

CHAPTER XIX.

Return to England deferred. Consultations about the new Church. Visit to the Grootte Post. Mr. Croucher. Visit Cruywagens Kraal and Lauweskloof. Particular account of Brother Schmitt's encounter with a tyger. Of the first sermon in the Poplar wood. Earth-hogs undermining Captain Klappmus's dwelling. Cape lark. Journey to the Cape. Puffaders. Cape Butchers. Engage a passage in the Brilliant. Account of a whale. Mr. Zorn. Mr. Buck. Antelopes. Mr. Hesse. Ride to Green Point. Granite and Schistus. Return to Groenekloof. Rockyeminences. Hartebeest Kopf. Cornland. Hottentot manner of sowing corn. Father Schwinn's decease. Violent storm.

ON the 7th, I received a letter from Mr. Hancke, informing me, that in consequence of my having desired a passage to England to be secured for me, on board the first homeward-bound ship, he had provisionally done it in the Francis and Eliza, which would sail in a few days; yet subject to my own decision. The notice being so short, I was brought into some dilemma, but resolved to go to Capetown, and make further inquiry. In the night, I was seized with headach, and felt too unwell, to think of setting off in the morning.

8th. My indisposition confined me to the room, both this and the following day. The weather likewise became unfavourable, and the rainy season seemed to set in with violence.

10th. Instead, therefore, of going, I sent a messenger to the Cape, and declined the offer of a passage on board the above-mentioned vessel. Nor had I finished all I had yet to do at Groenekloof. I had afterwards reason to believe, that it was providential, that I was detained.

11th. In the afternoon, Mr. Melville arrived here, being engaged to make a general survey of the Groenekloof district, and as we were now daily considering of the best manner of procuring men and means to build the new church, we were glad to have so able a counsellor to assist in our deliberations.

12th. I drew up a writing, to be placed in the foundation-stone, which, in the sequel, was approved and signed by all the missionaries. After Mr. Melville had left us, Brother Schmitt rode with me to the Groote Post, to engage Mr. Croucher, the overseer, to come to Groenekloof on a survey of the wood, that we might know, what trees might be useful for spars and scaffolding.

The Groote Post, which is a Government farm, and hunting-seat of the Governor, lies nearly north of Groenekloof. On ascending the heights, it appears, at about an hour's distance, pleasantly situated, under a range of low heathy hills. The road passes through a wilderness, covered with rhinoceros and other bushes, harbouring various kinds of game. We started some rehbock antelopes, and several black cocks or Korhans, which betray themselves by a loud chattering noise, in endeavouring to escape. On the hills lie many huge fragments of stones, loosely thrown together, affording shelter to baboons, wolves, and jackals. But these animals are seldom seen, without going into their haunts. They prove their presence in the country, by their frequent depredations and other misdeeds. At night, the two latter sally forth on predatory expeditions; the baboon retires into his strong-hold at sunset.

The Conterberg is the highest mountain in this part of the country; then follows the Lauwesklouf hill. The lower ranges take a direction from south-west to north-east.

Much ground has been cultivated at the Groote Post, and its fields and gardens look like a green carpet, spread on the brown waste. The house is not large, and, though said to be built under English direction, is wholly Dutch in its arrangements. A clumsy flight of steps leads to the main entrance. The kitchen and servants' hall are close to the sitting room, which has a huge fire-place, quite

out of proportion with the size of the room. One of the wings is divided into cells for visitors, each containing a neat camp-bed, table, and chair. The building is not worthy to be the country-residence of the Governor of this colony, and his Excellency resides chiefly at Newlands.

We were welcomed with much civility by the overseer, Mr. Croucher. He showed us a flock of about two hundred lambs, between the Spanish and Cape breed.

The stone, used for building, and brought off the adjoining hills and waste, is a variety of grit or granite, its component parts being remarkably small! Having agreed to meet Mr. Croucher on the day following, we returned, and in passing, saw the Corn-land belonging to our Hottentots, situated on an eminence, called the Hartebeest Kopf, where many of them were diligently employed, under the inspection of Brother Fritsch.

12th. We walked through the wood with Mr. Croucher. He very obligingly yielded to all our wishes, and desired, that the trees we thought useful for our buildings might be marked. He also pointed out a mode of constructing Hottentot houses in a more expeditious, convenient, and durable manner, than is done at present; and offered to come with a slave, and help to build the next house to be added to the village; and otherwise to render any service to the mission. I mention this with the more satisfaction, as an opinion had been entertained at Groenekloof, that he was not friendly to the Mission, which some former transactions, in which, however, he was not personally to blame, seemed to justify. How often do we perceive, that opinions formed from appearances are fallacious! Nothing, surely, would more promote the peace of society and goodwill among men, than frequent and unreserved explanations. Mr. Croucher came from the neighbourhood of Guildford in Surry, and is well skilled in the art of rearing and preserving trees.

After dinner, Brother Schmitt rode with me to Cruywagens Kraal and Lauwesklouf, both belonging to Groenekloof. By the

RR

way, we visited a plantation on the waste, begun some time ago by Brother Bonatz, which the heat and dryness of the sand will not permit to thrive. Cruywagens Kraal is an old Hottentot station, in a pleasant, fruitful valley, with a supply of water from a fountain, but now only used for pasture. A considerable number of oxen were feeding upon it. As we ascended the hill, an extensive view of the Zwartland presented itself, appearing like a heathy and desolate plain, with a few scattered farms. The mountains of Tulbach and Rodesand, lay in the back ground, the highest of which was covered with snow. After crossing the head of the valley, we turned towards that part of the Lauwesklouf hill, where Brother Schmitt, in the year 1811, had an encounter with a tyger. I had been very desirous to visit that spot in his company, where he might describe to me all the particulars of that terrible conflict. Though a pretty full account of it is inserted in the Periodical Accounts of the Missions of the Brethren, vol. v. p. 118, in an extract of a letter from his wife to me, yet I believe I shall not be thought to trespass on the patience of my readers, if I repeat it here, as related to me by himself, standing on the scene of action.

Wolves having done much mischief at Groenekloof, where they even entered the yard and took away a sheep, and in the fields worried several beasts belonging to the Hottentots, an attempt was made, on the 6th of August, to find out their haunts, and, if possible, to destroy them. For that purpose, the missionaries Bonatz and Schmitt, with about thirty Hottentots, set out early in the morning, towards the Lauwesklouf hill, where they are mostly met with. One of these animals was seen and lamed by a shot, but escaped and entered the bushes. The Hottentots followed, but the missionaries, not expecting to succeed, were returning, when the party called to them, that the wounded wolf was in the thicket. Brother Schmitt rode back, and alighting, entered with a Hottentot of the name of Philip Moses. The dog started some animal, which those within the bushes could not see; but the Hottentots remaining on the outside, perceiving it to be a tyger, called aloud

to the missionary to return. He therefore, with Philip, began to retreat backwards, pointing his gun, and ready to fire, in case the animal made his appearance. Suddenly a tyger sprang forward, but from a quarter not expected, and by a flying leap over the bushes, fastened upon the Hottentot, seizing his nose and face with claws and teeth. I measured the distance of the place, from whence the tyger made his spring, to that on which the Hottentot stood, and found it full twenty feet, over bushes from six to eight feet high. Brother Schmitt observed, that if it had not been for the horror of the scene, it would have been a most amusing sight, to behold the enraged creature fly, like a bird, over that length of ground and bushes, with open jaw and lashing tail, screaming with the greatest violence. Poor Philip was thrown down, and in the conflict lay now upon, and then under, the tyger. The missionary might easily have effected his escape, but his own safety never entered his thoughts. Duty and pity made him instantly run forward to the assistance of the sufferer. He pointed his gun, but the motions of both the Hottentot and the tyger, in rolling about and struggling, were so swift, that he durst not venture to pull the trigger, lest he should injure Philip. The tyger, perceiving him take aim, instantly quitted his hold, worked himself from under the Hottentot, and flew like lightning upon Brother Schmitt. As the gun was of no use in such close quarters, he let it fall, and presented his left arm, to shield his face. The tyger instantly seized it with his jaw, Brother Schmitt with the same arm catching one of his paws, to prevent his outstretched claws from reaching his body. With the other paw, however, the tyger continued striking towards his breast, and tearing his clothes. Both fell in the scuffle, and providentially, in such a position, that the missionary's knee, without design, came to rest on the pit of the tyger's stomach. At the same time, he grasped the animal's throat with his right hand, keeping him down with all his might. The seizure of his throat, made the tyger instantly let go his hold, but not before Brother Schmitt had received another bite, nearer the elbow. His face lay right over that of the

tyger's, whose open mouth, from the pressure of his wind-pipe, sent forth the most hideous, hoarse, and convulsive groans, while his starting eyes, like live coals, seemed to flash with fire.

In this situation, Brother Schmitt called aloud to the Hottentots, to come to his rescue, for his strength was fast failing, rage and agony supplying to the animal extraordinary force, in his attempts to disengage himself. The Hottentots at length ventured to enter the thicket, and one of them, snatching the loaded gun, which lay on the ground, presented it and shot the tyger, under the missionary's hand, right through the heart. His death was instantaneous, his eyes shut, his jaw fell, and he lay motionless. Had any life been left, his dying struggles might yet have proved fatal to some of his assailants.

Then first Brother Schmitt began to feel the extent of the injury done to his arm, but his chief concern was to know, how poor Philip had fared. He found, that he had exerted himself to rise and help his teacher; but his face being terribly lacerated, and his eyes filled with blood, he could not render any assistance. Horses being provided, they were both brought home.

Sister Schmitt instantly dispatched a messenger to Capetown, to request the attendance of Dr. Cairns, of the Naval Hospital. The doctor was so much engaged, that he could not come, till after three days had elapsed. Meanwhile, the Brethren had done all in their power to afford relief, but without success. The fever and inflammation increased daily. The patient grew delirious, and told me, that in his delirium, nothing appeared so dreadful to him, as the picture of the tyger's open jaws and fiery eyes, presented to his disordered imagination. He thought himself still in that position. On the arrival of Dr. Cairns, every possible means were used to bring down the inflammation. There were seven deep wounds in the arm. In two or three places, the tyger's fangs had penetrated into the bone. For several weeks, the life of this valuable man was in the greatest danger, but by God's blessing on the unwearied exertions of Dr. Cairns, and the excellent nursing of his faithful wife, he recovered.

Standing in the thicket, while I was listening to my friend's account of his adventure, the sun was fast sinking towards the horizon; lengthened shades and evening gloom overspread the place; imagination began its work: we thought we heard something stirring among the bushes, and retreating faster than we had entered, mounted our horses, and made the best of our way down a rough road, towards the few Hottentot houses in the vale.

About a month after the event here related had taken place, a Groenekloof Hottentot, passing through the same thicket, saw a large male tyger crouching beneath a bush, and hoped to be able to shoot it, but his gun missed fire. The tyger, however, lay still, keeping his eyes fixed upon the man, who was glad to retreat backwards and make his escape.

Having reached the little poplar wood in the vale, Brother Schmitt showed me the place where Brother Kohrhammer, on visiting this spot in 1807, by desire of the Earl of Caledon, delivered the first sermon to about an hundred heathen Hottentots, then inhabiting the Lauwesklouf. He stood under a tree, and his congregation near a pool of water in the wood.

Here we were accosted by an old woman, the most ugly and deformed Hottentot female I had ever beheld. She told us, that a slave, by a charm, had destroyed her beauty, and caused her face to exhibit such bulbous excrescencies. Brother Schmitt, who knew her, replied, that she ought not to endeavour to set her conscience to rest with that idle and wicked tale, but rather repent of her profligate life, by which, she had brought misery and ugliness upon herself. She called God to witness, that the stories told and believed, respecting her wicked life, were totally false, and used such language, that one might have supposed her to have been under Christian instruction, whereas she is a sworn enemy of the gospel, and never would even enter the chapel at Groenekloof.

We next called upon old Captain Klappmus, who inhabits a miserable bondhoek, though he affects to behave with all the pride

of a man of consequence. To see this poor blind man, groping his way out of his dark abode to bid us welcome, was a truly pitiable sight. Still more blind as to those things, which are of most importance to the soul, he now paid no attention to Brother Schmitt's friendly invitation to come to Groenekloof. The missionary reminded him of his daughter's baptism, and the hopes then entertained by us all, that he would follow her example, and in his old age, turn to the Lord. He excused himself with a lameness in his back, but all good impression, made upon him at that time, seemed to have vanished. Yet he expressed himself pleased and thankful for our visit.

Earth-hogs had made approaches towards his hut, which they seemed disposed to undermine. Several of their holes were not far off, and being aware of the danger, he made some inquiry about them. We advised him, either to get his people to destroy them, or to remove his hut, as otherwise, before he was aware, he and the old woman that attended him, might be suddenly let down alive into their sepulchral caverns.

These singular creatures are about as large as a common pig. They have a long snout, long sharp claws, very little hair, and a rough skin. Their food is the ants, and probably other insects. The ants carry their nests under ground, sometimes to a depth of from five to eight and more feet. The earth-hogs therefore follow them, and, putting in their long tongue, draw them out and devour them. The holes made by these creatures, are often hid among the bushes, and a huntsman crossing the waste, may meet with an unexpected overthrow, either by falling into them, or by the earth being undermined near the entrance, giving way under the horse's feet.

During this ride, I was likewise made attentive to a bird, improperly called a lark. It is about the size of a lark, flies up with a rustling noise, rises to a moderate height, and lying on its wings, descends, uttering a mournful whoop or whistle. Its melancholy

note produces the reverse of the cheering effect of the spirited song of our European larks.

The sugar-bush grows plentifully in the wilderness, and in increasing quantity. It has a magnificent flower, and the wood and roots are good fuel.

16th. Letters from Capetown, mentioning a brig, the Brilliant, Captain Young, as likely soon to sail for England, I set out for the Cape, with a sensible Hottentot for my groom, about eight o'clock. I contrived to converse with him during the journey in Dutch, and found considerable entertainment in the remarks he made on various subjects.

Many tortoises crawl about the waste. They are not large, generally from six to eight inches long. A small species called Pat-looper, is from four to five inches. In warm weather, inclining to rain, they are often seen crawling from one bush to another across the road. Observing to my Hottentot, that they were the best protected of all the innoxious animals of this howling wilderness, he was of a different opinion. The jackals, he replied, watch for the young tortoises, crack their tender shell as easily as a nut, and devour them: again, the crows attack the larger ones, as they are passing over a place, unprotected by bushes, turn them over, and by inserting their long bills into the open parts of the shell, sieze their feet and heads, and most dexterously contrive, by degrees, to pick out the whole animal. Of that most venomous reptile, the puffader, he gave me several strange accounts, hardly to be credited. It is said, that the production of the young brood is the death of the dam, as they begin their murderous career, by gnawing their way out of her body. I should not mention this circumstance, if I had not heard it asserted by men of credit.

We baited at a farm, belonging to a Mr. Munnick, who was absent. I walked about the premises, and found some curious varieties of ferruginous sand-stone, in scattered fragments. Near the Riet valley, we met a Groenekloof Hottentot, Immanuel, returning with his waggon from Capetown. He very civilly alighted,

and came up to me, but forgot to deliver a parcel of letters he had for me. I gladly pardoned his forgetfulness, which was altogether the consequence of extreme modesty. He is one of the most obliging, sensible, well-behaved men, I have ever met with in any country. Often have I admired the manner, in which he performed every part of his office, as a chapel-servant; and in his family and intercourse with mankind, he is a pattern of good conduct.

As we were about to ford the Soute Revier, which was rather swollen, we were overtaken by a butcher in his cart or curricule, driving six horses in hand. As he had seen me at Groenekloof, he hailed and offered me a seat, to bring me dry through the river, of which I accepted. The Cape butchers are considered to be some of the richest men in the country. They fetch their cattle from the interior, pay little for them, run the risk of getting them safe to town, and sell the meat at a high price.

With my worthy Cape friends I found a cordial welcome.

17th. A passage to England was offered me on board the *Revolutionaire* frigate, but though I was assured, that the man of war would bring me much sooner home, I felt some misgiving about accepting the offer. The evening was most agreeably spent with the Rev. Mr. Hesse.

18th. This morning I met Captain Young of the *Brilliant*, by appointment, on the pier. We had long to wait for the boat, and were meanwhile joined by Mr. and Mrs. Shaw, belonging to Mr. Wesley's connexion, and sent out on a Mission to the Namaquas. The Captain invited them to go on board. The *Brilliant* is a very fine brig, and I soon made up my mind to engage a passage on board her, both for myself and Brother Bonatz's son, having promised the parents to take him with me.

Three boats were towing a whale into the bay, and on our return to shore, we rowed up to it, and took a view of this enormous fish. It was a female, and pronounced to be but young. She lay on her back, and measured about twenty-five feet in length, and ten in breadth across the middle. Having pushed

the boat between a fin and the body, we took off a number of white, round, living animals, of the barnacle kind, about an inch in diameter, cleaving to her skin; as likewise a creature armed with fangs and tweezers, said to be a whale-louse. The whales frequent these bays chiefly to spawn, and almost all those caught here are females.

The delay occasioned by this circumstance, prevented my accompanying the Rev. Mr. Hesse and his family to the residence of Mr. Zorn, late landdrost of the Cape district. Mr. Poleman, however, took me out in his gig. I met there Mr. Bresler, formerly landdrost of Graaf Reynet, and Mr. Matthiesen, a member of the Court of Justice. I was glad of an opportunity of expressing the thanks of our Society to Mr. Zorn, for the kindness he always showed to our missionaries, when they first occupied Groenekloof. The afternoon was pleasantly spent, and we all returned to town on foot. The night was warm, and the heavens brilliantly bespangled with stars. But for the absence of the leaves of the oaks, poplars, and other foreign trees, the weather about this time was equal to the finest summer-weather in Europe.

Mr. Hesse walking with me, we entered into much interesting conversation concerning the difference, more of expressions and forms, than of opinions and doctrines, which distinguish the Lutheran and the Brethren's Churches. He thought, however, that there existed some material difference, as to our views of certain religious tenets, and that, at least, the Brethren had expressed their sentiments very unintelligibly. This is granted to have been the case in former times, for which many apologies have passed unnoticed. But as to those peculiar doctrines, which constitute the very essence of Christianity, the divinity and atonement of Christ, salvation by grace alone, justification by faith, and the necessity of a walk conformable to the word of God, we and all true believers of every denomination, have always agreed, however we may otherwise differ in non-essentials. The more the

former are valued, and practically known, the farther the latter will recede into the back-ground.

19th, This forenoon, I accompanied the Rev. Mr. Hesse to the free-school, which is conducted on Dr. Bell's plan. We saw the scholars write and cypher.

Mr. Matthiesen had invited the whole of Mr. Zorn's yesterday's party, with others, to dinner at his house in de Heere-Kracht near the parade. With him and Mr. Zorn, I had much conversation, concerning the present state and future prospects of this colony. They differed widely in their opinions, respecting the policy of present measures, but both seemed to be equally desirous of promoting their country's welfare.

20th. This forenoon I visited my pleasant ship's-companion, Mr. Buck. He had been on a hunting expedition to Saldanha bay, and informed me that he and his party, had shot a hundred and six antelopes. This led once more to a subject, frequently discussed on board the Albion, the useless waste of animal life. Very few of these antelopes could become food, either for the huntsmen or their dogs; the rest were left miserably to perish in the wilderness, killed or maimed, merely to gratify the momentary vanity of being a good marksman. But is not this disposition in mankind owing to a diabolical influence? The least that can be said of it, is this, that it belongs to those inordinate desires, which for a time, seem to suppress all proper feeling, even in a heart otherwise benevolent and kind.

To-day I was introduced by Mr. Alexander to Mr. Dashwood the proprietor of a farm, called Gaensekraal, near Groenekloof.

21st. Having promised the Rev. Mr. Hesse that I would play the organ during the morning-service, at the Lutheran church, I went early, but found the great organ quite out of tune, and was obliged to be contented with the choir-organ and swell. An hundred dollars per annum, is paid to a person to keep it in order. I spent the whole day with my reverend friend and his family,

and in the evening, took a short ride with them to Sea Point and Green Point, on the coast, west of the Lion's head.

Since the English have been here, the great consumption of grain had encouraged many inhabitants to cultivate the land between the mountains and the sea, though rather unfruitful, the sward of earth upon the rocks being only between one and two feet in thickness. Trees, therefore, will not thrive, but the situation is well studded with small neat houses and villas, and with gardens and hedges of low bushes. Mr. Alexander's premises on Green Point exhibit some very beautiful geraniums, from three to four feet in height. Here we alighted, and walked to the rocks. Limpets, of from four to five inches in diameter, cleave to them, which, when cleaned and polished, have brilliant colours. At Sea Point, the rocks are chiefly granite, in huge masses, or in strata. Blue schistus appears to lie under them, and inserts itself into the fissures and crevices of the granite. Some men of science here insist upon it, that this schistus is the ground-work of all these mountains, and that the Lion's head and other granite mountains are strata lying upon it. I will not attempt to decide the question, from the imperfect observation I had an opportunity of making. The situation we had visited, not having a single spring of fresh water in it, is denominated, De Kleene Zwartland. The inhabitants either collect rain-water, or send for water to the town. The coast is a favourite promenade of the town's-people, and we met several parties on foot, or in carriages.

22d. Having paid short morning-visits to some friends, I took leave of my kind hostess, Mrs. Disandt about ten o'clock, and left Capetown, in company of Mr. Melville, on horseback, intending to reach Groenekloof to-night. We halted at a farmer's house, to the right of the main road, but not finding him at home, would not be troublesome to his family. A dead ox, just skinned, lay near the house-door, a sight not well calculated to create an appetite, nor to give a very elevated idea of the gentility of the inhabitants. We therefore, after a short rest, proceeded, trusting to

the strength and patient abstemiousness of our horses, and reached Groenekloof early in the morning.

23d. Brother Fritsch's birth-day was celebrated by the Hottentots and the family, nearly in the same manner as mentioned page 101. In the afternoon, he accompanied me to some eminences, about two or three miles north of the settlement. Upon the first, a curious assemblage of large blocks of granite form a mass of a singular kind; some, of a pyramidal form, stand upright, others lie horizontally. The interstices between them are filled with many kinds of bushes, and a variety of plants, interesting to a botanist. The second is called the Baviansberg, belonging to the Groenekloof estate. Its summit is likewise covered with rocks and masses of granite, among high bushes. I was made particularly attentive to the great quantity of olive-bushes growing upon it, some of which have stems six or eight inches in diameter, and rise to twelve or more feet in height. A variety of the speckboom attracted my notice. The stem and boughs are easily broken, having hardly the consistency of a carrot or parsnip; the leaf is light-green, waxy, oval, and about two inches by one in surface. The whole upper part of the hill or hills, of which the Baviansberg consists, is covered with a wilderness of every kind of bush and shrub, common to this country, forming an almost impenetrable thicket. In endeavouring to penetrate into it, to have a nearer view of some of the rocks, we soon found resistance made to our progress by thorny plants of various kinds, particularly by one, called *Wach en beetgen*, or "Stop a little," as it catches the stockings, or some other part of dress, and patience is required to extricate oneself from its barbed hold. Some thorns lie low enough to tear away shoe-strings or knee-bands, and others penetrate the skin. We were glad, after much trouble, to get back into the road.

On the Hartebeest Kopf hill, we found several of our people busily at work, sowing corn. Their manner of doing it is singular. They first cast the corn upon the waste, then plough over

it; but as they seldom plough as much land as they overcast, the seed, thus exposed, during the night becomes the prey of birds or field-mice, which they patiently suffer. When I represented to them the injury they sustained, they insisted upon it, that it must be so done in this country, and endeavoured to explain the reason, which I must confess myself too dull to have comprehended.

The harrow they use, is a triangular frame, formed of three pieces of wood, furnished with teeth, four or six inches asunder, and doing very little execution. But prejudice defends even this bungling contrivance.

I observed in that part of the waste, over which I walked to-day a great quantity of Vlachdorn, a decoction of which is so useful in the stranguary, as mentioned above, (page 269). But its use is hardly known in these parts, where many an ox dies of that horrid disease.

My conversation with Brother Fritsch, led me better to understand many subjects connected with the peculiar circumstances and situation of this missionary establishment; and I may here observe, that the confidence, with which all the Brethren treated me, both here and at Gnadenthal, contributed more to that knowledge which I obtained of the external and internal state of the Mission, than any official statements. I feel myself truly thankful for their unreserved communications.

The Groenekloof farm comprehends a large lot of ground. The Hottentots enjoy the benefit of it, and keep, altogether, about four hundred head of cattle; but as to paying any, the most reasonable, consideration for their fields, gardens, and other advantages, it never enters into their thoughts. Hitherto, the Mission must bear all expenses, but by degrees, they should be taught to understand the justice and necessity of paying a small rent, to cover expenses, incurred merely for their sakes.

26th. Having received from Capetown the leaden-box, meant to contain the writing to be placed in the foundation-stone,

Brother Schmitt went with me to the hill near the ravine, where, having fixed upon a large block of granite, he marked the square hole to be cut into it, to contain the box. The Hottentot mason set about it very dexterously.

At home, I was busily employed both with correspondence, and other affairs relating to the Mission. Towards evening it began to rain hard, and the wind rose considerably. During the night the gale increased.

27th. The new wall of the dwelling-house, now rebuilding, was so much injured, that great part of the new work must be taken down. Mr. Melville returned to us.

In the evening, Carl Stompje, came express from Gnadenthal, by the short road over the Fransche Hoek, in two days and a half, and brought the news of the decease of Father Schwinn, on the 25th, early. Though, when I left Gnadenthal, he seemed to be fast declining, under a complication of disorders, yet we did not so soon expect his final release, and felt deeply affected on reading the letters received from our brethren, containing a circumstantial account of his last illness and departure, and of the great sensation, produced among the Hottentot congregation by this event.

When in 1792, leave was granted by the Dutch Government, to renew the Mission, he, with his two colleagues, Marsveld and Kuehnel, arrived at the Cape in November of the same year. On the 24th of December, they fixed upon the spot, where the first founder of the Mission, the late George Schmidt, had resided in 1737. The deceased visited Germany in 1799, but returned to his station in 1800.

He was a man of a remarkably cheerful and active mind, and possessed great courage and firmness. His public ministry was distinguished by many bold and convincing testimonies of his faith, which he delivered with peculiar energy, speaking from the abundance of his heart, with demonstration of the Spirit, and conviction to the hearts of his hearers. The Christian Hottentots

will always revere his memory. He baptized three hundred and thirty-two persons, old and young, many of whom have departed before him in the faith of Christ.

On the afternoon of the day of his departure, the mournful event was announced to the congregation by Brother Clemens, and caused many tears to flow. The Hottentots were afterwards admitted, in order, into the chamber, to see the corpse of their beloved teacher. They reminded each other of many exhortations given them by him, on so many occasions, and mourned, as over the loss of a father.

On the day preceding the funeral, a great number assembled around the corpse, and under the grove before the door, and sung hymns expressive of the happiness of those, who depart this life, trusting in the merits of their Redeemer, and of the blessedness of that communion of saints, which unites all true believers with the spirits of just men made perfect.

The funeral was attended by a crowded congregation, and by many neighbours, who highly respected the character of the deceased. Many more would have joined the company, had the river Sonderend been fordable at the time. Brother P. Leitner delivered the funeral-discourse on Rev. v. 13, 14, and the strictest order and attention was maintained throughout the whole of the service.

28th. The congregation at Groenekloof was likewise much affected, on being informed this morning, at church, of the loss the Mission had sustained by the departure of Father Schwinn. They expressed their sorrow with many tears.

In the afternoon, two persons were baptized. The humble, but fervent manner, in which the solemn questions put to the catechumens are answered by them, again affected me so much, that some exertion of mind was required to permit me to attend to the ceremonial of the transaction.

After they had returned thanks, as is their usual custom, the husband of the baptized woman, being yet unbaptized, but a man of orderly conduct, came to the missionaries, to express his gratitude

for the favour granted to his wife, whom he earnestly wished to follow, in obtaining the same privilege. This was rather unusual; for in general, they cannot well bear a partner to precede, in any advance in the church. During the night, the gale increased to a violent storm. It blew down the vine-bower before the dwelling-house, but did no more damage to the new building.

29th. Carl Stompje set out on his return, notwithstanding the unfavourable appearance of the weather, loaded with letters for Gnadenenthal. During the day, it rained and hailed much, and towards evening, we were alarmed for the safety of our roofs. A violent squall, with lightning, thunder, and hail, some of the stones being as large as a walnut, passed over us. The hail seemed to be whirled about by the violence of the wind, and tore a part of the reed-thatch from the roof. The cessation of the storm was almost instantaneous. About midnight all was still. Till then, the lightning was remarkably vivid.

31st. The Governor called here in his way to the Groote Post. His Excellency informed us, that during the late violent gale, the Revolutionaire frigate, the Zebra, and some more ships, in Simon's bay, had been driven on shore, as likewise two ships in Table bay. This is an uncommon effect of a storm at the Cape, for, as the land is very high, between Simon's and Table bay, the one is generally considered safe, when the wind sets into the other; but on this occasion, the storm was more like a hurricane, the wind shifting several times to different points.