

tract their poisons by macerating the leaves or branches, and inspissating the juices, either by boiling or by exposure to the heat of the sun; but the poison taken from the heads of snakes, mixed with the juices of certain bulbous-rooted plants, is what they mostly depend upon. This party of old men had killed a hartebeest with a poisoned arrow by wounding it in the thigh. The animal had run about half an hour after receiving the wound before it fell. They immediately cut away the flesh round the wound, and squeeze out the blood from the carcase, after which they know from experience that the flesh taken into the stomach will do them no injury, though the animal was killed with a poisoned weapon. Y

The ancient manners and primitive character of this extraordinary race of men are, no doubt, much changed since their connection with the colonists; and the nearer they are found to the capital and those parts which are most inhabited by Europeans, the less of course they retain of them. If at any time they composed societies governed by fixed laws, swayed by customs, and observant of religious ceremonies, many of which, as related among the fables of ancient voyagers, and revived by some modern travellers, are so absurd and so extremely ludicrous as to create the strongest doubts of their having ever existed, they have now so completely lost them that not a single trace remains behind. The name even that has been given to this people is a fabrication. *Hottentot* is a word that has no place nor meaning in their language; and they take to themselves the name under the idea of its being a Dutch word. Whence it has its derivation, or by whom it was first given, I have not been

able to trace. When the country was first discovered, and when they were spread over the southern angle of Africa, as an independent people, each horde had its particular name; but that by which the collective body as a nation was distinguished, and which at this moment they bear among themselves in every part of the country, is *Quaiquæ*. From living together in particular clans, and in later times, from mixing with different people, the Hottentots of one district differ very considerably from those of another. The part of the country we now were in, being the last that was colonized, was inhabited most probably by such as had retained more of their original character than the others; and it is those in particular to whom the following remarks are meant to apply.

Low as they are sunk in the scale of humanity, their character seems to have been generally much traduced and misrepresented. It is true there are not many prepossessing features in the appearance of a Hottentot, but many amiable and good qualities have been obscured by the ridiculous and false accounts with which the world has been abused. They are a mild, quiet, and timid people; perfectly harmless, honest, faithful; and, though extremely phlegmatic, they are nevertheless kind and affectionate to each other, and by no means incapable of strong attachments. A Hottentot will at any time share his last morsel with his companions. They have little of that kind of art or cunning that savages generally possess. If accused of crimes of which they have been guilty, they generally at once divulge the truth. They seldom quarrel among themselves or make use of provoking

language. Though naturally of a fearful and cowardly disposition, they are seldom backward in undertaking adventurous and dangerous exploits if led on by their superiors; and they suffer pain with great patience. They are by no means deficient in talent, but they possess little exertion to call it into action: their indolence was in fact the principal cause of their ruin; in a Hottentot it becomes a real disease, whose only remedy seems to be that of terror. The pains of hunger are insufficient to effect the cure. Rather than to take the trouble of procuring food by the chase, or by digging the ground for roots, they will cheerfully fast the whole day provided they may be allowed to sleep. Instances frequently occurred in the course of our journey, when our Hottentots have passed the day without a morsel of food, rather than give themselves the trouble of walking half a mile to procure a sheep. Yet patient as they are of hunger, they are at the same time the greatest gluttons upon the face of the earth. Ten of our Hottentots ate the whole carcase of a middling-sized ox, except the two hind legs, in three days; but they had very little sleep during the time, and had fasted the two preceding days. With them the word is to eat or to sleep. When they cannot indulge in the gratification of the one, they generally find immediate relief in the arms of the other.

Their manner of eating strongly marks the voracity of their appetite. Having cut from the animal a large steak, they begin with the knife at one edge, and by passing it round in a spiral manner till they come to the middle, they produce a string of meat one, two, or three yards in length, according to the size of the piece. The whole animal is presently cut into

such strings; and while some are employed in this business, and in suspending them on the branches of the shrubbery, others are engaged in broiling the strings coiled round and laid upon the ashes. As soon as the meat is just warmed through they take it off the fire, grasp it in both hands, and applying one end of the string to the mouth, soon get through a yard of flesh. The ashes of the green wood that adhere to the meat serve as a substitute for salt. When a string of meat has passed through their hands, they free them of the fat and ashes by rubbing them over different parts of their body; and the grease and dirt applied from time to time, and which are thus suffered to accumulate in this state perhaps for a whole year, sometimes melting by the side of a large fire and catching up all the dust and dirt that may be floating in the air, cover at length the surface of the body with a thick black coating that entirely conceals the real natural color of the skin. This is discoverable only on the face and hands, which they keep somewhat cleaner than the other parts of the body by rubbing them occasionally with the dung of cattle, which takes up the grease, when pure water would have no effect.

The dress of a Hottentot is very simple. It consists chiefly of a belt made of a thong cut from the skin of some animal. From this belt is suspended in front a kind of case made of the skin of the jackal. The shape is that of a nine-pin cut through the middle longitudinally; the convex and hairy side of which is uppermost. The intention of this case is to receive those parts of the body for which most nations have agreed in adopting some sort of covering; but few, who are

not entirely naked, have hit upon a less effectual plan for such a purpose than that of the Hottentot. If the real design of it originated in an idea of decency, it would seem that he has widely missed his aim, as it is certainly one of the most immodest objects, situated as he has thought fit to place it, that could well have been contrived. From the back part of the belt or girdle hangs a piece of stiff dried skin, reaching scarcely to the middle of the thigh, which is cut into the shape of an acute isosceles triangle with the point uppermost. Some wear a couple of such pieces. This contrivance as a covering is no better than the other; for when he walks quickly or musters up a running pace, it flies from one side to the other, and flaps backwards and forwards in such a manner as to conceal no particular part of the body, which indeed does not seem to have been the purpose exactly for which it is worn. Nature having given to most animals a tail to fan themselves in hot weather and to lash away troublesome insects, and having left the Hottentot without one, his ingenuity has contrived an artificial appendage with a view to its answering the same end. These articles constitute the whole of their summer dress. A great beau will probably fasten a bracelet of beads or a ring of copper round his wrist: but such trinkets are more properly the ornaments which belong to the other sex.

The Hottentot women, fond of finery like those of most nations, by their immoderate rage for dress accelerated the ruin of their husbands, which they themselves had brought on by as strong a rage for ardent spirits and tobacco. These two articles, brass buttons and glass beads, were exchanged for their

cattle—things useless, worthless, and even pernicious, for what was their only support, the very soul of their existence. The thongs of dried skins that had hitherto encircled their legs from the ankle to the knee, as a protection against the bite of poisonous animals, were now despised and thrown away, and glass beads or copper chains were substituted in their place. Thus what had been adopted as a matter of necessity and prudence passed into an affair of fashion. Their necks, arms, and legs were loaded with glass beads: but the largest and most splendid of these ornaments were bestowed upon the little apron, about seven or eight inches wide, that hangs from the waist and reaches barely to the middle of the thigh. Great pains seem to be taken by the women to decorate, and thereby draw the attention towards, this part of their persons. Large metal buttons, shells of the *cypræa* genus with the apertures outwards, glass beads of different colors, and any other articles which are shewy, are attached to the borders of this apron. Those who either cannot afford to wear glass beads, or who have no taste for the fashion, wear an apron of a different sort, which has a very odd appearance: it is part of the skin of an animal cut into threads which hang like a tassel of fringe between the thighs, reaching about half-way to the knee, and leaving the exterior and anterior parts of the thigh entirely bare. The thongs of such an apron are generally too thin and few to answer the purpose of concealment. Instead of the tail which has been adopted by the men, the women wear a sheep's skin which completely covers the posterior part of the body from the waist to the calf of the leg, and just wide enough to skirt the exterior part of the thigh. The rattling of this

dried skin announces the approach of a Hottentot lady long before she makes her appearance. The rest of the body is naked. Some, however, wear skin-caps on their heads made up into different shapes, and ornamented as caprice may direct. In the winter months both sexes cover themselves with cloaks made of skins.

The custom of greasing the body and wrapping it in skins has been a constant theme of abuse against this race of people by most travellers who have written on the subject. There are always two ways of representing things, and the poor Hottentot has been unfortunate enough to have his character painted in the very worst light. To cover the body with some unctuous matter in a hot climate where water is extremely scarce, is the only and a very natural resource to prevent the skin from being shrivelled and parched by the scorching rays of the sun, and indeed has been the practice of most nations situated in or near the torrid zone. The oil that ran so profusely down "Aaron's beard even to the skirts of his garment," was in all probability animal fat; for during the forty years that he and Moses occupied the thoughts of the Children of Israel in the desert with a promised land, it is not very likely they had any means of procuring a supply of vegetable oil; and though some late celebrated historical painters have clothed these leaders of the Children of Israel in high-colored garments trimmed with fringe and lace, it may be doubted if they had any other clothing than such as the skins of their sheep, and calves, and goats, supplied them with. If the practice of smearing the body with fat were adopted in South America, there would not probably be

such numbers of objects in the streets of Rio de Janeiro and St. Salvador laboring under that most disgusting and dreadful disorder the elephantiasis. The Hottentots know nothing of such a complaint; nor did I perceive that any kind of cutaneous disease was prevalent among them.

The person of a Hottentot while young is by no means void of symmetry. They are clean-limbed, well-proportioned, and erect. Their hands, their feet, and all their joints are remarkably small. No protuberance of muscle to indicate strength, but a body as delicately formed as that of a woman, would perhaps to a physiognomist mark an inactive and effeminate mind. The face is in general extremely ugly; but it differs very materially in different families, particularly in the nose, being in some remarkably flat, and in others considerably raised. The color of the eye is a deep chesnut: this organ is long and narrow, removed by the broad base of the nose to a great distance from each other; and the eyelids at the extremity next the nose, instead of forming an angle, as in Europeans, are rounded into each other exactly like those of the Chinese, to whom indeed in many other points they bear a physical resemblance that is sufficiently striking. Their cheek-bones are high and prominent, and with the narrow-pointed chin form nearly a triangle. Their teeth are beautifully white. The color of the skin is that of a yellowish brown or a faded leaf, but very different from the sickly hue of a person in the jaundice, which it has been described to resemble: many indeed are nearly as white as Europeans. The hair is of a very singular nature: it does not cover the whole surface of the scalp, but grows in small tufts at certain distances from each other, and, when kept short, has the appearance and feel of a hard shoe-



brush, with this difference, that it is curled and twisted into small round lumps about the size of a marrow-fat pea. When suffered to grow, it hangs in the neck in hard twisted tassels, not unlike some kinds of fringe.

Some of the women when young, and previous to child-bearing, are so well formed that they might serve as models of perfection in the human figure. Every joint and limb is rounded and well turned, and their whole body is without an angle or disproportionate protuberance. Their breasts are round, firm, and distant, but even in the formation of these there is something peculiar: the nipple is unusually large, and surrounded by an areola, that, like a second nipple of larger dimensions, is considerably elevated above the general surface of the breast. Their hands and feet are remarkably small and delicately turned; and their gait is not deficient in easy and graceful movements. Their charms, however, are very fleeting. At an early period of life, and immediately after the first child, their breasts begin to grow loose and flaccid, and, as old age approaches, become distended to an enormous size; the belly protrudes; and the posteriors, swelling out to incredible dimensions, give to the spine a degree of curvature inwards that makes it appear as if the *os coccygis*, or bone at the lower extremity of the spine, was elongated and bent outwards, which however is not the case. The mass that covers the posteriors has been found on dissection to be pure fat. Some other striking peculiarities in the conformation of Hottentot women will be noticed when speaking of the Bojesmans, who seem to be the true aborigines of the country, unmixed with any other tribes of people.



*S. Daniell del.*

*T. Medland sculp.*

*A Hottentot*

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It did not appear to us that the Hottentots were subject to any particular diseases. Life, if not taken away by accident or violence, seems to be generally terminated by a gradual decay and exhaustion of nature, which mostly takes place at an earlier period of existence here than in other countries of an equal temperature of climate. It is rare to meet with a Hottentot with sixty years upon his head; but it is also equally rare to see a cripple or deformed person among them. There are not among them any who professedly practise the healing art; every one is his own physician. The colonists, indeed, in this respect are not better provided than the Hottentots. In the whole extensive district of Graaff Reynet there is but one apothecary, and his residence is at the Drosdy.

Medicine and astronomy are two sciences that may be supposed to have dated their origin from the first dawn of civilization; by one, men were taught to restore the vital functions that had lost their tone, and to repair the injured frame; by the other, they informed themselves of the different periods of seed-time and harvest. Little as the Hottentots are acquainted with the first, they are still less so with the second. They have a name for the sun, another for the moon, and a third for the stars: but this seems to be the extent of their astronomical knowledge. The division of time, as marked by the motion of the heavenly bodies, was too subtle an operation, and required too much observation and profound thinking, for the careless and inattentive mind of a Hottentot. The period of a day may almost be said to be the extent of his reckoning, and when he has occasion to refer to any particular time of the day, like other nations who are without machines for

marking the divisions of time, he will point out the place in the heavens about which the sun was then in his course. The periods that have past he can express only by saying they were before or after some memorable event. The season of the year is usually indicated by being so many moons before or after *wyntjes tyd*, or the time that the roots of the *iris edulis* are in season; a time particularly noticed by him, as these bulbs once constituted a considerable part of his vegetable food. I know not how far the numerals in his language proceed, but none of those of our party could tell beyond *five*, nor could any of them put two numbers together but by the assistance of their fingers. Yet they are very far from being a stupid people. They learn the Dutch language with great facility. They are excellent marksmen with the gun: and they are uncommonly clever in finding out a passage over a desert uninhabited country. Whatever track they may at any period of their life have made, they will tread their former footsteps over again. By the quickness of their eye they can discover deer and other sorts of game when very far distant; and they are equally expert in watching a bee to its nest. They no sooner hear the humming of the insect than they squat themselves on the ground, and, having caught it with the eye, follow it to an incredible distance. The organ of sight, no doubt, is strengthened and improved by exercise. Seamen on board ships will discover objects at sea the moment they appear above the horizon, and long before they become visible to a passenger's eye.

Except in the preparation of poisons, in making bows and arrows, musical instruments, coarse earthen ware, and in sew-

ing together the skins of sheep for their winter garments with sinews or the intestines of animals, the Hottentots may be said to be entirely ignorant of arts and manufactures. Some invention however appears to have been exercised in the construction of their language, and particularly in its articulation. Of all the methods that have been adopted in language by different nations for the purpose of expressing objects, and conveying ideas in a clear and unequivocal manner, none is more extraordinary than that which has been hit upon by the Hottentots. Almost all their monosyllables, and the leading syllable of compound words, are thrown out of the mouth with a sudden retraction of the tongue from the teeth or the palate against one of which it had been pressed; according to the signification of the word about to be uttered; for the same sound, with the dental, will have a very different meaning with the palatal, retraction of the tongue. The noise made by the dental is exactly that which is sometimes used to express impatience or disappointment, but the palatal is much more full and sonorous, and not unlike the clacking of a hen that has young chickens. This sound is not an insulated movement preceding or following a syllable, but is thrown out at the same moment of time, and incorporated with it. All languages in their infancy consisted probably of simple or monosyllabic sounds; but as these, being few in number, could convey only a very limited number of ideas, recourse was had to inflexion of voice and composition of the simple sounds to make the vocabulary more copious. The division of such simple sounds into their elements, and by the various combinations of these elements to form an almost unlimited number of new sounds, was one of the most wonderful

inventions in the history of man, and much beyond the genius of a Hottentot. He has done, however, all that he found to be necessary by a very few compound words, and by the clacking with the tongue. In the first formation of his language, nature seems to have been his guide. The croaking of a frog is easily recognized in *kraak* or *kraaie*; the lowing of an ox in *'mnoo*; the mewling of a cat in *meau*; the neighing of a horse in *hahæ*; the breaking of the sea upon the shore in *hurroo*; all of which are correspondent words in the language of this people. Many instances, besides these, sufficiently prove that the names of physical objects were adopted in imitation of the sounds proceeding from such objects as they were meant to express. In the origin of their language they might perhaps be still closer imitations. The enunciation of sounds is liable to undergo many alterations in passing from one generation to another, even among nations that have the means of catching the nice inflexions of voice, and of handing them down, in a visible form, to posterity.

The genius of a language is frequently discoverable in the application of new words to new ideas. The Hottentots who had never seen nor heard the report of a gun before their unfortunate connection with Europeans, had a new word to invent in order to express it. They called it *kaboo*, and pronounced the word in so emphatic a manner that it was scarcely possible to mistake their meaning. The *ka* is thrown out with a strong palatial stroke of the tongue, in imitation of the sound given by the stroke of the flint against the cover of the pan; and with outstretched lips, a full mouth, and prolonged sound, the *boo* sends forth the report. This language at first

appears to be of such a nature as to make it impossible for an European ever to acquire ; the difficulty, however, which is chiefly occasioned by the action of the tongue, is soon surmounted. Most of the Dutch peasantry in the distant districts speak it ; and many of them are so very much accustomed to the use of it, that they introduce into their own language a motion of the organ of speech sufficiently distinct to shew from whence it was procured.

Notwithstanding the inhuman treatment that the Hottentots experience from the Dutch farmers, the latter could ill dispense with the assistance of the former ; and, were they sensible of their own interest, and the interest of their posterity, instead of oppressing, they would hold out to them every encouragement. To guard their numerous herds ; to drive them from place to place in search of food and water, sometimes on plains which produce not a shrub to screen them from the scorching rays of an almost vertical sun at one part of the year, or to afford them a shelter from the cold winds, frost, and snow that happen in the other, would ill agree with the temper or with the constitution of the colonists ; yet should the present system of oppression continue, the time cannot be far distant when their own children must take upon them the charge now committed to Hottentots. The price of slaves is too high. In the whole district of Graaff Reynet there are not more than six or seven hundred blacks, or about one to each family ; but it contains about 10,000 Hottentots great and small. The total number of this people in the whole colony may be about fifteen thousand. Broken up and dispersed as the tribes of this nation now are, few of their

ancient usages are retained among them. If they ever had a religion of any sort, all traces of it are now lost : they marry without any kind of ceremony, and inter their dead in the same manner ; but they shave the head on the death of a Chief, or near relation. One custom, however, still remained, which seemed to be pretty generally observed : this was that of shaving the heads of young girls as soon as the first symptoms of maturity began to appear ; at the same time all the ornaments worn on the neck, legs, and arms are removed, and the body for once in their life clean washed and scoured ; and, during the continuance of the periodical symptoms, they are restricted to a milk diet, and not suffered to mix in the company of men.

On the morning of the 29th of August we left the Zwartkop's river, and, proceeding to the eastward about twenty miles, crossed a ford of the Sunday river, and encamped upon its bank. At this place it was broad and deep, and without any perceptible current. The whole course of the river as far as we traced it was buried in thick woods that extended from fifty to a hundred yards from the margin of the water upon each bank. The trees consisted chiefly of the Karroo mimosa, a species of *rhus*, and a narrow-leafed willow. The water was considerably impregnated with salt. At the feet of the hills, indeed, near which it flowed, were abundant heaps of a white saline substance of a light and frothy nature ; and from the under surfaces of the projecting strata of rotten sand-stone were suspended a great quantity of saline stalactites, whose bases were tinged of a greenish color, perhaps from their being impregnated with a solution of copperas or green vitriol.



On the banks of this river we were disturbed in the night, for the first time, by a troop of elephants that had intended to quench their thirst near the place where we were encamped; but, finding the ground already occupied, they turned quietly away without molesting us. The following morning we pursued them by the track of their feet into an extensive thicket, in the depths of which several of these huge animals made their appearance at a distance; but we were not lucky enough, after a chase of many hours, to kill any of them.

The following day we travelled near thirty miles over a wild uninhabited part of the country, covered chiefly with shrubby plants of the same nature as those that grew so abundantly between Graaff Reynet and Zwart-kop's river, but in general taller, and of more luxuriant growth. We crossed in fact an arm of the same forest, through which a road had been cut just wide enough to admit the waggons. Beyond this forest the face of the country was beautifully marked with knolls and dells, finely chequered with clumps of evergreen trees and patches of shrubbery. Between the swells were level meadows covered with grass of a coarse rushy nature, and enriched with copious springs of good water. In the evening we encamped on the *Bosjesman's* river, and the next day proceeded easterly to the *Hassagai-bosch* river, whose source is in a small hanging forest on the declivity of the *Rietberg*. This long range of hills began here to spread and divide itself into a number of inferior elevations that continued to the eastern extremity of the colony, where they lost themselves in the high banks of the Great Fish-river.

On the Hassagai-bosch river stood the second habitation that had occurred in the last three days' journey, and we were here informed that there was no other to the eastward. The country that lies between the Sunday river and the eastern limit of the colony, and between the *Rietberg* and the sea-coast, is called the *Zuure Veldt*, or sour grass plains. In its appearance it is the most beautiful division in the whole district, being well wooded and watered, having a great depth of good soil, and a thick covering of grass. Till the shameful rupture between the peasantry and the Kaffers, occasioned entirely by the injustice and tyranny of the former, *Zuure Veldt* was one of the best-peopled divisions in the district, but since that time it has been nearly abandoned.

It now became necessary to make some arrangement for our projected journey into the country of the Kaffers. Several teams of oxen for the waggons and relays had indeed already been sent to us, according to appointment, by the farmers, who had also assembled to the number of thirty or forty persons, all expecting to accompany us on the intended expedition. When it was first made known to the two members of the council that it might be necessary for us to proceed into the country of the Kaffers, as far as the residence of their king, they immediately proposed as a necessary precaution for security, to take along with us a party of twenty armed men. It was in vain to convince them that twenty armed men in the heart of a country which could bring almost as many thousands into the field, were no better defence than four; that by multiplying our numbers we should probably multiply the danger of giving offence; that the Kaffers were not to be considered in the same light

as the Bosjesmans beyond the Sneeuwberg, in expeditions against whom they had been accustomed to join; but that on the contrary, as far as the best accounts could be depended on, they were a mild, rational, and in some degree a civilized people, who had on all occasions afforded protection to such colonists travelling in their country as had made proper applications to their sovereign for it. The story of some Dutch farmer having been murdered in Kaffer-land, where he had gone for the sake of exchanging trinkets for cattle, had got hold of their minds, and it was no easy matter to make them conceive the difference between our going officially, in the service of government, to the Kaffer king, and the case of a man clandestinely entering the country with a view of carrying on an illicit traffic with its subjects. From the moment these men were informed of our intentions they had daily teased the landrost with their proposal of twenty men, till at length it was found necessary to silence their application by saying, that if they had any apprehensions as to their personal safety they were at full liberty to return to Graaff Reynet. Though nothing more was said on the subject, there was reason to suppose that the farmers had been assembled by the Hemraaden for the purpose of accompanying us. To a Dutch peasant a jaunt from home, on a hunting excursion, or to explore new regions, is supreme felicity: but any safe opportunity of getting into the Kaffer country, so abundant in cattle, was not to be resisted. Some of the farmers it was absolutely necessary to take along with us, as none of our own party were acquainted with a single step of the country. Those that seemed to be the most proper for this purpose were, an old man from Upper Zuure Veldt, and Rensburg, one of the

companions of Jacob Van Reenen, who, a few years before had proceeded along the eastern coast in search of the unfortunate passengers and crew of the Grosvenor Indiaman that was wrecked on the shore of the *Hamboonas*. This at least was the ostensible object of that journey.

Rensburg was on many accounts a desirable companion on the present occasion. He was well acquainted with the country: he was an excellent marksman; and he was accompanied by an old Hottentot that was still better; from this man he generally reckoned upon a beast for every ball. Two or three others joined us in the evening at the place of our encampment, under pretence of looking after the oxen which they had furnished for drawing the waggons; and the first night that we passed in Kaffer-land, the number of peasants, that had contrived to smuggle themselves into that country, amounted to ten.

We had not travelled many miles beyond the Hassagabosch river till the appearance of the whole surface of the country in flames indicated our approach to some of the stations of the Kaffers. We pitched our tents in fact at night on the banks of the *Kareeka*, amidst several hundreds of these people, who, on our advancing, came swarming out of the thick shrubbery that skirted the river. A party of women were the first who advanced to salute us, laughing and dancing round the waggons, and putting on all the coaxing manners they could invent; with a view of procuring from us some tobacco and brass buttons. Good humour, animation, and a cheerful turn of mind, beamed

conspicuously in all their countenances. They appeared to us to be modest without reserve; extremely curious without being troublesome; lively but not impudent; and sportive without the least shadow of lasciviousness. Their personal charms, it is true, were not of a very captivating nature, though, getting over the prejudice of color, which was that of a dark glossy brown verging on black, several of them might be accounted as handsome. The rapid movement of their dark sparkling eyes gave animation to their countenances: their teeth were beautifully white and regular; they had neither the thick lips nor the flat noses of African negroes; and the whole contour of the face and head was equally well formed as that of Europeans. But the most striking feature in their character was a degree of sprightliness, activity, and vivacity, that distinguished them from the women of most nations that are but little advanced in civilization, and who are generally reserved to strangers. Bordering upon the country of the Hottentots, their manners, their persons, and their whole character, seemed to be as widely removed from this phlegmatic race as the equator is from the pole. The Hottentot young women had much the advantage, however, of the Kaffers in point of figure. The latter were mostly of low stature, very strong-limbed, and particularly muscular in the leg; but the good humor that constantly beamed upon their countenances made ample amends for any defect in their personal accomplishments.

The men, on the contrary, were the finest figures I ever beheld: they were tall, robust, and muscular; their habits of life had induced a firmness of carriage, and an open, manly

demeanor, which, added to the good nature that overspread their features, shewed them at once to be equally unconscious of fear, suspicion, and treachery. A young man about twenty, of six feet ten inches high, was one of the finest figures that perhaps was ever created. He was a perfect Hercules; and a cast from his body would not have disgraced the pedestal of that deity in the Farnese palace. Many of them had indeed very much the appearance of bronze figures. Their skin, which was nearly black, and their short curling hair, were rubbed over with a solution of red ochre, and the tint it produced on the dark ground was very far from having any disagreeable effect. Some few were covered with skin-cloaks, but the greater part were entirely naked. The women wore long cloaks that extended below the calf of the leg; and their heads were covered with leather-caps ornamented with beads, with shells, and with pieces of polished copper and iron, that were disposed in a variety of forms; but the fashion of the cap was nearly the same in all.

We distributed a quantity of tobacco among the women, who carried it as a welcome present to their fathers and husbands, who had not proved such successful pleaders as the females. In the evening they sent us in return some baskets of milk. These baskets were made from a species of *cyperus*, a strong reedy grass that grew in the springs of Zuure Veldt. The workmanship was exceedingly clever and neat, and the texture so close that they were capable of containing the thinnest fluid. The women informed us that the making of these baskets was one part of their

employment; and they seemed to feel a pleasure in our admiration of them. They were all nearly made after one model, which in shape was that of a common beehive. As they are never washed nor cleaned, the milk thrown into them almost immediately coagulates, in which state it is always used by this people, and never pure and sweet as taken from the animal. Mr. Vaillant's assertion of their washing their milk-baskets with urine, in order to make it speedily coagulate, is wholly without foundation, and may be reckoned as one of those happy inventions of his brilliant fancy which are profusely scattered through the pages of his entertaining book. Having no bread, nor vegetables, nor roots, but such as grow spontaneously in the country, and seldom killing any of their cattle for the sake of the flesh, the necessity of taking something solid into the stomach led them, perhaps, to adopt this manner of drinking their milk; and the best proof of its nutritious quality, in such a state, was the general healthy appearance and vigor of their persons.

Towards the setting of the sun the whole plain was covered with cattle, which in vast herds were brought in from every quarter at the signal of command, given by a particular kind of whistling noise made with the mouth; at another whistle the milch-cows separated from the herd, and came forward to have their milk drawn from them. This operation, and the management of the dairy, form a part of the employment of the men. In the morning a different kind of whistle sent them out to graze. In fact the Kaffers and their cattle seemed perfectly to understand each other.

Though at this place there could not be fewer than three hundred men and women, exclusive of a numerous troop of young boys and girls who were ordered by their parents to keep at a distance; yet not a hut of any kind was to be seen. Their dwellings were all concealed in the midst of the shrubbery, consisting only of a few living twigs, whose tops were bent and interwoven into each other, forming a frame, of the shape of a parabola, about five feet high and eight in diameter. These frames were rudely covered over with branches of trees and long grass, and were evidently intended only as temporary abodes.

A chief of the name of *Tooley* paid us a visit, drank a few glasses of wine which he seemed very much to relish, and received a small present of beads and tobacco; but the object that seemed most to engage his attention was the wish to procure for himself a pair of breeches. Among our party were a few tolerable stout and tall men, yet none of their breeches would admit of *Tooley's* thighs. He was a strong muscular man, of six feet in height, and remarkably well made. He was good-humored and cheerful, but did not appear to be possessed of much intellect. He declined entering into any conversation that led to the purport of our journey, and said that his brother *Malloo*, who was one of the first of the Kaffer chiefs, would talk to us on that subject. An express was therefore sent for *Malloo*, who was at a little distance on the upper part of the river. It was not long before he made his appearance, followed by a third chief of the name of *Etonie*.



In a conversation with these chiefs, they were asked whether they were not acquainted with the treaty that had been made a long time ago between the Christians and Kaffers, and renewed at the conclusion of the late hostilities, which treaty had fixed the Great Fish river as the line of demarcation between the two nations? Malloo, who spoke for the rest, replied, that they knew it very well. If so, it was demanded why they had infringed that treaty by passing the said river and taking possession of the country belonging to the colonists, to the great injury of the latter, who had been obliged to quit their habitations? Malloo replied in a manner that shewed he was prepared to answer—that there were no habitations in that part of the country where they had fixed themselves; and as to their motive for passing the boundary, he could only say, for his own part, that he had come over for one of the reasons that had carried the colonists *first* after the treaty into the Kaffer country, which was that of hunting for game.

What this chief stated in his reply was perfectly correct. The Dutch peasantry have not only gone into the Kaffer country since the year 1793, to hunt for the larger sort of game, particularly the hippopotamus, which abounds in all the great rivers of that country, but all those who dwell near the extremity of the colony, near the Great Fish river, have always used, and still continue to consider, the Kaffer side of the river as their own, have sown, and planted, and driven over their cattle to graze. Some of the inhabitants of *Bruyntjes Hoogté* had even gone amongst the

*Ghonaquas*, a tribe of people produced between Kaffers and Hottentots, but living under the former; had taken possession of the choicest part of their country, well watered by two plentiful streams, the Kat and the Kaapna; had laid out the extent of ground that each meant to occupy; planted vines and other fruits; and, making themselves certain that the avaricious and unjust views of the government would keep equal pace with their own, joined by twenty or thirty names that they contrived to muster from different parts of the colony, they had the audacity to petition Sir James Craig to grant them, as an indemnification for their losses by the Bosjesmans and the Kaffers, a small piece of ground on the Kaapna; and that it would still further oblige them if he could extend it to the Kat river. This small piece of ground is only about five-and-forty miles beyond the present boundary. The daring and impudent falsehoods on which the letter was grounded were easily seen through by Sir James Craig, and their petition was very properly rejected. The eyes, in fact, of the colonists have long been directed towards the two rivers, the Kat and the Kaapna. A native voyager in this country, whose mind seemed only to be occupied in hunting elephants, shooting sea-cows, and collecting gold dust, could not pass without noticing this part of Kaffer-land. In a journal, which has been published by Captain Rio, it is observed: " We came to a vast plain extending as far as a river called " Kaapna, or fine meadows, which name it highly merits " from its delightful situation. The whole country is inter- " sected with rivulets capable of overflowing the adjacent " meadows, and possesses every requisite for becoming a " most *convenient* and *charming settlement*." Such a descrip-

tion was sufficient to send a Dutch farmer as far as the Tambookies, if he could only be persuaded there would be no personal danger. Such are the views of those people, who have neither sense of honor, regard for truth, or feelings of justice or humanity to direct their proceedings.

The chiefs were told, that if some few of the colonists had been so imprudent as to transgress the treaty, they had done it contrary to the express orders, and without the knowledge, of government: that the colony was now in the possession of a great and powerful sovereign, the king of England: that one of his first chiefs had deputed us to say, that the established boundary should be observed on the part of the colonists; but he expected also that all those chiefs, who had spread themselves over the country of the colonists, with their families, and dependants, and cattle, would, without any further delay, quietly and peaceably return into their own country; and, as a proof of the good intentions and friendship of the English government towards the Kaffer nation, we were now on our journey to their great chief, or king *Gaika*, carrying for him a present from the English governor at the Cape.

On hearing this, the Kaffer chiefs were apparently uneasy; and it was soon discovered that they not only were on bad terms with the king, but that they had been obliged to fly their country in order to avoid the effects of his displeasure. They now began to change their former tone, and to entreat that an intercession should be made for them with their king, and gave a promise, on condition of a *messenger of peace*

being sent to them, immediately to return into their own country. Such a messenger is known by this people from his laying his *hassagai* or spear on the ground at the distance of two hundred paces from those to whom he is sent, and by advancing from thence with extended arms. Being assured that every attempt to bring about an amicable adjustment between the king and the fugitive chiefs would be tried, and that from the apparent willingness, on their part, to a reconciliation, there could be little doubt of success, they received each a small present, consisting of tobacco, knives, flints, and steels, tinder-boxes, and a few glass beads. These are the sort of articles which the Dutch farmers have been in the habit of exchanging for their valuable breed of cattle.

The three chiefs were all stout, well-formed men; but *Etonie* in particular might be accounted handsome: he had a lively pleasing countenance, that always wore a smile, his eyes were vivid and active, his teeth were white as the purest ivory, and his nose was not in the least flattened, but exactly of the same form as that of the European. In their dress they had nothing particular to distinguish them from those they commanded, except a slender brass chain which hung suspended on the left side, from a wreath of small polished copper beads that encircled the upper part of the head. They wore long cloaks of calves' skins, which, being well stretched and dressed, were very light and pliant. Broad rings of ivory, cut out of the solid tusk of the elephant, were worn upon the left arm, above the elbow. Bracelets of copper and of iron surrounded their wrists, and rings of these

metals were also worn on the legs above the ankles. Glass beads surrounded their necks; and many of the men had porcupine quills stuck through the ear. Some few had a pair of the wings of the Numidian crane fastened one on each side of the head by a leather thong; and others had cows' tails bound to the leg a little below the knee.

Neither had the wives of the chiefs any distinction of dress from the rest of the women. They all wore caps, made of skins, sitting close to the head, and hanging behind, and down each side, in long divided flaps. Each seemed to have decorated their dress, without any fixed order, as caprice had suggested, or as their circumstances would allow. Small beads of copper, rings of iron, brass buttons, old knee-buckles, or whatsoever metallic material had fallen into their hands, found a place on some part of their dress. Some had a brass button stuck in one ear, and in the other a string of glass beads or a shell. They had no change of habit, but each carried her whole wardrobe about her person. Some had not fewer than fifty different strings of necklaces about the neck; a number of rings round their legs and arms of copper and iron; and on their calf-skin cloaks were stitched several rows, from top to bottom, of old buttons, as various in shape, size, and fashion, as a button-maker's card. Some had festoons of small cypræa shells round their caps; others had made them into bracelets and necklaces. Suspended from the neck most of them carried the shell of a small land tortoise, (the *testudo pusilla*,) which held a quantity of red ochre, and a thin piece of leather to rub it upon their faces.

The young boys were perfectly naked ; and the only ornament about them was a small tuft of the long white hair from the rump of the springbok, which was stuck upon the crown of the head.

On the second of September we skirted the banks of the *Kareeka*, towards the sea-shore, perpetually passing through multitudes of Kaffers and their herds of cattle. Of the latter the collected opinion of the party was, that there could not have been fewer seen, in the course of this day's journey, than five thousand head. Among these were oxen of remarkable size and strength, vast numbers of cows, in general much larger and handsomer than those of the colony, some of them not unlike the Alderney cow ; others were without horns, small and strong, resembling the black cattle that come down from the Highlands of Scotland. The horns of the large oxen were twisted with great pains into a variety of shapes. The points of some were brought to meet under the neck ; others were drawn into straight lines projecting horizontally from each side of the head ; some had one horn pointed directly into the air, and the other to the ground ; and others, rising parallel from their bases, had their points turned back, which gave them the appearance of huge antelopes. Some had large circular pieces cut out of the dewlap ; others had this part cut into strings, and hanging in tassels. Not a sheep nor goat were to be seen. The Kaffers, in fact, never breed any of these animals. Dogs in innumerable quantities made their appearance, but so miserably poor that it was painful to look at them. They seemed

to be a small kind of cur. They had no horses. Dogs and cattle were the only animals they possessed.

A rising eminence between the Bosjesman and Kareeka rivers, which at this place were not very distant, commanded a beautiful view of the surrounding country, and a great extent of sea-coast. From these elevated plains a sudden depression of the earth descends towards the sea-shore, and particularly between the mouths of the two above-mentioned rivers. The ground has here been rent and torn into vast chasms, separated by high ridges of rude and massy rock. The glens were choaked up with thick, tall shrubbery, and the smaller kinds of the trees of the country. These wild and dismal dens, of many miles in extent, were considered by Rensberg, the person before mentioned, as the nursery of elephants, where, he asserted, he had once seen in one troop between four and five hundred of these enormous brutes, scouring the plains, and making for the forests.

Several of the persons with me pretended to have been eye-witnesses to the manner in which elephants performed the connubial rites ; and they invariably asserted that, agreeably to the old accredited story, the female went down on her knees to receive the male, which, however, is not the fact. The manner in which this huge animal contrived to propagate the species is a subject that has long engaged the closet-naturalists of Europe, and which has produced many strange opinions and hypotheses. Some imagined that, notwithstanding the grossness of the body, the feelings of this animal were so delicate, and others, that its sense of slavery was so

powerful, that shame in the one instance, and indignation in the other, were impediments to their indulging, in a domesticated state, in the gratifications of love. Such-like hypotheses, founded on false suggestions of travellers, have of late been most completely set aside by facts performed in the presence of many hundred spectators. Several English gentlemen, resident in the interior parts of India, have bred elephants. In a letter from one of these gentlemen to his friend, dated Tipperah, July 11, 1793, and now published, the whole process of courtship, consummation, and time of gestation, are minutely stated. From this letter the following are points that appear to be most unquestionably ascertained.

First: That tame elephants will procreate in their domestic state, and perform the act of love without shame, and without feeling any sense of delicacy beyond other brute animals.

Secondly: That the period of gestation is about twenty-one months.

Thirdly: That they copulate invariably in the same manner as a horse with a mare, but with much less vigor. And,

Fourthly, That the female will again receive the male in five or six months after delivery.

A copy of the above-mentioned letter having been transmitted to the late ingenious Sir William Jones, the relation produced from the sportive fancy of that celebrated genius the commencement of a mock-heroic poem, in which, though



very short, the marks of exuberant imagination strongly appeared. He intitles it Pelion and Ossa.

“ As in Jove’s war, by rebel giants pil’d,  
 “ Enormous Pelion tower’d on Ossa wild,  
 “ *Behadur* thus, the Pelion of our wood,  
 “ On sleek *Peaurec*, broad as Ossa, stood,” &c.

The gigantic elephant is a harmless animal in comparison to the lion, the leopard, wolves, and hyænas, and other beasts of prey with which this wild and rugged part of the country abounds ; and these even are much less dreaded than a nest of the most atrocious villains that ever disgraced and disturbed society, which these thickets conceal. The gang consists of seven or eight Dutch peasants, and a body of armed Hottentots which they retain in their service. They have no fixed habitation, but rove about from place to place in the woods. They live by the plunder taken from the neighbouring peasantry, and from unfortunate sufferers by shipwreck, which frequently happens on this wild coast. They are all outlaws ; and rewards have been offered by government for taking them dead or alive ; but the peasantry are so much afraid of them that none dare approach the place. This gang is supposed to be intimately connected with the emigrant Kaffers, and to have instigated them to continue their abode in the colony.

On the morning of the third of September, as we were preparing to proceed, we had a visit from the four chiefs, *Tatchoo*, *Comma*, *Yaloosa*, and *Hamboona*, having each with him a detachment of his vassals. They at once confessed their fears of re-

turning into their own country, lest the king should make war upon them ; and pressed us to intercede with him for them.

The route from Hassagai-bosch river had been taken out of the common track in order to speak with the Kaffer chiefs, as well as to have a view of that part of the coast where the Bosjesman and the Kareeka rivers discharged themselves into the sea. Over the grassy plains of Zuure Veldt there is little difficulty in finding a road, where the deep glens, through which the branches of rivers usually run, can be avoided ; and we had met with no obstacle till our arrival at the *Kowie*, which falls into the sea a little to the eastward of the Kareeka. In order to cross this river it was necessary to descend from the plain into a deep chasm about two miles in length ; not only down a steep precipice strewed over with fragments of rock, but in several places among thick clumps of brushwood, through which it was necessary to cut a road. A more difficult and dangerous place was certainly never attempted before by wheel-carriages. A single false step might have been attended with the total destruction both of waggons and cattle. In the space of two hours, however, we found ourselves in the bottom, where we passed along a narrow defile, hemmed in on either side, sometimes by woods of tall trees creeping up the steep faces of the mountains, and at others between two walls of naked rock. The difficulty of the descent had considerably exhausted the oxen ; but to rise the opposite hill, "*hic labor, hoc opus fuit.*" In vain the animals strove ; the Hottentot drivers shouted, and stamped, and flogged with their enormous whips, and the Dutchmen swore. The first waggon got about a hundred yards up the



S. Daniell del.

T. Hodgland sculp.

*Passing a Kloof*

Published 1847, 1856, by Messrs. Cadell & Davies, Strand, London

ascent, which was near a mile in length, but was unable to be moved a step higher. After an hour's trial, bruising and fatiguing the oxen to no purpose, they had recourse to the method that ought in the first instance to have been adopted. The reserved oxen were yoked before the others, and thus, by double teams, the waggons were at last drawn out of this horrible chasm ; not, however, without producing an instance of brutality and cruelty that will scarcely be supposed to exist in a country that has any pretensions to civilization. While the poor animals were struggling and tearing on their knees, and exerting their strength to the utmost to draw up the waggons, the owner of one of the teams, enraged at their want of success, drew out of its case a large crooked knife with a sharp point, and fixing on one of the oxen for the object on which he might give vent to his fury, cut him with several gashes across the ribs, in the flank, and in the fleshy part of the thigh, some of them from six to seven inches long, and so deep that when the animal walked they opened two inches in width. The size of the wounds is not mentioned loosely for the sake of exaggeration, but is given from actual measurement. The ribs were literally laid bare, and the blood ran down in streams ; yet in this condition the poor beast was obliged to draw in the waggon for the space of three hours, after having received such brutal treatment. By two of the gashes a large piece of flesh was very nearly taken out of the thick part of the thigh : and had it not been for the irritable state of mind into which the savage conduct of the fellow had thrown me, but more particularly lest it should seem to give a kind of countenance to his brutality, I should have asked him to have cut it entirely out, as it could

not materially have increased the pain to the beast ; not for the sake of proving the delicacy of an Abyssinian beef-steak, quivering with life, but to have observed the progress of the wound. In three or four days the gashes were skinned over, and appeared to give the animal little uneasiness, but the cicatrices would always remain ; and from these sort of scars on the bodies of many of the oxen, it is to be feared that cutting is a practice but too common among them, notwithstanding that most of the peasantry of the party seemed to be shocked at it. This was the second instance of the kind that I had occasion to witness in the course of this tour ; the other was perhaps the more cruel, as it was exercised on parts of the body more susceptible of pain, namely, the nose and the tongue. In the latter instance the animal bellowed most hideously, burst from the yoke, and plunging into the thickets, made his escape. Even in the neighbourhood of the Cape, where, from a more extended civilization, one would expect a greater degree of humanity, several atrocious acts of the kind are notorious. One of the inhabitants, better known from his wealth and his vulgarity than from any good quality he possesses, boasts that he can at any time start his team on a full gallop by whetting his knife only on the side of the waggon. In exhibiting this masterly experiment, the effect of a long and constant perseverance in brutality, to some of his friends, the waggon was overturned, and one of the company, unluckily not the proprietor, had his leg broken. Hot-tentot's Holland's kloof, a steep pass over the first range of mountains beyond the promontory of the Cape, has been the scene of many an instance of this sort of cruelty. I have heard a fellow boast that, after cutting and slashing one of

his oxen in this kloof, till an entire piece of a foot square did not remain in the whole hide, he stabbed him to the heart; and the same person is said, at another time, to have kindled a fire under the belly of an ox, because it could not draw the waggon up the same kloof.

If, indeed, after lashing these poor creatures with an enormous whip, the phlegm of a Dutch boor so far gets the better of his passion, on seeing that his beast is completely exhausted, that instead of drawing his knife, or kindling a fire under in its belly, he unyokes it, the chances are still ten to one the animal never rises more. The moment it is left alone a flock of the Egyptian vultures, and the still more voracious vulturine crows, are sure to tear it in pieces, making it undergo a most cruel and protracted death. I saw an instance of this kind that was really shocking to the feelings of humanity. On the only great and public road, leading from Cape Town towards Rondebosch, a road that at least a thousand people, of one description or another, pass in the course of the day, I observed an ox lying, in the midst of the way, and within two miles of the town, with part of the bowels torn out of the belly. The third day after this I passed the same way, and the ox was still alive with its head erect, and the bowels lying on the ground beside it; and thus it might have lain to linger away with pain and hunger, perhaps as many days more, had I not requested the chief officer of the police to send a person and dispatch it. The habitude which the people of this colony necessarily acquire in witnessing instances of cruelty on human as well as brute creatures, cannot fail to produce a tendency to hardness of heart, and to

stifle feelings of tenderness and benevolence. In fact the rigour of justice is rarely softened with the balm of mercy. All criminals, condemned to suffer the punishment of death, are afterwards hung in chains close to the public road, to be eaten by the crows and vultures. And, under the old government, when a slave had been guilty of murdering a colonist, implacable rancour, not satisfied with putting in practice every species of torture that malignant and diabolical ingenuity could invent, as long as any signs of life remained in the criminal, sentenced him to be torn limb from limb, and the several parts to be hung upon posts erected for the purpose in the most public parts of the high road. Many of such posts still remain, rather as deplorable memorials of what vindictive malice could invent, than as examples for preventing similar crimes.

As it was our intention to examine the mouth of the Great Fish river, the boundary of the colony to the eastward, it was thought advisable to send forward, in the mean time, two interpreters to the Kaffer king, carrying with them a small present in the name of the governor of the Cape, in order to obtain permission, as ambassadors from the said governor, to enter his territories, and to pay our respects to him. By this step we were not only more likely to secure his protection, but it would also shew him that the treaty made with them in the time of the governor Van Plettenberg, and renewed in the year 1793, was held sacred by the English government. The distance from the place where we now were to that of his residence was calculated to be a journey of five days; the eighth day therefore was fixed on for the interpreters to meet us in Kaffer-land

at a certain spot, well known to them and to our guide Rensberg, which was a journey of two days' distance from the Kaffer court.

On the fourth, therefore, the interpreters proceeded to the eastward, and we directed our route towards the mouth of the Great Fish river. The country over which we passed was perfectly flat; and in those parts where the Kaffers had not yet been, there was abundance of long grass. On approaching the sea-coast we observed a long train of fires, and, supposing them to have been made by a party of Kaffers stationed there, we turned a little out of the way towards the quarter from whence the smoke proceeded; but being to leeward of it, and the wind increasing, the waggons were in the midst of the fire before we were aware of being so close upon it; and the smoke was so thick and acrid, that it was impossible to see the length of the team. The oxen, being burnt in the feet, became unmanageable, and galloped off in great confusion, the dogs howled, and there was a general uproar. The smoke was suffocating; the flames blazed up on each side of the waggons, creating no small degree of alarm, as most of them contained a quantity of gunpowder. The oxen, however, either by sagacity, or by chance, had set their heads against the wind, and soon galloped through it. The flames ran in all directions among the long dry grass and heathy plants with incredible celerity. The face of the country for several miles was a sheet of fire, and the air was obscured with a cloud of smoke. We had yet a considerable extent of country to pass among black ashes, beyond which we presently reached the mouth of the Great Fish river, where we pitched our tents for the night.



Like all the African rivers that discharge themselves into the sea on the eastern coast, the mouth of the Great Fish river was nearly sanded up. The quantity, however, of water brought down by its stream, is sufficient to keep open a constant channel, which, at the lowest ebb, seemed to be deep enough in every part for the admission of large boats. Within the bar of sand it was from three to four hundred yards in width, and appeared to be very deep. The Portuguese, in their earliest voyages, discovered this river, and gave to it the name of Rio Infanté; and, persuaded that it might admit of being made a place of security for their shipping within the bar, they built a fort upon the left bank, and kept there a small establishment for a short time; but the subsequent discovery of Rio de la Goa, farther to the north-east, promising more solid advantages, induced them to abandon Rio Infanté. The banks descended with a fine smooth slope from the elevated plains on each side, and were covered with grass to the water's edge. The shore on the Kaffer side was beautifully skirted with thick coppice wood. Towards the evening a vast number of *Hippopotami*, or sea-cows as they are called by the Dutch, appeared with their heads above the surface; but keeping close to the opposite shore, they were too far to be easily hit with musquet balls. Several of the paths of these animals led from various parts of the river to a spring of fresh water about a mile distant. To this spring it seems they proceed in the night-time to drink; the water of the river, for a considerable distance from the mouth, being as salt as the sea. They also graze during the night in the reeds, and browse among the shubbery. Short-sighted man would be apt to arraign the Providence of Nature, and accuse her of

having committed a mistake, in placing this unwieldy misshapen animal in an element where it cannot possibly exist, and in which are not to be found the means of its sustenance, as its food does not consist of any thing which the rivers or waters afford.

The latitude of the mouth of the Great Fish river we found to be  $33^{\circ} 25'$  south, and longitude  $27^{\circ} 37'$  east, which makes the direct distance from the Cape to be six hundred miles.

The coast to the north-eastward, as far as could be seen from the high hillocks of sand, was wild and rocky, and without bay or indentation.

The well-clothed plains of Zuure Veldt, when inhabited by the Dutch, abounded with a variety of game, especially of the antelope tribe; but since the late incursions of the Kafers they have mostly been destroyed or chased into some other part of the country. The manner in which these people hunt is not only destructive to all kinds of game, but it so much frightens those animals that may chance to escape, as to cause them to abandon the place. A large party, consisting sometimes of several hundreds, men, women, and children, surround the plain on which they may have observed a herd of antelopes. As soon as they have formed the circle each proceeds towards the centre of it, narrowing the diameter, and closing upon each other, till the objects of their pursuit are completely fenced in. Antelopes, and particularly that species called the springbok, are like sheep, which always follow where one leads. As soon, there-

fore, as the hunters have approached within a certain distance of their game, an opening is made in the circle for the nearest animals to pass. All the rest follow in a line; and while by rushing together in their eagerness to pass they retard each other, the men, armed with spears, close in upon the line and make dreadful havock among them. By this kind of hunting, scarcely a springbok is now to be met with in Zuure Veldt. We found, however, in the neighbourhood of the close country bordering on the Great Fish river, the steenbok, the boschbok, the rietbok, and the orabie, and shot several *hartebeests*. This is one of the finest animals among the numerous family of the antelopes. The male is about seven feet and a half long and five feet high, and the female six and a half feet long and four feet high: the horns branch out of a single trunk that projects about two inches from the forehead. The mouth, and indeed the whole head, resembles that of the bovine tribe, from whence it has obtained in the *Systema Naturæ* the specific name of *bubalis*. The flesh is remarkably good, and resembles very nearly that of beef; and is carefully salted by the boors.

All the deep chasms or ravines with which the plains of this part of the country are intersected, and the banks of all the rivers, the sides of the knolls, and the range of hills that terminates this division to the northward, are covered with coppice wood, consisting generally of tall luxuriant shrubs, out of which however sprang up, sometimes singly, and frequently in clumps, large and beautiful forest trees: of these the *geelhout* was the most lofty, and being here disentangled from the pendulous lichen that cramped its growth in the

great forests of Van Staaden's river, was eminently distinguished for its beauty and elegance. An euphorbia, throwing out a number of naked arms from a straight trunk thirty or forty feet high, held also a distinguished place among the shrubbery. But one of the largest and most showy trees, at this time in the height of its bloom, was the Kaffer's bean-tree, the *erythrina corallodendrum*, so called from the color and resemblance of its large clusters of papilionaceous flowers to branches of red coral. Numbers of beautiful birds, such as small paroquets, touracos, woodpeckers, and many others, were fluttering about these trees for the sake of the sweet juices that are generated in the flowers. The coral-tree, like many other dazzling beauties, has its imperfection: the leaves are deciduous, and the blossoms, like those of the almond, decay before the young leaves have burst their buds. This is not the case with the Hottentot's bean: the clusters of scarlet flowers intermingled with the small and elegant dark-green foliage, gave it a remarkable pre-eminence among the tall trees of the kloofs, and the thick shrubbery on the sides of the swells. It is the African *lignum vitæ*, the *guajacum Afrum* of Linnæus, and the *schotia speciosa* of the *Hortus Kewensis*. The wood, however, is not sufficiently hard to be converted to the same purposes as *lignum vitæ*, nor is the tree large enough to make it of any particular use. The seeds of this leguminous plant are eaten by the Hottentots, and are sometimes also used by the colonists. Two genera of the palm tribe were frequently met with; one, the *zamia cycadis*, or Kaffer's bread-tree, growing on the plains; and the other, also a species of the same genus, skirting the springs and rivulets: the fruit of the latter was called wild

coffee, and substituted by the peasantry for this berry. The *strelitzia reginæ* also, now in full and beautiful bloom, grew every where in wide-spreading patches in the vicinity of the Great Fish river, but not one of the new species, discovered about twenty miles to the northward of Zwart Kop's river, could be found among them. The cerulean blue nectarium of the *reginæ* was uniformly faded, and its color seemed to decay by a short exposure to the weather, which did not appear to be the case with that of violet blue of the *teretifolia*. The seed of the *reginæ* is eaten both by the Kafers and Hottentots. A great variety of bulbous rooted plants were now springing out of the ground; and several species of those elegant families the *gladiolus*, *ixia*, *moræa*, and the *iris*, were in full bloom. That singular plant the *tamus elephantopus*, so called from a protuberance thrown from the root resembling the foot of an elephant, was met with only in this part of the country. Several species of *xeranthemum* and *gnaphalium* decorated the grassy plains with their brilliant colors of red, yellow, and silky white. The Dutch in the colony have given to these flowers the name of *seven years' duration*; but in Europe we extend the idea to *everlastings*.

In two days' travelling after leaving the mouth of the river, and skirting its banks, we came to the first ford. The moment we began to descend the heights towards the level of the river an extraordinary increase of temperature was felt; and in the course of an hour the thermometer, which stood at noon at 72°, had ascended to 102° in the shade, at which point it remained, at the ford of the river, for four hours.

When exposed to the direct rays of the sun the temperature was increased only four degrees. The wind was due north and remarkably strong; and the stream of air was so heated that it was scarcely possible to bear exposure to it for any length of time. At night it blew a hurricane, and obliged us to strike the tents. It may be remarked that the meridian altitude of the sun on that day was only fifty-one degrees, and that the general surface of the country, from which the wind blew, was covered with thick shrubbery; that on the preceding night, near the same place, the thermometer was down to 52°; and that on the following day, on the same spot, and with the same wind, but less strong, it ascended no higher than 71°. These circumstances render it very difficult to account in any satisfactory manner for so high a degree of temperature.

The following day we passed the Great Fish river, though not without some difficulty, the banks being high and steep, the stream strong, the bottom rocky, and the water deep. Some fine trees of the willow of Babylon, or a variety of that species, skirted the river at this place. The opposite side presented a very beautiful country, well wooded and watered, and plentifully covered with grass, among which was growing in great abundance a species of indigo, apparently the same as that described by Mr. Masson under the specific name of *candicans*.

The first night that we passed in the Kaffer country we pitched our tents near a small stream called *Kowsha*, which falls into the Great Fish river. On the following day we

passed the villages of *Malloo* and *Tooley*, the two chiefs and brothers we had seen in *Zuure Veldt*, delightfully situated on two eminences on the banks of the said streamlet. We also passed several villages situated in the valley through which the *Guengka* and its branches meander, and the next day we came to a river of very considerable magnitude called the *Keiskamma*. Though no part of the colony through which we had yet passed could be compared to that portion of the Kaffers' country which lay between the Great Fish river and the *Keiskamma*; and though the huts of which the villages were composed appeared to be perfect and in good order, yet no vestige of human industry was yet visible, nor any traces, except the buildings, that might lead to a supposition that the country was inhabited. In fact, during the two days we had travelled in Kafferland not a human being had made its appearance, except one of our interpreters with a Kaffer chief, whom we met at the close of the second day, and who had been dispatched by the king to invite and to conduct us to his place of residence.

That part of the *Keiskamma* where we had encamped was not fordable by waggons: but, had it even admitted a passage, the country on the opposite side was so very mountainous and woody, that, so far from making the attempt with wheel-carriages, it was scarcely passable by horses. It was therefore concluded to send forwards, on the following day, three or four Hottentots with a few presents, and to proceed from the place of our encampment on horseback. Though the distance from the *Keiskamma* to the residence of the king was not more than fifteen miles, it took us above four hours

in riding. The hills were mostly covered with thick under-wood, and on the plains were so many straggling trees of the thorny mimosa, just distant enough from each other for their spreading branches to meet and annoy passengers, that we were obliged to quit the direct road, which was no more than a foot-path, every moment. In the course of the journey we passed a number of villages containing each from ten to thirty huts, some of which were deserted, but others very populous. A great crowd of people of all descriptions flocked down on every side and followed us along the road. The weather being warm, the men had thrown aside their cloaks and were entirely naked. But the women reserved their cloaks of calf-skin and close leather caps, which, with the heat of the weather, and the exertions they made to gratify their curiosity by the sight of the strangers, seemed to incommode them not a little.

On arriving at his place of residence, we found that the king, not having expected us until the following day, had gone to his grazing village situated about ten or twelve miles to the northward, in consequence of some intelligence he had received of the wolves having committed great depredations among his young cattle on the preceding night. A messenger was therefore immediately dispatched after him; and in the mean time the king's mother, a well-looking woman, apparently about five-and-thirty, and his queen, a very pretty Kaffer girl, about fifteen, with their female attendants, to the number of fifty or sixty, formed a circle round us, and endeavoured to entertain us with their good-humored and lively conversation, which would have been the



more agreeable, had it been conveyed directly, instead of through the medium of a Hottentot interpreter. It was not long before Gaika, the king, made his appearance riding on an ox in full gallop, attended by five or six of his people. Our business commenced with little ceremony under the shade of a spreading mimosa. He requested that we might all be seated in a circle on the ground, not as any mark of civility on his part, but that it might the more distinctly be heard what each party had to say. The manner, however, in which he received us sufficiently marked the pleasure he derived from the visit: of the nature of this he was already aware, and entered immediately upon the subject, by expressing the satisfaction he felt in having an opportunity of explaining to us that none of the Kaffers who had passed the boundary established between the two nations were to be considered as his subjects: he said they were chiefs as well as himself, and entirely independent of him; but that his ancestors had always held the first rank in the country, and their supremacy had been acknowledged on all occasions by the colonists: that all those Kaffers and their chiefs, who had at any time been desirous to enter under the protection of his family, had been kindly received; and that those who chose rather to remain independent had been permitted to do so, without being considered in the light of enemies. He then informed us, that his father died, and left him, when very young, under the guardianship of Zambie, one of his first chiefs and own brother, who had acted as regent during his minority; but that having refused to resign to him his right on coming at years of discretion, his father's friends had shewed themselves in his favor, and

by their assistance he had obliged his uncle to fly: that this man had then joined *Khouta*, a powerful chief to the northward, and with their united forces had made war against him: that he had been victorious, and had taken *Zambie* prisoner: that he had never been at war with, nor to his knowledge had ever given the slightest offence to, the chiefs of the other side of the *Keiskamma*, but, on the contrary, had always endeavoured to conciliate their good-will: yet, that since his friends and subjects had supported him in the assumption and maintenance of his right, he had observed a disposition in those chiefs to withdraw themselves from his friendship: that the people of *Malloo* and *Tooley* particularly had committed great depredations on the cattle of his subjects; and that, when he sent to them a civil message to enquire if any had by chance strayed into their territories, to his great surprise he was informed they had quitted the country: that he had more than once, since that period, sent to them his proffers of friendship, but that they had detained, and, as he supposed, put to death his messengers: that still to avoid giving them any pretext for commencing hostilities, he had strictly forbid any of his subjects to molest their habitations, or even to pass the *Keiskamma*.

From the accounts we had received from the boors respecting these people, we were surprized to find so much good sense and prudence in a very young man and a Kaffer. We explained to him the nature of our visit, and submitted for his consideration the six following proposals:

1. That he should send a messenger of peace and friendship along with one of our interpreters to the Kaffer chiefs now residing in the colony :
2. That none of his subjects, on any pretence whatever, unless sent expressly by him, should pass the boundary established between the Colonists and Kaffers :
3. That none of his subjects should have any intercourse whatever with the Colonists ; and that, if any of the latter should be found in any part of his territories, he would send them under a strong guard to Graaff Reynet :
4. That, should any ship be stranded on the Kaffer coast, he would afford to the unfortunate passengers and crew hospitality and protection, and that he would conduct them in safety to Graaff Reynet :
5. That any blacks, Hottentots, or *bastards*, found in his territories, should be taken up and sent to Graaff Reynet.
6. And that he should keep up a friendly intercourse with the landrost, by sending annually, or oftener, if necessary, one of his captains, bearing a brass gorget with the arms of his Britannic Majesty engraven upon it.

To all these he readily agreed, except to the latter part of the third article, observing that he did not think it right for Kaffers to make prisoners of men so superior to themselves as Christians were ; but he promised to give intelligence to the landrost, whenever any should be met with in his territories.

It is a common idea, industriously kept up in the colony, that the Kaffers are a savage, treacherous, and cruel people; a character which appears to be as false as it is unmerited. Their moderation towards the colonists, and to all white people, has shewn itself on many occasions; and if the inhabitants of the bordering parts of the colony had any sense of shame or feelings of gratitude, instead of assisting to propagate, they would endeavour to suppress, such an idea. They know very well that in the height of a war into which this people was iniquitously driven, the lives of their wives and children that fell into the hands of the Kaffers were spared, whilst their women were murdered promiscuously by the colonists. Another instance of the different manner in which the Dutch and the Kaffers conducted themselves, under the same circumstances, will serve to shew which of the two nations most deserves the character thrown upon the latter.

In the month of February 1796, a vessel from India under Genoese colours was wrecked on the coast of the colony between the Bosjesman and Sunday rivers. The peasantry from various parts of the coast, from Langé-kloof to Kafferland, flocked down to the wreck, not for the humane purpose of giving assistance to the unfortunate sufferers, but to plunder them of every thing that could be got on shore; and it is a notorious fact, that the only Dutchman who was anxious to secure some property for the captain and officers, had his brains dashed out with an iron bolt by one of his neighbours.

In June 1797, the Hercules, an American ship, was stranded between the mouths of the Keiskamma and the Beeka. By