

CHAPTER XVIII.

Departure from Gnadenthal. Accompanied by Hottentots and Missionaries. Warmbaths. Dr. Hassner loses his best slave. Caledon. Bontjeskraal. Night's lodging at Servas de Kok's farm. Ford of the Botte Rivier. Mr. Urie's farm and inn. Battle of baboons. Bridge over the Palmite Rivier. Hottentot-Hollands-Kloof. Brenk's Inn. Night spent at Mr. Delpont's farm. Remarkable mountains. Farms of Mr. Dirk Cloete, Mr. Neukirch, and Mr. Bruckman. A Boor's opinion of the Caffres and Hottentots. Arrival at Groenekloof. Mr. Slabbert. Consultation about the new Church. Mr. Kotzee. Remarks on intruders. Arrival at Capetown. Mr. Hoetz's villa. Return of my travelling companions to Gnadenthal. Visit at Newlands. Mr. Sebastian van Rhenen. Observations on Church-music. Return to Groenekloof.

JUNE 11th. I did not feel quite well, and had almost given up the hopes of being able to set out this morning, on account of the reported fullness of the Sonderend, when Solomon Pfeiffer, who had been sent to examine the state of that river, returned with the news, that it might be forded with great ease. We therefore prepared for the journey.

After I had paid an early visit to the two venerable Fathers, Marsveld and Schwinn, in their rooms, the family breakfasted together in the dining-hall, and once more commended me and my fellow travellers to the grace and protection of God, in a short prayer by Father Marsveld.

Meanwhile, about two hundred Hottentots had assembled in the grove. All would press forward, and their eagerness once more to shake hands and bid me farewell, was so great, that a general scramble was avoided only by my calling to them, that I would not

pass by any one, but admit them all in due order. At length we reached and entered the waggon, when they began, with one voice, tosing their farewell-hymn.

At this moment, I felt all resistance to my feelings give way. Never have I experienced a keener pang, on leaving any place, or any friends, to whom I was attached. Gnadenthal is indeed a spot, where I have found myself so much at home, and where almost every object conspired to fill my mind with grateful remembrances and contemplations, that, though convinced of my duty to proceed to Groenekloof, where business of importance to that settlement demanded my presence, I found it necessary to do violence to my feelings, to tear myself loose. But my spirit will often dwell in those hallowed groves, accompany the congregation into the house of prayer, attend them during their truly solemn assemblies, behold with affection and delight the pious labours of their teachers, participate in their joys, their sorrows, and their cares, and enjoy an aftertaste of the heavenly comfort attending the administration of the holy sacraments, by the presence and power of our Lord and Saviour.

The whole missionary family, and about a hundred and fifty Hottentots, small and great, on foot or on horseback, accompanied us beyond the Sonderend, as far as Badenhorst's farm, where, placing themselves in a semicircle, they sang another farewell-hymn, and finally bade adieu. The Brethren Thomsen and Lemmerz kept us company, till we arrived at Mr. Klemm's, on Sergeants Revier.

The Gnadenthal range of mountains was covered with snow, upon which the sun shone with great splendor. We reached the Warmbaths about five in the evening, but to our sorrow, found our good friend, Dr. Hassner, very ailing. His spirits, however, revived, and we spent a pleasant evening at his house.

12th. In the morning, the doctor was better. He had met with a serious loss, by the death of a slave, who, besides being a useful and sensible servant, was a good joiner, and cost him

three thousand rix-dollars. The poor fellow seems to have been seduced to take too much liquor, fell from his horse into a ditch, and broke his back.

After breakfast we set out, and called upon Mr. Von Frauenfelder, the deputy-landdrost of Caledon. He was glad to hear our report of the new regulations at Gnadenthal, and to relieve the poor of that place, by a direction from Mr. Von Buissini, who had most kindly attended to my representation.

The landdrost delivered to me a letter from Colonel Bird, just arrived, in answer to my application made to his Excellency the Governor, for the possession of the land on the Witte Revier, which is granted, in terms most obliging.

Our next visit was to the Rev. Mr. Voss, the minister of Caledon. He shewed us the church, which is a good, plain building, and gave us some information respecting Messrs. Read's and Williams's visit to Caffraria, where they seemed to have met with encouraging success.

From hence we proceeded to Bontjeskraal. On an eminence near the farm, I found a fine view of four ranges of mountains, those of Gnadenthal, the Zwarteberg near Caledon, the Tower of Babel and its companions, and the Great and Little Haue Hoek. Our road, from this place to Mr. Servas de Kok's farm on the Botte Revier, lay over a barren waste. He received us dryly, but gave us a good supper, good beds, and in conversation was friendly.

13th. We set out early, and forded the Botte Revier without difficulty. Formerly, rocks rendered this fording-place almost impassable, but about a year ago, by a sudden inundation, earth and sand was carried down from the mountain in such quantities, that the rocks were covered, the holes filled up, and a good road made through the river. Mr. de Kok, however, was a great sufferer. His vineyards were completely ruined, the water-course and mill destroyed, and the well, which supplied the family, choked up.

In about an hour, we reached the toll-house, at the foot of the Haue Hoek, over which we had a pleasant walk of about three English miles, the morning being remarkably fine. We halted at Mr. Urie's farm. While dinner was preparing, we walked with our landlord into his grounds. He had laid out a large garden and vineyard, and was now planting wood, and making other improvements, by which, if he succeeds, his place will become a little paradise, in the midst of a wilderness.

The Great Haue Hoek presents itself here, with many small peaks. Its rocks are the habitations of baboons, which, indeed, occupy the summits of all the neighbouring hills. Mr. Urie entertained us with an account of a combat he had lately beheld, on the waste, adjoining his gardens, between a large herd of baboons from the Haue Hoek, and a party from the opposite range. It was maintained on both sides with great fury, and with horrid yells and barkings, when, suddenly, a stop was put to it, by an unfortunate jackal running in among them. The poor animal was seized by one party and thrown towards the other, then back again. His cries, added to those of the combatants, filled the air with the most discordant sounds, till the death of the intruder seemed to give the signal for a general retreat.

Hearing that the ford of the Palmite Revier was impassable, we drove to the bridge. At the toll-house we found a miserable night's lodging, rose early on the

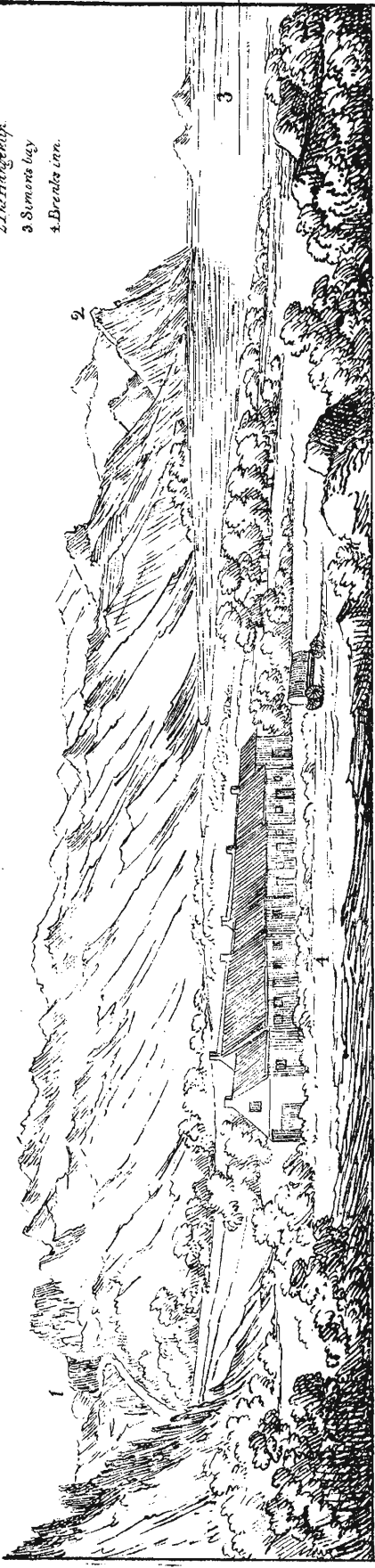
14th, and passed over the bridge, which is of wood, and the only bridge in all South Africa. It rests upon stone piers, thought sufficiently strong to resist the force of the stream, which sometimes, in the rainy season, becomes extremely rapid and fierce, but was now nearly hid among palmite-plants and low bushes, growing in its bed. To prevent the wood-work from being washed off the piers in great floods, the timbers are fastened to them by strong chains, on the side of the water's descent. The bridge is furnished with railings, and on the floor-planks, the thick spungy stalks of the palmite-plant are laid in abundance,

1. Hellenes, Hollands Kloof

2. The Hoogkloof

3. Simons bay

4. Breake Inn.



1. Rygerberg

2. Table Mountain

3. Lions head.



The Stellenbosch Range.
From near Deep river looking East.



partly to afford an easier passage for the bullock's feet, and partly to deaden the sound of the wood, by which they are apt to be frightened. Two waggoners had spanned out on the opposite bank, and both they and their dogs seemed much alarmed at our early approach. The moon shone bright, and its reflection upon the eastern ascent of the mountain, which is covered with decomposed quartz, frittered into white sand, gave it the appearance of a field covered with snow. In one place, the road is steep, and full of rocky ledges.

The eastern approach to the top of Hottentot-Hollands-Kloof is guarded on each side by fragments of rocks, thrown into a variety of fanciful groupes, and odd shapes. The road down the western declivity, though irremediably steep, has been much improved by the English. The adjoining precipices are rugged in the extreme, but every practicable spot is covered with a profusion of curious plants and shrubs. The sugar-bush grows here in great plenty, and, with its magnificent starry flower, adorns the wild region. At the top of the western descent, I noticed a vein of iron-stone, with sand-stone and indurated clay, of a reddish or violet colour, which forms the mass of that part of the hill, called the Rothe Hochte. Towards the bottom, all the fragments of rock (for there are no large masses visible,) are of a coarse grit or granite.

About nine, we reached Mr. Brenk's inn, where we were obliged to remain four hours, to let our poor famished oxen enjoy some food and rest. At two, we proceeded, called at Mr. Morgel's farm, and reached Mr. Delport's house at the Moddergat. Darkness and fatigue made us glad to find here a comfortable night's lodging. We were all put into one room, where we had also the honour of having our host and a boy in the same dormitory with us. The good man went to bed with a pipe in his mouth. When he felt sleep coming on, he placed it in a chair, to be ready in the morning. Between two and three o'clock, he struck a light, without quitting his bed, and fell to smoking again. It proved,

however, no annoyance, for their being no cieling to the apartment, the volumes of smoke, which rose curling from his lips, had room to spread to the top of the roof.

15th. Our oxen having strayed far away, in search of food, we were detained some hours after dawn of day. I improved the time, to make an accurate drawing of a remarkable mountain, called the Helderberg or Simonsberg, belonging to the Stellenbosch range, the rocky summit of which exhibits a most singular variety of peaks and copulas. The village of Stellenbosch presents itself beautifully, with its groves, avenues, and plantations of fir and other trees. While the waggon followed slowly, I walked through some of its streets. We were hospitably received and entertained at Mr. Dir̄k Cloete's farm, and in the afternoon, continued our route to Mr. Neukirch's house, where we met with a reception equally kind, and spent an agreeable evening. The house is new, and when completed, and the grounds improved by plantations and gardens, the situation promises to be one of the most pleasant in the whole country. Over the principal door, in a medallion, are the words, "memento mori."

Our driver, Marcus, and the leader, had meanwhile driven the oxen to a feeding-place at some distance. The poor beasts were so much fatigued, that we hardly expected them to bring us to-day to Groenekloof. We proceeded through an uninteresting country, to an outspann-place, near Diep Revier, where Sister Leitner provided us both with breakfast and dinner. Between these two meals, I walked about the waste, and found some situations, from which the Stellenbosch hills are seen to advantage, as likewise the Table-Mountain, and the lower ranges of the Tygerberg, Koeberg, and Paerdeberg. I found some odd varieties of iron-stone, and sitting down among the bushes, made an index to the many sketches and drawings, which Mr. Melville and I had made, during our journey.

Thus employed, I seldom found time to hang heavy upon my hands, during the many tiresome delays by outspanning and other

circumstances, connected with an African journey; and may I never be wanting in gratitude to God, for granting to me such health, liveliness and activity of mind, during this whole period, insomuch that I never felt disposed to take an African nap after dinner.

Our evening-worship consisted in singing several verses in the waggon, which I should not notice, were it not to record the behaviour of the Hottentots, who, though before obliged, by continual shouting and cracking of whips, to keep our wearied cattle from stopping, or even lying down, walked quietly and devoutly near the waggon, and left the poor beasts to take their time.

We reached the miller Bruckman's house at eight o'clock, and found good quarters. A loquacious countryman, who had come in to spend the night, treated us with his opinions on the state of the Hottentots and Caffres, whom he considered as the Canaanites of this land, destined to be destroyed by the white people, who were the Israelites of God! It is strange, that the same notions haunted the brains of many wicked fanatics in North America, about seventy years ago, who, on that account, opposed the Missions of our Church among the Indians, as may be seen in Loskiel's history.

17th. We did not reach Groenekloof till eleven o'clock. The day was spent in visiting some of the families, and making various arrangements.

18th. We were visited by Mr. Slabbert, the proprietor of the Langefonteyn farm. Vaillant has made honourable mention of this family, and I was glad to become acquainted with a man, who in many respects, is superior to most so-called *Africaner*, in intellect and liberality of sentiment. Speaking of Vaillant, he was rather surprised to hear, that his own account states him to have been a man of an undaunted spirit, whereas he passed with the Slabberts, for a very timid and faint-hearted traveller.

19th. We conferred together about the site of the new church, and made a calculation of the wood required for that, and the repairs of one of the out-houses, which had been burnt some years

before the missionaries were put in possession of the premises by the Earl of Caledon. Sister Schmitt had, at her own expense, fitted up one end of it for a school-room, but now the increase of the establishment rendered more dwellings necessary. I likewise resolved to accompany my Gnadenthal friends to Capetown, with a view to transact some business relating to this settlement, with His Excellency, the Governor.

20th. We set out after dinner, and arrived, about seven, at Blauberg, Mr. Kotzee's house, where we spent the night. We soon perceived, that our visit was not very agreeable, for Mr. Kotzee's mother-in-law being so ill, that her death was shortly expected, and his wife likewise unwell, it was no wonder, that such intrusion was not well-timed. Not every man has the gift of immediately smothering unpleasant feelings, when strangers interrupt the usual course of the family, by coming unannounced, and demanding quarters for the night. Nor can the inmate know, whether these intruders may not, as is sometimes the case, fill the house with noise and restlessness. Had the slave, whom we first accosted, informed us of the state of the family, we should have quietly remained in our waggon, notwithstanding the general invitation formerly given by Mr. Kotzee to the missionaries at Groenekloof, when he visited that place. However, after the first expressions of displeasure had passed by, he behaved towards us with the greatest civility, and hospitality. His house is one of the best in the country, and elegant in its arrangements and furniture. Every thing in it is conducted with great order.

21st. After breakfasting with the family, we left Blauberg at eight o'clock. This being the shortest day, we were glad, that the weather turned out fine, and had as pleasant a ride to Capetown, as the dreary country and sandy road would allow. The tediousness of the journey around the bay is considerably relieved by the magnificent view of the Table-Mountain and its associates, on a fine day.

We arrived at Mrs. Disandt's house about two o'clock, and soon

had the pleasure to see our worthy friends Mr. Hancke and Mr. Melville. I also found here Mr. Edward Grant, from Bombay, with whom I contracted a very agreeable acquaintance.

22d. This day was spent in visiting friends, old and new. I likewise increased my collection of horns, by the purchase of those of a koodoo, gnou, hartebeest, and gemsbock.

23d. We attended divine service in the Lutheran church. The hymns are sung in German, but the sermon delivered in Dutch. I did not understand much of the Rev. Mr. Hesse's discourse, though, by this time, I am tolerably well acquainted with Gnadenthal Dutch. This is a very convenient variety of that ancient language, and much to be recommended; for as our missionaries have learnt Dutch, chiefly by books, and from each other, their dialect is so well mixed with German, both as to words and pronunciation, that it is easily understood, both by a person acquainted with the German language only, and by a native Dutchman, ignorant of German; and surely no one will deny, that a language so constructed, that of two different nations, each may understand it, is a most desirable medium of conveying ideas, which is the proper use of speech.

24th. At nine in the morning, Brother Leitner and his wife accompanied me, by invitation, to the villa of our friend, Mr. Hoetz, who sent his carriage for us. The morning was delightful. The villa is situated about three English miles from Capetown, on the road to Newlands, at the back of the Table-Mountain. From the gardens, the view of the house, with so magnificent a background, is charming. Its elegant portico is half hid by the branches of large trees, with which the premises abound. Many singular varieties of the aloe and Indian fig are found in the gardens. The plantations of oak and firs, between the house and the mountain, are extensive, and kept in good order by Mr. Hoetz, who took the trouble to walk with us through the greatest part of his grounds. About a fortnight ago, a male tyger was shot near the back-wall, the skin of which was remarkably beautiful.

Considering the quantity of cover, both of rock and wood, which tygers and other ravenous beasts might find in this wild region, it is surprising, that not more of them are seen and taken. We returned to town about twelve, when I went to the Colonial Office, and called upon the Governor, Colonel Bird, and Mr. Melville.

25th. To-day my travelling companions from Gnadenthal prepared for their return, and after waiting long for their waggon, owing to the usual tardiness of Hottentot drivers, they set out at three in the afternoon. A slave, emancipated by the will of his master, on condition of his living at Gnadenthal, and receiving Christian instruction, went with them. Mr. Melville and I walked with them as far as the turnpike. There I took a last leave of my Gnadenthal friends, who still vainly hoped, that I should visit them once more, no opportunity offering for my speedy departure for England. But travelling at this time of the year is connected with so much delay, inconvenience, and uncertainty, that, far from indulging the idea of returning to Gnadenthal, I am almost of opinion, that I have been too much attached to that place, and staid in it too long. Our best wishes and prayers attend each other in our several employments and travels. I parted with some regret from Marcus, who had so long been my faithful coachman, and always approved himself worthy of his Christian name and profession. Brother Schmitt and his wife arrived to-day from Groenekloof.

26th. I went in Mr. Hancke's sociable, with Mr. Edward Grant, to Newlands, to pay a morning-visit to the Governor, but was unsuccessful. In the evening, his Excellency sent me an invitation to attend him on the following day.

27th. This morning, I had the pleasure to receive letters from England, by which I was informed of the safe arrival of all my letters written at sea. The Spaniard and Dane had been the most tardy in forwarding them.

In the afternoon, I set out for Newlands, with Mr. Edward Grant for my companion. I found there Mr. Von Rhyneveld, the landdrost of Stellenbosch, his lady, and Colonel Monkton. My visit

proved very pleasant and useful, as both during the course of the evening, and in the morning of the

28th. I was favoured with much conversation with his Excellency, concerning affairs of consequence to the Mission, when I again had many proofs of his favourable disposition towards it. Having an engagement at Capetown in the evening, I returned on horseback, though it rained hard.

29th. My Groenekloof friends introduced me to Mr. Sebastian Van Rhenen, where we dined. This gentleman has been a friend to the Groenekloof Mission from its beginning. Having formerly travelled all over the colony, he gave us some interesting information on several topics, but particularly on the state of agriculture, in the colony. His remarks, founded on long experience, respecting the regulations now adopted to improve the rearing of produce, and the breed of cattle and sheep, the introduction of better implements of husbandry, the frequent change of Governors, and the new taxation, appeared just and well supported.

30th. We attended divine worship at the Lutheran church, where, as the Rev. Mr. Hesse informed me, some extraordinary music was to be performed, to solemnize the commemoration of the delivery of the Augsburg Confession. I expected some ecclesiastical anthem in the good old Lutheran style, but was sadly disappointed. By way of a prelude, the organist, a very clever performer both on the piano-forte and violin, assisted by about six or eight of the military band, treated us with the middle movement of Haydn's military symphony. The performance of this martial piece was surely a very improper preparation for religious worship. On Mr. Hesse's entering the church, and stepping before the altar, he pronounced the words; "Holy is God! Holy is God! the Lord of Sabaoth!" Between each sentence, a choir, consisting of four or five men, sung the same words to music, pretending to be the *Sanctus* in Haydn's first mass, but strangely altered and mangled. The singers had no copies written out for their use, but, turning their backs to the congregation,

looked over the organist's shoulder's into his book. The majestic simplicity of the Lutheran hymn-tunes was lost, in a display of the most flourishing decorations. Still I hoped, that, during some part of the service, which, as far as the preacher and congregation were concerned, was conducted with great solemnity, some anthem would be performed. I was mistaken; for, as a prelude to one of the four hymns appointed for the occasion, we were treated with another instrumental piece of Haydn, beautiful in its composition, and well executed by the band, but rather suited to accompany a dance, than to excite devotional feelings. Of Mr. Hesse's most impressive discourse, I understood more, than on a former occasion, having seated myself near the pulpit. He closed it with a serious, and indeed mournful, consideration of the great degeneracy, now prevailing throughout the Protestant communion, and with an earnest, but affectionate address to his congregation, and especially to the youth, exhorting them to consider their ways, and return unto the Lord, who had granted them such great privileges, and the free use of His Holy Word and Sacraments. But, as if to efface all due impression made upon the audience, by the solemnity of Mr. Hesse's discourse, the organist struck up the last movement of the military symphony, which half the congregation staid to hear.

I must confess, that I left the church with pain and disgust. Though blame may attach to the persons engaged in this degradation of the service, and of that noble art, which is so suitably and acceptably employed to promote devotion, when under the influence of a proper spirit, yet the cause of grief and regret in the heart of every sincere Christian, on account of such incongruities, lies deeper. That such things exist, is one convincing proof, among many, of the truth of the reverend preacher's description of the present degeneracy. In those days, when the Protestant Confession was presented at Augsburg, would such performances have been borne in a place of worship?

Luther knew the value of music, and the strong influence it has upon the mind and affections, and therefore wisely retained the

use of it in the Church. He increased the number of hymns, and by these means caused the knowledge of evangelical truth to spread fast among the people. Nor did he object to those antiphonal and choral performances, which accompanied both the Jewish and the primitive Christian worship, and furnish an agreeable variety and relief. But it was never the design of this great reformer, that the church should be the theatre, upon which music-masters and singers might exhibit the swiftness of their fingers, or the powers of their voice. There are other opportunities and places, where this may be done with propriety, and give delight to the most religious scientific admirer of the art. But in the house of prayer, these exhibitions are out of place, and the skill and taste of the performer should rather be discovered, by his knowing how to give majesty and effect to simplicity, without drawing the attention of the congregation from the worship of God, to the admiration of himself. Instrumental music speaks a language, and expresses affections, as well as vocal. This is understood but imperfectly; yet there are few, who will not grant, that a march or a jig, performed by instruments, though it may afford pleasure in the field, or in a concert-room, speaks a language, as little calculated to promote devotion, as an entertaining story, or a sally of wit.

We dined with Mr. Poleman, whose friendship I learnt to value more and more, the better I became acquainted with him. Our evening was very agreeably spent with the Rev. Mr. Hesse.

July 1st. Having taken leave of our worthy friend, Mrs. Disandt, at whose house we had been most hospitably entertained, we assembled at Mr. Melville's, and about ten o'clock left Capetown for Groenekloof. In the evening, we reached Mr. Kaus's farm, called Lange-Rück, where we found good quarters for the night.

2d. We arrived safe at Groenekloof. I was pleased to observe the growth of Indian figs, planted as a fence to the burial-ground. Some new attempts to raise plantations of young trees had been made, but did not seem to succeed.

3d. A trap having been set in a ravine, to catch mausehund,

a muskiliat-cat was found in it, which Brother Stein brought home. It was extremely fierce, and had nearly escaped, when brought out of the trap. The skin was beautifully variegated with stripes and spots. The ground-colour a blueish grey, the spots black, with some admixture of brown. It is a species of viverra, with a long snout, and very sharp fangs. That, now caught, measured a foot and a half from its snout to the root of the tail; the latter was of the same length as the body, with black and grey rings from the root to the tip. The smell of musk was very powerful in its skin, even after hanging five or six weeks in the open air.

4th. The trap being again set, a mausehund was caught, and preserved alive. It was a pretty creature, fierce and restless, uttering a sharp, barking noise, but being yet young, easily tamed, and, after some time, brought to take its meat out of any man's hand. After having for some weeks patiently borne its confinement in a small kennel, it had the good fortune one night to gnaw off the thong, by which it was fastened, and thus to regain its liberty.

6th. The Lord's Supper was administered. Though this congregation is smaller, and consequently the communicants fewer in number than at Gnadenthal, yet, having first at Groenekloof seen a congregation of Christian Hottentots, and received the first strong impressions in my mind of the inestimable value of that work of God, by which the conversion of these poor people is effected, I perceived, that no subsequent circumstances had effaced them. I enjoyed an aftertaste of that peculiar delight which I then experienced, in seeing this congregation, met on so solemn an occasion. The external appearance of the communicants is here remarkably neat and clean. Both men and women were dressed in white cottons, and their deportment was very devout and respectful. He, who has promised, that, where two or three are gathered together in His name, He will be in the midst of them, blessed us with an encouraging perception of His divine presence.