

CHAPTER XXIII.

Capetown. Visits to friends. Mr. and Mrs. Sheridan. Arrangements on board the Zebra. Rev. Mr. Hesse's return to Europe regretted at the Cape. Duties of a Lutheran minister. Pedestrian expedition round the Lion's head. Visit the country-residences of Messrs. Horak, Beck, Ziegler and Dr. Liesching. View of the coast to the south. Final conversations with the Governor. Mr. Wilberforce Bird. Take leave, and go on board the Zebra. Manner of receiving the Governor on board.

OCTOBER 10th. I waited on Captain Forbes at the Government-house, and obtained a letter from him to the first lieutenant of the Zebra, with which I went on board, accompanied by Mr. Daniel Disandt, and Brother Fritsch, to see the accommodations prepared for me. I found them quite sufficient for my purpose. By the Captain's kind attention to my wishes, I had a small cabin to retire into, which held my bed, a chair, and wash-stand; besides being with the Captain during the day. After my return, I went with Mr. Hancke to pay some visits, and spent as much time as I could with my worthy friends, the Rev. Mr. Hesse and Mr. Poleman. I dined with the Governor, and there met Mr. and Mrs. Sheridan. With the latter, I had much pleasant conversation. The party then attended an instrumental concert, given by Mr. Lemming. When we entered the hall, "*God save the king*" was played, in honour of his Excellency, as the King's representative. I admired Mr. Lemming's performance on the violin; the band consisted partly of dilettanti.

11th. Time was too short to attend to all the engagements made, but we spent a very agreeable afternoon with the Rev. Mr. Hesse, Mr. Poleman being of the party.

12th. In the morning, Brother Fritsch returned to Groenekloof.

I felt a peculiar pang at parting from the last of my dear Cape Brethren. I then walked towards the Government-house, to finally settle with Captain Forbes about my going on board, but was met by the Governor, who informed me, that precisely at day-break, on Wednesday morning, the Zebra would leave the bay. This prolongation of time I wished to improve as much as possible, in the enjoyment of the company and conversation of friends.

13th. In the forenoon, Mr. Edward Grant and Mr. D. Disandt accompanied me on board the Zebra, where we met Captain Forbes and several officers. I found every attention paid to my convenience. Into my little private cabin, sufficient light is admitted by a bull's eye.

I dined at the Rev. Mr. Hesse's, who entered upon the subject of his intended return to Europe. Mr. Poleman, anxious to retain so valuable a character at the Cape, made friendly remonstrances, which led our friend into a detail, to show his reasons for taking such a step. They were sufficiently cogent. To me it was interesting, on this occasion, to obtain some information concerning the duties of a Lutheran minister, which are by no means small, nor in their performance optional. Far from wishing to withdraw from these obligations, Mr. Hesse lamented, that the indifference of the congregation had long ago caused many of them, which were formerly considered as of the greatest importance, to be abandoned, and that, if the minister were entirely to relax in the performance of his duties, it would give to most of them very little concern. He is now required once a year to visit the families in their dwellings, in company of an ouderling or deacon. This is generally done about Passion-week, but by many of his parishioners considered an intrusion.

They have, however, built a spacious parsonage-house, and a large, handsome church, and in general, behave towards their minister with generous attention to his comforts. Externally, therefore, our reverend friend had no hopes of a better situation, but that was not his object. The state of his health also, and the education

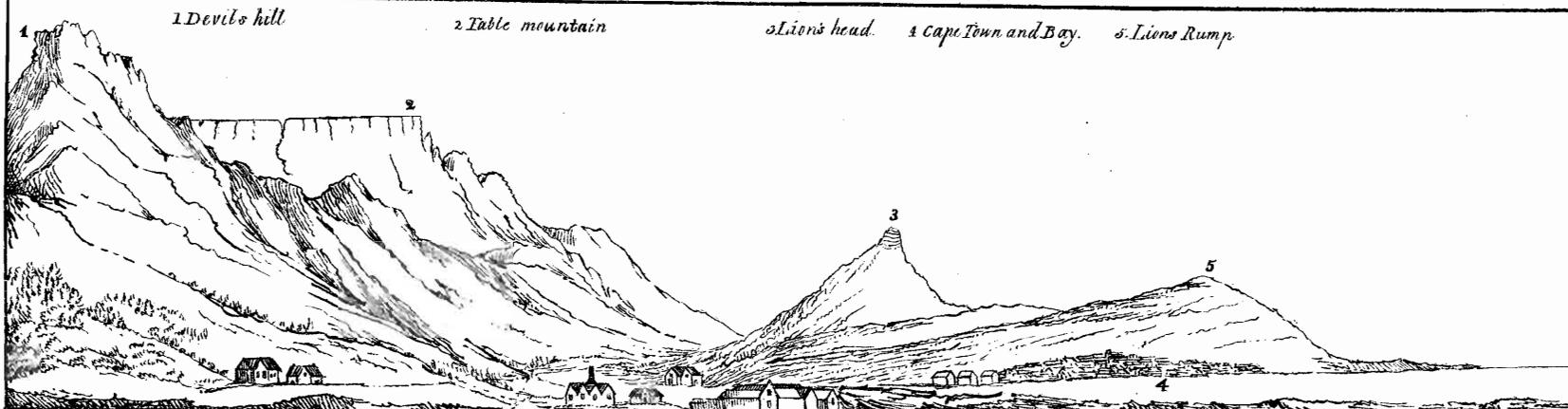
of his children seemed to require his return. My long visit to this colony, had made me so far participate in its welfare, that I joined Mr. Poleman in his objections, as both his congregation, the public, and our Mission, will experience great loss by Mr. Hesse's removal. During my last stay at Capetown, I made a point of returning home every evening to supper, that I might enjoy the society of my worthy hostess, Mrs. Disandt, and her family.

14th. A pedestrian expedition round the Lion's head having been planned by Mr. Hancke, we were not deterred by the appearance of a rainy day, but having met at Mr. Poleman's house, set out. The company consisted of Messrs. Hancke, Poleman, Hesse, and myself. It was their intention to reach Weilerskloof to breakfast, but we could get no farther than Mr. Schmidt's on the north-east ascent of the hill. There a heavy shower kept us prisoners for some time, when we proceeded, in hopes of better weather. The air was clear, and, as we walked up the kloof, between the Lion's head and Table-Mountain, we had a good view of the town and bay. The summits of the mountains were enveloped in clouds. Amends, however, was made by the coolness of the air, which made walking pleasant. On reaching the top of the kloof, an extensive prospect rewards the traveller, and the range of rocks and precipices, forming the south-west side of Table-Mountain, with the promontories of Hout-bay have a grand appearance. Turning to the right, round the Lion's head, we arrived at a villa, belonging to Mr. Horak. This place, given to him by the Earl of Caledon, has been greatly improved, by clothing the steep ascent with plantations of Witteboom and other trees. The gardens surround the circular mansion in concentric circles. Behind the house, stone steps lead to a picturesque group of rocks. Here, under the shade of various trees, planted on every practicable shelf, and between the masses of stone, a cool retreat is afforded on a hot summer's day.

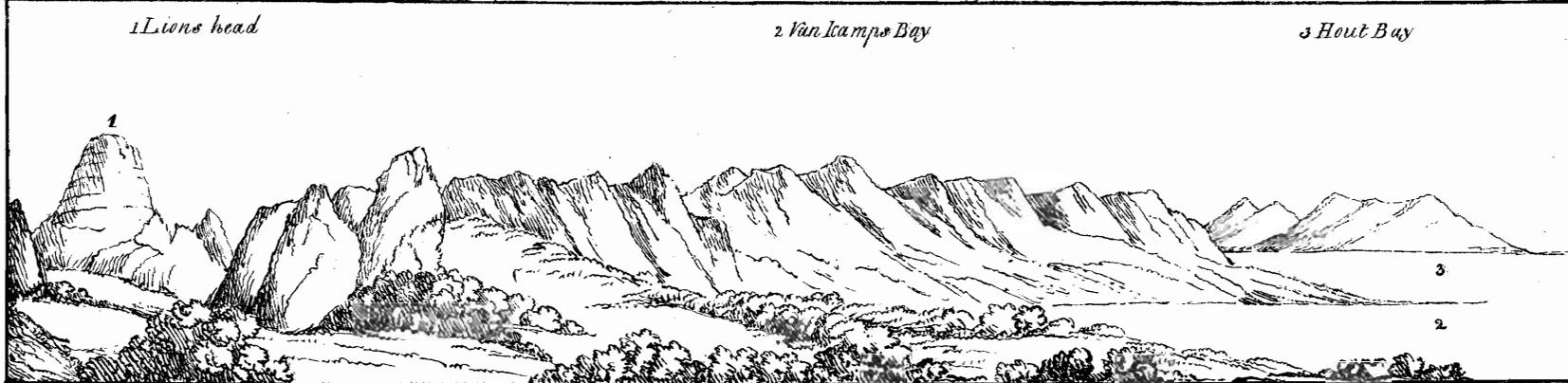
After some rest, and pleasant conversation with the owner, we continued our walk, on a good road, to the villa of Mr. Beck.

VIEWS OF CAPE TOWN and VICINITY

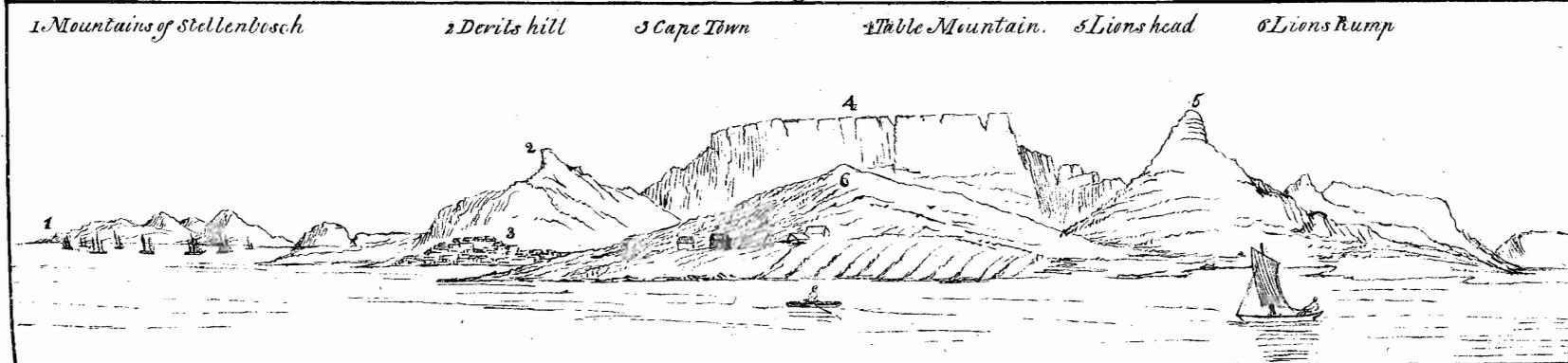
View from the Road to Stellenbosch.



View from the Waste behind D' Lieschings Villa



View of the Mountains, on entering Table Bay.



Rocks of singular shape hover over the dwelling. The gardens, which in terraces slope down towards the sea, are well stocked with a variety of flowers. By a continuation of the road, dug into the steep declivity of the mountain, we reached the villa of Dr. Liesching and Mr. Ziegler to dinner.

This is a romantic spot, with a great variety of garden-ground, laid out in terraces, down a very rugged kloof, and containing a large collection of scarce plants and flowering shrubs. At the bottom of these grounds, the rocks form a grotto, in which is a cold bath. Walking alone on the heath, I found some singular groups of large stones, with the Lion's head above them, in profile, resembling a cupola, and to the south, an extensive view of the coast beyond Camp-bay and Hout-bay, of which I endeavoured to make a sketch. After dinner we returned to Capetown, in the doctor's barouche and four.

15th, I went to the Government-house, where I found Captain Forbes, who assured me, that he meant to set sail on the morning of the 16th. Having obtained admission to the Governor, I had a final, and very satisfactory conversation with his Excellency, on some points of importance to the Mission, and thus closed the business committed to me by the Directors of the Missionary concerns of our Church, with thankfulness to God, to whom alone I ascribe all my undeserved success.

I dined to-day with Mr. Wilberforce Bird, and met Dr. Hussey and a captain of artillery. Mrs. Bird made many inquiries concerning Mr. Wilberforce and his family, and I was delighted to hear that excellent man made the subject of conversation and just admiration. At nine o'clock, the company went to a ball at the Government-house. I returned home to my lodgings at Mrs. Disandt's.

16th. This being my last day at Capetown, I spent the morning in taking leave of my friends, Mr. Hancke, the Rev. Mr. Hesse, Mr. Poleman, and their families. While I live, I shall retain the most grateful sense of their kindness towards me.

Meeting Captain Forbes, he desired me to be ready at four o'clock, as he then expected the Governor to bring his son on board, and should immediately set sail.

After dinner, therefore, having taken a last farewell of my kind hostess, Mrs. Disandt, her family, and son-in-law, Mr. Edward Grant, whose presence has added much to the pleasure and comfort I always enjoyed in that house, I was accompanied to the pier by Mr. Hancke, Mr. Daniel Disandt, and Mr. Bestaendig. There I bid adieu to the former, with sentiments of the sincerest affection and gratitude for the essential and disinterested services he has rendered me, during the whole of my abode in the colony. The two latter gentlemen gave me the pleasure of their company, till we reached the ship. Stephen, a Hottentot from Groenekloof, by whom I had yesterday received letters, was on the pier, and saw me enter the boat, according to orders received.

When I arrived on board, I found every thing prepared to receive the Governor. The ship was dressed out with an awning and flags, and the table in the cabin covered with a profusion of viands. The first lieutenant being confined by a hurt, received some days ago, the second lieutenant had the command. Captain Forbes was on shore, and it was so settled, that if his gig returned without him, then the Governor would not come on board that afternoon. By some mistake the gig was reported to be coming off empty, and the lieutenant ordered the flags and awnings to be taken down. This was instantly done, when the gig was seen swiftly approaching the ship, with the Governor, his son, Miss Somerset, and the Captain in it. There was now no time, either for replacing the flags, or for firing a salute, before they were all on board. His Excellency seemed pleased with the ship, and the arrangements made, and sat down to the cold collation. When they returned to shore, a salute of seventeen guns was fired, a company of artillery on board performing that service. During the short conversation I had with his Excellency, he once more assured me of his favourable disposition towards the Mission; and added, that he