

the whole of the hills descending into the vale of the Zwartzkops Revier.

Uitenhagen presents itself pleasantly, with its few white houses, and the mansion of the landdrost, at the foot of a range of low hills. A plain extends to the southward. Having crossed the Zwartzkops Revier, we reached the village about six o'clock, and pitched our tent on the common, near the beast-kraal and market. Mr. Melville, who went immediately to the post-office, and in search of friends, was everywhere unsuccessful. We regretted with him the absence of Mr. Swann, the surveyor, from whom we hoped to have received much information respecting the unoccupied parts of this district.

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## CHAPTER XII.

*Transactions at Uitenhagen. Proposals made by the landdrost to extend our journey. Visit to Bethelsdorp. Remarks on the situation of that settlement. Hospitality of Mr. Von Buchenrode. Departure from Uitenhagen. Geelhoutboom on Sundays Revier. Elephants and buffaloes. Arrival at the Witte Revier. Description of the valley, and of the Schlagboom farm.*

**A**PRIL 5th. Our groom, Leonhard, having arrived two days ago, had called at the drosty, to exhibit our credentials to the landdrost, Colonel Cuyler. After breakfast, I waited upon the Colonel, and delivered to him Colonel Bird's letter, with another from the landdrost of George, Mr. Van Kervel. He received me with great civility, and offered me a room in his house, apologizing for his not being able to accommodate our whole party, as his rooms were occupied by offices of Government, the new building destined for that purpose

being not yet finished. As I did not wish, on any account, to be separated from my companions, I could not accept his kind invitation. Speaking of the aim of our journey, he offered every assistance in his power, and seemed to wish to see a settlement of the Brethren formed in his district. For this purpose, he mentioned Klein Revier, near the Chamtoos Revier, as being a very suitable situation, with every requisite for a village of about five hundred inhabitants, which we might claim, the present tenant not having obtained any grant of the land. He likewise described another place in Achter Bruntjes Hoogte, as suitable, the lease of which was about to be called in by Government, as the possessor had been concerned in the late rebellion, and sentenced to be removed from that part of the frontier. One of his sons had been executed, and another banished, having been convicted of treason. The landdrost added, that there was sufficient land unoccupied on the Zondags Revier, (Sundays River), and wished, that we might visit that country.

On my return to the tent, we held some consultation about the proposals made by the landdrost, but could come to no determination. To an application for the possession of the Klein Revier farm, the same objections prevailed, which I have before stated; and we felt uncomfortable in the idea of occupying a place, of which an old tenant and his family had been deprived, though as a just punishment for their misdeeds. Colonel Cuyler followed me to our encampment, to invite the whole party to dinner.

During the forenoon, we were visited by several Hottentots belonging to Gnadenthal, at present serving in the Cape regiment, and by others, who sought to make acquaintance with our people. The keeper of the tronk (prison) and his wife very civilly offered their services to do any thing for us; and the Secretary, Mr. Allen, a friend of Mr. Melville's, with great kindness, appropriated a room in his house for our accommodation, in case a change of weather should make us wish to leave the tent. We accepted of his invitation, and removed our bedding into the house.

The afternoon was most agreeably spent with the landdrost and his lady at the drosty. After dinner, we visited a young lion chained in the yard, larger than a mastiff, perfectly tame, of the large black breed, that is, having a black mane, and black bush at the end of his tail, but otherwise of a dingy brown, or tawny-colour. Like others of the feline tribe, he seemed fond of being stroked and petted, and, like a house-cat, shoved up against the person fondling him. Yet it appeared prudent to keep one's hand at a respectful distance from his wide mouth. He continually uttered a kind of friendly growl, the double base to a cat's purring. A silver-grey monkey also, of singular beauty, full of tricks, but of what species I cannot tell, diverted us for some time. He had been a great favourite in the family, till, interfering too much with the children's comforts, stealing their victuals, and doing other mischief, he was now sentenced to exhibit his pranks in the yard, on a pole with a bar across, where he yet retained his friendly disposition. Both the lion and monkey had been inhabitants of the neighbouring hills.

The landdrost entered with much interest into the business we were engaged in, and showed himself well-disposed towards the civilization of the Hottentots. His lady had visited Gnadenthal.

Being so near Bethelsdorp, the principal establishment of the Missionary Society in London, he offered to furnish us with a relay of oxen to our travelling waggon, that we might visit that place.

6th. About eight o'clock in the morning, we set out, taking Marcus, Johannes, and Lebrecht Aris, with us. The road is not interesting, but after crossing the Zwartkops Revier, about an English mile from Uitenhagen, runs over a wild, level country, till within sight of the village.

We were received with great kindness by the missionaries, Messrs. Messer and Hooper. The former is by birth a German, and the latter an Englishman. Mr. Read, the principal, or director of all the missionary establishments of the above-mentioned Society in

Africa, was absent, having accompanied Mr. Williams into Caffraria, where, it was said, king T'Geika had applied for a settlement, or a "school," as the institutions of that Society are here called. We cordially wish success to every attempt to make the gospel known among the heathen, and hope, that their exertions will be attended with permanent benefit to that wild and ignorant nation.

After being introduced to Mrs. Messer and Mrs. Williams, who seemed pleased to make acquaintance with Sister Schmitt, we walked out to see the settlement. Mrs. Read is a Hottentot woman, and did not join the party, but was visited by Sister Schmitt at her own house. Mr. Melville was so deeply engaged with reading the account of Bethelsdorp in the Rev. Mr. Campbell's journal, that he did not accompany us in our walk, especially as he had no inclination to take a view of a place, so totally destitute of any thing picturesque.

We had been willing to believe, that the very unfavourable accounts, given by travellers of Bethelsdorp, were greatly exaggerated, if not altogether false, and that it was not to be credited, that a Society, possessed of such ample means, would suffer any of their settlements to remain in so disgraceful a state, as to be always brought forward against them, as a proof of the unprofitableness of their missionary exertions in this country. But I am sorry to say, that as to its external situation, nothing can be more miserable and discouraging. Men, therefore, who judge only from outward appearance, are apt to draw inferences to the prejudice of its inhabitants. This is acknowledged by Mr. Campbell himself, and he offers an apology, which such as view the subject with a favourable disposition towards the main purpose of the institution, will admit. What may have been the motive of its founder, Dr. Van der Kemp, for fixing upon a spot, in every respect so little calculated to raise any thing but disagreeable sensations in a traveller's mind, I cannot tell. The district of Uitenhagen was at that time but very thinly occupied by settlers. Government most generously

offered every facility, and gave him his choice of the best places in its territory. He looked at some, and at length sat down in the most barren, desolate, unpromising desert I have yet seen in all South Africa.

He was an eccentric character, but a man of cool judgment, and I make no doubt, had he been alive, would have given plausible reasons for his choice; though they might not have satisfied a man, who, while he loves and admires, above all, the Creator, cannot be totally indifferent to the beauty of his works, but seeks thankfully to enjoy those advantages and conveniences, with which God has so abundantly stored his creation. Yet they would have exhibited to the mind of a candid inquirer the truly sincere and religious motives, by which this venerable man was actuated on all occasions.

His successors, however, are to be pitied, as being now obliged, not only to dwell in a situation incorrigibly bad, but continually to hear the severe and unjust remarks, made in consequence of its wretched appearance. Not a tree is to be seen, excepting two or three ragged speckbooms, standing before Mr. Read's house, and scarcely a blade of grass. The hills, enclosing the small kloof near the village, are completely barren, and their outlines tame and uninteresting. The small brook, if it deserves that name, coming out of the kloof, is quite insufficient for the purposes of irrigation, or to supply water for a mill; nor could we comprehend, how so large a fraternity as are said to dwell here, obtain water enough for common use. This being a time, when most of the inhabitants are with the boors, we saw very few of them, nor did they appear disposed to notice us. The arrival of our waggon seemed to excite no curiosity whatever. In this respect, we perceived a great difference between the inhabitants of Bethelsdorp, and those of Gna-denthal, upon which our Hottentots made some sensible remarks. Towards evening, a few old men approached the waggon, in the shade of which our people were resting, and entered into conversation with them, but from *us* they seemed to stand aloof.

We were, however, received and treated with the more kindness

and with truly brotherly affection, by the missionaries, and though it happened to be a busy day with them, several affairs of house-keeping, such as baking, brewing, &c. having been undertaken, and our unexpected visit therefore seemed out of season, yet they exerted themselves to make it agreeable. Mrs. Messer provided a good dinner, and her husband devoted himself to us, as much as the necessary operations, already commenced, would allow. Meanwhile I made a few sketches of the interior of the settlement, chiefly of the church and Dr. Van der Kemp's dwelling. Both these buildings are singular monuments of the peculiarity of his taste. The church is an angular structure, or rather consists of two buildings, placed together nearly in a right angle. The inner walls meet; the outer are connected by a wall, elliptical in its form. In the middle of this junction, the minister's seat and desk are placed; thus he may be seen and heard by the whole audience, though the men and women, who sit separate, cannot see each other. The building is low, with small square windows, thatched, and without a ceiling. A small room or closet is boarded off on the men's side, containing what is called the library. The books are chiefly for the use of the school, besides some religious publications. A few minerals and stones brought from Latâkoun, the Namaqua country, and other stations, constitute the museum; but they were much injured, no one seeming to pay attention to mineralogy. Dr. Van der Kemp's house is about eight feet square, made of unburnt brick, and covered with thatch. It stands near the church, and is now in possession of the mother of the Hottentot woman whom he married, some time before he died.

Having finished my sketches, Mr. Messer accompanied Brother Schmitt and me through the village. Complaints having been made, that the huts and cottages lay scattered, without any regularity, we saw a beginning of forming regular streets with houses of unburnt brick, which, when completed, will be a great improvement. A new school-house, with a printing-office annexed, is in forwardness, and will add much to the value of the establish-

ment. After dinner, Brother Schmitt walked with me into the kloof, where Mr. Messer, with great labour, has made a garden, which produces a good crop. The other gardens do not look well, for want of trees and hedges. The mill was quite out of repair and useless; nor is the mill-course well contrived, so as to obtain the full force of the scanty supply of water. On returning from the kloof, we entered a smith's and a carpenter's shop, but found, that they had not been used for some time. Meanwhile Sister Schmitt procured some matting, our stock being much worn. Both she and Brother Stein had entered several houses, with a view to visit and converse with the inhabitants, but it did not seem, as if their visit gave much satisfaction. The people appeared timid and reserved, and we understood, that Dr. Van der Kemp's caution against making too free with strangers had created in their minds a disposition to reserve, which they did not at all understand when to lay aside.

From the more elevated part of the settlement, Algoa Bay is visible. We would gladly have accepted of Mr. and Mrs. Messer's kind invitation to stay over night at Bethelsdorp, but we began to be covetous of our time, nor had we yet come to a determination respecting the landdrost's proposal for a continuation of our journey towards Achter Bruntjes Hoogte, in search of unoccupied land. We had therefore ordered our waggon to be ready at seven o'clock, but heard, that the oxen had strayed and could not be found. Mr. Messer therefore hired a span for us, when, unexpectedly, Lebrecht Aris brought back our own. It was dark, but fair, and Marcus, by good driving, brought us to Uitenhagen, in three hours and a half.

7th. After breakfast, going to the drosty, I met Colonel Cuyler coming towards our tent. He turned back with me, observing, that he had something to communicate, which he thought would be worthy of our attention. We had been conversing much at breakfast about his proposal to visit some situations on the Zondag's or Sunday's river, and had nearly resolved

to proceed no farther in our search. But now the landdrost informed me, that he had been made attentive to a situation on the Witte Revier (or White river), flowing from the eastward into the Sunday's river, which possessed abundance of good grass, wood, and water, was yet unoccupied, and might be applied for, without in the least interfering with any other person. He therefore advised us, by all means, to go and see it, and as Mr. Knobel, the district surveyor, just then entered the room, the landdrost desired him to give me a particular account of it, and directions how best to proceed. He also generously offered every assistance in horses and oxen, to convey us thither.

On my return to the tent, I made a report of this new proposal, and all agreed, that, as to the situation on the Witte Revier, we should not do right in declining so kind an offer; but we yet retained our scruples, as to the propriety of applying for the estate of a man, banished for treason, whose relatives would surely not be satisfied, to see a place so long in possession of the family, transferred to other hands.

To-day, being Palm-sunday, we had a public meeting in our tent. We read the lesson for the day, after which Brother Schmitt delivered a short discourse and prayer. Many Hottentots attended, sitting in and about the tent, with great devotion. After service, I accompanied Sister Schmitt to the tronk, to see a young Caffre, who had been taken in the act of stealing cattle, some days journey from hence. His person was athletic, his countenance open and pleasant, and as a token of special favour, he presented Sister Schmitt with a shell, taken from his necklace. He could only converse with us by signs.

I next waited on the landdrost, to inform him of our resolution to accept his offer, as it respected the Witte Revier, but stated our objections to going to Bruntjes Hoogte. He brought forward so many reasons, why we should at least go and look at the latter place, that on a second consideration, we determined, not to leave any thing relative to the business committed to us unfinished,



which might, perhaps providentially, become a means of contributing to promote the aim of our journey into this distant part of the colony. On acquainting the landdrost with this result, he expressed much satisfaction, and furnished me with the necessary papers. 1. An order for relays. 2. A letter to Dr. Mackrell, agent for Government at Somerset, on the Boschberg in Bruntjes Hoogte. 3. A plan of our route. 4. A list of places, where we might find good quarters, with the names of the farmers. 5. An order to Messrs. Schepers, sen. and jun. occupying farms at each end of the Witte Revier Valley, to shew us their land-marks, and the unoccupied ground on that river.

The weather had totally changed, and it rained hard all the afternoon. We drank tea with Mr. Von Buchenrode, a German gentleman, residing here as a merchant. He willingly rendered us every service in his power, and indeed it was well, that we found such a generous friend at Uitenhagen, where, as yet, little is to be had, either for love or money. We had depended upon being able, at this principal town of the district, to furnish ourselves with a sufficient supply of wheaten bread and other provisions; as also to replace our stock of crockery, the greatest part of which had been broken, either by the oversetting of the baggage-waggon, or by other means. Mr. Knobel, the surveyor, joined us, and we spent the afternoon in pleasant conversation. Mr. Von Buchenrode gave us some interesting account of the country we were about to visit, and the wild animals infesting it.

Sister Schmitt going to the tronk, was introduced to the prisoner C. B. confined for six months, according to the sentence pronounced against some, who had joined in the late rebellion. The poor man appeared much humbled, and expressed a hope, that, by God's mercy, this affliction might lead him to consider the concerns of his immortal soul, and seek true rest and salvation in Jesus. He now read the Bible with attention, and a sincere desire to profit by it. The keeper of the tronk, and several of the

military, besides the Hottentot soldiers from Gnadenthal, were glad to attend our family-worship.

8th. The rain continued with such violence all day, that we were obliged to postpone our departure. During the night, a dog entered the tent, and carried off a butter-pot, wrapt in a napkin, and a pair of springbock horns, given me by Colonel Cuyler. We gave them up for lost; but they were found in a ditch near the tent. He had devoured the butter, half of the napkin, and part of the skull belonging to the horns. This is the second time, that we have been thus robbed by these half-starved animals.

Some Hottentots, who visited us in the tent, were desirous to know our opinion concerning the groaning practised by some of their countrymen, during divine service. We answered, that we believed, that the work of God's Spirit was not to be sought for in noise and external marks, which might be affectation, but in a humbling sense of our sin and need, and in a broken heart and contrite Spirit. The Lord was not in the wind, nor in the earthquake, but in the small still voice.

Mr. Von Buchenrode having invited our whole party to dinner, we again met Mr. Knobel, when, after a long dearth of music, I was extremely gratified to find in the latter an excellent performer on the piano-forte and flute. We spent two or three hours in playing Haydn's and Mozart's duettos, to the great gratification of our hearers. Little did I expect to have such a treat in this distant corner of the earth.

Towards evening, the rain ceased, and we prepared to set out in the morning early, hoping that the rivers were yet passable.

9th. Though the morning was again rainy, we determined to proceed, and I went to take leave of the landdrost, and make some final arrangements. Nothing could exceed the kindness and good-will of Colonel Cuyler, who acted as if he were personally interested in the success of our expedition. He showed me the horses destined for us, with his own travelling horse for myself. Once more I paid my

respects to the young lion, who came forward to be stroked. A servant had this morning killed a puffadder near the drosty. This venomous reptile was about three feet long, four inches in circumference, its head flat, the variegated spots on the back beautifully and regularly arranged, black upon a greenish-grey ground.

Besides the oxen and horses provided for us, the landdrost sent drivers and guides, and two Hottentot soldiers, who should escort us through the Witte Revier Valley, and to Kourney. Before we set out, a number of persons, both whites and Hottentots, came to bid us farewell, and express their best wishes for our success. Our departure was delayed till near nine o'clock. The caravan consisted of our two waggons, each with ten oxen and a guide, two of our own horses, three from the landdrost's stables, and two Hottentot soldiers, armed with musquets, and dressed in green jackets, with a powder-horn and knapsack.

On quitting Uitenhagen, we soon entered the same kind of thicket of brush-wood and bushes, which surround the village on all sides, and cover every eminence. Our attention was again much engaged with the curious plants and flowers, growing luxuriantly among the bushes. Now and then we sent one of the men to fetch some remarkable flower for our inspection. Here, for the first time, we saw Hottentots riding on oxen. The halter or bridle, is fastened to a piece of wood, passing through the cartilage of the nose, by which the beast is easily guided. In about two hours, we reached a farm, with a decent-looking dwelling-house, and a mill. Brother Schmitt walked with me down the river-side, to the mill. The main wheel lay horizontally, the water taking the cogs sideways. This kind of water-mill is common here, of very simple construction, but has but little power.

The next place we touched at, was on the Kouga Revier, where we entered the house, and found a friendly family, from whom we purchased milk and butter. While I was admiring a large favourite cat, the farmer observed, that he valued that creature as much as the best of his numerous dogs. She destroyed not only mice

and rats, but even large snakes, which she attacked by beating them about the head, till they were stupified, then, seizing them by the neck, killed them with her teeth.

The road continued to lead through bushes, during the whole of the day, excepting where an opening occurred, with a few scattered copses of trees. On our approaching Geelhoutboom, which, according to the directions given, we were to make our first night's station, the Hottentot soldiers and old Paerl rode forward in full trot. This made us rather uneasy, especially when it grew dark, our own people being unacquainted with the road; but when we arrived, we forgave them, on finding that they had kindled a large fire in the wood, and fixed upon a place of shelter for our tent. The weather now seemed to clear up, and the moon shone bright. Two fires were kindled, to which we dragged branches of trees, if possible, to keep them blazing through the night, as a guard against wild beasts, buffaloes having been observed by our horsemen to enter the wood before them, and elephants being often seen in these parts. I slept in the baggage-waggon; and towards morning heard, with concern, the rain violently beating against the covering.

9th. When we rose, the clouds had dispersed. We were thankful for the return of fair weather, as this was the day, when we hoped to see the spot, on which, if it so please God, a congregation gathered from among the heathen, at some future period, may dwell, in the enjoyment of Christian privileges.

One of our Hottentot soldiers having shot a brace of wild Guinea-fowl, brought them into the tent, and presented them to Sister Schmitt. They were remarkably large and fleshy.

We now surveyed the place, where we had spent the night. It was an opening in a wild wood, with tall trees, and much under-wood, not five minutes walk from the banks of the Sunday's river. A quantity of elephant's dung, partly fresh, lay between us and the river, which seemed to indicate, that even during the night, some of these huge creatures had passed that way. Tygers are said

to be numerous in the thicket, but we neither heard nor saw any of these animals, so carefully do they avoid the presence of man.

After breakfast, our party divided, according to the landdrost's direction. Brother Stein and Sister Schmitt remained with the wag-gons, and with one of the Hottentot soldiers, and the guides, went straight to Kourney. Mr. Melville, Brother Schmitt, a soldier, and old Paerl, accompanied me on horseback to the Witte Revier. The Sunday's river flows here between high banks, covered with a forest of great extent on each side. Its bed is full of large round stones, which makes the ford unpleasant. The water was about three feet in depth, but in the rainy season, the stream is very deep and rapid. As soon as we had mounted the heights, and got through the wood, Mr. Melville found some sport. Chase was made after antelopes, and wild hogs, but in vain: an unlucky falcon, however, perching upon a tree, was brought down by a bullet. It was a large, handsome bird, about the size of a turkey, white and dark-brown being its principal colours. After we had left the wood, the country appeared pleasant, with good grass and many bushes, either standing singly, or in clumps. We directed our course towards a range of woody hills, and into a valley, through which the Witte Revier runs into the Sunday's river. At the farm of Jacobus Scheper, senior, the valley contracts, so as to form a glen, its entrance shaded by large trees. Here a party of foot-soldiers, occupied a military post. The old farmer was not at home, but his wife and daughter received us in a friendly way. We produced the order from the landdrost to her husband, to show us his landmarks, and the unoccupied land, but did not trouble her to give us a guide, the Hottentot soldier being well acquainted with the place. The English soldiers here behaved to us with great civility. They showed us several skins of animals they had shot in the neighbourhood, among which were those of a buffaloe, some tygers, a lynx, a jerboa, called springhaas by the Dutch, a creature of the didelphi kind with very long hind-legs.

We now proceeded on our journey, and entered the wood at

the opening of the glen. The sun shone bright, and the morning-showers had given new brilliancy to the rich verdure. We were charmed with the variety of trees and bushes, through which we rode, and noticed several large butterflies, with wings of the richest azure, sporting in the sun. Meeting with Mr. Jacobus Scheper, jun. we presented the landdrost's order. He begged to ride on to his father's farm on some business, but soon returned to us, when he gave us every information respecting the premises. The river, which we crossed several times, at fording-places, darkened by the shade of lofty trees, runs with a rapid stream over a stony bed, here and there dipping under heaps of stones. These, in my opinion, having been brought down from the mountains by floods, have accumulated to a height above the common level of the water, as in Jackal's Kraal, (p. 163). In some places, the river forms a fine broad surface, passing quietly, though rapidly, along. As this was not the rainy season, there appears to be, at all times, a sufficiency of water for every purpose, with fall enough, either to work a mill, or to be led into any part of the more level ground.

But much as we were pleased, and almost enchanted, with the beauty of the glen, Brother Schmitt at first objected to its narrow width, which indeed, on entering, appeared little more than a few hundred yards, till we had penetrated about a quarter of an English mile into it, when it spread considerably, the hills receding on both sides. To the left, they are high, and full of kloofs, containing large timber. A range of lower eminences lies at their foot; having, as we were informed, plenty of good pasturage upon them. To the right, the hills are lower, but more interesting in their appearance. Their tops are covered with bushes, the lower region steep, and, in many places, supported, as it were, by rocks of a deep red colour. These rocks are concrete masses of pebbles and clay, strongly impregnated with iron. The colour of some of them approaches even to pink or lake, with white or yellow veins. At every turn, the outline of the hills varies, presenting some picturesque scenery. Leaving the path, which runs nearly through the middle

of the valley, we rode towards the right and left boundaries, to examine the nature of the soil, or the course of the river, or to ascend some eminence, affording a better view of the different situations beneath. About the middle of the vale, our attention being attracted by the appearance of a high red rock, we turned towards it, and found it rising perpendicularly beyond a large sheet of water. Between it and another rock on the opposite bank, a woody glen descended, probably containing some stream, contributing towards the formation of the lake or pond. Both in and out of the wood, we had discovered abundant traces of elephants, both by their foot-marks, their sleeping-places, their dung, and by several thorn-bushes, torn up by the roots and placed on their crowns, that these creatures might eat both the leaves and the more tender roots, of which they are said to be particularly fond. We now found the whole field near the pond covered with their dung, which shows that they frequently resort to this place, for water. In the day-time, they generally hide themselves in the large woods and kloofs, but at night, descend to quench their thirst. Leaving the pond, we crossed a stony eminence and descended into the glen, where the Caffres in 1797 had their chief encampment.

This glen intersects the main valley. To the left, it forms a passage towards the high mountains, which are entirely covered with forest-trees, and to the right, divides a lower range of hills. They here assume singular forms. Mr. Scheper justly compared one of them to a fortification; semicircular caverns appearing in rows, much like some of the works, seen in antient strong-holds. Towards the end of the valley, the mountains, to the left, are higher and more imposing, and their numberless kloofs, filled with wood, give them a peculiar character. After again several times crossing the bed of the river, we entered upon the premises belonging to our guide, Mr. Scheper junior. The farm lies in a most romantic situation, at the bottom of an amphitheatre of lofty hills.

It would be tedious to attempt to particularize all the various beautiful objects surrounding this place, but we all agreed, that

it was one of the most singular spots we had seen during the whole journey. To the right, a steep woody bank terminates in a high black rock, on which stood a tall tree, spreading its branches above the rest. Under this tree, Mr. Scheper had placed a seat, and there found a safe retreat, from whence he might fire at elephants passing through his premises, without danger of an attack from them, if not immediately killed.

The old farm-house and out-houses were demolished by the Caffres, about fifteen years ago. The present dwelling, put up in place of the house burnt by those ferocious invaders, is a hovel, not much better than a Hottentot's bondhoek. We found Mrs. Scheper at home, and met with a friendly reception. Some dragoons stationed here, seemed likewise pleased with a visit from their countrymen. If this delightful spot were situated in a country, where protection might be had from wild beasts, and still wilder men, it would be coveted by every lover of fine scenery, and fetch a great price. But here it is of little value, as long as the unhappy disturbances between the boors and the Caffres continue to exist, even when no actual war is carried on. Mrs. Scheper, who was a person of better appearance and manners than many of her class, grew eloquent in describing their situation: "What signifies," said she, "our building a good house to live in, and substantial and expensive premises, in a place like this, when, before we are aware, the Caffres push through the wood, set all on fire, and murder those, who cannot save themselves by flight? Again, what pleasure can we have in a fine garden, stocked with good fruit-trees, and garden-stuff, when, after all our trouble, the elephants descend from the kloofs, break through fences and railings, as if nothing was in their way, pull up or tear to pieces our trees, trample down or devour all our crops, and lay the whole garden waste? No! we must make shift as well as we can, and the less we have to lose, the less we have to regret." She seemed to speak from a feeling of much unhappiness, in being obliged to dwell in such a country.



This beautiful valley is indeed, at present, the habitation of several wild animals, but would cease to be so, if inhabited by any number of human beings. It is now merely the passage of a few persons, between the farms at each end, except, that while they are military posts, some soldiers pass to and fro. We were told, that some time ago, a soldier, walking alone, came suddenly upon an elephant, (which may happen, if the creature is to leeward, so as not to perceive the approach of man by his smell). Whether the soldier made the first attack or not, is not known, but the elephant, after treading off his leg and thigh, hip and all, threw the body into the bushes. The limb, trodden to pieces, was found in the road, with his cap and accoutrements, but not the body, till after some days. The elephant and rhinoceros consider large bushes no more as impediments to their progress, than a man does tufts of grass in a field. They are not to be stopt by common fences or palings, and walk unconcerned through the thickest underwood, in a straight line, tearing up or pressing down even stout thorn-bushes, with stems as thick as a man's leg. Of this we saw frequent proofs in the Witte Revier Valley. If, therefore, a settlement were made here, the first settlers might certainly be in danger of sometimes having their gardens and fields invaded, and even trodden down or grubbed up by these animals, and perhaps suffer other losses by ravenous beasts, who have hitherto considered the valley as their patrimony. But, in a few years, the mischief would gradually cease, as these creatures retire from the habitations of man; which they are always known to do.

In the records of Riebeck, the first Dutch Governor at the Cape, we read of the ravages committed by lions, tygers, and other ferocious animals in Capetown itself, the whole country around being infested by them. But now, though the population is so thin, they have retreated into the most distant parts of the colony. Before our missionaries settled at Bavians Kloof, the kloof was the haunt of hundreds of baboons and other wild animals. These also have, by degrees, retreated, and but sel-