

examining the animal before it was cut up ; this being the first of the species which I had seen.

The name of *buffalo*, presents another example of the misapplication of European names to the wild animals of Southern Africa, and of the erroneous notions to which it gives rise. By those who are not read in zoology, the *buffel* or buffalo of the Cape, called by the Bichuanas *Naari*, is most frequently supposed to be the same with the animals which bear that name in Italy, Greece, and India, instead of a huge beast much more ferocious and dangerous, and which has never yet been tamed to the use of man. It is, however, an animal hitherto found no where but in the extratropical part of Southern Africa, and is widely distinct from every other species of the ox tribe, and most remarkable by its horns which, though not of more than ordinary or proportional length, are so unusually broad at their base as to cover the whole forehead, and give to it the appearance of a mass of rock ; an appearance to which the ruggedness and unevenness of their surface greatly contribute. Its countenance exhibits a savage and malevolent expression. Its bulk far exceeds that of the ox, although its height be not much greater ; but it is altogether more robust and strongly made. It is, when not young, but thinly covered with short scattered black hair ; that on the under lip and about the corners of the mouth, being longer and somewhat resembling a beard. The wither rises high, but not sufficiently to form a hump ; the tail resembles that of the common ox, but is much shorter, and the two spurious hoofs are rather larger in proportion. Its horns turn outwards and downwards ; and their points are recurved upwards. The hide is much thicker than that of the ox, and is valued by the Colonists and Hottentots, for its great strength, and for possessing the qualities proper for *riems* and *trektouws*. It is of a fierce and treacherous disposition, which, added to its size and strength, renders it dangerous to be attacked without caution, or without the certain means of escape at hand.

The true *buffalo* having been long domesticated and rendered a useful beast of draught or of burden, has suggested the possibility of taming this animal to the same purposes ; and the attempt has several

times been made in the Colony, by taking them when very young, and rearing them under the domestic cow : but, partly from injudicious management perhaps, and partly from its natural ferocity, no permanent success has hitherto attended these endeavours. Yet, notwithstanding these failures, it is an attempt which might not be wholly relinquished, since it is not unreasonable to expect that a mixed breed between this and the common Cape cow, would produce a more powerful and hardy race of draft cattle, and one which might possibly be exempt from those diseases to which the oxen of the Colony are often subject.

The present animal was a male, and apparently not young, as the points of its horns were much worn, and its ears exceedingly torn and cut, probably in forcing its way through the thickets, or in butting or fighting with others of its species. The Hottentots say they are seldom found with ears quite entire; and my own observations confirm the remark. The meat was in taste like coarse beef; but in younger animals it is very palatable and wholesome, and free from any unpleasant flavour.

It not being possible to lift the animal entire into the waggon, it was cut into quarters on the spot; and as soon as it was brought home, every hand was set to work to cut the flesh into flaps and dry it on the bushes; an affair which occupied all the remainder of that day, and part of the next. The real value of our ammunition may be computed from this circumstance, that two charges of powder and two balls now obtained for us a waggon load of provisions.

I profited by this opportunity and the leisure occasioned by waiting for the drying, to make a finished drawing of the head, as expressive of the distinguishing characters of this remarkable species of buffalo.

The following specimen of the *Kóra*, or *Kóraqua*, *dialect*, was obtained mostly from Muchunka; and is here inserted merely for the purpose of giving some idea of the structure and nature of *Hottentot* languages in general. This dialect, as it has already been stated, has a greater affinity to that of the Hottentots proper, than of the Bushmen; and though requiring a more frequent use of the

different claps of the tongue than the former, yet it does not employ them so often as the latter.

The system of orthography, and pronunciation here made use of, is the same which I have adopted for the Sichuana language, and will be found more fully explained in another part of this volume. But it is necessary to state, in this place, that the comma (') implies that the following syllable should be preceded by the first clap; the same mark inverted (‘) requires the second; and the double inverted comma, (“) the third.

The *first*, or *dental clap* is produced by pressing the tongue against the upper front-teeth and suddenly drawing it away, so as to give a sound resembling that which some people make as a mode of expressing vexation. This is the most acute of the three, or that which gives the highest tone.

The *second* or *palatial* is formed by applying the tongue to the middle of the palate, or roof of the mouth, and by withdrawing it in the same manner, a clucking noise is produced, of a lower tone than the first.

The *third* or *guttural* is similarly formed by placing the tip of the tongue against the hinder part of the palate; by which the same kind of noise as the second, but of a graver or still lower tone, is produced; and requiring a greater effort of enunciation.

In all of these three, which have already been correctly described by Le Vaillant, the lips do not touch each other; and the sound is followed so immediately by the syllable, to which it belongs, that both seem to form but one syllable. The difficulty of pronunciation, for European organs, is least in the first, and greatest in the third. Yet without these clapping sounds, the words would be unintelligible to a Hottentot ear; and cannot therefore be omitted in speaking any of the dialects of their language.

Some writers, have adopted the mode of indicating all these claps, which they did not distinguish from each other, by prefixing the letter *t* to the word or syllable; as *tky*. It appears also that sometimes a *g* or a *k* has been used to express the third sort; as in the word *gnu*. This circumstance is here mentioned for the purpose of

explaining how it happens that such words are spelt sometimes without those letters and sometimes with them. But this method is liable to objections, as it introduces a false orthography, and consequently a false pronunciation.

A SPECIMEN OF THE LANGUAGE OF THE KORA HOTTENTOTS.

One	- - - - -	' <i>Kuii</i> (or 'Queen, as it might be written according to English pronunciation).
Two	- - - - -	' <i>Kam</i> .
Three	- - - - -	" <i>Gúndá</i> (or Goonah in English). The mark for 'short quantity' (˘) implies that the vowel beneath it, is to be pronounced in a short and indistinct manner. The acute accent (´) is here, as in every other part of this work, used to indicate the syllable which bears the accent, or emphasis.
Four	- - - - -	<i>Hakaa</i> , or <i>Hakā</i> . Double vowels are used merely to express a more lengthened sound, and are to be considered as bearing the accent: or the same thing is signified by the mark for 'long quantity' (ˉ) placed over a single vowel.
Five	- - - - -	<i>Kürü</i> (Kooróo, in Eng.)
Six	- - - - -	" <i>Nánni</i> .
Seven	- - - - -	<i>Hongkū</i> (Hongkóo).
Eight	- - - - -	' <i>Kýsi</i> .
Nine	- - - - -	<i>Guési</i> (Gooáysy).
Ten	- - - - -	<i>Dési</i> (Dáysy).
Eleven	- - - - -	' <i>Kúí'ka</i> ('Kooé'ka). On comparing this with the word for 'one,' a difference in spelling and accenting, will be observed; but they are here written exactly as they were spoken. It appears that the pronunciation and place of the accent, change according to the composition of the word, or to its place in a sentence: and this probably, may be done merely for smoothness of sound.
Twelve	- - - - -	' <i>Kam'kwa</i> , ('Kam'qua).
Thirteen	- - - - -	" <i>Gúndá'kwa</i> . The remarks at 'eleven' are applicable to this and to several of the following words.
Fourteen	- - - - -	<i>Hákú'kwa</i> .
Fifteen	- - - - -	<i>Kúrú'kwa</i> .
Sixteen	- - - - -	" <i>Nánni'kwa</i> .
Seventeen	- - - - -	<i>Hónkú'kwa</i> .
Eighteen	- - - - -	' <i>Kýsi'kwa</i> .
Nineteen	- - - - -	<i>Guési'kwa</i> .
Twenty	- - - - -	' <i>Kamdési</i> .
Yes	- - - - -	<i>Aa</i> , or <i>ā</i> .
No	- - - - -	<i>Hanhan</i> , or <i>Haan</i> . This has a nasal sound like that of the French words, <i>dans</i> , <i>tems</i> .
I	- - - - -	<i>Tírí</i> (Teery, in Engl.)

Thou - - - - -	<i>Tsaats</i> (Tsarts).
Here - - - - -	<i>Heeba</i> , or <i>Heeva</i> (Háyba).
Where? - - - - -	<i>Bába</i> , or <i>Bárha</i> .
Sun - - - - -	<i>Sórréip</i> . Here the <i>ei</i> forms a true diphthong; in which the <i>e</i> and the <i>i</i> are equally blended, by pronouncing them both so closely together, that only one sound is produced.
Moon - - - - -	' <i>Kaam</i> .
New-moon - - - - -	' <i>Kám'kaam</i> . Here the dental clap belonging to the second syllable, was pronounced so weakly that it seemed almost to have been omitted. This was often found to be the case in compound words; and is done, probably with a view to soften the harshness of two claps in the same word.
Full-moon - - - - -	' <i>Ký'kaam</i> .
Moon decreasing, or in the last quarter - - - - -	<i>Ghydä'kaam</i> . The <i>h</i> in this place gives a strong and guttural aspiration to the <i>G</i> .
Stars - - - - -	' <i>Kammä'rūka</i> . ('Kammarooka).
The Pleiades, or Seven-stars	' <i>Koodi</i> , or ' <i>Kōdi</i> ('Kody).
The three stars in the Belt of Orion - - - - -	' <i>Kaankūkwa</i> ("Kárnkooqua).
Morning-star (Venus) - - - - -	' <i>Kwākōmrup</i> (Quarcumroop).
Shadow - - - - -	' <i>Karāap</i> , or ' <i>Karāp</i> (Caraap).
Clouds - - - - -	' <i>Kūma</i> (Koomer).
Rain - - - - -	' <i>Käviip</i> or ' <i>Kävīp</i> (Kaveep). It is also called <i>Tūs</i> or <i>Tinus</i> (Tooce) by some kraals.
Hail - - - - -	' <i>Nānkwa</i> ("Naanqua or "Narnquar).
Lightning - - - - -	<i>Tabāp</i> (Tabárp).
Thunder - - - - -	' <i>Gurūp</i> ("Gooróop).
Wind - - - - -	' <i>Küāp</i> ('Cooárp): in two syllables so closely connected, that this word might almost be written ' <i>Kwāp</i> .
Water - - - - -	' <i>Kāmmā</i> .
Fire - - - - -	' <i>Kāāip</i> , or ' <i>Kāīp</i> , in two distinct syllables.
Smoke - - - - -	' <i>Ai'kanna</i> . Here the <i>ai</i> forms a diphthong, and bears the accent.
Mountain - - - - -	<i>Sesin</i> (Saysin). Both these syllables were of equal force; so that the accent was not distinguished.
Many Mountains - - - - -	' <i>Kýss sesin</i> ('Kýser saysin). *
Spring or Fountain - - - - -	<i>Mí'kammā</i> (Móo'camma).

\* The Greek *s* here introduced, is intended to signify that vocal sound of *e*, *i*, or *u*, before *r*, which is found in the words *her*, *bird*, *curl*; which, according to this system, would be written, *he*, *burd*, *curl*: omitting, as the English generally do, that repercussion of the tongue which properly belongs to the letter *r*, and which, even in our most correct pronunciation, is not to be distinguished unless found between two vowels. The Dutch final *e*, as in *lengte*, *hoogte*, approaches to it nearly; and the French unaccented *e* in *je*, *que*, *de*, has some resemblance to it. In other places in the text, I have, to avoid the inconvenience of strange characters, used the *è* marked with the grave accent (').

For a further explanation of this system of orthography, the note appended to the following 28th of June is referred to.

Ford	- - - - -	<i>Khorūm</i> (Coróom). Here the <i>h</i> gives a strong aspiration to the <i>K</i> .
Where is the ford?	- -	<i>Barha</i> , (or <i>Baba</i> ) <i>Khrúmka</i> ?
Sea-water, or Sea	- - -	<i>Hūri'kamma</i> (Hóoricamma).
Whale	- - - - -	' <i>Karrab</i> .
Valley, or Watery place	-	' <i>Karréep</i> . In this word the <i>p</i> is nearly silent.
Path, or Road	- - - -	' <i>Tarró</i> ('Tarrów).
Horse	- - - - -	<i>Haap</i> (Harp).
Mare	- - - - -	<i>Has</i> (Hars).
Goat	- - - - -	<i>Bri</i> (Bree).
Ox	- - - - -	' <i>Komáamp</i> ('Comarmp). This and the following five words are probably written correctly; although (see Vol. I. p. 201.) they are not offered with certainty.
Cow	- - - - -	' <i>Komáas</i> , or ' <i>Komās</i> , ('Comáss).
Milk	- - - - -	<i>Biip</i> (Beep).
Bread, or food of that kind		<i>Bariip</i> (Bareep).
Knife	- - - - -	' <i>Kwauus</i> or ' <i>Koðns</i> (Cowarncce).
Waggon	- - - - -	' <i>Korokemp</i> .

The preceding list of words was written down, after they had been several times repeated by the native from whom I had them. The orthography will, I think, express exactly his pronunciation as it sounded to my ear; but it ought at the same time to be explained that some letters are in a few cases, commutable, as for instance, the *v* for the *b*, though this may be occasioned either by a careless manner of speaking, or by that species of impediment in the organs of speech, from which some individuals find a difficulty in uttering particular letters or combinations, and therefore substitute in their place, others of more easy enunciation.

18th. As the business of cutting and drying our buffalo-meat, had detained us till a late hour, we advanced but a few miles, and halted for the night at the foot of a hill known to the Klaarwater Hottentots by the name of *Blink-klip* (Shining Rock); but to the Bachapins, by that of *Sensaván*.

It is a very remarkable mass of rock rising out from the eastern end of a ridge of hills. As we approached it, I easily, even at a considerable distance, discovered by its brown color and shape, that it was of a nature different from any which we had hitherto seen.\*

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\* The engraving at page 233. is a representation of it, as viewed on the northern side. The entrance to the mine is in front, at the foot of the rock; but is not visible

Near it are two or three other similar masses, but much inferior in size.

The *Sensaván* is one of the most celebrated places of the Transgariépine; being the only spot where the *sibílo*\* (sibeelo) is found. Hither all the surrounding nations repair for a supply of that ornamental and, in their eyes, valuable substance. It constitutes in some degree an article of barter with the more distant tribes, and even among themselves; so that the use of it extends over at least five degrees of latitude, or among every tribe which I have visited.

This *sibílo* is a shining, powdery iron-ore of a steel-grey or blueish lustre, and soft and greasy to the touch, its particles adhering to the hands or clothes, and staining them of a dark-red or ferruginous color. The skin is not easily freed from these glossy particles, even by repeated washing; and wherever this substance is used, every thing soon becomes contaminated, and its glittering nature betrays it on every article which the wearer handles.

The mode of preparing and using it, is simply grinding it together with grease, and smearing it generally over the body, but chiefly on the head; and the hair is often so much loaded and clotted with an accumulation of it, that the clots exhibit the appearance of lumps of mineral. A Bachapin whose head is thus covered, considers himself as most admirably adorned, and in full dress; and indeed, to lay aside European prejudices, it is quite as becoming as our own hair-powder, and is a practice not more unreasonable than ours; with which it may in some respects be compared. There is however a real utility in it, or rather in the grease, for those who do not wear caps; it protects the head from the powerful, and perhaps dangerous, effects of a burning sun, as it equally does, from those of wet and cold. Although the color of the *sibílo* be a brownish red, yet the micaceous particles give it a blueish tint in those places which reflect the light more strongly.

I have succeeded in preparing from the *sibílo* a very singular

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in this point of view. On the side of the hill, and nearer towards the foreground, appear three small shallow caves, not connected with the Blinkklip, nor of the same nature.

\* See the note at page 414. of the first volume.

kind of *paint*, which may be used either in water-color drawing or in oil-painting, by grinding it either in gum-water or in oil: and in finishing my drawings of the natives, I have found it most admirably suited for giving the exact color together with that peculiar glittering which it would be impossible to imitate by any other means.

On ascending the hill and approaching the rock, I found a large open cavern or excavation about twenty feet high, and penetrating about thirty feet inwards. This, being open to the daylight, afforded a better situation for examining the mine, than the deeper excavations which can only be seen by the light of a torch or lantern. The whole rock appeared to be composed of this species of *iron-ore*, mingled in some places with a quartzose rock. The ore is mostly hard and ponderous; but frequently friable and easily falling to pieces, so that the floor of the cavern was found deeply covered with the loose powder. To the ceiling, a number of small *bats* were hanging; and on the projecting crags, a species of *dove* (*Columba Guineënsis*) takes its nightly roost: thus this cave is never without inhabitants, either the bats by day, or by night the doves. These are called *batseeba* (batsába) in the Sichuana language; and the bats, *mammawán*. A narrow and low passage leads from the outer cavern to an inner chamber, from which this ore is principally dug. The size of this excavation, supposing it to be wholly the work of art, proves that this powder has been in use during many generations; and indeed its glittering property, its red color, and its soft greasy quality, seem to render it exactly suitable to the ornamental taste of all the neighbouring nations.

Muchunka related a melancholy occurrence which took place a few years before, when several Bachapins lost their lives in this mine, by the falling-in of part of the roof while they were at work. The place being open to every one without restriction or regulations, each person had dug away the quantity he wanted, from that part where it was found of the best quality; and no one appears to have reflected on the necessity, in such excavations especially where the rock is in parts of a loose nature, of leaving pillars at proper distances to support the roof. To this ignorance in the art of mining, those poor creatures



fell a sacrifice, destined to be the means of giving their countrymen better experience, and a fatal proof of their mistake.

At the distance of a quarter of a mile farther westward along the top of the same ridge, Muchunka brought me to another mine excavated in the form of a large open pit of the depth of fifteen or eighteen feet. Here the mineral was more glittering, and contained larger particles of the shining scales; and this, though not obtained so easily nor in such abundance, was preferred to that which is found under the greater rock. As I walked along the ridge, I every where saw traces of the mineral; and am inclined to think that the whole range consists chiefly of this substance intermingled with quartzose rock.

At Sensaván I first met with a shrub \* remarkable for being regarded by the Bachapins as bewitched or unlucky, and therefore unfit to be used as firewood. The reason of its having this character, I could never learn; but the fact of their believing it to possess some malignant power, was, on a subsequent occasion, fully confirmed to me. It grows only in rocky places, and is from four to nine feet high with broad oval leaves, between which are produced little clusters of small inconspicuous flowers, succeeded by a large round fruit not much less than an inch in diameter, but which is not eatable. The engraving at the end of this chapter, represents the foliage, flowers, and fruit, of their natural size.

This shrub is otherwise remarkable, as possessing a botanical character or complexion, different from that of the general botany of these regions, and indicating a certain affinity with that of the island of *Madagascar*, which contains the only species of *Vangueria* hitherto known; the present plant forming the second of that genus. A striking example of this may be pointed out, in the very close resemblance which exists between the *Strelitzia augusta* or *Wilde Pisang* (Wild Plantain) of the Cape Colony, and the *Urania speciosa* of that island. Of a similar vegetable affinity with that part of

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\* *Vangueria infausta*, B. Catal. Geogr. 2629. Frutex 4—9-pedalis. Folia tomentosa ovato-subrotunda, sæpe acuminata, decidua.

Here also a new and remarkable species of *Hermannia*, and which was found in no other part of these travels, was met with, growing between the rocks near the mine.

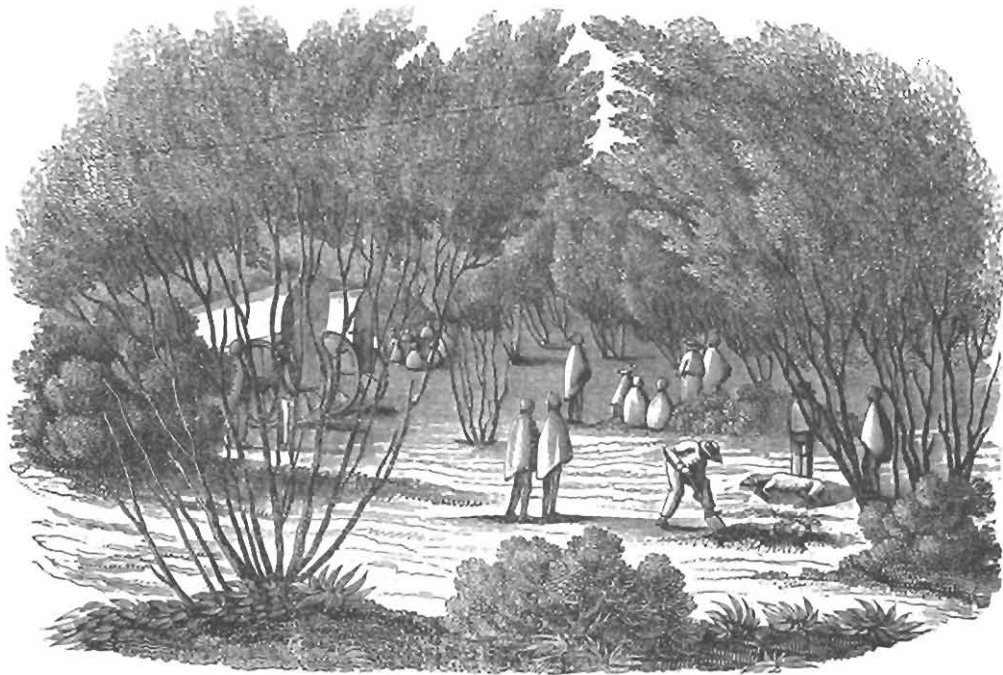
*Hermannia bryoniaefolia*, B. Catal. Geogr. 2141. Rami elongati debiles. Folia cordato-ovata scabra dentata sæpè sinuata. Flores in racemulis paucifloris axillaribus.

the globe, many examples might be given, if the present were a work exclusively on that science: even at our next station, other plants were found of correspondent stamp.

19<sup>th</sup>. Although we were now in the middle of winter, the weather during sunshine was generally very pleasant and well suited for travelling and hunting; but the nights were exceedingly cold, and not easily to be endured without a fire. The mercury of the thermometer never rose above 70 of Fahrenheit's scale (21 of the Centigrade scale) and was seldom observed even so high. This morning, just before sunrise, an hour which was always found to be the coldest in the whole twenty-four, it was found sunk to 29 (—1·6 Centig.); and the backs of the horses, as well as the herbage, were white with *hoar-frost*, an appearance not indeed very frequent, but still not so rare as to be considered by the natives a very remarkable sight.

In the time of the rains, water may be found here in the hollows of a channel which appeared to be at some seasons, the bed of a small rivulet; but at present not a drop was any where to be discovered; and as our cattle had not drunk since we left Bloem's Fountain, we were compelled to depart from Sensavan early in the morning.





## CHAPTER X.

### JOURNEY FROM SENSAVAN TO THE KAMHANNI MOUNTAINS.

FROM Sensavan the country was generally level and open, and abounding in tall dry grass, of so great a height that the oxen were half hid as they passed through it; and our party had exactly the appearance of riding through fields of ripe corn.\*

This days-journey was, notwithstanding the abundance of grass, the most rocky of any between the Gariep and Litakun, as large spaces frequently occurred, in which the surface was a natural pavement of pure rock, in the fissures of which here and there grew a few shrubs. In some places this rock was of a brown color, and seemed outwardly as if scoriated; although it was certainly not volcanic or changed by the action of fire. It was a *primitive limestone*, and seemed to be in many parts coloured by some ferruginous property; it was of the

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\* A similar scene is represented in the 26th *vignette*.

same kind as that which has been noticed in the country between Klaarwater and Spuigslang fountain. In other places this pavement consisted exclusively of a coarse blueish-black cherty flint: and frequently extensive spaces exhibited a bare level surface of the white primitive limestone-rock, first observed about the former place.

The waggons suffered the most *violent jolts*; and we now felt the great difference between riding over a country strewed with loose blocks and stones, and one where the surface, though flat, is formed of a fixed mass of rock. In the first, the stones, however large, give way a little to the force of the wheels, and the jolts are thereby much softened, if such an expression may be used; but the obdurate immovable resistance of fixed rocks, and the peculiar violence of the jolting they cause, are hardly to be conceived without having been actually experienced. No artificial pavement can produce an effect equally disagreeable; for in such there is, speaking comparatively, a certain degree of elasticity, the effect of which is not imaginary, nor is it imperceptible to those who have ridden over a natural pavement of solid unyielding rock.

Although the *waggons* did not appear to have suffered any damage by this day's-journey, yet it is not possible that they could have escaped without, in some respect, receiving injury; and I now could clearly perceive that a good and strong-built vehicle, is one of the most important of the preparations for such an expedition. Besides the strength of workmanship, the greatest attention is necessary to be paid to the quality of the materials; that the *wood* be well seasoned and of a sort which will not easily split. Much of the safety of a waggon depends on the nature of the *iron*; this should be of the tough and malleable kind, rather than the hard, which being generally of the quality termed 'short,' is very liable to break asunder.

At an early hour of the day, we arrived at a spring embosomed in rocky mountains, and called by the Hottentots, *Klip Fontein*\* (Rock Fountain).

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\* In order to distinguish this from the *Klip Fontein* of the Cigariepine, described in the first volume at page 294., we were obliged to refer to it by the name of *Kora*, or, *Koraqua Klip Fontein*; having already designated the other by that of *Bushman Klip Fontein*.

*Juli*, who, I now began to perceive, was one of the most quiet and steady of all my party, showed himself desirous of gaining my good opinion, by various acts of voluntary service, and a readiness and attentiveness on every occasion where he thought he could be useful. He undertook the office of *cook*, and succeeded extremely well in boiling the tongue of the buffalo, and in producing something in the form of a curry. To give him the character of being a good cook, according to the judgment of Europeans, would be ridiculously wide of the truth; but among *Hottentots* he deserved that of possessing superior talents.

None but those who merely 'eat to live' would undertake a journey in Africa, with no better cooks than *Hottentots*. By their methods, the finest meat is almost always rendered tough and unpalatable; every kind undergoes but one and the same process, which is simply that of cutting it into lumps of the size of a fist, and throwing them into a large iron pot of water, which is usually left standing on the fire till the men are ready to take their meal: the consequence of which is, that their meat is almost always over-boiled and exceedingly hard. But this very well suits their taste; and from a strong dislike to meat too little boiled or roasted, they chuse rather to go to the opposite extreme. As it was not easy to change the system and notions of these men, I found it less troublesome to accommodate my palate to their cookery, than to pretend to teach them an art of which I knew as little as themselves.

I shall not be classed with those who only 'live to eat,' if I place an experienced *cook* upon the list of persons necessary on such an expedition; as we have discovered by our own sufferings, that the same kind of food, though even of the best quality, continued from day to day for too great a length of time, without any variation in the mode of preparing it, ceases to excite the digestive powers, and no longer affords due nourishment. Under such circumstances, the body, instead of gaining strength, becomes daily weaker; the muscles relax, and an extraordinary debility gradually ensues. It is not disputed, that a change of food either in species or in mode, is necessary to health and strength; and as both these latter are absolutely essential

to a traveller, it is but common prudence to provide the reasonable means of securing them. This was, I confess, a point of prudence which, among my preparations, was never once thought of, because the full enjoyment of health induced me to regard it as very unimportant and quite unnecessary.

Attended by one of my men, I took a ramble to examine *the mountains* on our left, which form as it were an extensive amphitheatre around the spring. They are composed of rock of a granitic kind, and in some places of a black rock of a siliceous nature. As it was considered dangerous to venture far among these mountains, on account of the Bushmen who might be watching us from behind the crags, and who were reported to be hostile to all Hottentots, I confined my stroll within this amphitheatre which was well clothed with a variety of shrubs and bushes, and to the course of the rill formed by the spring.

Here, however, I found many new and interesting plants, particularly a species of *Croton* \* forming a handsome bushy shrub from four to seven feet high, closely resembling a species peculiar to Madagascar: and this affinity with the botany of that island, was farther marked by a species of *Melhania* † which grew close by it; and on the same spot with the *Vangueria infausta*. This *Croton* is called *Mulókha* by the Bachapins. I was informed that the leaves, reduced to powder, are used by the Koras as a *Buku*; and it is in

\* *Croton gratissimum*, B. Catal. Geogr. 2154. Frutex pulcherrimus 4—10-pedalis ramosus sempervirens. Folia ovato-lanceolata integerrima petiolata alterna, supra viridia nuda, subtus argenteo-albida. Spicæ terminales. Flores suavissimè odorati. Folia (contusa) odorem aromaticum (*Lauri nobilis*) spirantia. Calyx patens profundè 5-fidus. Petala 5 lanceolata patentia, longitudine calycis. Stamina ciciter 15, discreta.

*Sir James E. Smith* has obligingly compared this with the specimens in his valuable herbarium, once the property of the immortal *Linnaeus*, and informs me that, although a distinct species, it is exceedingly like the *C. farinosum*, with the description of which, as given in Willd. Sp. Pl., it so well agreed, that at the time of discovering it, I had supposed it might possibly be the same plant.

† *Melhania prostrata*, B. Catal. Geogr. 2153. Frutex. Caules elongati, 2—4-pedales, prostrati ramosi. Folia petiolata linearia, basi ovata, mucronulo terminata. Stipulæ subulatæ. Flores axillares solitarii, longius pedunculati, flavi. Pedunculus rectus, medio geniculatus.

fact of a much more pleasant scent than any other of the Hottentot Bukues. I detected, by the delightful fragrance which it emitted as I walked over it, a small frutescent kind of basil \* not less aromatic than the garden species. An exceedingly pretty sort of *Celastrus* † with red branches and very small leaves, decorated these rocks and occupied the same situations here, as at the Asbestos Mountains.

Just where the *spring* flows out of the rock, I observed some ochraceous deposition; but the water was, nevertheless, wholesome and of a good taste. This fountain affords a constant supply of water throughout the year, and the mountains in the vicinity are said therefore to be inhabited by Bushmen.

Seven years before this, two Hottentots in the service of a missionary named Jan Kok who was himself a Half-Hottentot, were returning home from the Briqua country with their wives and children, with a waggon loaded with elephants' tusks, and a large herd of oxen belonging to the missionary; when the temptation of so much booty protected only by two men, induced the *Bushmen* to attack them; and after repeated assaults along the road, one of the Hottentots was killed just beyond this spring, and the other not far from Doorn river: while at the same time, one of the daughters was inhumanly stabbed with a hassagay, and several of the children wounded with arrows. The *murderers* succeeded in carrying off the greater part of the cattle, and were on the point of returning to attack the waggon, now defended only by women and children, when the most providen-

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\* *Ocimum fruticulosum*, B. C. G. 2160. Planta fruticulosa pedalis erecta. Folia lanceolata nuda semicollapsa. Racemi terminales nudi. Flores verticillati brevè pedunculati. Verticilli 4—6-flori. Herba tota odore gratissimo (Basilici) gaudet.

† *Celastrus saxatilis*, B. C. G. 1671. Frutex rigidus spinosus 4-pedalis glaber. Ramuli juniores castanei coloris. Spinæ sæpiùs nudæ rectæ patentés. Folia integerrima, in ramulis junioribus solitaria ovata, in ramulis anni præcedentis fasciculata elongatè-obovata. Pedunculi laterales ex fasciculis foliorum, pauciflori. Capsula majuscula coccinea.

At the Kora Rock-Fountain were also found

<i>Olea similis</i> , B.	<i>Cheilanthus.</i>	<i>Aristida.</i>
<i>Acacia stolonifera</i> , B.	<i>Justicia.</i> 2 Sp.	<i>Rhus.</i>
<i>Acacia detinens</i> , B.	<i>Pharnaceum.</i>	<i>Clematis.</i>
<i>Acacia Capensis</i> , B.	<i>Andropogon.</i>	<i>Celastrus.</i>
<i>Acacia elephantina</i> , B.	<i>Tarhonanthus.</i>	&c.
<i>Pteris ? calomelanos.</i>	<i>Euclea.</i>	

tial and unexpected arrival of a large party of colonists under Landdrost Van de Graaff, rescued them from the death which awaited them, and obliged the barbarous robbers to take instantly to flight. \* The two unfortunate Hottentots were certainly to blame for their *imprudence* in venturing, with so little probability of being able to defend themselves, to traverse a country of lawless savages, with a large quantity of property, by which the wretches were too strongly tempted to attack them.

This fatal occurrence has contributed to impress the Hottentots with the idea that the Bushmen inhabiting the country between Ongeluks fountain and the Kamhanni mountains, are more ferocious and dangerous than any others; and, consequently, a mutual mistrust and enmity now exists between them. While we were at Klarwater, it was not omitted to infuse into the minds of my men, serious fears on this account, and I had the vexation of witnessing their effects on several occasions.

Under the impression, probably, of this story, *Gert*, when he came to my waggon in the evening, seemed, by several indirect questions which he asked, to be very desirous of ascertaining the course and extent of my journey, and spoke as if he hoped, and expected, that I should advance no farther than Litákun. He, and all the rest of my people, knew that it was my intention to explore the country beyond; and therefore, as these questions could only be the result or symptoms of that *timidity* with which they had been infected at that village, the discovery of such symptoms at so early a period, and at so great a distance from any real cause for apprehension, could not but open a source of some uneasiness. I had no doubt that, being admitted, in compassion to his late misfortune, to more familiarity than the rest, he was employed to find out the real plan of my journey, and at the same time to hint to me their disinclination to venture far into the Interior. On being told that he must not expect our journey to terminate at that town, he replied

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\* *Dr. Lichtenstein*, who happened to be one of the landdrost's party, gives in his *Travels*, an interesting account of this occurrence.



“ Then, Sir, we shall, not one of us, ever come back ; we are all murdered men !”

20th. From the Kora Rock-Fountain, we travelled over a level country varied here and there with hills of moderate elevation. The soil, which was of a sandy nature and remarkably red, was every where thickly covered with standing *grass* about three feet high, which, being at this season quite dry and having assumed an autumnal tint, presented exactly the appearance of European cornfields of boundless extent ; and which, from its height and color, very much resembled that variety which farmers term ‘ red wheat.’ \*

When we had travelled about twelve miles, my Hottentots, who, like all their tribe, possessed an extraordinary power of sight in discerning objects at a distance, came to me and with evident *alarm*, reported that they saw on before us, *six strange men* whom they believed to be Bushmen. The story which I have just related, or the impressions they had received at *Klaarwater*, appeared to have taken fast hold on their minds, so that they were ready to view every dubious occurrence as the forerunner of danger. I immediately took out my telescope, but although with the naked eye I myself saw nothing, I was enabled with the glass to distinguish but little more than they had already discovered without it. Two of these strange men appeared to carry guns, and as they were running with great speed, we concluded that they had fallen in with *Speelman* and *Keyser* who had preceded us for the sake of hunting ; and that having murdered them, and robbed them of their muskets, they were thus hastening out of our reach. This suspicion, which was instantly taken for fact by all my men and which I could not myself think very improbable, seemed to be confirmed by our observing

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\* The chief *grasses* were of the genera *Andropogon*, *Aristida*, *Anthistiria* and *Poa*.

A new species of *Cissampelos* met with here, is to be found generally in every part of the Transgarietine ; it is the

*Cissampelos calcarifera*, Catal. Geogr. 1795. Fruticosa scandens volubilis (sæpè humilior et erecta). Folia lineari-elliptica, pubescentia. Petioli ad bases subtùs calcare brevi aucti. Flores parvi herbacei.

eight more Bushmen standing at the top of a low hill close on our right, apparently watching us.

As there was, even under these circumstances, not much danger in an open country, for a person mounted on horseback, I would have sent some of my people forward to ascertain whether the two men with muskets, were natives or not; but every one of them exhibited so much fear and reluctance for this service, that, to save my authority and avoid their refusal to obey my orders, I thought it most advisable not to insist on this step. My own station and duty in cases of danger, should, I conceived, always be that of protecting and defending the waggons, in which were contained all our property, our ammunition, and our provisions. My two baptized men betrayed more timidity than several of their companions; and *Cornelis* to anticipate and prevent my orders, came to assure me that the backs of all the horses were too much galled to bear the saddle; and was not ashamed to assert this, though he and Van Roye had ridden on horseback almost every day.

In the mean time the enemy disappeared; but I took the precaution of making all the men keep together in a body, and carry their muskets instead of leaving them tied up in the waggons, which they had done to spare themselves that fatigue. We now resumed our march, after having halted half an hour on account of this affair; and advanced with watchful circumspection, not knowing how far we might proceed before the natives poured down from the hills to attack us: at least these were the sentiments of most of my men, who looked around them expecting to find the bodies of poor *Speelman* and *Keyser*. This they actually did; for we had scarcely proceed a mile farther, when they were discovered at some distance on the left of our road, — but still alive, and, in good health and spirits, making the best of their way towards us, and having *four Bushmen* in company, with whom they appeared to be on perfectly friendly terms. At the same time the enemy on the hills poured down upon us, and — with every appearance of peaceable intentions joined our party. One of them being personally known to Muchunka, and being able to speak the Kora language, an amicable communication

immediately commenced between us. The two men running off with guns, who had occasioned among my people so much consternation, were now found to have been, Speelman and Keyser in pursuit of a buffalo, and who, having followed the animal between the hills without being able to overtake it, had turned back by another way, to meet us.

The *Bushmen*, now about ten or twelve in number, remained with us till the next morning, and were entertained with a few pipes of tobacco, and as much meat as they could devour. I observed that the natural *color of their skin* was much lighter than it had appeared to me among the other tribes of this nation which I had hitherto examined. Whether these men kept their persons more free from dirt, or whether they were really of a less tawny complexion than the others, can not be positively decided; but their skin was certainly, not much darker than that of the browner nations of Europe.

In their *costume*, with respect to that part of their dress which has been already described\* under the name of *jackal*, they had adopted the more compact fashion of the Bichuanas; and this departure from the genuine dress of the Hottentot race, was doubtlessly occasioned by their proximity to, and their intercourse with, those nations. Their *stature* also was larger than that of the pure Bushmen: a circumstance which was attributable probably to a mixture with the Koras; but certainly not to any consanguinity with the Bachapins, as this would rather have given them a darker, than a lighter, skin. The features also of this party, were of a more agreeable mould. Five of them were merely boys in appearance, yet all were completely armed; and, besides two bows at their back, some carried in their hand a bundle of four or five hassagays. Several wore a necklace of a new kind, composed of the seeds or beans of one of their wild plants. †

At five in the afternoon we arrived at a plentiful spring of water, surrounded by a grove of Acacias; and as Muchunka was unac-

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\* At page 397. of the first volume.

† *Acacia elephantina*, B.

quainted with any name for it, I have been obliged to distinguish it on the map by that of *Knegt's Fountain*, in compliance with the name which was given to it by my party in consequence of having at this spot buried my dog *Knegt*, which here was taken ill and died. This scene is represented by the engraving at page 260.

The Bushmen made their fire at the distance of fifty yards from ours, where they in their own manner, cooked the meat I gave them; and where, after having passed the evening with my Hottentots, they laid themselves down for the night.

21st. This fountain and the acacia grove were enlivened by numerous small *finches* of a new species allied to the Wax-bill or Astrild. Its general color was a cinereous brown, with every feather prettily marked at the top with the transverse stripes of black and white: the forehead, and sides of the head, were of the color of red-lead.\* It seemed to be peculiar to this region and the country about Litakun, as I never met with it in any other part of the continent.

Since leaving the Gariep, I had observed but *few birds*, excepting in the neighbourhood of the different fountains; for, as the smaller kinds require to drink frequently, their nature and wants render them unfit for inhabiting those extensive arid plains which intervene between one spring and another. From the Kora Rock-Fountain to this place, was a distance of thirteen miles, and as no water was to be found in all that extent, it will not, on consideration, appear a surprising fact, that none of the smaller birds were seen during that days-journey. This is intended as a general remark, applicable in every similar case, to the deserts of Southern Africa.

That our cattle might have sufficient time for grazing, we delayed yoking them to the waggons till it was nearly two hours after mid-day. This consideration for our oxen and horses, was dictated as well by prudence as by humanity, and appeared to be one of the essential prin-

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\* *Loxia maculosa*, B. Fusco-cinerea, plumis omnibus ad apices nigro alboque fasciatis. Frons genæque, miniatæ, in mare; in feminâ concoloræ. Avis parva gregaria, victitans ex seminibus.

ciples of this mode of travelling ; as the violent and *forced speed* of those who would pass through these regions more for the sake of saying they had seen them, than of collecting correct information and of understanding what they saw, would strongly prove, by the great number of cattle they would wear out, that hasty travellers should never seat themselves behind a team of oxen. This valuable animal, whose natural pace, as I have before remarked, is quite expeditious enough for the observer, and admirer, of nature, ill deserves, in return for his daily labors, to be denied the time necessary for grazing and rest, and to be forced onwards at the caprice of his driver, till at last, through want of food and strength he sinks under the yoke and, without remorse, is left to perish. Nothing but the safety of the whole party, or the urgency of peculiar and inevitable circumstances, could ever, during my whole journey, induce me to forget the consideration due to my cattle ; always regarded as faithful friends whose assistance was indispensable. There may be in the world, men who possess a nature so hard, as to think these sentiments misapplied ; but I leave them to find, if they can, in the coldness of their own hearts, a satisfaction equal to that which I have enjoyed in paying a grateful attention to animals by whose services I have been so much benefited.

Our course still continued over a level surface, but with many rocky hills on either hand. The mountains northward of the Gariep no longer exhibited that tedious, though singular, uniformity of tabular summits, which I have noticed as being so common in the Cigariepine. The soil was a reddish sand, almost every where covered with the tall corn-like grass, before described ; through which, a few ostriches were seen stalking, fully visible notwithstanding its height, which would easily have concealed the smaller antelopes, or have favoured the escape, or approach, of an enemy.

In one part of this days-journey, for the space of a mile and a half, the whole plain had in the preceding year, been set on fire, and every bush, as well as the dry grass, consumed or killed ; but this circumstance gave me a favorable opportunity for discovering the goodness of the soil, presumable from the rapid growth of the *Tar-*

*chonanthus* the prevailing shrub in these plains. Where they had been burnt down to the ground, they had in one season thrown up a multitude of strong shoots not less than five feet long. In most instances the old charred stems and branches still remained standing, and, being perfectly black, presented a shrubbery of extraordinary appearance. The different sorts of *Tarchonanthus* are called by the Bachapins, indiscriminately by the name of *Mohákä*; and their shoots and branches are much used for shafts to their hassagays, and for the outward fences to their houses.

At four we came to a plentiful spring of good water, distinguished as the *Little Kósi Fountain*, at which grew an abundance of tall reeds\*, and on one side a thicket of acacias; but as the great Kosi Fountain was but little more than three miles farther, we halted only a few minutes to allow the loose cattle to drink.

As we advanced we found no variation in the country or its productions, and the same grassy plains brought us just at sunset to the great *Kosi Fountain*. Here, to guard against surprise by the Bushmen, should they really have those hostile intentions which my men had been taught to believe, I took our station in an open spot, under the shelter only of some bushes consisting of a species of *Asparagus*. But the men, who, notwithstanding their fears, had neither prudence nor foresight, wished rather to have placed the waggons in the acacia grove, merely because it was more sheltered and pleasant.

The *Kosi Fountain* is a constant and plentiful spring rising in an open valley, through which a small rivulet appears, at certain seasons, to take its course. This flat, is clothed with grass and rushes, among

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\* The *reeds* mentioned in the course of this journal, and from which the Bushmen make their arrows, are to be understood as a species very closely resembling the common English reed, or *Arundo Phragmitis*; from which, however, it may be botanically distinguished by its *ligulæ pilosæ*, or bearded joints. Besides this character, there seems to be some difference in the color of the leaves and in the substance of the stalk, which, in the African variety, are yellower, and harder. Having succeeded in raising this plant from seed since my return to England, and cultivated it several years, though hitherto without flowering, I have found these differences constant; and the same having been observed by *Mr. Lambert* (the author of the magnificent work on the genus *Pinus*,) in the plants in his collection, and considered sufficient to distinguish it from the English reed, I venture to propose it as a new species under the name of *Arundo barbata*.

which a few reeds indicate to the traveller the situation of the water. On the borders of the valley, and in several other places, a considerable number of acacias, forming a little wood or grove, add greatly to the pleasant appearance of the spot: and behind them, on the side towards the north, a long ridge of rocky hills, stretches eastward and westward.

In the character of the *landscape* and its peculiar tints, a painter would find much to admire, though it differed entirely from the species known by the term 'picturesque'. But it was not the less beautiful: nor less deserving of being studied by the artist: it was that kind of *harmonious beauty* which belongs to the extensive plains of Southern Africa. The pale yellow dry grass gave the prevailing color, and long streaks of bushes as it seemed, parallel to the horizon and gradually fading into the distance, sufficiently varied the uniformity of a plain; while clumps of the soft and elegant acacia, presented a feature which relieved these long streaks by an agreeable change of tint, and by the most pleasing forms backed by low azure hills in the farthest distance. Our horses and oxen grazing close at hand, added a force to the foreground, and, by contrast, improving the tenderness of the general colouring, completed a landscape, perhaps altogether inimitable; but which, if put on canvass, would form a picture of the most fascinating kind, and prove to European painters, that there exists in this department of the art, a species of beauty with which, possibly, they may not yet be sufficiently acquainted.

This fountain takes its name from a Bachapin chief who formerly resided here. The word *kōsi* in the Sichuána language signifies *rich*, and is by metonymy therefore used to imply a *chief*, as riches seem in all countries, in the early stages of society, to have been the origin of power and importance, and the principal source from which individuals have derived permanent authority. Whether the word was in this case the proper name of the chief or merely an appellation, my interpreter was unable to state; but I have remarked that with this nation, appellatives are very commonly assumed as proper names.

Scarcely were the oxen unyoked, when a large mixed herd of

*wilde-paards* (Wild Horses) *eland*s and *hartebeests*, from the neighbouring mountains, appeared in sight near the water. They were instantly pursued and a *wilde-paard* (*Equus montanus*), or *quakka*, as it was oftener called, was shot. This was a timely and welcome supply to the Hottentots, as the buffalo-meat was already become so dry and hard, that it afforded us but tough and unpalatable food.

So much had been told us by the missionaries and Hottentots, of the peculiarly hostile disposition of the *Bushmen* who inhabit the vicinity of the Kosi fountain, that, not despising their advice, and chusing rather to be over-prudent, than neglectful of measures of precaution, I delivered out ammunition to my people, and ordered them two by two, to keep regular watch throughout the night; relieving each other every two hours. With these orders their fears rendered them very ready to comply, however uncongenial to the nature of a Hottentot, night-watching might be, under circumstances of less apprehension.

*Gert*, who had so long in our absence, an opportunity of hearing these tales, and who seemed to have deeply imbibed the timidity they were meant to inspire, related to me a *story* which he had picked up at *Klaarwater*, respecting the fate of the first party of Hottentots who ventured among the *Briquas*; and who were the first visitors which that nation had ever received from the side of the Colony. This party, consisting of a considerable number of Mixed Hottentots, had reached the chief town of these *Briquas* or *Bachapins*, and were received apparently with friendship: an ox was on the occasion killed for them by the chief, and a large party of natives were also assembled to partake of it. At this time, it was discovered that some of their pack-oxen were missing; on which, a part of the Hottentots went to look for them: but in the mean time, as it was said, the *Briquas* seeing the party thus divided, fell upon them and murdered all but five. Of these five, only three reached home alive, the others having, on the way, died of their wounds.

This story, he had learnt from the widows of those who were thus murdered: but the whole appeared so inconsistent with other



facts with which I was better acquainted, that I had no hesitation in classing it as one of the numerous tales contrived for the purpose of alarming my men ; nor was I quite without suspicion of its having been invented by Gert himself, with a view of inducing me to give up the idea of penetrating so far into the interior of these countries, as I had designed.

Had I been earlier aware of this Hottentot's weakness and timidity, I should certainly have left him at the missionary settlement, and should have spared myself much vexation and trouble on his account ; but as I did not, at this time, suspect him of a total deficiency of courage, I continued long afterwards to treat him with partiality and to rely on his fidelity. He communicated also a secret of his own, and which probably had no little influence over his conduct towards me ; after the termination of the journey, he intended returning to Klaarwater to marry the widow of one of the two Hottentots who unfortunately joined Dr. Cowan's fatal expedition, and who had agreed to become his wife ; " for," said he " the one I left at home at Groene Kloof, is a bad one."

*22nd.* Early this morning we were roused by the very unexpected sound of a waggon approaching, and which soon afterwards halted and unyoked at a short distance from us. The party proved to be *Cupido Kok* with four other Hottentots and six Koras, returning from Litakun, where he had been to barter for ivory and oxen. He had in his waggon about twenty Elephant's tusks, which had been obtained in exchange at the rate of a sheep for each tusk ; the Bachapins being very desirous of procuring cattle of that kind, it having hitherto been little known to their nation, or, at least, seldom reared by them. He was driving home a herd of above forty oxen which had been purchased with beads and tobacco.

I was exceedingly glad at falling in with this man, as I now expected to get back my *great rifle*. But it seemed that all my dealings with the people of that village, were to produce nothing but disagreeables and vexation ; for although I obtained my gun again, it was rendered useless by the want of the bullet-mould, which, he said, he had left at home at his place at Taaibosch Fountain, as he

had no occasion for it on the journey, having previously cast as much ball as the quantity of gunpowder he took with him would require. This quantity, I found, was no more than the pound which I had then given him, and which was now very nearly expended; so that he was, as he confessed to Gert, venturing his journey homewards with scarcely any ammunition for his defence. He had, indeed, another gun in his waggon, the bullet-mould of which he offered me instead of my own; but this could be of no service as it was much too small. He was therefore told that, as the rifle was the most important of all our guns, and its use absolutely indispensable for the prosecution of my journey, I would wait at our present station till he had returned home and despatched a man on horseback to me with *the mould*; that I would not proceed without it, and that as soon as it was received I would return him his own gun, which I had brought with me in expectation of meeting him at Litakun; and that it was entirely through his own neglect, or want of reflection, that he had not brought it, knowing as he did, that my gun was useless without it. He at first objected to the trouble of sending a horse and man back so far; but it was represented to him that the distance was barely fourteen hours at a usual and moderate pace, and might be performed with ease, and without danger even for one man; and that it was but just that he should take this trouble, as he alone had occasioned the necessity for it.

Although he was apparently little pleased with my proposal, yet as he made no objection to it, I concluded that the matter was thus settled; and returned to my waggon.

I sent to him the buffalo-skin, to be given to his nephew Captain Dam, as payment for an eland-skin which he had supplied for the use of my waggons: and Speelman and Juli on their own account, requested him to take home for their wives some dried meat; but, not being in a very obliging humour, he gave them an immediate refusal, though he might have granted their request, without the least inconvenience to himself.

Apparently with a view of giving vent to his ill-temper, and to be revenged for my insisting on having the mould, he took advantage of

this last opportunity, to relate a number of *tales* to impress my men with the belief that I only intended to lead them into danger. To these, and all similar accounts, they were too ready to listen; while their serious countenances visibly betrayed the doubts and fears with which their minds began to be agitated. This *Cupido* asserted many things which he could not himself have believed; for, after exaggerating the dangers which, he said, lay before us, he even declared that all the black nations were much more afraid of bows and arrows, than of guns; and that after advancing, and receiving our first fire without fear, they would immediately close upon us, and stab every one, before we could have time to load again. Thinking that my intention was to visit the *Nuákketsi*, or, as the *Klaarwater* people call them, the *Wánketzen*\*, he attempted to counteract this, by relating the old story about the murder of Dr. Cowan and his party, and adding to it all the artful fabrications which he had picked up from among the natives. He concluded by telling them that the *Nuákketsies*, having heard of our coming, had made many remarks on the folly of sending a mere handful of men against them, and had openly declared that they would kill every stranger who should in future venture into their country. In short, he declared that there was the greatest danger in going amongst those nations; as they were all at this time, in a state of warfare and fighting one against the other. Fortunately he remained at the *Kosi* but three hours; and then collecting his party together, he yoked the team to his waggon, and drove off without further ceremony.

I was just beginning to rejoice that he was fairly gone and out of sight, when Gert delivered a message from him, that as it would be too far to send a man back, it was not his intention to do so; that as I had thought proper to detain his gun as a pledge for the mould,

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\* This is a corruption of the proper word both by the addition of the Dutch plural termination *en*, and by mistaking the true sound. At least, the manner in which I have written the name, is conformable to the only mode in which I heard it pronounced by the *Bachapins*. By not distinguishing the Dutch plural, some writers have set the English plural also upon its back, and the word *Wanketzens* has been formed in this manner.

I might keep it; for, as he had now no ammunition for his defence, he did not think it worth so much trouble to redeem it.

I desired Gert to hasten after him and let him know that, notwithstanding his message, I should wait at our present station time enough for him to send the mould, which in our circumstances was of so much importance, that I hoped, and should expect, that he would return it. After this, he finally departed; and I had then little doubt that his desire to recover the gun, would induce him to act as I wished; although it was evident I had nothing to expect from any feeling or principle of justice, which might teach him how much injury he did us, especially in our unprotected situation, by depriving us of the proper use of our largest gun; the peculiar advantage of which, depended on being loaded with a ball which fitted the calibre exactly.

As soon as this party was gone, we began therefore to consider ourselves as stationed at this place for some days. Several of my people went out hunting, and a Hartebeest was brought down by Juli. *A new species of antelope* which had been shot by Speelman late on the preceding evening, was fetched home; but during the night the hyenas, or wolves as they are usually called by the Boors and Hottentots, had devoured all the flesh; leaving us only the head and the hide. It might be classed as *a species of Gnu*, which, in general appearance and color, it closely resembled; yet presented marks of difference which immediately showed it to be very distinct. This animal and the hartebeest were nearly of the same size. It is entirely of a black-brown color; having a bushy tail like that of the gnu, but quite black, while in the gnu it is white. It has a long black mane and beard, and two large spurious hoofs. Its horns, which are neither annulated nor twisted, are curved outwards and downwards, and their points recurved upwards; in the same position as in the Cape buffalo. Its horns, more remarkably than in any other antelope, resemble those of oxen in general; and in this particular it differs essentially from the gnu, whose horns are turned forwards, but not outwards: neither is their enlargement

at the base so remarkable as in that sort. In young animals, the horns are not decurved, but rise more immediately upwards; yet in time they take a downward direction. Its manners and general appearance, are exactly those of the gnu; and it puts itself in the same attitudes, holding its head down, and lashing its tail as it prances about. It is also seen sometimes solitary, and sometimes it is met with in herds. I have distinguished it by name of *Antilope taurina*.\* The Mixed Hottentots have given it the name of *Bastaard Wildebeest*, implying that it is considered as a spurious kind of Gnu: *Wildebeest* being the Dutch Colonial name for that antelope. The Bichuanas call it *Kokūn* (Kokoon), or rather, with a nasal sound of the *n*, *Kokūng* (Kokoong). Of this animal, five were shot in the course of our travels.†

Two beautiful zebras made their appearance near the spring, and were fired at. Some of the hunters falling in with the skeleton of a *giraffe*, or camelopard, in the plains, were struck with astonishment at its size, and the great length of the bones of the leg; and at their return home, excited the attention of their companions by their wonderful account of it, for Philip was the only one among them, who had any knowledge of the animals of this part of Africa. To the eastward of this fountain, and under the same range of hills, there is a place named by the Hottentots, *Kameel-hoek*, (Camel-Corner,) on account of its being much resorted to, by camelopards.

Not chusing to depend wholly on the Hottentots, for keeping watch against the Bushmen, I sat up myself till a late hour of the

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\* *Antilope taurina*, B. Tota nigro-fusca; Cornua lævia extrorsum decurvata, versus medium recurvata. Juba longa, barbaque, nigræ. Cauda equina nigra. Species *Antilopi Gnu* proximè ordianda, cui habitu moribusque simillima.

† Of these, two were preserved and brought to England; one of which has been presented to the British Museum.

As in both these species of Gnu, the food passes in the same form as in sheep, deer, and in all the rest of the Antelope genus, one is surprised at finding it asserted of the first Gnu, in a late French work, that “ses excréments ressemblent à ceux de la vache:” and also, that its horns take a direction “d’abord en bas, et *en dehors*.” Dictionnaire des Sciences Naturelles, par plusieurs professeurs, &c. tome 2. p. 248.

night to discover if my sentinels did their duty; and employed myself in the meantime, in affixing labels to the botanical specimens hitherto collected, and in registering them in my Catalogue.

At about an hour after midnight, when it was Juli's and Keyser's turn to be on guard, I left my waggon, and took my seat by the fire, as the air was then exceedingly cold. The rest of the people lay fast asleep, some on the ground by the fire, some close under the asparagus-bush, and others either beneath, or within, the baggage-waggon. Those who lay round the fire, always took off their shoes and uncovered their feet, which they placed as near as possible to the embers; a reasonable mode of keeping their bodies generally warm, as the feet, when sleeping in the open air in cold weather, become chilled much sooner than any other part of the body. It seemed almost incredible that Muchunka could sleep at all; exposed, nearly naked, to the freezing inclemency of the night, and having no other covering or clothing, than a short leathern kaross scarcely the length of his body. It was, however, a proof that the human frame may, by custom, become inured to every inconvenience; as it may by the same means, be pampered till at length it can bear none. The dogs were all quietly dozing, and the oxen lying at their ease; circumstances which gave us a confidence that neither wild beasts, nor wild men, were lurking near us. Juli and his companion being both Graaffreynet people, were amusing themselves by talking over the affairs of that part of the colony.

I joined their party without interrupting their conversation, and was much surprised, as well as pleased, at finding that *Juli* had lent so little ear to the alarming tales we had heard, or had given so little credit to those who told them, that he viewed the spot at which we were now stationed, as a place so far from being dangerous to live in, that he seriously communicated to me a plan which the pleasant appearance of the country had induced him to form, of returning to Kosi Fountain after the termination of our journey, and of bringing all his cattle, which he reckoned at nearly forty in sheep and oxen, and fixing his residence here, in preference to living any longer among the Boors.

As I viewed the poor fellow's plan merely as one of those foolish

thoughtless schemes which the unreflecting Hottentot often takes into his head, and of which the execution is generally prevented by some other whim equally ill-advised or unpromising, I did not think it necessary, to check the pleasure he seemed to derive from the fancied advantages and riches which he calculated on gaining by that step. I even allowed myself to be amused by listening to his proposed measures: he had already fixed on a spot for *his garden*; it was in the valley near the clump of acacias beyond the water.

23rd. On the following morning I went with him to inspect it; and it was certainly an excellent and pleasant situation, and very judiciously chosen. As I had brought with me the seeds of various sorts of useful plants, for the purpose of dissemination in the countries of the Interior, this appeared a proper opportunity for commencing it. I gave him therefore, some of peach, quince, almond, and several kinds of esculent vegetables, which he sowed in a suitable soil; and as the moist ground about the spring appeared a natural place for the celery-plant (*Apium graveolens*) I scattered a considerable quantity of it there. On our return to this fountain six months afterwards\*, a few of Juli's seeds were found to have vegetated, and the *celery* seemed already to have naturalized itself, as it was then in flower and seed; but of so diminutive a size, that it might have been mistaken for another species, had I not recollected that it had been sown there by myself.

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\* At that time I collected at *Kosi Fountain*, a variety of new plants, among which the following is remarkable as being the first of that Natural Order which has been found in Southern Africa.

*Triaspis hypericoides*, B. Catal. Geogr. 2531. Frutex 3—4-pedalis pulcher erectus ramosus. Rami fusci glabri oppositi patentes. Folia ovato-linearia glabra pedunculata glauca integerrima opposita (rarò subalterna). Pedicelli axillares solitarii 3—6-flori. Flores pedunculati inodori rosei. Calyx 5-phyllus, sepalis lanceolatis erectis. Petala 5 unguiculata, patentia ovata concava, ad margines laciniato-fimbriata. Styli tres. Stigmata obsoleta. Stamina 10 basi discreta. Pollinis particula globosa. Fructus immaturus conspersus pilis medio affixis. Samaræ tres alâ maximâ peltatâ rotundatâ auctæ. Genus ex ordine *Malpighiacearum*, et maximè affine *Hirææ*; cum quâ conjungendum, nisi hæc et *Tetrapteris* separatæ fuissent a *Triopteridibus*. Nomen a τρεῖς tres et ἀκρίς clypeus: ob samaras tres scutiformes. — Vide iconem magnitudine naturali, huic capitulo subjunctam.

Here his scheme ended; as I never from that time, during our whole journey, heard him mention it again. He probably soon afterwards became convinced of the danger he would incur by residing alone and unprotected in the midst of a tribe of Bushmen of suspicious character, who, there is little doubt, would not long have withstood the temptation of his cattle, seeing that their owner might be so easily overpowered, and that he was beyond the reach of all assistance.

Those who view a fine country in which, at the same time, an honest and well-disposed man cannot live in safety, will have learnt by experience how to set a proper value on the blessings of laws and a good government: and an *Englishman* who is dissatisfied with his own country, needs only to witness a lawless state of society and the mis-rule of many other nations, to make him turn with affection to his own, and forgive those errors to which all humanity and the wisest of men, are liable; and to deplore corruption, as an evil for which there is no permanent or radical cure, but *universal honesty*.

The groves about this place were much frequented by the birds called *Guinea-fowls* or pintadoes. Two of these were shot; and were boiled into soup, which, with the addition of some parsley and celery seed, formed an excellent mess. For this purpose, these birds are much superior to any four-footed game.

Our buffalo-meat was become so dry, and even the flesh of the hartebeest, though antelopes in general are dignified by the inhabitants of the Cape, with the name of *venison*, was so lean, that my Hottentots asked permission to kill a sheep. This they did, not through want of provisions, but merely for the sake of fat, to render the other more palatable.

In the evening, from a very favourable observation, I computed the latitude of Kosi Fountain to be  $27^{\circ} 52' 16''$ . \*

24<sup>th</sup>. On rising this morning, I found all the men absent,

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\* On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June 1812, at *Kosi Fountain*, the observed meridional altitude of *Arcturus* was  $41^{\circ} 59' 00''$ .



excepting four ; and was informed that the sheep had been, through the carelessness of Andries whose turn it was to attend them, allowed to stray away ; and that the rest were gone in different directions in search of them.

However ; he and Stuurman, soon returned, recollecting that the oxen had, in this confusion, been left in the plain without any person to watch them. Soon after this, the dread of being seen by the Bushmen, drove *Van Roye* and *Cornelis* home, though they were both mounted and armed, and could have little danger to fear ; as that nation are themselves, as I have before remarked, greatly afraid of horsemen : from whom they have, if inferior in numbers, no chance of escaping on the plains ; nor, if superior, any possibility of pursuing them. It was therefore pure timidity and cowardice which compelled these two men to return so soon and before they had discovered any traces of the sheep. On such occasions it was more especially the appointed duty of the horsemen to go on search of lost cattle. They excused their return, by pretending that *Speelman* and *Platje* had undertaken to follow the track. This was a mere pretence ; though it was true that *Speelman* and *Platje* were the only two who continued the search : and who, indeed, caused me much anxiety by remaining absent during the night.

*25th.* As they did not make their appearance on the next morning, I ordered *Philip* and *Van Roye* to ride out in the direction in which they were last seen, and make some signal to guide them, in case they might have lost their way. On arriving at a distant part of the plain, they fell in with a camelopard, at which they fired, but without effect. They soon afterwards came upon a *Kanna* (Eland) which *Philip* immediately shot. It fortunately happened that the reports of their muskets were heard by *Speelman*, though still at a great distance ; and, these plains being, as already described, covered with tall dry grass, he directly set fire to it ; and soon the country for a great extent, was put in a blaze, and clouds of smoke ascended high into the air. Knowing that we could not but be uneasy at his absence, he understood the sound of the guns as a signal made to him ; and adopted this most effectual mode of answering it, and of

more readily pointing out his situation. As soon as Philip and his companion had, by riding forward, ascertained that the two Hottentots and sheep were safe and returning home, they made the best of their way to the waggons to give us speedy intelligence that all was well.

In the mean time, we had observed the smoke; and various were the debates among us, respecting the occasion of it: but all concluded that it bore a suspicious appearance, and was to be interpreted as a signal of some misfortune, or of their having been found murdered by the Bushmen; and when, in about an hour afterwards, we saw the two horsemen galloping at full speed towards us, we were filled with the most melancholy forbodings of the sad tidings which, we supposed, they were bringing to us.

Our rejoicing therefore was the greater, when we were told that the lost men, and the sheep were all safe and on their way homewards.

When *Speelman and Platje* arrived, they were received with general congratulation; and provisions, of which they stood much in need, were immediately set before them. Their account was; that, having fallen in with the track of the sheep, they followed it in expectation of soon overtaking them; and with this hope were led on the whole day, till the darkness of evening prevented their discerning the footmarks any longer. They then lay down to sleep, and passed the night in the open plain, without fire or food. On their way they had seen two springs of water, one of which appeared capable of affording a copious supply at all seasons. At day break the next morning they continued to follow the track, surprised at being led by it so far; and at length came up with the flock, at some distance beyond our last station at Knegt's Fountain. That they were not discovered and carried off by the Bushmen, or devoured in the night by beasts of prey, was a circumstance to be attributed only to singular good fortune.

These two men had seen nothing of the natives during the whole time; and as none, excepting the few already mentioned, came near us, on our journey from Klaarwater to the northern limits of their

country, this fact might be taken as a proof, either of their hostile disposition towards strangers, or of their fears of retaliation for past robberies, or of the scarcity of inhabitants in this part of the country. Which last supposition is the least probable of the three; for a land which, it would seem by Speelman's discovery yesterday, is in general not deficient in water considered as a Bushman country, is not likely to be totally unoccupied by their tribes: besides which, we had, during our stay at this station, every night observed their fires at a distance, in several directions around us. I have before made the remark, that, according as *the Bushmen* view strangers either as friends or as foes; or suppose themselves to be viewed as one or other of these, so their country will appear, either well inhabited, or perfectly deserted.

We had, however, sufficient reason for concluding that at this time they were not watching our motions; otherwise they might easily have made a prize of the sheep. But I could not avoid noticing on this, and on many other, occasions since leaving Graaff-reynet, how little prudence belongs to *the Hottentot character*; and how inconsistent with their fears of the Bushmen and other native tribes, is their want of precaution and vigilance. How often have they through heedlessness and neglect of order and discipline, exposed themselves unnecessarily to the risk of being cut off by the savages, had these been so inclined, or really so ferocious and ill-disposed, as their own fears, or the tales of others, taught them to believe.

Having recovered the sheep and our two companions, whom we were just beginning to deplore as lost, and never to be seen more, all our affairs became smooth again, and every one seemed happy and freed from care; even the dread of the savage Bushmen of the Kosi, and the fear of being taken too far into the Interior, appeared to have left them, like an intermittent fever: and there now ensued an interval of tranquillity which lasted for some time.

As soon as Philip returned, the baggage waggon was unloaded without delay, and sent for the kanna which he had shot: this was brought home by eight o'clock the same evening. It being

a young and fat animal, the meat was excellent; and even Hottentot cookery could not spoil it.

Every night, the *jackals*, attracted perhaps by the smell of so much meat, approached us, and for two or three hours after dark continued at intervals to bark around us, at the distance, as it seemed, of about two hundred yards. Our dogs never failed to give them an answer each time; but took no trouble to go after them, or to drive these impertinent visitors away. The sound of their barking was peculiar, and might not inaptly be compared to that of *laughing*. It would not have been easy to shoot one, as they are real cowards, slinking away the moment they perceive any person coming towards them; and, being a nocturnal animal, they can see too well in the dark ever to be surprised or approached by man, who not being at such a time able to take aim, could have little chance of killing one, excepting by mere accident. Thus, to avoid wasting our ammunition and taking much useless trouble, we found ourselves obliged to leave their noisy intrusion unpunished; as they could do us no harm, or, at least, as they would not dare to advance nearer to so numerous a pack of dogs. These seemed to be of the same opinion as their master, and appeared to consider the jackal as a troublesome fellow, beneath their notice, and, among quadrupeds, what some men are, among bipeds.

*26th. Cartridge-boxes* being, according to our new regulation, a necessary article of our equipment, I undertook to instruct my men in the method of making them out of dry hide; and to render my instruction more intelligible, I assisted in making one as a pattern. But their stupidity and laziness, or perhaps unwillingness, rendered it a business of very slow progress; and it was, at last, evident that unless I would make them all myself, they would never be finished; nor, in fact, could I ever get the requisite number made, but was obliged to remain contented that three of the Hottentots carried them, hoping that the rest would in time be convinced of their utility more especially in saving them trouble. But the same obstinate adherence to old customs, which made them averse to the use of cartridges, counteracted equally my wish to introduce the car-

tridge-box among them: I was at length obliged to give up the point; and in a month or two, all the people reverted to their kogel-tas or bullet-pouch.

Even *Van Roye* and *Cornelis* were as stupid, and as unwilling to adopt improvement, as the rest: and the expectations which I had been induced to form of the great usefulness of the former, on account of his having seen Europe and been exhibited as a select example of an improved Hottentot, were already completely disappointed. None were more lazy than these two; and they seemed to consider themselves as hired only to ride along with me for the gratification of their own curiosity to see the country. They had done, literally, no work since the day when they first entered my service; yet, on account of their being *Christemensch*, they rated themselves so high, that they actually regarded it as degrading, to do the same work as a Hottentot. They carried this ignorant mischievous pride so far, as to deny all knowledge of the Hottentot language; which, with respect to *Van Roye*, I knew certainly to be an untruth, and always believed the other to be better acquainted with it than he pretended. It was disgusting, though ridiculous, to hear these two woolly-headed men, call their companions, *Hottentots*, as an appellation of inferiority good enough for Heathens, and proper for making these sensible of the superiority of Christians. This unbecoming spirit was frequently the cause of broils and discords; and their tempers and conduct, so very different from what I had expected, were the source of continual vexation to me, and the germ from which many of my difficulties and disappointments sprang; an example of laziness and insubordination which in time infected the others, and required the utmost vigilance and resolution, to check it.

As the men had been living on animal food for nearly three weeks, I gave to each a ration of *vinegar* as a corrective of the supposed unwholesome effects of such diet when unmixed with vegetable juices. This, they were all glad to receive; not indeed, in the light in which it was given; but, because its stimulating quality gave it some similitude to wine or brandy. *Muchunka*, who perhaps had never tasted any before, and appeared ignorant of its nature,

was just at the moment stopped from drinking it all off at once as he had seen the others drink their *soffe* (sópy) or dram. His companions were much amused at the simplicity of his mistake, and in the evening when seated round the fire, they made it the subject of their jokes.

Stuurman and Andries were also performers on the *goráh*; but their powers on this singular instrument were much inferior to those of the old Bushman whose portrait is given in the first volume. In their hands, it produced but little effect, as I could discover no tune in its notes, although its tone was powerful and musical. To my ear, their music sounded unmeaning and monotonous; yet they themselves were very well satisfied and amused, with their own performance. It is perhaps one of the most fortunate circumstances attending the practice of music, and at the same time a very natural effect, that the performer who pretends to nothing above his own amusement, should in general be pleased with his attempts, though even below mediocrity. Were it otherwise, the soothing pleasure of harmonious sounds and the enjoyments of melody, would be the most partial gratification which Providence has bestowed on man.

*Speelman's fiddle* now lent its powerful aid every evening in enlivening their fireside; and, as Philip was become a musician and Gert had gained the use of his hand by the help of a bandage sufficiently to hold the bow, this ingenious instrument seldom lay unemployed. By occasional praise, I encouraged them in this mode of spending their evenings, conceiving it to be the most harmless in which they could indulge, and one which was of considerable service in promoting a cheerful good-humoured temper among the party: nor was it altogether unimportant to my own views, as it kept their minds from silently brooding over imaginary or anticipated dangers; and in some degree rendered them fitter for the expedition.

They even considered it a relaxation of strict discipline and a favor, that I permitted such an instrument to be used: this I discovered by Juli's seriously asking me, whether it was really sinful to dance, or to play on the fiddle; for, said he, the missionaries tell us

that such things are an abomination to God, and that *a fiddle* is Satan's own instrument!

I should not readily have believed that any person of sane mind could have held such opinions, or have thus deliberately misled the poor ignorant Hottentot, if I had not myself heard from the pulpit at Klaarwater, a similar denunciation of the vengeance of the Deity, upon all who delighted in *dancing*, which was pronounced to be a work of darkness! If such fanaticism and folly is to be called preaching the Gospel, I much fear that the savages will have reason for thinking, in compassion to our ignorance, that it will be *their* duty to send missionaries among *us*, to lead us out of *our* darkness.

I preached, however, the contrary doctrine, that music and dancing possessed, in themselves, nothing of a sinful nature; and that, so far from wishing to see the people serious or hear them groaning, it was always much more pleasing to me, when they spent their evenings in this manner and in harmless mirth and conversation, than when they lay in dull inanimate idleness; a state which I believed to be, both disgraceful to themselves, and displeasing to their Creator. Happy indeed, would it have been for the whole party, had they always followed this doctrine, and had they conducted themselves under a conviction of the truth of my last assertion.

*27th.* I had now waited six days at this place, in expectation that *Cupido Kok* would send the bullet-mould and fetch his gun; but more than sufficient time having already elapsed, my men, who seemed to know more of his intentions than I did, were clearly of opinion that we should hear nothing further from him, and that it would be fruitless to remain here longer. Seeing myself thus, for the whole of my journey, deprived of the proper use of my best gun, by an ungrateful Hottentot whom I had formerly shown myself desirous of obliging, and whom I had treated in a manner which proved my good-will towards him, I could not but feel irritated, in whatever light I viewed his conduct. But, as no remedy was now to be had, I resolved to consider this privation as one of the inevitable accidents of my journey.

I therefore gave orders for our departure ; and at an hour and a half after mid-day we drove away from Kosi Fountain. Juli, who complained much of toothache, was obliged for a day or two, to resign to Platje his office of driver of the baggage-waggon.

This waggon was now loaded with as much meat as it could carry ; and so large a stock ought, with proper care and management, to have lasted almost as many weeks, as in fact it did, days. But a Hottentot, or a Bushman, must have either *gluttony*, or *famine* ; either waste, or want. In time of plenty, moderation and economy seem to them, greater evils than absolute hunger.

After clearing the low rocky ground, which may be considered as a flattened part of the *Kosi Hills*, we continued travelling the remainder of the day, over a sandy country covered with grass. When we had advanced about six miles, I halted to take the bearings of Kosi Fountain, and of the Kamhánni Pass ; the country being so open and level as to admit of both being seen at the same time.

As the distance from Kosi Fountain to the next water, was a journey of two days, or, at least, of thirty-seven miles, we had taken the precaution of filling the water-casks, and of allowing the cattle and dogs to drink at the spring just before we set out. Our only care, therefore, was occasioned by the want of fuel ; and as these plains produce few bushes, Stuurman and Andries were sent forward on horseback, and followed on foot by Muchunka, to collect a quantity of firewood ready to be taken up by the waggons as they passed. But so great was the scarcity of dry wood in this part of the plain, that we travelled till dark without coming up with the men. At that time, perceiving a tolerably large clump of *Tarchonánthus*, (C. G. 2173.) and fearing that we might not fall in with so good a shelter if we proceeded farther, we judged it more prudent to halt here for the night. This is distinguished on the map, by the name of *Tarchonánthus Station*.

The Hottentots not returning by the time the oxen were all unyoked, we fired two muskets to call them back ; and immediately made a blaze with a heap of dry grass. We collected from the *Tarchonanthus* bushes, here eight feet high, wood enough for cooking and for keeping a fire burning all night. This the three absent people perceived, and finding we were not coming on, at length turned



back: but it was ten o'clock before they reached home, as they had, at the time we fired, advanced too far to hear the report.

As the men had not yet forgotten the trouble occasioned by the cattle straying away, these were carefully made fast to the waggons and bushes, and a kraal for the sheep, was formed with green boughs.

*28th.* In order to bring our cattle sooner to the water, we resumed the journey early in the morning, directing our course northward across the plain, to a range of mountains which forms the boundary between *Bichuania*, if I may use the word, and the country inhabited by the *Bushmen*. We were now to take our leave of those hordes of *wild-men*, as they are justly called, and to quit their dubious tribes:—men who are moved by various motives either to hostility or to friendship; to the former, often by feelings of revenge or retaliation, and too often by a spirit of plunder; to the latter, often won by trifling acts of kindness, and by treatment founded on a due and reasonable view of their untutored state and of the comfortless existence of a nation without a head, without laws, without arts, and without religion. Towards such men, vengeance and punishment, however justly merited, should be mitigated by pity and forbearance, such as we are taught by the mild and genuine spirit of Christianity.





## CHAPTER XI.

### JOURNEY IN THE COUNTRY OF THE BACHAPINS, FROM THE KAMHANNI MOUNTAINS TO THE RIVER MAKKWARIN.

Six miles from Tarchonanthus Station, brought us to the entrance of the pass through the *Kamhánni Mountains*. These I have taken for the line of separation between the two races of the Hottentots and Caffres; as it is, in fact, the middle of that neutral, or rather, common, ground which intervenes between one African nation and another, and is partially inhabited by both. The range appeared at this part of it, to stretch from the south-east to the north-west; and to be formed by a great number of low grassy mountains, a sight rarely seen in the Hottentot portion of the Transgariepine. This range, a little farther onward, takes a northerly direction, and rises into more lofty and rocky mountains: among them, one which I have distinguished by the name of *Kamhánni Peak*, appeared the highest and most remarkable.

This pass might be described as a winding defile between the mountains, and which had no perceptible ascent nor descent. The breadth of the Kamhanni range may easily be imagined, from the circumstance that, the passage of it occupied three hours and a half at our usual rate of travelling.

On clearing the mountains, we entered upon a grassy plain perfectly level, extending before us as far as the eye could discern, and presenting, on the north-east and east, a boundless expanse of country. On our left, the mountains continued, as it were, to accompany us at the distance of a few miles.

This I could not but feel to be an interesting point of my travels: I had now entered their territory, and was about to behold a totally different and superior race of men, a nation among whom I was to find some traces of industry and art, and who, by living in fixed abodes and in large communities and by following agriculture, had advanced the first steps in civilization. These considerations excited reflections of the most pleasing kind, the power of which chased from my mind every vexatious sentiment, and banished every thought of those troubles and difficulties which naturally attend a traveller venturing into these countries under circumstances such as mine. Having set my foot in a new region, I prepared for examining with attention all its features, and for enjoying the feast of novelty and instruction, which lay spread before me in every quarter.

Here, the new and interesting forms of some scattered trees of Camel-thorn, or *Mokaala*, gave a most picturesque and remarkable character to the landscape; more especially as no other large tree of any kind, nor scarcely a bush, was any where to be seen.

Muchunka was also in high spirits, on entering his native country, and communicated to the less lively Hottentots, some portion of his own vivacity, by extolling its pastures, its water, and its abundance of game; and by giving an animated description of the town to which we were advancing, and of the friendly disposition of his countrymen. It was evident that the circumstance of having quitted the district in which they had been so much in dread of the Bushmen, contributed not a little to quiet the minds of my men, and to restore ease and cheerfulness to our party; although

it was probable that they would not have been without an equal degree of apprehension, on account of the unknown tribe to which we were about to commit ourselves, had not Muchunka's assurances, and the familiar manner in which he spoke of this nation, persuaded them that no hostility was to be feared.

After a day's-journey of nearly seven hours, we arrived at a spring of water, which the natives distinguish as the *Little Klíbbölkhónni Fountain*: that which is properly called *Klíbbölkhónni*, the source of the *Krúmán river*, being situated at a distance of two miles farther eastward. At this time the spring was in its lowest state, as its waters were too weak to run more than two hundred yards from the spot where they rose out of the ground. In the rainy season they form, by the aid of showers, a rivulet which joins itself to the *Krúman*.

I had already, by the assistance of Muchunka, gained a sufficient insight into the *language* spoken by the various *Bichuana tribes* or nations, to enable me to establish a system of orthography capable of expressing with certainty, its proper sounds and pronunciation; and had, in a desultory manner and without any systematic arrangement, composed a small vocabulary. But as I advanced nearer to the country where it was spoken, and became assured that it prevailed over a great portion of the Interior, I conceived a stronger interest in it, and felt both the necessity and the desire, of acquiring a more correct and extended knowledge.

With this view, I now resolved to commence a more regular investigation, and to form, on the plan of a *dictionary*, a more comprehensive collection of raw materials, in words and phrases; and which might be considered as comprising the whole body of the language, and serve as a source from which, by future examination and study, might be drawn a knowledge of its nature and peculiarities, and of its grammatical construction. I still, however, continued adding to my *vocabulary* such words and phrases as my daily intercourse with the natives enabled me to learn, and to confirm myself in the right understanding of their meaning. This was used as a repository for that only which was learnt in a more practical manner.

I therefore in the evening commenced the work, intending to dedicate to it, till completed, every hour of leisure which my other labors and occupations might occasionally permit. As all the party were now in good spirits, and our affairs seemed to proceed more smoothly than they had for a long time, this was the proper season for such an employment; and, having first put my interpreter in good humour by a present of a new handkerchief, I took him to my waggon, to begin his task. To prevent his misapprehending the meaning of my questions, I kept one of my Hottentots sitting by us, to explain in *his* way any question which I might happen to put, as a European is very liable to do, in terms above the capacity and judgment of an uncivilized and untaught person.

The method which was then pursued, may still be the best by which a traveller may reduce an oral language to a written form, and acquire in the shortest possible time, a tolerably complete knowledge of it; or at least, may fix it on paper in a state in which it may afterwards be more fully and critically examined. I had before me a printed dictionary (in this case it was in Dutch, because in that language all my questions were put), from which were selected, in their order, all those words which admitted of interpretation in the dialect of a people ignorant of science or nice moral or metaphysical distinctions; or, in other terms, such words only were taken, the meaning of which could be made intelligible to their simple minds. My question was begun by endeavouring to obtain a native word exactly equivalent to that which was in the book; but if it was perceived that my interpreter found any difficulty in understanding it, a short phrase was proposed, in which the meaning of that word was involved; and his translation was then written down exactly as it was pronounced; taking care at the same time, to divide the syllables by placing points beneath the word, and to note the accent and short vowels. \* This, however, was not done without much trouble and many explanations; but he was desired to repeat it so often that one could not easily be mistaken in the words or their sounds. By these

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\* See page 253. at the word 'three.'

means, on several occasions, a variableness was discovered in his pronunciation, which my imperfect knowledge of the idiom, has not yet enabled me to account for.

Those, whose minds have been expanded by a European education, cannot readily conceive the *stupidity*, as they would call it, of savages, in every thing beyond the most simple ideas and the most uncompounded notions, either in moral or in physical knowledge. But the fact is; their life embraces so few incidents, their occupations, their thoughts, and their cares, are confined to so few objects, that their ideas must necessarily be equally few, and equally confined. I have sometimes been obliged to allow Muchunka to leave off the task, when he had scarcely given me a dozen words; as it was evident that exertion of mind, or continued employment of the *faculty of thinking*, soon wore out his powers of reflection, and rendered him really incapable of paying any longer attention to the subject. On such occasions, he would betray by his listlessness and the vacancy of his countenance, that abstract questions of the plainest kind, soon exhausted all mental strength, and reduced him to the state of a child whose reason was yet dormant. He would then complain that his head began to ache; and as it was useless to persist *invitâ Minervâ*, he always received immediately his dismissal for that day.

When at a subsequent period, another native was employed in this business, I discovered in him nearly the same inability to sustain mental exertion; and saw, therefore, the absurdity of seeking in their language for that which was not to be found in their ideas, — a mode of expressing those abstract qualities and virtues, and those higher operations of the intellectual power, which, perhaps, belong only to civilized society and to cultivated minds.

The Bachapins call this language the *Sichuána*; and as the inconvenience which would attend an increase of the bulk of this volume beyond its present size, compels me to omit the Dictionary or Vocabulary, together with various remarks on the language, and a fuller exposition of its structure, I have judged it not superfluous

nor useless in this place, to notice, in the note below\*, some of the essential particulars; and which are more especially necessary

\* The *vowels* may be considered as having the sound which most of the European nations, excepting the English, give to them. This may serve as a general precept; but their more exact pronunciation is reserved for a future opportunity.

The *a*, without here making nice distinctions, may be sounded as the *a*, in *father* or *further*: but *á* with the circumflex accent above it, is intended to represent that broad vocal sound which is heard in the words *all, awl, nor, nought, caught*.

The *e* in most cases resembles the short *e* in *tell*; but when separate or bearing the accent it is like the *a* in *able*: and *ee* or *ē* like the long *a* in *save*. It is sometimes used with the grave accent (*è*) instead of *e*, [See the note at page 254.] to avoid the inconvenience of foreign characters in the text.

The *i* is the same as the *e* in *delay*; and the *ii* or *ī* as *ee* in *deep*.

The *o* is sounded as in *motive*. It has very rarely the English sound which is heard in *cottage, solid*; but in this case it is marked with the grave accent (*ò*). The *oo* or *ō*, is to be pronounced the same as the long *o* in *bone*; but not as the *oo* in *boot*. In the same manner all the other *double vowels* are to be pronounced as the single vowel much lengthened in sound: they always bear the accent, and generally one of them is omitted when the 'acute accent' is placed over the other; as *L'taakun* or *Litákun*. The *ow* is most frequently used in the text instead of the Greek character *ω*, and sounds as in the words *owl, now*.

The *u* in *Sichuána*, is sounded as the *oo* in *tool*, or the *u* in *rule*: it is the same as the German or the Italian *u*. It may generally be substituted for the *w*. I have used the *ù* with the grave accent (*'*) to signify that vocal sound which is heard in the words *sun, one, undone, begun*, and which is, I believe, almost peculiar to the English tongue.

The *y* is always a vowel, and is sounded as in *my* or as the long *i* in *mine*.

Two *vowels* coming together are to be taken as *diphthongs*, unless separated by a diæresis (*˘*).

The *ch* must be pronounced as in *chin*; and as the Spanish *ch*: it is the same as the Italian *c* before *e* or *i*.

The *j* is the same as the *y* in *yes*; and in general an *i* might be substituted for it.

When *m*, or *n*, begins a word, and is followed by a consonant, it forms a syllable by itself, and is to be pronounced in a close and peculiar manner, as though it were preceded by a very faint vowel rather more resembling an *u* than an *e* or an *i*.

The *ng*, when coming together, are not to be separated in pronunciation; they form a true and peculiar consonant, which I have in writing expressed by a character composed partly of the *n* and partly of the *g*; but this could not be imitated in printing, without casting a type for the purpose.

The *ph* is merely a *p* followed by a strong aspiration, but is never as an *f* or as we commonly pronounce the Greek  $\phi$ . In the same manner, the *th* is not the Saxon  $\theta$ , nor our Greek  $\theta$ , but simply an aspirated *t*.

The *ts* is to be considered as forming an indivisible consonant; and also the *tz*, which is merely a modification of the same, and by some natives is used in its place.

For further explanations, the observations at the words 'three,' 'four,' 'sun,' 'moon decreasing,' and 'ford,' at page 253. may be consulted; as also may, the remarks on the *Sichuána language*, to be found in the last chapter of this volume.

to be attended to, by those who would read correctly the Sichuana names and words which occur in the course of this narrative.

The English reader, unacquainted with foreign pronunciation, may complain that by not adopting the orthography of his own language, the difficulty of reading the names in this journal, is much increased; but he might with equal propriety object to the use of French or German orthography in a book of travels through France or Germany. As an apology for the method here followed, it may briefly be stated, — that the vocal sounds of the two languages are essentially different; that English orthography, being, in its present state, referrible to no general principle, is so inconsistent as to modern pronunciation, that in some words it designates the same sound by several different letters, and in others, employs the same letters for several very different sounds: and, that the adoption of a system expressly adapted to the genius of the Sichuāna and following simple and rigid rules, is in reality attended with much less inconvenience, and with much more certainty, than the use of a system, if it can be called one, so multifarious in letters and uncertain in sound, as that of our own language. I have, nevertheless, for more general convenience, added in parentheses, wherever it was necessary, the same word spelt according to English orthography.

*29th.* The various duties of preserving what had been collected, of arranging the notes and recording the observations of the day, had employed me in the waggon the whole of the night, and this, added to a considerable fatigue occasioned by a long day's-journey, kept me so much later than usual, before I awoke the next morning, that my people began to fear that I was either dead or very unwell. At length Speelman's uneasiness increasing, he resolved to ascertain whether I was alive or not, and knocked against the side of the waggon, when he told me that, instead of morning, it was afternoon, and that the sun had already sunk more than two hours. I was not less surprised than my men; and could only attribute this extraordinary long and sound sleep, to an effort of nature, to repair that exhausted state into which a too great attention to the numerous affairs of the journey had insensibly brought me. The oxen were



put to the waggons without delay, and all were soon ready to depart.

The magnetic needle was here so much affected by the particles of iron contained in the rocks at this station, that it was not to be depended on. It was my usual practice at every station, to take the *bearings* of as many of our former *stations* as were either in sight, or of which the situation could be indicated with tolerable exactness; and at the same time, those of any other remarkable objects, and of our next station forward whenever it was known and could be indicated with precision, were noted down. By these means, the bearings, being taken both backwards and forwards, gave a double check to any inaccuracy which might arise from errors of the needle, or from mistaking the position of stations not actually in sight.

In order that this very necessary part of a traveller's duty might not, in the confusion of a multitude of heterogeneous occupations, be forgotten, these operations were almost always deferred till the moment when the oxen were brought forward to be put in the yoke; so that I thus became habitually reminded of what was to be done, and my men were by the same means prepared for pointing out the bearing of these stations and places which were too distant to be visible. On such occasions I generally consulted them, and placed more or less confidence in their opinions, as these proved either unanimous or at variance.

Fearing that we should not reach our next station before dark, we hastened the oxen forward at their best pace, and advanced at the rate of eighteen revolutions \* in a minute; which was equal to 3 miles, 1 furlong, and 170 yards, in an hour. As our road was over deep sands, this rate might be considered as very expeditious, for a waggon on narrow wheels, heavily laden and drawn by oxen. In some places, a black mottled flinty rock, showed itself through the surface of the ground.

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\* The mode in which this was ascertained, has been already explained at page 289. of the preceding volume.

Although the sun shone pleasantly the whole day, the air was cold, and the thermometer not higher than 56. (13·3 Centig.; or 10·6 Reaum.) It was now the middle of winter, or, more properly speaking, cold season: for the word, *winter*, seems to an English ear, to imply a severity of cold, and to raise ideas not consistent altogether with the weather of these latitudes. Occasionally, however, a degree of cold is felt, which the contrast of intervening warm days, renders almost as chilling as the wintry weather of our own latitudes. During the month of *June*, as may be seen by the 'Register,' the thermometer sunk several times below the freezing point; on one day the ground was whitened with snow; and hoar-frost at sunrise, was not unfrequent. The middle of the day was generally pleasant and moderately warm: but the mercury never rose higher than 71; (17·3. R.; 21·6 C.) and for the greater part of the four-and-twenty hours, was below the temperate point.

At a little after sunset, we came to the *Krúmán*, a beautiful little river running in a plentiful stream of the clearest water. At this part of its course it was fifteen feet broad and abounded in tall reeds. A sight so delightful for African travellers, had not been seen since we left the *Gariép*. This river, small as it was, as far surpassed all the others in the intermediate country, if rivers they could be called, as the *Gariép* surpassed this. It is formed by the *Klibbolikhónni*, the most copious spring which I have seen in Southern Africa. Unlike other rivers, the *Kruman* is largest at its source, and rises from the earth a full and broad stream, which, by the combined powers of evaporation by the sun and of absorption by the sandy soil, is gradually lessened as it flows on; till at last after a course of a few days-journeys, it is lost in the sands, and entirely disappears. It is said, that in the wet season, it is joined by the *Moshva* (*Moshowa*); and that, in those years when an unusual quantity of rain has fallen, the united streams find their way to the *Gariép*.

We continued for an hour, travelling westerly along the banks of the *Kruman*, till, it becoming too dark to venture farther, we were obliged to halt and unyoke for the night, at a spot distinguished on