings.

The sultry north-west wind continued to blow strong in our faces; and whirlwinds were often observed sweeping up the course of the river, carrying the loose sand and withered wrack of the banks along with great violence. We continued looking out very anxiously for the natives, and felt not a little surprised that we had yet met with none. We saw many of the pitfalls dug by them for ensnaring the larger game, and sometimes with difficulty avoided falling into them.

The thorny mazes of the banks, and the rugged nature of the adjacent country, alike impeded us. All our horses still exhibited symptoms of great exhaustion, and some of them had become quite lame by wounding their feet in the stony paths. We proceeded, therefore, but slowly.

We had now advanced about fifty miles down the river without having met a single native; and knowing that its banks are far more densely inhabited than any other part of the Bushman or Koranna country, and observing also many of their dwellings recently deserted, we could not account for the apparent abandonment of this favourite region by its inhabitants. At length, in the course of this forenoon, as we were crossing a deep recess close to the margin of the river, we came suddenly upon a party of about thirty Korannas, seated under the shade of the wood. Our first sensation was that of lively pleasure at regaining the society of a peaceful and friendly race of men, (for our journey from the Colony had been but a dreary one;) but our joy was suddenly checked, by seeing the Korannas, the instant they observed us, start on their feet, and fly to their

arms; and I expected the next moment a shower of poisoned arrows to be poured in upon us. But Witteboy, with great presence of mind, threw himself from horseback, flung down his gun and ran towards them with extended arms—calling out in their own dialect, that we were friends. This instantly brought them to a parley, and we soon shook hands together with mutual satisfaction. We now learned that the cause of their alarm at our appearance was the conduct of the Namaqua robber Africaner, who, with a strong party of runaway slaves and bastards, keeps the whole of the adjoining tribes in terror, and has already reduced the greater part of them to destitution, by plundering them of their flocks and herds. On first seeing us, this party took us for some of Africaner's band, and had determined to resist to the uttermost. Their kraal, with the cattle, women, and children, was on the opposite side of the river, so that we could neither procure milk nor any other refreshment from them. They had crossed the river merely for the sake of hunting.

As soon as we came to a friendly understand-

ing with these people, I made inquiries respecting a great cataract which I had been informed existed in this vicinity. To my high satisfaction, I soon ascertained that it was not above seven or eight miles down the river; and as mid-day was scarcely passed, I determined to visit it immediately, and return to the Koranna camp to spend the night.

Leaving our two weakest horses, therefore, I set out with Witteboy and five of the Korannas, whom I engaged to accompany us on foot. As we approached the fall, the sound began to rise upon our ears like distant thunder. It was still, however, a work of some exertion to reach the spot, from which we were divided by a part of the river, and beyond that by a tract of wild woodland, several miles in extent. The main and middle branch of the Gariep, which forms the cataract, traverses a sort of island of large extent, covered with rocks and thickets, and environed on all sides by streams of water. Having crossed the southern branch, which at this season is but an inconsiderable creek, we continued to follow the Korannas for several miles through the dense acacia forests, while the thundering sound of the cataract in-

creased at every step. At length we reached a ridge of rocks, and found it necessary to dismount and follow our guides on foot. It seemed as if we were now entering the untrodden vestibule of one of Nature's most sublime temples; and the untutored savages who guided us, evinced by the awe and circumspection with which they trod, that they were not altogether uninfluenced by the *genius loci*. They repeatedly requested me to keep behind, and follow them softly, for the precipices were dangerous for the feet of men,—and the sight and sound of the cataract were so fearful, that they themselves regarded the place with awe, and ventured but seldom to visit it. At length the whole of them halted, and desired me to do the same. One of them stepped forward to the brink of the precipice, and having looked cautiously over, beckoned me to advance. I did so, and witnessed a curious and striking scene; but it was not yet the waterfall. It was a rapid formed by almost the whole volume of the river, compressed into a narrow channel of not more than fifty yards in breadth, whence it descended at an angle of nearly 45°, and rushing tumul-

tuously through a black and crooked chasm, among the rocks, of frightful depth, escaped in a torrent of foam. My swarthy guides, although this was unquestionably the first time that they had ever led a traveller to view the remarkable scenery of their country, evinced a degree of tact as *Ciceroni*, as well as natural feeling of the picturesque, that equally pleased and surprised me. Having forewarned me that this was not yet the waterfall, they now pioneered the way for about a mile farther along the rocks, some of them keeping near, and continually cautioning me to look to my feet, as a single false step might precipitate me into the raging abyss of waters,—the tumult of which seemed to shake even the solid rocks around us. At length we halted as before, and the next moment I was led to a projecting rock, where a scene burst upon me, far surpassing my most sanguine expectations. The whole water of the river (except what escapes by the subsidiary channel we had crossed, and by a similar one on the north side,) being previously confined to a bed of scarcely one hundred feet in breadth, descends at once in a magnificent cascade of fully four hun-

dred feet in height. I stood upon a cliff nearly level with the top of the fall, and directly in front of it. The beams of the evening sun fell full upon the cascade, and occasioned a most splendid rainbow; while the vapoury mists arising from the broken waters, the bright green woods which hung from the surrounding cliffs, the astounding roar of the waterfall, and the tumultuous boiling and whirling of the stream below, striving to escape along its deep, dark, and narrow path, formed altogether a combination of beauty and grandeur, such as I never before witnessed. As I gazed on this stupendous scene, I felt as if in a dream. The sublimity of Nature drowned all apprehensions of danger; and after a short pause, I hastily left the spot where I stood, to gain a nearer view from a cliff that more immediately impended over the foaming gulf. I had just reached this station, when I felt myself grasped all at once by four Korannas, who simultaneously seized hold of me by the arms and legs. My first impression was, that they were going to hurl me over the precipice; but it was a momentary thought, and it wronged the friendly savages.

They are themselves a timid race; and they were alarmed lest my temerity should lead me into danger. They hurried me back from the brink, and then explained their motive, and asked my forgiveness. I was not ungrateful for their care, though somewhat annoyed by their officiousness. I returned to my station to take a sketch of the scene; but my attempt was far too hurried, and too unworthy of its object, to please myself, or to be presented to the reader. The character of the whole of the surrounding scenery, full of rocks, caverns, and pathless woods, and the desolate aspect of the Gariepine mountains beyond, accorded well with the wild grandeur of the waterfall, and impressed me with feelings never to be effaced.

The river, after pouring itself out in this beautiful cascade, rushes along in a narrow chasm or canal, of about two miles in length, and nearly five hundred feet in depth, apparently worn in the solid rock, in the course of ages, by the force of the current.

In the summer season, when the river is in flood, the fall must be infinitely more magnificent; but it is probably at that season altogether inac-

cessible ; for it is evident, that the mass of waters, unable to escape by this passage, then pour themselves out in mighty streams by the two subsidiary channels, which were now almost dry, and at the same time overflow nearly the entire tract of forest land between them,—which forms, at other seasons, a sort of island, as we now found it. I named this scene “King George’s Cataract,” in honour of our gracious Sovereign.



CHAPTER V.

The Hippopotamus.—Obstacles to Cultivation.—Native mode of crossing the River.—Customs, Character, and Condition of the Koranna Tribes.

THE approach of evening, and the importunities of the Korannas, at length drew me reluctantly from the impressive scene I have vainly attempted to describe. We hastened back to their encampment, and I and my attendants fixed our bivouac for the night under an aged willow-tree, upon the very brink of the river.

In conversing about the waterfall, the Korannas mentioned that a hippopotamus had been killed by falling over it a short time before. But such an accident, they observed, seldom occurs, as the instinct of these animals leads them to avoid being carried by the current too near the rapid and rocky channels, and they usually pass such places by taking a circuitous course along the banks. The hippopotami are numerous in many parts of this river, and are occasionally caught by the natives, by means of huge pitfalls dug in the paths frequented by them, when they issue from the floods by night, to browse on the wooded banks. The capture of one of those enormous animals must be an event of jubilee and rejoicing to a whole horde of half-starved Bushmen or Korannas, sufficient to banish hunger and heaviness for weeks to come. The hippopotamus, though timid on shore, is sometimes a dangerous antagonist in the water. In the pairing season, especially, the natives dread much to encounter him in crossing the river. Mr. Moffat informed me, that once when he was passing Read's Drift, a Hottentot of his party was bit in two by one of those mon-

strous animals.* I learned from these people, that the Kuruman River, which rises in the Bechuana country, joins the Gariep a little below King George's Cataract; but that in the lower part of its course it is often dry for years together, like the Hartebeest torrent, on the southern side.

Being now somewhat tired of zebra's flesh, I endeavoured to obtain a little variety by bartering some of it with the Korannas for a piece of dried gemsbok; but the exchange was far from improving our fare,—the gemsbok was so tough that I preferred the zebra. Jacob, who had now sufficiently recovered his strength and spirits to crack a joke, observed, that if we lived much longer in this way, eating zebra to zebra, we should in time grow *striped*. This was considered good wit by the *beau monde* of the Gariepine banks. Witteboy and the Korannas laughed heartily at Jacob's *jeu d'esprit*, nor was I so fastidious as to refuse joining in their simple merriment.

16.—This morning was ushered in by the

* The figure in the vignette is copied from a drawing of a young hippopotamus, sketched upon another occasion.

signs of an approaching thunder-storm. On this account, and also further to recruit our horses, we resolved to spend another day with the Korannas. Like them, we took refuge from the coming tempest, and the deluge of rain which we expected with it, under the thickest foliage of the large willow-trees. A few days before, on the Hartbeest River, we should have been most grateful for a hearty drenching; now we rejoiced when a change of wind carried off the lowering clouds in a different direction, to refresh, probably, some distant spot of the thirsty wilderness.

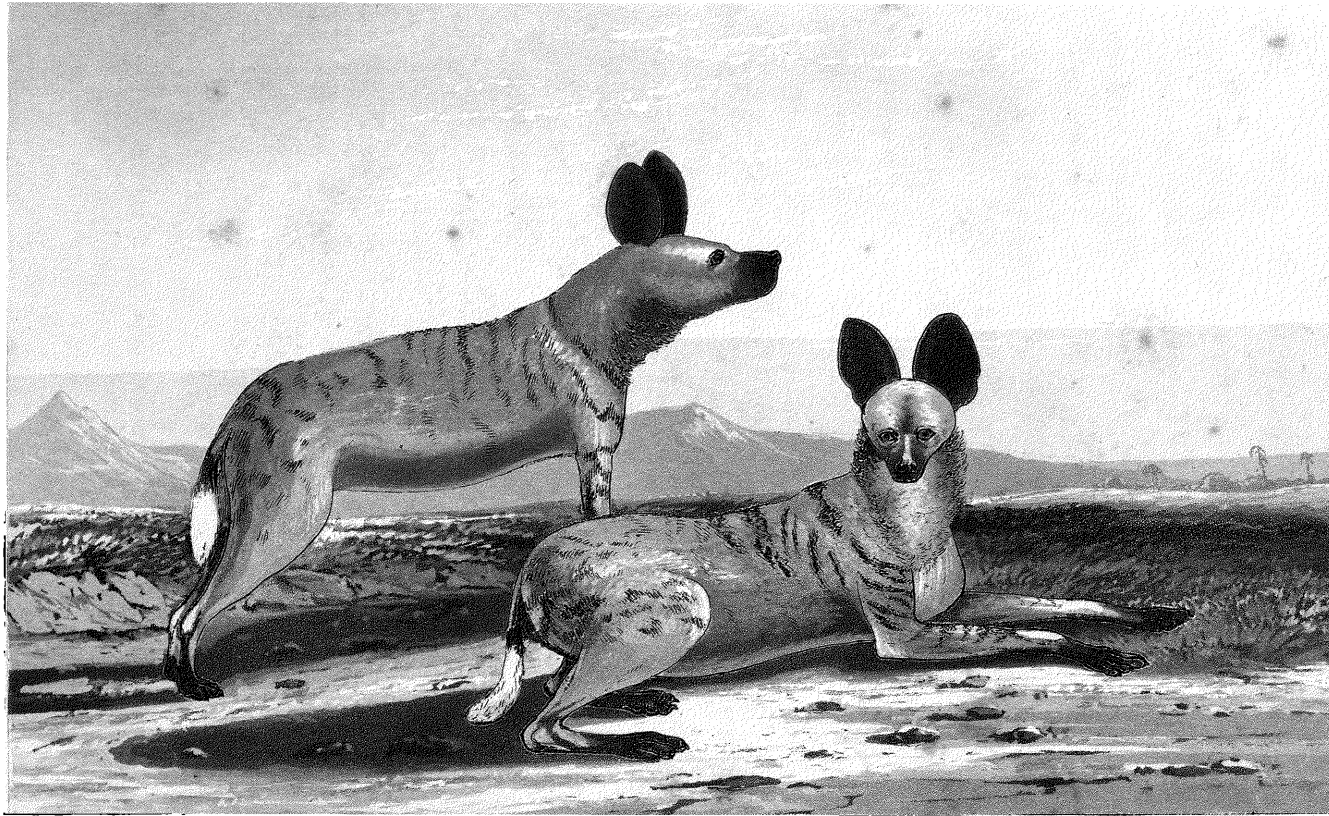
At noon I bathed in the river, and found myself greatly refreshed by it. On examining the banks, I observed with regret the impracticability of leading out the water for irrigating the adjoining lands by dams and ditches,—the usual and only method of cultivating the soil in the interior of Southern Africa. The great elevation of the banks above the ordinary channel of the stream, along the whole course of the Gariep, so far as I have surveyed it, seems to preclude all prospect of success in any scheme of this sort, upon the plan commonly practised; but whether

advantage might not be taken of its natural overflowings to effect in some measure the same object, or whether some simple machinery, similar to the Egyptian wheel, might not be here successfully employed in irrigation, I do not feel competent to decide. It is a problem, in all appearance, not likely soon to be solved.*

In the course of the day I prevailed upon some of the Korannas, by a small present, to swim across the river, in order to bring me a supply of milk from their kraal. They returned in the evening with a wooden vessel filled with sour milk, which I divided with my Hottentots, and after our tasteless fare of dried zebra-flesh, we considered it a very delicious treat.

None of the tribes of Southern Africa, either in the interior, or on the coast, have any thing in the shape of a canoe or boat. The method

* The inhabitants of Griqua Town, under the direction of the Missionaries, have, however, I understand, lately undertaken to lead out the waters of the Gariep for irrigation in the ordinary manner near their chief settlement. Not having seen the spot fixed upon, I can form no opinion in regard to its practicability: but the attempt is at all events highly creditable to their enterprise.



G. Thompson. Eng. del.

WILD DOGS OF SOUTH AFRICA.

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they adopt for passing a large river, and which I now saw practised, is very simple. Each man has a beam of wood with a peg at one end : grasping the peg with one hand, he sits astride, or lays himself flat upon his log, and paddles himself against the stream with his feet and other hand. This is a very inartificial contrivance, but it seems sufficient for every purpose required by these indolent children of nature.

During the course of the day I had much conversation with some of the most intelligent of the party with whom we were now associated, Wittebooy and Jacob acting as interpreters. The following is a brief epitome of the information I obtained on this and other occasions, respecting the Koranna tribe or nation.

The Korannas are a race of pure Hottentots, who have attached themselves to the vicinage of the Great River, and from whose principal branches they seldom or never emigrate to any considerable distance. They are found along the whole course of the river, from the spot where I now was, upwards towards its sources, as far as it has yet been explored by Europeans. They are divided

into a great number of independent clans, or *kraals*, as they are termed in the Colonial phraseology. The party I was now with enumerated above thirty of these, who, in their own language, are distinguished by different appellations, indicative of some peculiarity in the materials of their dress, or mode of subsistence. A chief or captain presides over each clan or kraal, being usually the person of greatest property; but his authority is extremely limited, and only obeyed so far as it meets the general approbation. When ancient usages are not in the way, every man seems to act as is right in his own eyes. They are a pastoral people, and some of their kraals possess large herds of cattle, and also some sheep and goats. Their flocks of the latter, however, are not numerous, though they thrive remarkably well, and attain a large size. The difficulty of protecting them from the wild animals,* and of driving

* The most destructive of the beasts of prey to sheep and goats are the Wild Dogs, (already mentioned vol. i. p. 408,) numbers of which infest the banks of the Gariiep, and plague the poor Korannas, not less than the Border boors. The annexed engraving gives a very accurate representation of these curious animals.

them from place to place in their frequent migrations, probably operates to prevent them from augmenting their flocks to any considerable amount. Many kraals possess neither sheep nor goats, but only cattle; and some few, as we have seen, having lost their cattle, have retrograded, from the pastoral to the hunter, or Bushman state.

The Korannas are continually roaming from place to place, according as the want of pasturage, or caprice, may dictate; and their moveable huts, composed of a few sticks, and a covering of mats, are carried along with them on their pack-oxen, which are uncommonly docile and well-trained.

Their language differs considerably from that of the Bushmen, but nearly resembles the dialects of the colonial Hottentots and the Namaquas. My guides, therefore, understood them with ease, while they could only understand such of the Bushmen fully as had been accustomed to visit the Colony. Their dress consists merely of the carosse, with an apron of skins for the females, and a sort of pouch used by the men, which last but indifferently serves the purposes of decency.

This is, indeed, the original dress of all the Hottentot tribes, and has been described with sufficient minuteness by former travellers.

In personal appearance, the Korannas are superior to any other race of Hottentots. Many of them are tall, with finely shaped heads, and prominent features, and an air of ease and good-humour about them which is very prepossessing. They are, in fact, a mild, indolent, and unenterprising race, friendly to strangers, and inclined to cultivate peace with all the tribes around them, except the Bushmen,—towards whom they bear inveterate animosity, on account of their continual depredations on their flocks and herds. Their wars with the Bushmen are said to be prosecuted with such rancour, that quarter is seldom given on either side, either to old or young. The weapons of both these tribes are similar,—only those of the Korannas are superior in size and workmanship, and their poisoned arrows are occasionally feathered.

Their only manufacture, besides their mats, arms, and dress, consists of some coarse earthenware, and a few wooden vessels carved with much

labour out of solid blocks of wood. Their knives and hatchets are purchased either from the Bechuanas or the Boors, for they do not work in iron.

The Koranna women have seldom more than four or five children. If they happen to have twins, (an event which rarely occurs,) one of them is destroyed in the same manner as with the Bushmen.

The disgusting marriage ceremony which Kolben says was practised among the colonial Hottentots in former times, has no existence among the Korannas; but a sort of aspersion with "holy water," such as he describes, is said actually to take place when the young men attain the age of puberty, and this custom probably gave rise to Kolben's story. The only marriage ceremony among the Korannas, that I could hear of, consists of a feast given by the bridegroom, and by the relatives of the bride, to all the kraal, if their wealth is sufficient to admit of it. They are fond of festivity, though rather averse to slaughter their cattle, except on great occasions; living usually on the milk alone, with the aid of wild roots, and

the game they kill in hunting. They are fond of singing and dancing by moonlight, and of amusing each other by relating fictitious adventures around their evening fires. Like all the other South African tribes, the Korannas possess the art of making a very intoxicating sort of mead or hydromel, by fermenting it with the juice of a certain root, of which, however, I was unable to procure any specimen. Some of the colonial Hottentots possess this secret, and frequently sell portions of the fermenting substance to the farmers for a large allowance of spirits or tobacco. The Gariepine tribes do not, however, appear to have the means of frequently indulging to excess in this inebriating beverage.

The Korannas are very subject to consumption, (as, indeed, are all the Hottentot tribes,) and more particularly to a disease called the blood-fever, which carries off great numbers of them. This distemper is thought by some to be owing to their frequent and sudden immersions in their favourite river, when they return profusely perspiring from the chase. By others it is ascribed to the unwholesome qualities of the water at cer-

tain seasons. It generally breaks outwardly in boils in some parts of the body, and, in this case, they make an incision round the part, and apply, with success, the gall and fat of certain animals. But if it breaks inwardly, there is no remedy, and the patient dies. This fever is confined to the banks of the Gariep, and rages with the greatest virulence in the months of February and March. For cuts and bruises they use the leaves of the buku, and one or two other plants, with good effect.

They have no religious ceremonies, and but very faint ideas of any state of futurity. Some of them say, that they had a tradition from their forefathers, that after death the spirits of men ascended, through a narrow gate in the clouds, into another world, where they existed after death, but that few put any faith in this tradition. But all allowed, that until the missionaries came among them, they had no clear idea of a supreme God, nor of a state of future rewards or punishments.

They are much addicted to a mischievous sort of witchcraft, or sorcery, somewhat similar to

that of the Caffer tribes, by means of which they often grievously torment each other ; and sometimes, as it is said, resort to worse than imaginary charms, and deal in philtres and poisons.

Their method of interment is the same as that peculiar to the other Hottentot tribes,—with the exception, perhaps, of the Bushmen. They first dig a grave in the usual form, and then excavate a recess in the one side of it, into which the corpse is introduced, wrapped in the carosse which the individual wore when living. The vacancy is then filled up with large stones and earth, to protect the body from the hyænas.

The Koranna clans, on the upper part of the Gariiep and its branches, are all in amity or alliance with the Griquas, with whom they combine against the Bushmen, who are regarded as the Ishmaelites of Southern Africa. Through this connexion some of them have become possessed of fire-arms. Some clans, also, are in strict alliance with the Matchapee tribe of Bechuanas, and have frequent intermarriages with them. Those lower down the river have, of late years, suffered very severely from the depredations of the

robber Africaner, and other banditti who now swarm along the banks of the Gariep, and many kraals have been entirely deprived of their cattle. In this condition they are more destitute even than the Bushmen themselves; for though the poorer class of Korannas are accustomed at all times to live partly by hunting, and on insects and wild roots, they seem to have less ingenuity and perseverance in the pursuit of those precarious means of subsistence, than the crafty and enterprising sons of the desert, who depend on no other resources; and they are, consequently, reduced, in seasons of scarcity, to the extremity of misery, as has already been shown in the description of those whom we found on the Hartebeest River. It must, however, be allowed, that in the digging of pitfalls for the Hippopotami, and other large animals, the Korannas display a degree of industry and perseverance, (considering their implements,) not less remarkable than the Bushmen, and little to be expected from the general indolence of their disposition.



CHAPTER VI.

Departure from Waterfall Station.—Sufferings from Heat, Thirst, and Hunger.—Bushman Vengeance.—Pella. Despair of the Hottentots.—Namaqua Encampment.

AUG. 17.—At sunrise, when we prepared to proceed on our journey, we found our old horse reduced by the purgative effects of the bad water he had drunk in the Bushman country, to the last degree of exhaustion. He was quite incapable

of accompanying us, and we were consequently forced to abandon him to his fate. He was now too miserable an object even to be food to the natives ; and the probability is, that he would fall a prey to the ravenous hyænas in a night or two. Having made some trifling presents to each of the Korannas, they now came to take leave of us with much ceremony, and cheered us cordially as we rode off.

Having emerged from the wooded banks of the river, we passed some hills of smooth naked rock, each, to appearance, composed of an entire stone. In front, and to the left, the boundless desert plain then again stretched itself before us ; while on the right the rugged Gariépine ridge, skirted by the river and its woody banks, extended to the westward as far as the eye could reach. As we advanced, the country near the river became so rugged and inaccessible, that my guides considered it requisite to bend our course more to the south-west, with the view of falling in again with the Gariépe at Pella, a Missionary station in the Namaqua country, about two days' journey below this. At that place we calculated on ob-

taining every necessary refreshment to recruit us for the rest of my projected excursion.

The plains which we now entered upon were entirely destitute of water, and only a few straggling gemsboks and springboks were browsing on the withered herbage. The occasional and precarious thunder-showers are, it appears, sufficient to maintain the hardy grasses of these regions, which, rushing up into hasty vegetation after rain, and as suddenly fading again under the parching drought, afford pasturage either in a green or withered state to myriads of wild animals, who migrate from place to place, according to the course of the seasons, and the abundance or scarcity of grass and water. It is from these tracts that the destructive flocks of *trek-bökken*, or migratory springboks, pressed by the long droughts, occasionally inundate the northern parts of the Colony.

At four P. M., after a long and dreary ride of about forty miles, we reached the bed of a river, near the bottom of a ridge of secondary mountains. Not being able to find any native appellation for either the river or mountain, I named

the latter after the Earl of Morpeth, and the former after my worthy friend, Mr. Pillans. We found a band of Korannas encamped at Pillans River ; but they had come from the banks of the Gariep merely to hunt, and had brought no provisions with them, and only a little water in calabashes, none of which they could spare to us. After a search of about a mile up the bed of the torrent, however, we found a pit containing water, though so very brack that we could scarcely drink it. The pit, too, was so deep and narrow, that our horses could not get access to it, and with much labour and difficulty we lifted water in a tortoise-shell, and poured it into the cavities of the rocks, from whence they eagerly licked it up with their parched tongues. Here we took up our residence for the night, and after turning out our horses to graze, resorted to our knapsack to cook our supper. What was my chagrin, to find that my too generous—my most improvident attendants, had given away almost the whole of our dried zebra flesh to the Korannas at the waterfall,—and that we were once more on short

allowance, with this wretched water! To add to our privations, the night was exceedingly cold; and as we could not find wood to make a comfortable fire, we were frequently awakened by the chill piercing blast, and by the howling of the hungry hyænas. The Hottentots and I agreed in naming this "Miserable Station."

18.—Unable to find repose, we started about four A. M., and pursued our journey by moonlight. After an hour's ride, however, the Hottentots got so cold in the extremities, that they said they could not proceed. We therefore halted, kindled a fire, and waited till sunrise. The Africans, of all classes, are less capable of sustaining cold than Europeans, and much more readily affected, also, by atmospherical moisture.

We had passed the Morpeth ridge before we halted. These hills run from S. E. to N. W., terminating about twenty-five miles to the right on the Gariep. The Gariepine Walls were still the most prominent object on our right. Another extensive plain again lay before us, bounded far in the distance by another ridge of hills

(similar to those we had just passed,) which I called Carlisle ridge, in honour of the respected nobleman of that name.* On our left, in the direction of the Colony, the desert plains were bounded only by the horizon.

At sunrise we continued our march. The heat of the sun in the plains soon became as insupportable as the cold had been but a few hours ago; such are the sudden transitions of temperature. The excessive prevalence of nitre has, perhaps, no inconsiderable effect in increasing the nightly cold of these regions. We unsaddled after three hours' ride, and turned out our horses to graze; but though the plains were covered with dry herbage, they were unable to browse for want of water. Here we breakfasted on our last piece of zebra.

Our distance from Pella was still more than fifty miles, but seeing no prospect of obtaining either food or water before we arrived there, we resolved to make a grand push to reach it this day, if our jaded horses could possibly carry

* This ridge is termed "Kaabas Mountains" in Mr. Campbell's first journey.

us through. Pushing on again, therefore, we speedily came to the brink of a long valley, extending between us and the foot of the Carlisle Mountains, about fifteen miles across. It was, like the plains we had left, entirely destitute of water. We descended into it through some naked ravines of calcareous gravel, and found the heat, on reaching the bottom, quite overpowering. Water now appeared to us the most valuable and desirable of all objects. We saw some wandering Bushmen at a distance, but too remote to overtake and question on this subject. Our horses became at every step more exhausted; and at length, just as we got across this burning valley,' as we called it, one of them finally gave up, and we were forced to abandon him to his fate, a prey to the lions and hyænas. We now began to be seriously alarmed for our safety. To stop here was impossible. The horses could not support thirst another day; and if they failed before we reached water, we must perish ourselves. We threw away in desperation our pack-saddle, our powder-flasks,

and every thing that we could possibly spare to lighten us, for our horses were now reduced to three, and these, from their previously exhausted condition, and particularly from the want of water, could not be expected to hold out many hours longer. The horse is an animal far less able to endure thirst than the ox; and on this account the latter is much preferred by travellers in dry countries.

At sunset we gained the foot of the Carlisle Mountains. Their height was apparently about 2000 feet, and I expected we should have to climb them with our weary steeds. I found, however, that my guides knew better, having been instructed by the Korannas to cross by a narrow pass which winds through the midst of them. This we happily succeeded in finding, and it led us through without a single step of ascent. It was one of the most bold and picturesque defiles I have ever seen,—winding through the bowels of the mountains, which rise on either hand in abrupt precipices, at least 1000 feet in height, and looked as if it had been

originally torn by some convulsion of nature, through the solid mass of rock. It was twilight when we passed through, which increased the sombre and solemn effect of the scenery, with its rocks and caverns rising around us in dim perspective. This *poort*, or pass, has received an appellation, signifying in the Namaqua and Bushman tongues, "Howling of the big men," from a circumstance which is said by the natives to have occurred at a distant period. A party of Boors had left the Colony to survey the banks of the Gariep, in hopes, perhaps, of discovering in these remote regions a land flowing with milk and honey, with none to dispute their occupation of it, but the feeble and famished natives. Whether they had committed any aggressions on the Bushmen in their route I did not learn, but they were waylaid in this defile on their return by the crafty and vindictive savages, and many of them slain by showers of stones and poisoned arrows: and from the dismal howling they made in their flight, the pass received its name. This story is at least an evidence of the feelings which the arrogant oppressions of the

white men have excited among the tribes of the desert.*

On emerging from this gloomy ravine (where we were not altogether free from apprehension of meeting from the Bushmen a reception similar to that of the boors), the twilight was closing around, and we could just perceive that an extensive prospect opened to the westward, over

* The following verses are designed to express the sentiments with which these persecuted tribes may be supposed to regard the Colonists :

SONG OF THE WILD BUSHMAN.

LET the proud Boor possess his flocks,
 And boast his fields of grain ;
 My home is 'mid the mountain rocks,
 The desert my domain.
 I plant no herbs nor pleasant fruits,
 Nor toil for savoury cheer :
 The desert yields me juicy roots,
 And herds of bounding deer.
 The countless springboks are my flock,
 Spread o'er the boundless plain ;
 The buffalo bends to my yoke,
 And the wild horse to my rein :
 My yoke is the quivering assagai,
 My rein the tough bow-string ;
 My bridle curb is a slender barb—
 Yet it quells the forest king.

a plain sprinkled here and there with detached hills. We now considered ourselves in Namaqualand, and steered our course direct for Pella, keeping the Carlisle Mountains close upon our right. Holding on as fast as the darkness and deplorable condition of our horses would permit, we travelled along, exhausted with thirst, hunger, and fatigue. Every hour seemed three times its usual length, and every minute I ex-

The crested adder honoureth me,
 And yields, at my command,
 His poison bag, like the honey bee,
 When I seize him on the sand.
 Yea, even the locusts' wasting swarm,
 Which mightiest nations dread,
 To me brings joy in place of harm,
 For I make of them my bread.

Thus I am lord of the Desert Land,
 And I will not leave my bounds,
 To crouch beneath the Christian's hand,
 And kennel with his hounds :
 To be a hound, and watch the flocks,
 For the cruel white man's gain—
 No! the swart Serpent of the Rocks
 His den doth yet retain ;
 And none who there his sting provokes
 Shall find its poison vain !

T. P.

pected our horses would give up and leave us abandoned in the desert. One of them was so much exhausted, that whenever we came to a piece of sandy ground it dropped down as if it had been shot, with Witteboy on its back.

After travelling nearly three hours in this miserable fashion, my Hottentots imagined that we must now be in the immediate vicinity of Pella. But hour after hour elapsed, and still we travelled on. We knew we could not miss the place, from its position at the foot of the mountains; but it seemed as if we were continually moving without getting nearer the much wished-for asylum, where all our sufferings we hoped would terminate. Thus we travelled onward for other three tedious hours. At length, with a joyful voice, Jacob called out "Water!" looked down, and caught the glimmering reflection of a star at my horse's feet. The two Hottentots had already flung themselves from horseback, and were lying flat on their bellies, sucking in the refreshing moisture which oozed through the sand in a scarcely perceptible streamlet. I was soon beside them, and for

several minutes all was silent save the sound made by our horses greedily sucking up the water beside us. I thought we should have actually drained the little fountain dry before we ceased. Never was relief more seasonable.

We were now aware that we were in the immediate vicinity of Pella; but as it was very dark, and long past midnight, and we were excessively fatigued, we made fast our horses, and flung ourselves down beside them, supperless as we were, and without a fire.

19.—Too wearied and cold to sleep, I watched impatiently for the return of day to light us to the friendly horde of Namaquas, and the hospitable mansion of their missionary pastor. And as soon as daybreak began to glimmer over the mountains, I listened eagerly for the crowing of cocks, the bark of dogs, the lowing of cattle, or some other cheering evidence of the neighbourhood of men. But all was still and silent. As the dawn advanced, and objects became more distinct, we found ourselves within two hundred yards of a house. I started up, and advanced to it; but what was my dismay to find the

whole station totally deserted. Not a human being, nor a living creature remained! The hearts of the Hottentots sank within them, and I saw deep dejection overspread their countenances. As for myself, though naturally of an elastic and sanguine temper, I confess, I now also felt appalled, and could with difficulty repress the conviction that we were really doomed to perish for want in this drear and desolate country.

On examining the place in search of something to quell the cravings of nature, I found a small neat building erected to serve the double purpose of church and school, and near it the habitation of the Missionary. The Namaquas themselves live, like the Korannas, in huts covered with mats, which they carry with them on pack-oxen, when they remove from place to place. I found abundance of fine water, sufficient to irrigate a few gardens, and was at a loss to account for the desertion of the station, or to the failure of the pasturage, or to the plundering inroads of Africaner and his robber gang. How to discover where the Missionary and his

flock were fled, or where else to find succour, was now the difficulty which I knew not how to surmount.

After ransacking every nook, and even committing a sort of sacrilege, by breaking into the little chapel, we returned to the spot where we had halted, without being able to find any thing in the shape of food, or any clue to direct us in the pursuit of the roaming inhabitants.

My Hottentots were exceedingly dejected. This was the place they had all along looked forward to for refreshment, and supplies for the rest of our journey. Every previous hardship they had supported with comparative patience; but their courage and confidence were now utterly gone, and they told me bluntly that they would follow me no farther. They had made up their minds, they said, to start about noon, as soon as the horses were a little rested and refreshed, and would endeavour to make their way back to the Colony, by the nearest route; riding the horses as far as they could carry them, and when they fell, to cut them up for food, and continue their journey on foot. It was in vain that I represented to them

the desperate nature of such a project; that to the Colony was a journey of several days, even on fresh horses; that our exhausted ones could not possibly, without refreshment, carry us a single day longer; and that they could never get through the wilderness on foot: while, on the other hand, by proceeding perhaps only a few hours farther westward, we could scarcely fail of falling in with the Missionaries, or with some hordes of friendly Namaquas, where we should find food and shelter; or, at the worst, we were now within easy reach of the Gariép, and might find game on its banks, or kill one of our horses to support us there, till we could hear tidings of the Missionaries or Namaquas. It was in vain, however, that I thus reasoned with them. They told me doggedly, that they had made up their minds not to remain in this frightful country to perish at last of thirst or hunger; and that I might do as I chose, but they would start for the Colony at noon.

The obstinacy of my men disconcerted me more than any thing that had yet occurred. I wandered to the neighbouring heights, and gazed over

the solitary plains ; but not a human being—not a living creature met my view. I returned to the Hottentots, and found them, to my surprise, cooking something on the embers. On inquiry, I found it was a piece of zebra skin, which we had brought with us, to make shoes for the feet of the horses lamed by the flinty roads. This skin, having been beaten between two stones to make it tender, and the hair singed off, I joined them at breakfast on it, and found considerable relief from this sorry fare, coarse and unpalatable as it was.*

Noon was now approaching, when the Hottentots had fixed to leave me, unless I agreed to accede to their plan, and accompany them back to the Colony ; a plan, not only subversive of all my schemes for farther exploring the country, but, in our circumstances, attended with imminent danger of perishing in the wilds. I seated myself at a little distance from them, weighing in my own mind, whether it would be preferable to

* The vignette prefixed to this chapter will convey to the reader a pretty accurate portrait of my Hottentot guides, as they were wont to sit at ease by our evening watch-fires—smoking and chatting by turns. It is engraved from one of Dr. Heurtley's admirable sketches.

agree to their proposal, or remain here without them, and attempt to search out some Namaqua kraal, by following the course of the Gariep. While thus sadly ruminating, I turned my eyes to the south-west, and beheld two people approaching. I called joyfully to the Hottentots, and Witteboy and I immediately set off to meet them. They proved to be two Griquas, or Bastard Hottentots, belonging to a hunting-party at some distance, who had come here in search of water. They had no provisions with them, but they gave us the grateful information, that Mr. Bartlet, the Missionary, was now at a place called t'Kams, about twenty miles to the westward. This was joyful news to us. Twenty miles was, indeed, a dreary journey for men so hungry, and with horses so much exhausted as ours; but it was nothing to the difficulties we had just before contemplated. My Hottentots again willingly submitted themselves to my orders, and proceeded with alacrity to saddle our horses, in order to leave the desolate station of Pella.

This missionary station (belonging to the London society) is placed in a very low situation

under the Carlisle, or Kaabas Mountains, which rise here in frowning grandeur, almost perpendicularly, to the height of about 2000 feet. This ridge terminates at the Gariep, about half an hour's walk from Pella. The river flows through a narrow and rocky pass, forming a rapid between the Carlisle and Gariepine ridges. The situation of Pella seems well selected, but I believe the great prevalence of saltpetre in the soil renders it but little productive for vegetables. I observed, however, several ebony trees, which had been transplanted from the banks of the river, growing here in great luxuriance. Along the Gariep, both the black and white ebony is found in abundance.

After a tedious journey of about five hours, (our horses not being able to move faster than a walk,) we espied the cattle and encampment of the Missionary and his people,—the most pleasing sight we had beheld since we left the Colony. On our approach Mr. Bartlet came forth to meet us, and gave me a most cordial welcome, though he seemed not a little surprised at my visit, and at my strange appearance. Being ushered into his little hut, I explained the occasion of my journey,

and the nature of the privations I had lately endured. Some meat and tea were immediately prepared for me; and as I expressed a great longing for bread, some corn lately procured from Kamiesberg was ordered to be ground, and a cake to be prepared. Corn is no where raised in this country, and bread is consequently accounted rather a luxury than a necessary of life, even with the Missionaries.

In order to regale my Hottentots after their late sufferings, I purchased a whole sheep, and gave it to them to revel upon to their hearts content. In regard to myself, Mr. Bartlet's hospitality left me nothing to desire. When the worthy man was informed of the route by which I had come, and the difficulties I had encountered, he seemed greatly surprised, and was most kind and assiduous in his attentions to promote my comfort. A good supper was prepared for me, at which I again partook of bread—that best staff of life. I then retired to rest, and once more enjoyed the luxury of a comfortable bed and sound repose, without apprehension of danger through the night, or anxiety for the morrow.

20.—A bright and beautiful spring morning awakened me to survey this pastoral station. It is watered by a spring from the rugged mountain which overhangs the encampment. The adjoining plains are covered with grass which grows all in separate tufts, like the hair on the head of a Hottentot. From this feature the spot derives its name *t'Kams*, a term signifying “tufted grass,” in the Namaqua dialect.

Only a small party of from thirty to forty Namaquas were at present residing with the Missionary. When his congregation are all collected at Pella, they amount to about 400 souls; but the severe droughts, and consequent failure of pasturage, force them occasionally to disperse themselves in divisions over the country wherever a spring of water exists with grass in the vicinity for their flocks. It was on this account that Pella, though well supplied with water, was at this time entirely deserted. Such an unsettled and roving life is undoubtedly very adverse to the progress of civilization; but the nature of the country is such, that a people like the Namaquas must be nomadic, and the Missionaries

must of necessity accompany them in their wanderings. As soon as rain falls, the pastures at Pella will instantly spring up, and the scattered divisions of the people will again be re-assembled.

Mr. Bartlet was now living in a small cabin covered with mats, in the same simple fashion as his followers. This worthy man was unwearied in his attention to me, and, to recruit my wasted strength, had a fresh meal served up to me every two or three hours; so that I soon made up for my former privations, and felt myself so much recovered in the course of this day, that I made arrangements to proceed on my journey the following morning.

I spent the whole day in walking about and conversing with Mr. Bartlet, and in taking notes of the information I obtained from him, and the most intelligent of his people, respecting the present state of the Namaqua tribes, and of the country they inhabit. This information, together with what I have elsewhere collected on the same subject, will be found condensed into the following Chapter.

CHAPTER VII.

The Namaquas.—Extent and Character of their Country.—Manners and Mode of Life.—Heat of the Climate.—Venomous Reptiles and Insects.—The Robber Africaner.—The Damara Nation.—Disorderly State of the Bastard Population along the Banks of the Gariep.

THE Namaquas are a race of Hottentots inhabiting the country adjoining to the coast on both sides of the Gariep. They are a pastoral people, resembling the Korannas, and the aboriginal tribes of the Colony, in their general characteristics; living chiefly on milk; addicted to a roaming life; and of a disposition mild, indolent, and unenterprising. Mr. Barrow visited some of their kraals in the vicinity of the Kamiesberg, during his excursions in the Colony thirty years ago, and his brief notices, written with his usual felicity, and power of observation, still afford the only ac-

count of this people worthy of perusal. It falls now to my office to fill up a little more fully the sketch so ably and accurately drawn by him.

The country of this tribe is usually distinguished on the maps by the names of Great and Little Namaqualand. The latter division, whatever may have been its original extent, is now confined to the acute angle, extending between the sea-coast and the Gariiep, and bounded on the south and east by the Koussie River, and the Carlisle Mountains. Great Namaqualand is a country of a much larger and more undefined extent. It extends about 200 miles northward, from the banks of the Gariiep, and about the same distance eastward, from the sea-coast, towards the interior. From the Bechuana country it is separated by an extensive tract of desert, totally uninhabitable on account of the want of water. On the north it is bounded by the country of the Damaras. A great part of this territory consists of an extensive plain, or valley, watered, or rather drained, by a stream, called the Fish River by Vaillant, and erroneously described in his map, and in Burchell's, on his authority, as falling into the sea

to the northward of Angra Pequina Bay. This river I have ascertained to be a branch of the Gariép, and have distinguished it by the name of my friend and partner Mr. A. Borradaile. It joins the Gariép at no great distance from the mouth of that river, and after heavy rains is said to be a stream of great magnitude; but, like other occasional rivers, its channel seems to be for the greater part almost empty, and only re-appears here and there in stagnant pools. Such as it is, however, it is next to the Gariép, the principal river of the Namaqua country; and in the dry season its banks are resorted to by a great number of the natives. Another river of some importance, called the Kooisip, is described as falling into the sea farther to the northward; but as I could not obtain any very distinct intelligence of its course or character, it is not inserted in the map. Altogether, Namaqualand is a dry and desolate country, enlivened only here and there by a few permanent fountains, which supply the natives and their cattle in the seasons of drought, which are long and frequent. The great valley of *Borradaile* is divided from the sea-coast by a range of rugged

hills of no great elevation, which seem to run on to the ridge which I have named the Gariepine walls.

The soil of Namaqualand is in general light and sandy, and thinly clothed with a sort of grass that rushes suddenly up into vegetation after the precarious rains which the climate affords, and furnishes sufficient pasturage for numerous herds of cattle and wild animals. Some of the plains towards the sources of the Borradaile River are reported to be much more fertile in pasturage than the rest of the country, and there are scattered here and there a few copious fountains, which the Missionaries consider eligible situations for permanent villages.

The Namaquas are divided, like all the Hottentot tribes, into a variety of separate clans, governed (if such a term can be used for their rude polity) by a chief, whose authority is very circumscribed and precarious. The kraals bordering upon the Colony have been long ago extirpated, or reduced into servitude by the boors. The extensive plains, lying between the Gariep and the Kamiesberg, are represented, by old writers, as

occupied by a numerous race of people, possessed of large flocks and herds, and living in ease and abundance. Of these, the tribe now resident at Pella and its vicinity, is the only one remaining. It is named (after a sort of bee that associates amicably with the common sort) *Obseses*, probably from this horde being formed from the association of several smaller ones. In great Namaqualand the population appears also to be rapidly decreasing, from causes to which I shall speedily advert, but the following clans are mentioned as still existing there, and some of them as being numerous: the Nanninap, Koerissimap, Kannamap-arrisip, Haikammmap-koowoosip, Tsaumap, Tsaugamap, Karramap, Aimap, Kanma-tsawep, Gandemap, &c.

The Namaquas live in moveable huts, resembling, in all respects, those of the Korannas, excepting that they are rather larger in size, and the floor is usually excavated to the depth of a foot, or eighteen inches, below the level of the adjoining soil. They have no stations that can strictly be called permanent, but roam from place to place with their flocks and herds and house-

hold utensils, according as the want of water and pasturage may require.

Even Pella, which the Missionaries have been endeavouring for these dozen years to establish as a village, is, as we have seen, occasionally deserted for months together; and such are the peculiarities of the soil and climate, that it seems extremely doubtful whether the wandering habits of the people can ever, to any considerable extent, be overcome.

They have a breed of sheep different from those of the Colony, being destitute of the large tails characteristic of the latter. Their dress, manners, superstitions, and mode of life, resemble, in almost all respects, those of the old colonial Hottentots, except in so far as some of them have been partially enlightened and improved by intercourse with the Missionaries, to whom they seem to be sincerely attached.

The climate of Namaqualand is much hotter and drier than that of the east coast. On the immediate banks of the Gariep, which are, in this quarter, considerably below the elevation of the surrounding country, the heat in the summer

66 VENOMOUS REPTILES AND INSECTS.

months is very intense. The thermometer then frequently rises to 120°—a temperature not easily supported by the natives, much less by Europeans. At such seasons, should a cow or ewe drop the calf or lamb, out of the shade, in the heat of the day, it instantly expires. The numerous reptiles and insects, common to the Colony, grow here to a larger size, and possess a more dangerous character. The formidable snake, known in the Colony by the name of cobra-capella, is said sometimes to attain the length of fifteen feet, and the puff-adder, ten. Mr. Bartlet assured me that he had actually seen a scorpion upwards of half a foot in length—but I suspect the good man must, in this instance, have been under some mistake, or unconsciously guilty of some degree of exaggeration. Tarantulas and other venomous spiders are numerous and deadly. I was told of a woman who had been recently bit by a very small spider in the toe, and had, in consequence, fallen into convulsions, and died in a few hours.

A species of crocodile is reported to exist in the Gariép, but I am persuaded it is the leguan,

which is found in many parts of the Colony, and is a very harmless animal. It is, however, certain that the boa constrictor is occasionally found so far south as the Gariép. Snakes of the length of forty or fifty feet are said to exist, and instances are related by the natives of the larger antelopes, and even cows, being occasionally attacked by them. Reports of very enormous serpents being sometimes discovered in the secret recesses of the rocks and mountains, have long been known to prevail among the Bechuana and Caffer tribes, and even among the colonial Hot-tentots; but have been generally discredited by travellers. I have, however, in my possession part of the skin of a great serpent killed by the natives near the Kuruman, which has been subjected to the inspection of Dr. Smith, superintendent of the South African Museum and ascertained to belong to the boa.

Fish are found in the Gariép, near its mouth, in considerable numbers. After the periodical floods, they are often left in shallow pools by the retiring waters, and are then caught by the natives, by means of rush mats, used in place of

nets. Some are said to measure six or seven feet in length, being probably of the sort known at Cape Town by the name of snook or pike. Though good and wholesome food, (except at one particular season,) they are not much relished by the natives, who from some prejudices, probably of a superstitious nature, are generally averse to eating fish. By the Caffer tribes, all sorts, except shell-fish, are held in abhorrence, as unclean. It is, however, remarkable, that a disease prevails among the fish in this river, similar to that which affects the inhabitants, and the animals who drink its waters after the periodical floods; and which seems to prove that the Gariep then acquires some unwholesome taint from the soil washed by its redundant streams.

The Namaqua tribes, formerly rich in sheep and cattle, passing an easy and unmolested life, except from occasional skirmishes with the wandering Bushmen, have of late years been assailed by a race of far more formidable enemies. About fifteen years ago, a Bastard Hottentot named Africaner, collected a band of people of his own race, runaway slaves, and other desperadoes;

and having by some means procured fire-arms, commenced a regular system of depredation upon the defenceless Namaquas and Korannas, plundering them of great numbers of their cattle, which he exchanged again with some unprincipled colonists for farther supplies of arms and ammunition. This continued until the robber chief was converted to Christianity, and to a decent and sober course of life, by one of the Missionaries, who, at the hazard of his life, paid a visit to him with that beneficent view. His conversion was sincere; and, from a lawless bandit, he became an estimable and exemplary man, and the friend and protector of those whom he had formerly persecuted. But, unfortunately, this happy state of tranquillity was but of brief duration; Africaner died, and on his decease, his son, of the same name, and the majority of his followers, speedily reverted to their former course, and have become as formidable and destructive as ever to the helpless tribes around them.*

* Mr. Moffat, after the conversion of old Africaner, was stationed for some years at his kraal, and had considerable success in instructing his wild followers; but was afterwards

This band now amounts to more than 300 men, and have in their possession about 200 muskets, partly taken by force from some of the Koranna hordes, and partly acquired by illicit traffic with traders from the Colony. After robbing the inoffensive Korannas and Namaquas of the greater part of their cattle, they have recently made several successful expeditions against the Damaras, and are the scourge and terror of the whole of this part of Africa.

Of the Damara nation, who inhabit the west coast beyond Great Namaqualand, I received the following accounts from the Missionaries and other persons who had visited them. They are a people of Caffer race, speaking a dialect similar to that of the Bechuanas. Their country is more fertile than that of the Namaquas, so

withdrawn by his Society, to conduct the more important mission among the Bechuanas. On the death of Africaner, which occurred about two years afterwards, the orderly part of his people removed to the missionary stations in Namaqualand, and the rest reverted to the bandit and brutal state from which they had been half retrieved. For civilized man to sink back to the savage state is an easy and every-day process; but to raise the savage to civilization requires a thousand levers,—and a thousand links to hold him there.

that they are enabled successfully to cultivate millet, pumpkins, beans, and the other vegetables commonly used by other tribes of the same race. They also possess numerous herds of cattle, and are not, as Barrow has erroneously stated, on the authority of a refugee of their nation, obliged to procure a precarious subsistence, by bartering with the neighbouring tribes the ornaments which they manufacture from the native copper ore of their country. It is, however, certain that very rich copper ore is found there in abundance, and is smelted and wrought by them in the manner described by Barrow. Specimens of this ore have been brought to Cape Town

The Damaras are associated in larger communities than the Korannas or Namaquas, are governed by hereditary chiefs, practise circumcision, and live in villages substantially constructed in the Bechuana fashion. The clans nearest to the Colony are known by the names of the Ghoup, the Nevis, the Gamaqua, and the Kurars. These are, however, evidently not their native appellations, but names of Hottentot

origin. Like the Matlhapees, they also use bows and arrows, as well as assagais. It seems probable that both they and the Matlhapees have adopted the bow and poisoned arrows of the Hottentots, from their close intercourse with tribes of that race; for neither the Bechuanas farther to the northward, nor any of the tribes of Southern Caffers, use the bow, or ever poison any of their weapons.

The Damaras are separated from the Bechuana tribes to the eastward by an extensive desert, destitute of water, and consequently uninhabited. It is, however, occasionally crossed, after the rainy season, by parties of the Matlhapee and Karrikarri clans, who, when not engaged in wars nearer home, relieve the tedium of existence, by going on expeditions to plunder their weaker neighbours. Some of the Damara chiefs informed the Missionaries who visited them, that there is an island on their coast where ships sometimes anchor, and barter iron for cattle. In latitude 22°, (which must be in the country of the Damaras, or of one of the tribes of the same family,) Captain Chapman of

the *Espiegle* sloop of war, discovered in 1824 a large stream, which he has called the Nourse River in honour of the late respected Commodore of that name. The river he describes to be about three miles broad at the mouth, and though obstructed, like too many of the African streams, with a bar across the entrance, it was, when he examined it, easily accessible to small craft, having nine feet of water on the bar, and without any surf. The country adjoining, and for a large extent along the coast, is described as verdant and well wooded, and abounding with wild animals, particularly elephants and buffaloes. The mouth of the Nourse River, therefore, may possibly prove to be a far more favourable station for commercial intercourse with the natives than the mouth of the Garipe, which is scarcely accessible (as I have ascertained) even for boats, while its course for several hundred miles upwards is obstructed by numerous falls and rapids, and scarcely to be considered as capable of affording any facilities for inland navigation. Besides this, the country on the lower part of its course is, as we have seen, exceed-

ingly barren and desolate, and peopled only by a few wandering Hottentot hordes, oppressed with poverty, and distracted by internal warfare.

The present state of things on the banks of the Gariep appears indeed to call loudly for the interference of the Colonial Government. This region has become of late years a place of resort for numerous bands of banditti, consisting chiefly of Bastard Hottentots and runaway slaves. Africaner's band has been mentioned, and there are others less considerable along the course of the river. Since my visit to Griqua Town, the divisions in that community have broken out into open war, between the different factions. A large proportion of the disaffected have removed to the mountains east of the Zeekoe River, and have again betaken themselves to the lawless and bandit life, from which the Missionaries, after years of danger and difficulty, had happily reformed them. They have plundered the helpless Bechuana clans to the eastward in the most unprovoked and cruel manner. They have destroyed or dispersed whole tribes, by robbing them of their cattle and even their children,

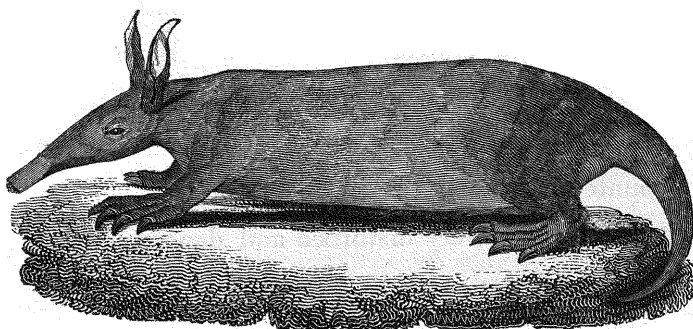
emulating the ferocity and augmenting the miseries inflicted by the savage Mantatees. This deplorable state of things now prevails, (or at least prevailed at the time of my visit to Namaqualand) from the sources of the Gariep to its mouth. The Griqua or Bastard population is spread along the banks of that river for an extent of at least seven hundred miles. Their numbers altogether are estimated to amount to nearly five thousand souls, and they have now in their possession, I am convinced, at least seven hundred muskets. Notwithstanding all the proclamations to the contrary, they readily obtain constant supplies of ammunition from the Boors, whom the great profits tempt to carry on this traffic in defiance of the Colonial regulations and of the claims of humanity. While at t'Kams I was informed that a farmer was then on the river with a large supply of gunpowder, which he was bartering with the Bastards for cattle, acquired by plunder. The profits of this smuggling traffic must be immense, for this fellow received, for every pound of gunpowder which he sold to these banditti, an ox or cow.

I do not mean to allege that all the Griqua population have become robbers and oppressors of the native tribes. An honourable exception must be made in favour of the principal community at Griqua Town, under the control of Mr. Melvill and the Missionaries, whom I have described in my former journey. But all the disaffected and disorderly spirits, who have either separated themselves from this community, or have fled from the Colony, to other quarters of the Gariepine wilderness, are now associated into bands of outlaws, who subsist more or less by plundering the helpless natives.

This state of affairs is too discreditable to the Colonial Government to be longer permitted to exist. For though these disorders have doubtless originated without its knowledge, and have continued in defiance of its laws, yet now that Government has become aware of them, it is its obvious duty to adopt energetic measures for their suppression. What may be the best method for effecting this object, it would be rash for a cursory traveller to profess to decide. But

the extension of the boundary of the Colony to the Gariep, seems to be on many accounts expedient; and is a measure now earnestly desired by the native tribes themselves. In proposing such an extension of the boundary, I am far from advocating the system that has too long prevailed of continually extending the occupation of the country by the colonial farmers. My sentiments on this point will be expressed hereafter. But by making this Great River the limit of our sway to the north, we should place at once an excellent natural barrier between the Colony and the independent tribes beyond it; and we should extirpate the banditti who now infest its banks, by recalling the Griqua clans by mild, equitable, and prudent measures, under our Government, and locating them permanently under the control of proper magistrates, supported by proper authority. If an advanced post of military were considered necessary, or a new seat of provincial magistracy were required to watch over the interests of the native tribes, and check abuses by the Colonists and Griquas,

probably the Kamiesberg may be found the most suitable position, and the Missionary settlement already there would, in such an event, afford many facilities for the establishment of a prosperous village.



CHAPTER VIII.

Departure from t'Kams.—Grassy Plains.—Goubus Fountain.
— Old Missionary and Schoolmaster.—Arrival at Kamiesberg.—General remarks on the South African Missionaries.

AUGUST 21.—HAVING procured, with Mr. Bartlet's friendly aid, four fresh horses and two new guides, I here paid off Witteboy and Jacob, and left them to return to the Colony at their leisure, when they, and the exhausted horses which I had brought from Hantam, had sufficiently recovered strength. My original plan had

been to trace the Gariep to its mouth, and after examining the nature of the bar, to extend my excursion into Great Namaqualand, and perhaps, as far as the Damara country, which no European, except some of the Missionaries, had yet visited. But the difficulties I had already encountered from the extreme drought which now prevailed, the very disturbed and dangerous state of the country across the Gariep,*—and its general destitution of commercial resources,—induced me, after due consideration, to abandon this design, and to shape my course back towards the Colony, contenting myself with the information I had now collected respecting the other objects of my intended route.

About two P. M. therefore, I took leave of my kind host. Having passed the mountain which runs to the west of t'Kams, we entered upon an extensive plain, clothed with dry tufted grass, but destitute of water. A few insulated rocks and

* Since that time, the Wesleyan missionary Mr. Threlfall, in endeavouring to penetrate into the Damara country, has been murdered by some of the natives whom he had engaged as guides.

hills rose before us, and on our right, between us and the Gariép, I observed some flocks of ostriches and gemsboks. After riding about twelve miles across a dead flat, we passed through a defile, between two rugged hills, beyond which the dry grassy plains extended to the south and west, bounded only by the horizon. My guides were desirous of reaching some rocks this evening, in the crevices of which they expected to find water, in consequence of a late thunder-storm, which had passed in that direction. We continued our journey, therefore, long after night-fall, lighted only by the stars. My guides rode on before me with the silent apathy of the Hottentot race. Not a sound was heard, but a sort of melancholy music, produced by the feet of the horses perpetually brushing the long withered grass. Thus we proceeded till past ten o'clock, when, being still a long way from the intended spot, it was agreed to make a halt till daybreak. The night was very cold, and the only fuel we could procure was dry grass, which blazed for an instant, and was gone. To keep up a watch-fire through the night was impossible.

We stretched ourselves, therefore, on the cold sand, and committing myself, as usual, to the care of Providence, I was soon asleep. To sleep thus on the open plain, without fire, is very dangerous, on account of the lions; but we spent the night undisturbed.

22.—At daybreak we started from our lair, and shook the heavy dew from our shaggy mantles. The immense plain extended round us on every side, bounded only by the horizon, and covered by the same dry tufted herbage already described. I named this spot ‘Forlorn Station.’

Continuing our journey for three hours farther, we reached a place called *Goubus*, a singular mass of naked rocks, rising twenty or thirty feet above the level of the surrounding plains, and extending three or four hundred yards in length. Here, with difficulty, we procured water, by digging in some old pits, between the masses of rock, which form a sort of basin or trough, in which the rain-water is collected. It is from this circumstance that the spot derives its name,—*Goubus*, in the Bushman language, signifying “Trough Fountain.”

After having had some refreshment from my wallet, (which I had taken care to have replenished with sufficient provisions to carry us through the uninhabited desert,) we again proceeded. The same boundless waste extended around us, animated only now and then by a few wandering ostriches, till about two hours before sunset, when we saw the peaks of the Kamies mountain cut the horizon ahead of us, at the distance of fifty or sixty miles. An hour or two more brought us among some secondary hills which run on to the Kamiesberg; and among these hills we reached, in the course of the evening, a place called Riet-Fonteyn, occupied by a Griqua, or Bastard-Hottentot, named Dirk Boukes. A little before arriving here we passed a numerous flock of ostriches, amounting to nearly a hundred, with their fine plumes waving beautifully in the setting sun.

The occupant of this place seemed more like a substantial boor than a degraded Hottentot. He had large flocks and herds, and had cultivated a considerable quantity of land; and his establishment altogether was on a very respect-

able footing, excepting his dwelling, which was only a temporary hut, in the style of the Namaquas. The father of our host occupies another place in the Kamiesberg, and he has seven or eight brothers, all of whom likewise possess property. This Griqua family may, therefore, be considered as in circumstances much superior to the generality of their caste. It is a great hardship, in regard to this class of people, that they have hitherto been systematically prevented from acquiring landed property in the Colony. In consequence of this, they are generally driven entirely beyond the boundary, and tempted to become outlaws and robbers ; for if any of them occupy and improve a vacant spot within the limit, they are always liable to be dispossessed by some boor obtaining a grant of it from the Government, who thus reaps the fruit of all their improvements and industry.

At this place was also fixed a German Missionary, (employed by the London Society,) of the name of Wimmer, who had been engaged for many years as a preacher among the Namaquas. And here, also, was another wanderer,

a native of England, named Martin, who had long been an itinerant schoolmaster among the boors, and was now, at the age of seventy-two, filling the same office to the families of some of the Griquas. Forty-seven years ago, he told me, he had accompanied the traveller Patterson in his excursions through the Colony; but had now nearly forgot his native tongue. I spent an agreeable evening in conversing with these old men, and in listening to their accounts of the native tribes, and of the changes that had taken place among them within the period of their remembrance.

23.—After an early breakfast, I left these hospitable people. From Pella to this place, the country had been constantly, though imperceptibly, rising, so that we must, even before leaving the plains, have been some thousand feet above the level of the ocean. The soft sandy plains, clothed with a boundless sea of tufted grass, had given way to a clayey soil, dotted here and there with ant-hills,*—or to hard gra-

* The sandy soil of Namaqualand is not congenial to the little architectural ant which covers the plains of the Bush-

vely strata, covered with the brown, heathy-looking shrubs, so prevalent over great part of the Colony; and in an hour after leaving Riet-Fonteyn, we crossed the Koussie, or Buffalo's River, the present Colonial boundary. For about four hours farther, our route lay through the windings of the detached mountains, forming part of the Kamiesberg ridge. On our way we passed the locations of some Griquas in possession of large herds of cattle. About midway we

man Country, and many parts of the Colony, with millions of its conical heaps—sometimes rising to the height of four feet. There are, however, other species of ants in this country, and the great ant-eater is found throughout every part of South Africa. This animal (of which an engraving is prefixed to this chapter) is called by the Dutch colonists the *Aardvark*, or earth pig. It burrows under ground, making large holes, which are very numerous in many quarters of the country, and not a little perilous to travellers on horseback, as has already been repeatedly noticed in my narrative. The *Aardvark* is about four feet and a half in length, and occasionally is found to weigh upwards of 100lbs. It is destitute of teeth, and lives entirely upon ants, which it procures by making a breach in their clay-built fortresses, by means of its strong claws, and then thrusts in its long tongue, covered with glutinous matter, to catch the tiny myriads as they hurry forth from their thousand crevices. It is by night that the ant-eater thus follows his vocation. By day he lies quiet in his burrow, and is seldom or never seen.

halted for an hour in a picturesque defile, called Pieter's Kloof, where there was good water, and where we refreshed ourselves from the stores of our knapsack. The face of the country had here a very different aspect from the parched wastes I had lately traversed. Rain had fallen in abundance, and the declivities of the mountains were clothed with green forage of a bushy nature, excellent pasture for horses and cattle.

An hour or two beyond this spot, we fell in with a boor named Van Zyl, with a band of about thirty Griquas, repairing the road which leads across the Kamiesberg. They seemed much surprised at seeing an English traveller (who was *not* a Missionary) in this remote quarter. Several heavy showers of rain and sleet overtook us as we ascended the mountain,—a novel thing to me, and indicating a far different climate from that of the parched plains I had left. At sunset we gained the summit of the mountains, and the Hottentot station of Lily Fountain, established there by the Wesleyan Missionaries. Mr. Shaw, the missionary, being on a journey to Cape Town, I was hospitably received by two native teachers,

who had the superintendence of the institution in his absence. One of the Missionaries' houses was allotted to me, and a good fire and refreshments were prepared for my accommodation.

In the course of the evening, I was joined by the boor Van Zyl, who was exceedingly anxious to hear *who* I was, and *what* were my objects in travelling. He told me that many of the Bastard-Hottentots in the vicinity had absconded, under the apprehension that I was a military officer, come to press men for the Cape corps,—a service which most of them hold in great abhorrence, ever since that regiment was recruited, some years ago, by compulsory enrolment. Captain Blakeway had been here only a few months before, endeavouring to obtain men by voluntary enlistment, but without success; and they now imagined that I was another officer come to take them by force.

The settlement of Lily Fountain was commenced eight or ten years ago, by the Wesleyans. Three-fourths of the inhabitants were at present dispersed, with their flocks and herds, at various outposts of the mountain glens. When collected,

they amount to about 400 souls, consisting principally of Namaqua Hottentots, intermingled with several families of the mixed or Bastard race. The latter are generally the most wealthy and enterprising. Very large herds of cattle are possessed by many individuals. The two native superintendents who entertained me, mentioned that upwards of 4000 head belong to this little community. The place is also well adapted for breeding horses, being exempt from the periodical distemper to which that useful animal is subject throughout the greater part of the Colony. Indeed, generally speaking, the summits of mountains are the only secure places for horses during the autumnal months, when the sickness prevails.

The extent of land cultivated here is very considerable. About ninety muids of wheat (or somewhat more than 270 Winchester bushels) had been sown this season, covering from three to four hundred acres; and from which, if the season were tolerably favourable, a return of from thirty to fifty fold was anticipated. Were there any accessible market for their surplus produce, a much larger quantity might readily be raised;

for the frequency of snow and rain on this favoured mountain keeps the springs always running, and renders at the same time irrigation less indispensable. But as there are at present no means of disposing of any quantity of surplus grain in this quarter, the cultivation is necessarily confined to the immediate wants of the inhabitants.

The Kamiesberg is distant about forty miles from the west coast, and is considered to be from four to five thousand feet above the level of the sea. The Missionary establishment is within 300 feet of the highest peak of the mountain. The climate is consequently very different from that of the plains below. Falls of snow are frequent during the winter, and the frost is sometimes so severe as to injure the young crops. For this reason, as well as on account of the sour grass, it is not very favourable for rearing sheep; and some of the more delicate fruits of the Colony cannot be raised here. But its advantages are, nevertheless, great, and the salubrity of its climate proverbial. On the whole, it appeared to me a well-selected and well-conducted Mission-

ary station, highly creditable to its founders, and highly beneficial to the people under their control.

Having now visited nearly the whole of the Missionary stations in Southern Africa, it may not be improper to express in a few words the opinion I have formed regarding them. The usual objections against them are, that the generality of the Missionaries are a fanatical class of men, more earnest to inculcate the peculiar dogmas of their different sects, than to instruct the barbarous tribes in the arts of civilization; that most of them are vulgar and uninformed, —many of them injudicious, —some of them immoral;—and finally, that their exertions, whether to civilize or christianize the natives, have not hitherto been followed by any commensurate results.

Now my observations have led me to form a very different conclusion. It is no doubt true, that the Missionaries labouring among the tribes of the interior, are generally persons of limited education, most of them having originally been common mechanics: but it seems very doubtful

whether men of more refined and cultivated minds would be better adapted to meet the plain capacities of unintellectual barbarians; and were such teachers ever so preferable, where could they be procured? On the whole, the Missionaries I have been acquainted with in South Africa, appear to me generally well adapted for such service. Most of them are men of good, plain understanding, and industrious habits, zealously interested in the success of their labours, cordially attached to the natives, and willing to encounter, for their improvement, toil, danger, and privation. A few instances, in a long course of years, of indiscreet, or indolent, or immoral persons having been found among the Missionaries, proves nothing against the general respectability of their characters, or the utility of their exertions. Imperfection will be found wherever human agents are employed. But such unfavourable exceptions are rare; while, among them, many persons of superior ability, and even science, are to be found: and I may safely affirm, that at every Missionary station I have visited, instruction in the arts of civilized

life, and in the knowledge of pure and practical religion, go hand in hand.

It is true, that among the wilder tribes of Bushmen, Korannas, and Bechuanas, the progress of the missions has hitherto been exceedingly slow and circumscribed. But persons who have visited these tribes, and are best qualified to appreciate the difficulties to be surmounted in instructing and civilizing them, will, if they are not led away by prejudice, be far more disposed to admire the exemplary fortitude, patience, and perseverance of the Missionaries, than to speak of them with contempt and contumely. These devoted men are found in the remotest deserts, accompanying the wild and wandering savages from place to place, destitute of almost every comfort, and at times without even the necessaries of life. Some of them have, without murmuring, spent their whole lives in such service. Let those who consider missions as idle, or unavailing, visit Gnadenthal, Bethelsdorp, Theopolis, the Caffer stations, Griqua Town, Kamiesberg, &c. &c. &c.—let them view what *has* been effected at these institutions for tribes of the na-

tives, oppressed, neglected, or despised by every other class of men of Christian name: and if they do not find all accomplished which the world had, perhaps, too sanguinely anticipated, let them fairly weigh the obstacles that have been encountered, before they venture to pronounce an unfavourable decision. For my own part, utterly unconnected as I am with Missionaries, or Missionary societies of any description, I cannot, in candour and justice, withhold from them my humble meed of applause for their labours in Southern Africa. They have, without question, been in this country not only the devoted teachers of our holy religion to the heathen tribes, but also the indefatigable pioneers of discovery and civilization. Nor is their character unappreciated by the natives. Averse as they still are, in many places, to receive a religion, the doctrines of which are too pure and benevolent to be congenial to hearts depraved by selfish and vindictive passions, they are yet every where friendly to the missionaries, eagerly invite them to reside in their territories, and consult them in all their emergencies. Such is the impression

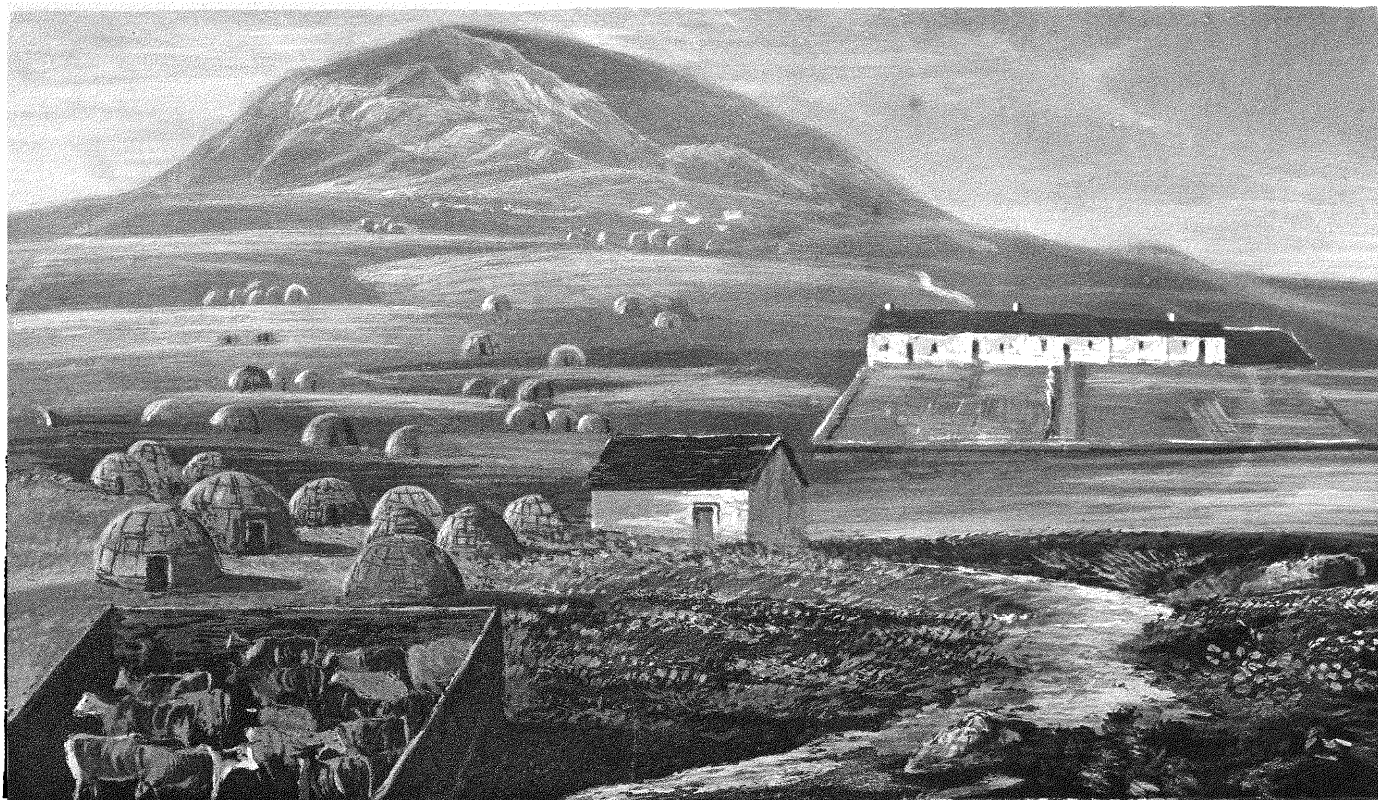
which the disinterestedness, patience, and kindness of the Missionaries, have, after long years of labour and difficulty, decidedly made even upon the wildest and fiercest of the South African tribes with whom they have come in contact; and this favourable *impression*, where more has not yet been achieved, is of itself a most important step towards full and ultimate success.

CHAPTER IX.

Journey from Kamiesberg to Clan-William.—Deserted Location of the Irish Settlers.—Industrious Hottentot Farmer.—St. Helena Bay.—Extraordinary Phenomenon.—Saldanha Bay.—Groote-Post.—Groene-Kloof.—Arrival in Cape Town.

AUGUST 24.—ON looking out this morning at sunrise, I was surprised to find the ground white with snow, and the thermometer at the freezing point. In little more than an hour, however, the snow entirely disappeared; and I found an opportunity to take the annexed sketch of the Missionary village.* After breakfast, I again started with fresh horses, having dismissed the horses and guides I had brought from Namaqualand.

* The huts are of the moveable sort used by the Namaquas; and most of the inhabitants being absent when I was there, had carried their huts with them, so that the village was reduced to a small hamlet.



G. Thompson, Esq. del.

KAMIESBERG.

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From the brow of the mountain, a most extensive prospect lay before me; but wild and desolate, and unenlivened by the dwellings of man, or the marks of human improvement. Far in the west the wide Atlantic embraced the coast, and bounded the horizon. We descended from the mountain by an abrupt and broken footpath, and after passing some locations of Griqua farmers, we continued our way through an intricate maze of winding kloofs, till we reached the place of the Veld-Cornet Engelbregt, after a continual descent of about thirty miles. This was the first boor's place I had seen on my return into the Colony. The master was living in a rude Namaqua hut, though apparently a person of considerable substance. Such are the slovenly habits which a wandering pastoral life creates, and perpetuates. The abundant rains, which had recently fallen in this quarter, had produced every where an exuberant freshness over the face of Nature, exceedingly delightful to my eye, after roaming so long through the parched deserts of the Bushman and Namaqua countries. Pleasant rills, too, were now pouring from every mountain glen. But these

refreshing streams do not extend permanently beyond the skirts of the Kamiesberg. A great deficiency of water prevails from the place where we now were, to the banks of the Oliphant's River, a distance of nearly one hundred miles. This tract of country is, consequently, to a great extent, only capable of being occupied occasionally, and after heavy rains; a circumstance which greatly tends to confirm the slovenly and roaming habits of the neighbouring colonists. Desolate and inhospitable as is this tract of country, it was nevertheless sufficiently tempting to the Christians, to occasion the dispossession, and ultimate extinction of a Hottentot tribe, called the Amaquas, who formerly occupied it.

The boor Engelbregt accompanied me to the residence of his next neighbour Coetzee, called Buffel's-Fonteyn, about twenty miles distant. I found this man also living in a Namaqua hut, without either garden or corn-field, but with extensive kraals full of sheep and cattle, which were encircled by numerous fires, to scare off the wolves and wild dogs.

25.—Daylight showed this boor's encampment

to be most picturesquely situated, amidst prodigious blocks of naked granite, each of them like a little mountain of one entire mass. The Paarl Rock, from which the village of that name derives its appellation, is far from equalling some of these in size, though by some travellers supposed to be one of the largest detached rocks in the world.

Having engaged a guide and three good horses, as far as Oliphant's River, I pursued my journey through a solitary and desolate country, almost void of inhabitants, with no living thing to relieve the monotony of the scenery, except the korhaan,* rising every now and then before our horses, and screaming forth its hoarse, discordant cry. In the evening I reached Eland's-Fonteyn, (De Toit's,) after a journey of fully sixty miles. This was a "Request place," occupied only in the winter, and the farmer and his family were living in Namaqua huts.

26.—Resumed my journey before daybreak. At sunrise I was cheered by the morning carols of numerous birds among the bushes, and the appearance and sweet perfume of a great variety of

* A species of bustard.