

of rivers and most water-courses. The banks of earth or sand, that the current of waters has there deposited, have always their highest points down the stream. The reason is too obvious to require an explanation. The formation of such banks in the beds of rivers supplies also another observation that is generally found to take place on the grand scale. They continue to elongate at both extremities : the upper increases by the diminution of the stream, which it has divided and thrown on each side, and the lower by the eddy caused from the meeting again of this divided current. Analogous to this effect, the point of land between the confluence of two rivers has been observed, by a very able geographer, always to travel downwards towards the sea ; and the point of land that divides a river, to travel upwards towards the source.

The clusters of mountains which form what is usually called the Sneeuwberg, are composed of sand-stone lying nearly in horizontal strata ; few of them were observed to have the quartzose summits that prevailed in the great ranges near the Cape, and in that of Zwarteberg : but their bases, like these, rest on blue schistus. The soil of the Sneeuwberg is generally clayey, frequently clodded together in indurated masses that appear of a greasy texture to the eye, and such masses contained a large portion of dark foliated mica. The plants that chiefly prevailed on the elevated parts were tufts of long grass, small heathy shrubs, a beautiful mesembryanthemum with large clusters of small, bright red flowers, and another that seemed to differ in nothing from the former, except in the color of the petals, which were white. Besides these were also a small diosma, and two species of the iris with tall spikes

of flowers, one blue, the other yellow. The lower parts of the plains were charmingly embroidered with almost the whole tribe of syngenesious plants. Of these were most abundant various species of *arctotis*, *othonna*, *cineraria*, *aster*, *calendula*, *athanasia*, *tanacetum*, *senecio*, and *gnaphalium*, all of them, at this time, in the height of their bloom.

But that which mostly discriminated the Sneuwberg from other parts of the country, was the total want of shrubbery. For miles together these elevated plains produced not a stick. We passed one kloof between two hills, in which stood about a dozen small mimosas; and nothing could more strongly have marked the scarcity of bushes than the prodigious quantity of nests that these contained, made by different species of small birds, chiefly sparrows, finches, and grossbeaks. They were scattered over the branches as thickly as those of crows in a rookery; and, what was still more remarkable, there stood in the same bush, with six or eight others, the nest of a hawk, containing two white eggs with small crimson specks. The bird, on the wing, appeared to be brown and white, and was named by the peasantry the white falcon. The nests of the small birds were mostly hedged round with thorns, and, like that of the magpie, had a cover built over them, and they had all narrow entrances through tubes or small holes.

It is a remarkable fact, that there are many persons in Sneuwberg who have never seen a tree. Even the commandant, who for many years had traversed the whole country to the northward in expeditions against the Bosjesmans, had

never seen a wood till he came with us, on the present journey, into the Kaffer country. Very few of the houses have a shrub, much less a tree of any sort, standing near them. The violent winds, more than the intensity of the cold, injure the growth of plants; for it is positively asserted that even oaks, which in Europe bear almost any degree of cold, will not grow on the Sneuwberg.

The fuel chiefly used by the inhabitants is the dung of animals, which accumulates in the places where their cattle are nightly pent up, to prevent their destruction by wolves and other beasts of prey, and their depredation by Bosjesmans. In the spring of the year this material is dug out in long squares, as turf is cut from the bog in the northern parts of England; which are spread out to dry, and then, like turf, are piled up in stacks for the winter's consumption. At all the farm-houses we passed they were busily employed in cutting or in stacking their fuel.

The causes that operate against the growth of trees and shrubs extend not, however, to the gramineous plants. Grain of all kinds is fully as productive here as in the lower districts; but the crops are generally a month, and sometimes two months later, when they are exposed to thunder-storms, which are exceedingly violent in these mountains, and almost always attended by heavy showers of hail. The finest crops have sometimes been completely destroyed by these storms in the course of half an hour. The return, however, of the season when these happen being tolerably constant, commencing generally with the new year, they can in most years prevent

the evil by an early seed-time. But this is a calamity of a different nature to which their crops are subject, against which there seems to be no preventive. This is occasioned by the multitudes of locusts with which they are occasionally infested. When these insects make their appearance, not a single field of corn remains unconsumed by them. In the present year, I imagine that the whole of the Sneuwberg will not produce a single bushel. In this and similar cases the inhabitants eat no bread; they bear the evil with great patience, and console themselves by saying, that they must make up for the loss in this article by killing a double quantity of mutton. But the greatest of all the drawbacks on the profits of the boors or grazing farmers is that which is occasioned by the depredations of the Bosjesmans. The trifling quantity of corn they cultivate is merely for home consumption; their cattle are reared for the market. With all their precaution, and the constant attendance of numerous Hottentots in their employ, they are sometimes unable to prevent a surprise from these savages. An inhabitant of Sneuwberg not only lives under the continual apprehension of losing his property, but is perpetually exposed to the danger of being put to death. If he has occasion to go to the distance of five hundred yards from his house, he is under the necessity of carrying a musquet. He can neither plow, nor sow, nor reap, without being under arms. If he would gather a few greens in the garden, he must take his gun in his hand. To endure such a life of constant dread and anxiety, a man must be accustomed to it from his infancy, and unacquainted with one that is better. Notwithstanding these inconveniencies, Sneuwberg has its temptations. It may be considered as the best nur-

sery for sheep in the whole colony. They are here much superior to those of the other districts both in size and condition. The tails of some of them weigh not less than eighteen or twenty pounds ; many are from twelve to sixteen pounds ; and the usual average is from eight to ten pounds. A farmer here has seldom fewer than from three to four thousand sheep. He derives no sort of benefit from the wool, which is short and harsh like hair. That this is owing to the breed, and not to the climate, has been shewn by the introduction of some Spanish sheep a few years ago, the wool of which is supposed to have improved by their continuance in Africa : specimens of it sent to the London market are said to have fetched an unusual high price. Were a few of Bakewell's rams introduced into the Sneuwberg, and crossed with the Spanish sheep already there, there can be little doubt that a breed of a very excellent quality would be procured. Nothing can possibly be worse than the thin, long-legged, broad-tailed sheep of Southern Africa, of which the annexed print is a correct portrait.

The hills of the Sneuwberg are not better calculated as pasturage for sheep than the plains are for horned cattle. The butter that is made here is supposed to be preferable to any other in the colony, and of course is much sought after in the Cape, where it is brought in considerable quantity, salted and put up in casks. They reckon that on a moderately good farm fifty cows will produce a hundred pounds of butter a-week, besides bringing up the calves, which are always suffered to run with their mothers. The draught oxen are large, stout, and generally in good condition ; and their

horses, though small, go through a great deal of hard service. In many parts they are subject to a peculiar disease which proves fatal to great numbers. This disease, however, is entirely local. At one farm there may not be a single instance of a horse having taken it, whilst at another, not more than six miles from it, they can scarcely keep a horse alive; which may be considered as a proof of its being occasioned by certain plants whose leaves, or flowers, or fruits, possess a deleterious quality. The Bosjesmans are well aware of the time when the horse-distemper rages, and are then particularly bold and troublesome, knowing that the farmers will not risk a pursuit after them on foot.

Such are the advantages and the calamities of which the people of Sneuwberg are alternately susceptible. Sensible of the former, they bear the latter with a degree of patience which borders on indifference, but meet them, however, with becoming fortitude. The boors of Sneuwberg appear to be in general a better description of men than those who inhabit the sea-coast. They are a peaceable, obliging, and orderly people; a brave and hardy race of men. The constant danger to which their persons and their property are exposed will less admit a life of idleness and inactivity; and it is not in the men alone that their dangerous situation has called forth the active powers, but the women also evidently possess more animation, and lead a less sedentary and listless life, than those of the lower divisions. Remarkable instances of female fortitude have here occasionally been shewn. The wife of one of our party having received intelligence, in the absence of her husband, that the Bosjesmans had carried off a troop

of their sheep, instantly mounted her horse, took a musquet in her hand, and, accompanied by a single Hottentot, engaged the plunderers for some time, put them to flight, and recovered every sheep.

With infinitely more drawbacks on the produce of their industry than any of their countrymen experience, the anarchy that prevailed in Graaff Reynet produced no sort of disturbance among the people of Sneuwberg. They lent a material assistance indeed to promote the measures of government. The only grievance of which I ever heard them complain, and which appears to be a real inconvenience to all who inhabit the remote parts of the colony, is a ridiculous and absurd law respecting marriage; and as it seems to have no foundation in reason, and little in policy, except indeed, like the marriage-acts in other countries, it be intended as a check to population, it ought to be repealed. By this law the parties are both obliged to be present at the Cape, in order to answer certain interrogatories, and pass the forms of office there, the chief intention of which seems to be that of preventing improper marriages from being contracted; as if the commissaries appointed to this office, at the distance of five or six hundred miles, should be better acquainted with the connections and other circumstances regarding the parties, than the landrost, the clergyman, and the members of the council residing upon the spot. The expence of the journey to the young couple is greater than they can frequently well afford. For decency's sake they must set out in two waggon, though in the course of a month's journey, across a desert country, it is said they generally make one serve the

purpose; the consequence of which is, that nine times out of ten the consummation of the marriage precedes the ceremony. This naturally produces another bad effect. The poor girl, after the familiarities of a long journey, lies entirely at the mercy of the man, who, having satisfied his curiosity or his passion, sometimes deserts her before their arrival at the altar; and it has sometimes happened that the lady has repented of her choice, in the course of the journey, and driven home again in her own waggon. Though in our own country a trip to Scotland be sometimes taken where obstacles at a nearer distance could not safely be surmounted, yet it would be considered as a very ridiculous, as well as vexatious, law, that should oblige the parties intending to marry to proceed from the Land's End to London to carry their purpose into execution. The inhabitants of Graaff Reynet must travel twice that distance in order to be married.

Almost all the people of the Snowy mountains, who were advanced in years, were subject to gravelly complaints, occasioned probably by the badness of the water, which at one season of the year is a muddy mixture of snow and earth, and at the other strongly impregnated with salt. And not to the human species alone are complaints of this nature here confined, but almost all animals, whether domesticated or in a state of nature, are found to have more or less of stones or masses of sand formed in the bladder or stomach. Large oval stones are very commonly found in the stomach of the springbok, and numbers of a smaller size in the eggs of ostriches, as I have already remarked.

On the twenty-fifth we proceeded about twenty miles to the northward, over a level country, consisting chiefly of meadow-ground, well watered by numerous springs and small rills, but destitute of every appearance of a bush or shrub. On every side was grazing a multitude of wild animals, as gnoos, and quachas, and hartebeests, and springboks; and in such large troops as in no other part of the country had yet been observed by us. The place of our encampment was called *Gordon's Fonteyn*, and near it stood the last Christian habitation, towards this quarter, in the colony. In this near situation to the Bosjesmans we found four families living together in one house, as a better security to each other against the attacks of these people.

On its being understood that beyond this place it would no longer be safe to proceed without an armed force, the inhabitants of the Sneeuwberg and its several divisions had been summoned to meet us here, in order that the commandant of the district might select as many as should be deemed sufficient to enable us with safety to prosecute our journey through the country. For this purpose he took sixteen farmers and eight armed Hottentots, which, with our own party and the other Hottentots employed as drivers and leaders, amounted all together to about fifty persons. For the use of these there were seven waggons, about a hundred oxen, and fifty horses, besides a flock of fifty or sixty sheep for our consumption on the journey. The people, whom the commandant made choice of, were all young men, who, reluctantly as at all times they take the service of the regular expeditions,

scemed delighted on the present occasion, which they considered in the light only of a party of pleasure.

On the evening of the twenty-sixth we collected our forces at the commencement of the *Sea-Cow* river, which was about six miles to the northward of the last habitation. This river is formed from the collected branches that fall to the northward from the different parts of Sneuwberg, and from the *Roode-berg*, or Red mountain, which is in fact an arm of the former, stretching to the northward. The Sea-Cow river, and indeed all the streams that behind the Snowy mountains run northerly, are remarkably distinguished from those whose currents take an opposite direction, by having their banks covered with tall reeds, the *arundo phragmites*, and being destitute of a shrub or tree; whereas the latter are always inclosed by mimosas, willows, and other tall arboreous plants. The northern rivers consist generally of a chain of deep stagnant pools connected by the beds of narrow channels that for the greater part of the year are entirely dry. Some of the *gats*, or holes, of the Sea-Cow river were five or six miles in length, and deep enough to float a line-of-battle ship. These holes, it seems, contained formerly vast numbers of the animal from whence the river has borrowed its name; but the encroachments of the colonists, and the ease and convenience of hunting them in these pools, have been the means of destroying them almost entirely. Now and then a hippopotamus is still taken in some of the holes of the river.

The following day our journey lay across plains that swarmed with game. In pursuing the gnoos and different

species of antelopes, we killed a prodigious large tyger-wolf, such as I have already described, two quachas, and a couple of snakes of the same species, one five, the other near six feet long; their color was wholly of a golden yellow; they were very fierce, and made several attempts to spring at the horses. The peasantry considered them as venomous, and gave them the Portuguese name of *cobra capella*.

Travelling twenty miles farther to the northward we came to that part of the river where Governor Van Plettenberg ended his journey towards this quarter; and halted near the place where, in commemoration of the event, he caused a stone or *baaken* to be erected, which he also intended should serve as a point in the line of demarcation between the colony and the country of the Bosjesmans. These people, however, had thrown down and broken in pieces the Governor's monument; but the place retained the name of the *Edel Heer's baaken*; and the large hole of the river, upon the bank of which it stood, bore the name of *Plettenberg's gat*.

The *baaken* of the governor was an object of less curiosity than one that attracted our attention on the opposite bank of the river. It consisted of a clump of about half a dozen large bushes, the first that had occurred for as many days; yet the rarity of frutescent plants alone might have escaped notice, had it not been for the vast number and large dimensions of birds' nests with which they appeared to be loaded; and which were judged to be at least sufficiently large for the vultures that were hovering in the air, or for the large blue cranes that sat near them by the river's side. On approach-

ing the bushes, a numerous flock of birds, about the size of the common sky-lark, issued from them. Our boers, though unacquainted with the nests, immediately recognised the bird to be the locust-eater, and rejoiced not a little at its appearance so near the colony. This species of thrush, it seems, is a migrating bird, and is only met with in places where the migrating locust frequents. It had not been seen in the colony for the space of thirteen years; that is to say, since the last time that the locusts infested the Sneeuwberg. The head, breast, and back, are of a pale cinereous color; the abdomen and rump white; wings and tail black, the latter short and a little forked; from the angle of the mouth a naked area of sulphureous yellow extends under the eye and a little beyond it; and two naked black striæ under the throat. The specific name of *gryllivorus* may with propriety be given to it, as its whole food seems to consist of the larvæ of this insect, at least when they are to be obtained. Nature has seldom inflicted a bane but she has accompanied it with an antidote; or, in other words, she has ordained that one half of the creation should destroy and devour the other, no doubt for wise and good purposes, though the limited faculties of man may not be able to discover, in many instances, the benevolence of the design. The numbers of the *gryllivori* are not less astonishing than those of the locusts. Their nests, which at a distance appeared to be of such great magnitude, were found on examination to consist of a number of cells, each of which was a separate nest with a tube that led into it through the side. Of such cells each clump contained from six to twenty; and one general roof of interwoven twigs covered the whole like that made by the magpie. Most of them had young

birds, generally five in each ; the eggs were of a bluish white with small, faint, reddish specks. These birds had here taken up a temporary abode on a spot which they were not likely, in a short space of time, to be under the necessity of quitting for want of food. Of the innumerable multitudes of the incomplete insect, or larva, of the locusts, which at this time infested this part of Africa, no adequate idea can possibly be conceived without having witnessed them. For the space of ten miles on each side of the Sca-Cow river, and eighty or ninety miles in length, an area of sixteen or eighteen hundred square miles, the whole surface of the ground might literally be said to be covered with them. The water of the river was scarcely visible on account of the dead carcasses that floated on the surface, which had perished in the attempt to devour the reeds that were growing in the water. They had completely destroyed every green herb and every blade of grass ; and had it not been for the insulated reeds, on which our cattle entirely subsisted while we skirted the banks of the river, our journey must have been discontinued, at least in the line that had been proposed, for want of food for our horses and cattle. The larvæ, as generally is the case in this class of insects, are much more voracious than the perfect animal ; nothing is rejected by them that belongs to the vegetable part of the creation. They swarmed in thousands into our tent to devour the crumbs of bread that fell on the ground, and seized with avidity on a mutton-bone. They are not, however, without a choice in their food. When they attack a field of corn just stricken into the ear, they first mount to the summit, and pick out every grain before they touch the leaves and the stem. In such a state it is lamentable to see the ruins of a fine field

of corn. The insect seems constantly to be in motion and to have some object in view. When on a march during the day it is utterly impossible to turn the direction of a troop, which is generally the same as that of the wind. The traces of their route over the country remain for many weeks after they have passed it, the surface appearing as if swept by a broom, or as if a harrow had been drawn over it. Towards the setting of the sun the march is discontinued, when the troop divides into separate companies, which surround the small shrubs, or tufts of grass, or ant-hills, and in such thick clusters that they appear like so many swarms of bees; and in this manner they rest till day-light. It is at such times only, when they are thus formed into groupes, that the farmers have any chance of destroying them, which they sometimes effect by driving among them a flock of two or three thousand sheep, by whose restlessness they are trampled to death.

Luckily the visits of this gregarious insect are but periodical, otherwise the whole country must inevitably be deserted, as wherever they appear they rest, as the prophet in Holy Writ hath said, "upon all thorns and upon all bushes." Even at this time the cattle in many parts of Sneuwberg are starving for want of food. The present year is the third of their continuance, and their increase has far exceeded that of a geometrical progression whose ratio is a million. For ten years preceding their present visit, the colony had been entirely free from them. Their last departure was rather singular. All the full-grown insects were driven into the sea by a tempestuous north-west wind, and were afterwards cast upon the beach, where it is said they formed a bank of three

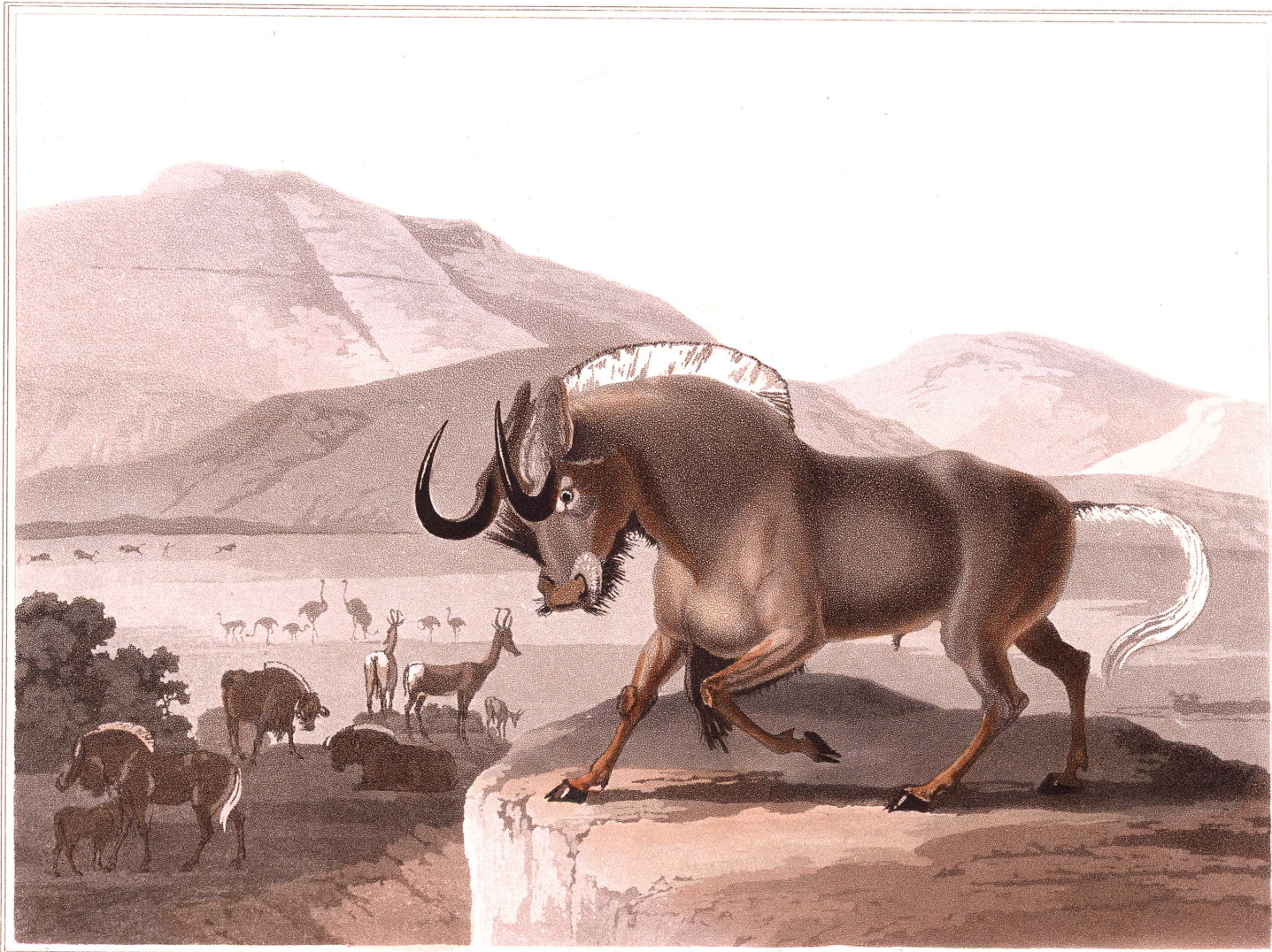
or four feet high, which extended from the mouth of the Bosjesmans' river to that of the Beeka, a distance of near fifty English miles ; and it is asserted, that when this mass became putrid, and the wind was at south-east, the stench was sensibly felt in several parts of Sneeuwberg. Fortunately they were driven thus to sea before they had deposited their eggs in the ground. The larvæ at the same time were emigrating to the northward. The column of these imperfect insects passed the houses of two of our party, who assured me that it continued moving forwards without any interruption, except by night, for more than a month. The gryllivori in myriads were close at their heels, and departed along with them, devouring them as they proceeded along, since which, till the present year, not one of this species of bird was to be found in the country.

Hunting excursions had daily been made on the plains, at a distance from the river, where game of all sorts were in the greatest abundance ; but the chief object of our pursuit was the *gnoo* or *wild beast*, as it is called by the Dutch. A party of five or six boors, with as many Hottentots, had attended me for two days, in order to procure one of these animals, but without success. On the third day, having mustered a company of ten boors, after a very long chace we contrived to hem in between two hills a troop consisting of about fifty, out of which, at one volley, we killed and wounded no less than half a dozen. This extraordinary animal is the swiftest beast that ranges the plains of Africa ; so swift indeed that a traveller has not always the opportunity of getting it into his possession. The various descriptions that have been given of

it, all differing from each other, should seem to have been taken from report rather than from nature, notwithstanding that one of them was for some time in the menagerie of the Prince of Orange at the Hague. Nature, though regular and systematic in all her works, often puzzles and perplexes human systems, of which this animal affords an instance. In the shape of its body it evidently partakes of the horse, the ox, the stag, and the antelope: the shoulders, body, thighs, and mane, are equine; the head completely bovine; the tail partly one and partly the other, exactly like that of the quacha; the legs, from the knee-joints downwards, and the feet, are slender and elegant like those of the stag, and it has the *subocular sinus*, which is common to most, though not to all, of the antelope tribe. Yet from this imperfect character it has been arranged, on the authority of Sparrman, in the *Systema Naturæ*, among the antelopes, to which, of the four, it has certainly the least affinity. The Linnæan system can be considered only as the alphabet of nature, the characters of which cannot be too clearly and distinctly marked; of course, external appearances only should enter into it. Perhaps the introduction of *intermediate genera* might without impropriety be adopted, to include such animals as are found to partake of more than one genus; which would also point out the nice links that unite the grand chain of creation. The *gnoo* is a second time mentioned in the *Systema Naturæ*, and with more propriety, as a variety of the *bos caffer*, or buffalo, under the name of *elegans et parvus Africanus bos*, &c.

Its head is about eighteen inches long; the upper part completely guarded by the rugged roots of the horns that spread

across the forehead, leaving only a narrow channel between them that wears out with age, as in the instance of the buffalo; the horns project forwards twelve inches, then turn in a short curve backwards ten inches; from the root to the point is only nine inches; down the middle of the face grows a ridge of black hair four inches in length; and from the under lip to the throat another ridge somewhat longer: the orbit of the eye is round, and surrounded by long white hairs that, like so many radii, diverge and form a kind of star: this radiated eye gives to the animal a fierce and a very uncommon look. The same sort of white vibrissæ are thinly dispersed over the lips: the neck is little more than a foot long: on the upper part is a mane extending beyond the shoulders, erect, and five inches in length; the hair like bristles, black in the middle and white on each side; this mane appears as if it had been cut and trimmed with nice attention; a ridge of black hair, from six inches to a foot in length, extends from the fore part of the chest under the fore legs to the beginning of the abdomen: the body is about three feet two inches long; the joints of the hip-bones project high, and form on the haunches a pair of hemispheres: the tail is two feet long, flat near the root, where the hair grows only out of the sides; this is white, bristly, and bushy: the whole length, from the point of the nose to the end of the tail, seven feet ten inches, and the height three feet six inches; the color is that of a mouse, with a few ferruginous straggling hairs on the sides: like the mare, it has only two teats; and all its habits and its motions are equine: though a small animal, it appears of a very considerable size when prancing over the plains. The *gnoo* might be considered as an emblem of unbounded freedom with the



S. Daniell del.

T. Moland sculp.

The Kudu

Published by Messrs. Cadell & Davies, Strand, London, June 4, 1838.

means of supporting it. Strength, swiftness, weapons of defence, a nice nose, and a quick sight, it eminently possesses. When they happen to be disturbed, the whole herd begin to draw together, and to butt each other with their horns, to bound and play their various gambols, after which they gallop off to a distance. Their motions are extremely free, varied, and always elegant. Though fierce and vicious as it certainly is in its wild state, yet it probably might not be very difficult of domestication. No successful attempts however have yet been made to tame it. The flesh is so like that of an ox, both in appearance and taste, that it is not to be distinguished from it.

The annexed print will convey a very accurate idea of this interesting and extraordinary animal, though I have no doubt some persons will be found no less incredulous than a certain general officer of high rank and great command, who rejected Mr. Daniell's very curious and valuable work, to which he had subscribed, because he was well assured in his own mind that the figure of the Gnoo, instead of being a portrait drawn from nature, was a creature entirely of the artist's imagination.

The heavy lumpish figure of the *Eland* formed a great contrast with the elegant shape of the gnoo. The former was not less numerous than the latter, and was taken with as great facility as the other was with difficulty. Of all the antelopes in Southern Africa, this species is by much the largest and the most awkward. The head, the thick neck, and the dewlap of the male, the body, legs, and hoofs, are completely bovine. The horns and tail only indicate its affinity to the antelope

tribe. Its habit, its gait, its size, and general appearance, are those of the ox. The *Gnoo* when wounded becomes furious and turns upon his pursuer; and he is said to be so impatient of pain and danger, that, in order to put a speedy end to them, he will frequently fly to a pit of water and drown himself. The *Eland* is altogether as mild and patient. On account of the ease with which this animal is taken, the utility of its flesh as food, and of its skin for harness and traces, few of them now remain within the limits of the colony; and in a few years the *Eland* will, in all probability, be a rare beast in the southern angle of Africa. The rude farmers who, like children, grasp only at the gratification of the moment, without any regard to futurity, are taking the best means in the world to hasten their extirpation. The bull, being much larger, fatter, and having a tougher hide, than the female, is always selected from the herd and hunted down by dogs, or killed with the musket; the consequence of which is, that numbers of herds are occasionally met with consisting only of females. They are subject also to a cutaneous disease that makes great havoc among the bovine tribe. It is called by the farmers the *brandt sickté*, or burning disease. It generally makes its appearance among the cattle towards the end of the rainy season. The hair first begins to fall off; the skin is covered with scurf and scabs; the joints become stiff, and the animal languishes, consumes, and dies. All the antelopes are more or less subject to this disorder, but chiefly so the *Gnoo*, the *Hartebeest*, and the *Eland*, these approaching nearest to the nature of the ox. Many of the plains were strewed with the skeletons of these and other animals that had fallen by the disease. The *Eland* of the Cape is the *Oreas* of the *Systema Na-*

turæ, and the Indian antelope of Pennant. The male of one which we shot measured ten feet and a half in length, and six feet and a half in height, but it was considered by the boors as being of an extraordinary size.

Upon the plains of the Sca-Cow river, we fell in with springboks in countless troops, with hartebeests, and bontèboks. The last antelope is marked in the same manner as the *scripta* of the *Systema Naturæ*; but the brown colour is of a darker tint, and the animal is considerably smaller than the bontèbok of Zwellendam. Quachas from fifty to a hundred in a troop were hourly seen. The smaller kinds of game were also very plentiful. Hares were continually among the horses' feet. Of this animal are four known species in or near the colony; the common hare, the Cape hare, the mountain hare, and the red-rumped hare. Of the last, the exterior part of the thighs and its long tail are of a deep chesnut color, and the ears are much shorter than in the others. Cape partridges and the Namaaqua grouse were equally plentiful. The latter is a gregarious bird, and we usually met with it in large coveys near all the springs of water. So little were they intimidated at the approach of our people, that they suffered themselves to be knocked down with whips and sticks. A new species of *korhaen* or bustard was also seen here; it appeared to be something like the *tetrix* or French field-duck, but was so very wild and scarce that not one of them could be procured. The Egyptian black *ibis* (*niger*,) and another species of *tantalus*, called by the farmers the *haddadas*, were obtained at this place. The latter uttered the most horrid screams that can be imagined. I believe it has not yet been described. The

beak is black; the ridge of the upper mandible, and the upper part of the toes, red; head, neck, and abdomen, cinereous blue; wing and tail feathers, deep violet blue; back feathers green, edged with dusky brown; shoulders and covering feathers of the wings of a metallic lustre and iridescent. The mountain goose, the Egyptian goose, and the mountain duck, were seen in considerable numbers. The last species answers to the description of the *cana*; but there seems to be a mistake in giving the white head to the male, which is found only in the female. Several other aquatic birds were met with about the Sea-Cow river, attracted thither, no doubt, by the vast quantities of fish that it contained. Of these a species of *cyprius* of a silvery color was the most common; and we caught also a species of *silurus*. The most remarkable of the birds were the *platalea leucorodia*, or white spoonbill; the great white pelican, and the flamingo. We saw also the common crane (*grus*), the Numidian crane (*virgo*), and the heron (*cinerea*); the bald ibis (*calvus*), the Cape curlew, and the common coot.

In the neighbourhood of such places as are most frequented by graminivorous animals, the carnivorous tribe are, as might naturally be expected, the most abundant. The peasantry were, however, much surprised that no more than one lion had been seen by the party among the reedy banks of the Sea-Cow river, a part of the country that has at all times been considered as particularly infested by this animal, and where they are also of a much larger size as well as of a fiercer temper than those of the lower parts of the colony. The people of Sneuwberg are great sufferers from their frequent visits, parti-

cularly in their horses, to the flesh of which, after that of a Hottentot, the lion seems to give a decided preference. The farmers here have a kind of dog that is not afraid to attack a lion; and it is said that instances have occurred wherein two of these together have been able to destroy him. This domestic animal is as large, but not so strongly made, as the Newfoundland dog, of a dark cinereous brown, with black and ferruginous stripes, a long straight tail, long pendulous ears, and spurious toes on the hind legs. Of tigers, as they are called in the colony, the peasantry distinguish two sorts, the tiger of the mountains and the tiger of the plains. Of the first, the upper part of the body and exterior part of the legs are of a fallow ground, with irregular black spots, some circular, some lunated, and others ocellated; in some parts distinct, in others running together in clusters; the sides, belly, and interior parts of the legs, a white ground with large black circular spots; upper part of the tail fulvous, with oblong black spots; under part barred across with alternate black and white bands; vibrissæ or strong bristles about the mouth, silvery white; a black line along the fore part of the shoulders to the chest; length from the nose to the end of the tail seven feet four inches; length of the tail two feet ten inches. The description answers very nearly to that of the leopard, of which I believe it to be a variety only. The tiger of the plains is evidently of the same species, the only difference being in the size, which is a little larger than that of the former, and in the color of the ground, which is a little lighter, both of which probably may arise from local circumstances. To another species of the feline tribe they give the name of leopard. It is not so long, but thicker, taller, and much stronger, than those

described above: the color is cinereous, with small black spots; the neck and temples covered with long crisp hair like that of the mane of the lion; tail two feet, flat, vertical, spotted half way from the root, and the other half annulated; a thick black line from the interior angle of the eye extends to the opening of the mouth. Of this species we procured a young one; it became instantly tame, and as playful as the domestic kitten. Most beasts of prey, if taken young, may almost instantly be rendered tame. The fierce lion, or the tiger, is sooner reconciled to a state of domestication than the timid antelope; and the cadaverous *crocuta*, the wild dog, has lately been domesticated in the Sneuwberg, where it is now considered as one of the best hunters after game, and as faithful and diligent as any of the common sort of domestic dogs, yet in a state of nature there cannot possibly be a more savage animal.

Birds as well as beasts of prey are attracted to all such places as abound with game. In the vicinity of the Sea-Cow river, vultures were more numerous than they had hitherto been seen in any part of the country. Of these we distinguished three sorts; the large black condor, the *percnopterus*, or Egyptian sacred vulture, and a third species, that seemed to differ from the second only in size, being no more than two feet long. The female also of this bird, as well as that of the *percnopterus*, is distinguished from the whitish-colored male by its plumage of dusky brown. This small species is called by the peasantry the white crow. The sacred scavenger of Egypt meets not here with that protection which was afforded it on the banks of the Nile, where, according to Herodotus,

to destroy it was a capital crime. The percnopterus is a gregarious bird, and is usually seen in flocks that rarely consist of fewer than fifty; and they are generally attended with two or three condors, as many of the small white kind above mentioned, and a whole flock of the vulturine crow. An animal is no sooner shot than these birds appear hovering at an immense height in the air, from whence they plunge down the moment that the carcase is left alone. It has often been a subject of astonishment to me, from whence they could so instantaneously collect themselves in a body to souse upon their prey; but at the same time it convinced me of the accuracy of Pliny's observation, where he says that vultures are accustomed to hover about a place two or three days before the death of a diseased animal, and that they have a presentiment where and at what time a carcase will be found.

Snakes of different sorts were seen and killed daily, all of them, according to the Hottentots' information, more or less venomous. These people are certainly not unacquainted with several interesting particulars as to the nature and habits of the animal, as well as the vegetable part of the creation. From one of our company I experienced a very extraordinary effect produced by the application of the oil of tobacco to the mouth of a snake. One of these reptiles, about two feet in length, and of a bluish color, had coiled itself five or six times round the body of a lizard. As I was endeavouring to set at liberty the captive animal, one of the Hottentots took out with the point of a stick, from the short stem of his wooden tobacco pipe, a small quantity of a thick black matter which he called tobacco oil. This he applied to the mouth

of the snake while darting out its tongue, as these creatures usually do when enraged. The effect of the application was almost as instantaneous as that of an electric shock. With a convulsed motion, which was momentary, the snake half untwisted itself, and never stirred more; and the muscles were so contracted that the whole animal felt hard and rigid as if it had been dried in the sun. The Hottentots consider the oil of tobacco among the most active of poisonous substances; though it is never applied to the points of their arrows, being probably of too volatile a nature to retain its deleterious quality for any length of time.

In the course of our long hunting excursions, several kraals, or dwelling-places of Bosjesmans, had been seen, but all of them deserted; but, from many circumstances, it was evident that most of them had recently been evacuated. Their inhabitants, no doubt, had fled at the appearance of so large a party of white men, which they could consider in no other light than that of an enemy. The commandant now announced in form to his party, that for some time all hunting excursions must be suspended, and that the usual order and obedience to command must be observed as in a regular expedition. He assured us that, unless this plan should be adopted, we might pass through the heart of the Bosjesmans' country without seeing a human creature, as they were few in number, and there was little doubt of their being already well apprised of our approach. In fact the principal object of our present journey was to ascertain the manner in which the boors conducted their expeditions against these miserable set of beings. I thought it, however, expedient to make a

previous stipulation with the commandant, that the utmost extent of hostilities against these miserable savages should be that of surrounding one of their kraals; that after this had been done we should act only on the defensive; and he was enjoined to communicate to his party the most serious charge not to fire a single shot unless it should be found absolutely necessary for their own personal security; for that the sole object of our journey was to bring about, if possible, a conversation with some of the chiefs of this people. On these conditions, a party consisting of six boors, and as many Hottentots, were ordered out after sun-set, to reconnoitre, with instructions to examine well if any fires should appear on any of the hills by night; to watch well, from some concealed spot, the plains by day; and to make a circuit from east to north, not exceeding thirty miles from the present encampment. If nothing should appear before the expiration of the third day, they were then to join us again at a certain spot upon the banks of the river, to the northward.

The following morning, at day-break, one of the scouting party, attended by a Hottentot, returned with intelligence that they had discovered from a high hill several fires at the bottom of a narrow defile about twenty miles to the eastward. In consequence of this information we remained still at our encampment the whole day, and at night proceeded towards the place where the fires had been seen. Previous to this movement the boors thought it right to prepare themselves for the enterprise by singing three or four hymns out of William Sluiter, and drinking each a *sopie* or glass of Cape brandy.

Travelling slowly along, and with as little noise as possible, till about one o'clock, we halted the waggons, and our religious boors, after taking the other hymn and a second glass of brandy, mounted horse and advanced towards the hill, where the rest of the reconnoitring party lay concealed, in order to observe the motions of the Bosjesmans. In a country where there is little variety of surface, where no beaten roads exist, and hill after hill occurs nearly alike, it would be no easy matter for a stranger to return upon the same track for a continuance of twenty or thirty miles which he had but once before gone over, and that in the night-time. A Dutch boor, though sufficiently expert at this sort of service, always depends more upon his Hottentot than himself. The hill, however, that the reconnoitring party had chosen was so very remarkable that it could not easily be mistaken. It stood quite alone on the middle of a plain; was visible for more than twenty miles from every point of the compass; presented the form of a truncated cone from whatsoever situation it was seen; and the third tier of sand-stone strata that capped its summit appeared as a mass of masonry, a fortification on an eminence that could not be less than a thousand feet high. As a distinction from those of inferior size we gave it the name of *Tower-berg*, because this mountain,

“ above the rest,
 “ In shape and gesture proudly eminent,
 “ Stood like a tower.”

About two o'clock in the morning we joined the scouting party at the base of the Tower-Mountain. They and their horses had been exposed the whole of the preceding day to

the scorching rays of the sun, not having dared to move from the spot, lest they should be discovered and cut off by the Bosjesmans; and they had but just returned from giving their horses a little water, near fifteen miles off, in the Sea-Cow river. They informed us that, during the day, vast numbers of the savages had appeared upon the plain digging up roots: that they came from different quarters, and in so many groupes, that they concluded there must be several hordes in the neighbourhood of this spot: that the nearest, which it was our intention to surprise, was within two or three miles.

Having halted here a couple of hours, in order to arrive at the mouth of the defile, in which the kraal was situated, just at the first dawn of day, the march again commenced, and we proceeded along in solemn silence. On entering the defile we perceived that at the opposite extremity a hill stretched across it, admitting a narrow pass on either side; our party therefore divided into three companies, in order to possess all the passes which led to the kraal; and as the day advanced they again closed together slowly towards the hill, at the foot of which the horde was supposed to lie. A Hóttentot, having ascended one of the heights, waved his hat as a signal of having discovered the huts, and then pointed to the spot where the horde was situated. We instantly set off on full gallop in the direction pointed out, and in a moment found ourselves in the middle of the kraal. Day was but just beginning to break; and by the faint light I could discover only a few straw-mats, bent each between two sticks, into a semi-circular form, and just elevated above the surface of the earth.

I perceived not a single human creature, but my ears were stunned with a horrid scream like the war-hoop of savages ; the shrieking of women and the cries of children were heard on every side. I rode up in company with the commandant and another farmer, both of whom fired upon the kraal. I immediately expressed to the former my very great surprise that he, of all others, should have been the first to break a condition which he had solemnly promised to observe, not to fire upon the poor wretches, and that I had accordingly expected from him a very different kind of conduct. " Good God !" he exclaimed, " have you not seen a shower of " arrows falling among us ?" I certainly had not seen either arrows or people to shoot them, but I had heard sufficient to pierce the hardest heart ; and told the commandant that if either he or any of his party should fire another shot, I should certainly order them up to Cape Town to answer for their proceedings. In justification of their conduct they pretended to search on the ground for the arrows, a search in which I encouraged them to continue, in order to give the poor wretches a little time to scramble away among the detached fragments of rocks and the shrubbery that was growing on the side of the heights. On their promises I soon found no sort of dependence could be placed, knowing that, like true sportsmen when game was sprung, they could not withhold their fire. Of this I had a woful proof on repairing to the opposite side of the hill, where the report of a musquet had reached us. On riding round the point, I perceived a Bosjesman lying dead upon the ground. It appeared, on inquiry into the circumstances of the case, that as one of our party, who could speak their language, was endeavouring to prevail

upon the savages to come down from the heights, this unfortunate Bosjesman had stolen close to him behind a rock, and was in the act of taking a deliberate aim with his drawn bow, when another of the colonists, perceiving his design, levelled his musquet and shot him dead. I had fondly hoped that the plan I had formed would happily have been accomplished without the shedding of human blood, and that the views of the expedition would have met with no interruption from an accident of such a nature. They soon perceived, however, that there was no intention to pursue them up the heights, which could easily have been effected; but that, on the contrary, their enemies had laid down their arms and turned out their horses to graze. Upon the strength of this evident cessation of hostilities, in a short space of time several little children came down upon the plain. We distributed among them some biscuits and other trifles, and then suffered them to return: presently afterwards the women and young girls, to the number of thirty or forty, came towards us, but not without symptoms of fear. After treating these in the same manner, they were sent back to desire their husbands would also come down in order to receive a present of tobacco. The men, however, seemed to have less confidence in the Christians than the women. They hovered a long time round the summit of the hill, doubting what step they should take; and the women had gone and returned, at least a dozen times, before they were able to prevail upon a single man to descend; and when at last he ventured to come down, he approached us in the utmost agitation, half-laughing, and half-crying, with trembling and trepidation, and conducting himself like a terrified child. A large piece of tobacco was im-

mediately given to him, and he was sent back to his companions to let them know that for each of them there was also a present of this acceptable article. Three others mustered resolution to come down to us, but no more chose to venture themselves among Christians. The manner indeed in which their village was wantonly attacked was certainly not calculated to inspire them with much confidence. On the contrary, it was so directly hostile as perfectly to justify their shooting a volley of arrows among us, which was afterwards found to be the case, as the commandant had asserted. The conclusion of the business, however, must have appeared to them very different from what, on former occasions, they had always experienced, when those who escaped from immediate death were incessantly pursued and fired upon, and their wives and children seized and carried away into slavery. In the present instance they were well treated, and left at full liberty to remain with us or to depart, as best suited their inclination. The women all staid behind; but three of the men accompanied us to the waggons, where they continued for several days. Our object was to have spoken with the captain or chief of the horde, but they assured us there was no such person; that every one was master of his own family, and acted entirely without control, being at liberty to remain with, or quit, any society he might incidentally have joined, according as it might suit his convenience.

Little could be obtained that was satisfactory from those who returned with us to the waggons. They insisted on their innocence, by asserting that their horde, so long as they had composed a part of it, had never committed depredations on

the colonists, but had always remained about the spot where we found them, subsisting by the chace, and upon the roots of the earth. Apparances certainly were much in their favor; no bones nor horns of animals were found near the horde; no skins but those of young elands, springboks, tigers, and jackals. One woman in the whole party had a single sheep's skin thrown over her shoulders, which was very industriously pointed out by the boors as a proof of their having been plundered by the people of this horde.

Before the men were sent away from the waggons a present was made to each of tobacco, beads, knives, flints, and steels; and they were desired to tell all their countrymen they might happen to see, that whenever they should desist from stealing the cattle of the colonists, and should come to any of the farm-houses without bow and arrows, or other weapons, and plead distress, as many or more sheep would be given to them than they could possibly expect to obtain by plunder. They were assured that our present journey into their country was for no other intention than to give them an opportunity of putting a final stop to all expeditions against them, if, by a change of their conduct, they were inclined to avail themselves of it. Having remained with us very contentedly for a few days, they returned to their kraal highly pleased with the treatment they had met with, and with the presents they had received.

The horde or kraal consisted of five-and-twenty huts, each made of a small grass-mat bent into a semicircle, and fastened down in this form between two sticks; open before, but

closed behind with a second mat. They were about three feet high and four feet wide, and the ground in the middle was dug out like the nest of an ostrich; a little grass strewed in this hollow served as their bed, in which they seemed to have lain coiled round in the manner of some quadrupeds. It was customary, as it seemed, for the elderly men to have two wives, one of them old and past child-bearing, and the other young. No degree of consanguinity prevented a matrimonial connection, except between brothers and sisters, parents and children. One of these miserable huts, or rather holes in the ground covered with matting, served for a whole family. The population of the horde was calculated to amount to about a hundred and fifty persons. They possessed no sort of animals except dogs, which, unlike those of the Kaffers, were remarkably fat. They appeared to be of a small cur-kind, with a long-pointed head not unlike that of the common jackal. The high condition in which these creatures were found seemed difficult to be accounted for. They have neither milk nor animal food to eat. The only viands we found in the huts were a few small bulbous roots, the eggs or the larvæ of white ants, and the dried larvæ of locusts. The boors say that the dogs of Bosjesmans exist almost wholly upon the last article; and if so, the great plenty of these creatures, in the present year, may account for their fatness.

The men were entirely naked, and most of the women pretty nearly in the same condition. Their only covering was a belt of springbok's skin, with the part that was intended to hang before cut into long threads like those before mentioned

to be worn by some of the Hottentot women ; but the filaments were so small and thin that they answered no sort of use as a covering ; nor indeed did the females, either old or young, seem to feel any sense of shame in appearing before us wholly naked. Whether, in the confusion and hurry, they had scrambled among the rocks before they had time to adjust this their only dress, or whether they were indifferent about concealing any particular part of their bodies, I do not pretend to say, but their aprons appeared to have been put on very carelessly. The fringed part of some of them was hanging behind ; of others, on the exterior side of the thigh ; and some had fallen down as low as the knee. Yet they were not entirely without notions of finery. A few had caps made of the skins of asses, in their shape not unlike helmets ; and bits of copper, or shells, or beads, were hanging in the neck, suspended from their little curling tufts of hair. All the men had the cartilage of the nose bored, through which they wore a piece of wood or a porcupine's quill.

Whether they are considered as to their persons, their turn of mind, or way of life, the Bosjesmans are certainly a most extraordinary race of people. In their persons they are extremely diminutive. The tallest of the men measured only four feet nine inches, and the tallest woman four feet four inches. About four feet six inches is said to be the middle size of the men, and four feet that of the women. One of these that had several children measured only three feet nine inches. Their color, their hair, and the general turn of their features, evidently denote a common origin with the Hotten-

tots, though the latter, in point of personal appearance, have the advantage by many degrees. The Bosjesmans, indeed, are amongst the ugliest of all human beings. The flat nose, high cheek-bones, prominent chin, and concave visage, partake much of the apeish character, which their keen eye, always in motion, tends not to diminish. The upper lid of this organ, as in that of the Chinese, is rounded into the lower on the side next the nose, and forms not an angle, as is the case in the eye of an European, but a circular sweep, so that the point of union between the upper and lower eyelid is not ascertainable. It is perhaps from this circumstance that they are known in the colony under the name of *Cineeze*, or Chinese Hottentots. Their bellies are uncommonly protuberant, and their backs hollow; but their limbs seem to be in general well turned and proportioned. Their activity is incredibly great. The klip-springing antelope can scarcely excel them in leaping from rock to rock; and they are said to be so swift, that, on rough ground, or up the sides of mountains, horsemen have no chance in keeping pace with them. And, as the means of increasing their speed in the chace, or when pursued by an enemy, the men had adopted a custom, which was sufficiently remarkable, of pushing the testicles to the upper part of the root of the penis, where they seemed to remain as firmly fixed and as conveniently placed as if nature had stationed them there. It is highly probable that such an operation, in order to be effectual, must be performed at an early period of life. Some were said to have one up and one down, which may have given rise to the Hottentots being characterized in the *Systema Naturæ* as *Monorchides*.

Curious as this custom appeared to be, it was less a subject of remark than an extraordinary character that distinguished the other sex from the women of most nations. The well-known story of the Hottentot women possessing an unusual appendage to those parts that are seldom exposed to view; which belonged not to the sex in general, ridiculous as it may appear, is perfectly true with regard to the Bosjesmans. The horde we met with possessed it in every subject, whether young or old; and, without the least offence to modesty, there was no difficulty in satisfying our curiosity in this point. It appeared on examination to be an elongation, or more correctly speaking a protrusion, of the nymphæ or interior labia, which were more or less extended according to the age or habit of the person. That there is in this race of human beings a predisposition to this anomalous formation of the parts was obvious from its evident appearance in infants, and from its length being in general proportioned to the age of the female. The longest that was measured somewhat exceeded five inches, and this was in a subject of a middle age. Many were said to have them much longer. These protruded nymphæ, collapsed and pendent, leave the spectator in doubt to what sex they belong. Their color is that of livid blue, inclining to a reddish tint, not unlike the excrescence on the beak of a turkey, which indeed may serve to convey a tolerably good idea of the whole appearance both as to color, shape, and size. Those parts, which in European subjects are corrugated or plaited, lose this character when brought out in the Hottentot, and become nearly smooth; and though in the latter state they may possess none of those stimulating qualities for which some anatomists have sup-

posed Nature to have formed them, they may at least have the advantage of serving as a protection against violence from the other sex.

Nature, in the whole formation of this pigmy race, seems to have made it disgusting ; though the ingenuity of a French traveller has exculpated Nature on this point, in assigning the above-mentioned conformation as the effect of art. The testimony of the people themselves, who have no other idea than that of the whole human race being so formed, is alone sufficient to contradict such a supposition ; but many other proofs might be adduced to shew that the assertion is without the least foundation in truth. Numbers of Bosjesmans' women are now in the colony, who, being taken from their mothers when infants, have been brought up by the farmers, and who, from the day of their captivity, have never had any intercourse whatsoever with their countrymen, nor know, except from report, to what tribe or nation they belong ; yet all these have the same conformation of the parts naturally, and without any forced means. The story of their appending pieces of stone in order to draw down the interior labia, however absurd, is still prevalent in Bruyntjes Hoogté, where the author above alluded to received it. It was here that he spent a great part of his time with his Narina ; for at that period a tribe of Ghonaquas resided on a plain bordering on the Great-Fish river. The visit of this gentleman is still very well remembered there, though he takes care to suppress any mention of the country being inhabited by colonists, which, he supposed, would have diminished the interest of his narrative. It may be observed that the people of Bruynt-

jes Hoogté know as little of the Bosjesmans as these do of the English, the communication being pretty much the same. This Frenchman says it was from a Hottentot woman he made his drawing. If the print given in his book has been copied from that drawing, it must have been a study rather from his own imagination than from nature, for it bears not the most distant resemblance to the truth.

The protruded nymphæ are common to all Hottentot women, but they are shorter in those who live among the colonists, seldom exceeding three inches, and in many subjects appearing only as a projecting orifice or elliptical tube of an inch, or less, in length. In the *bastard* they cease to appear; which is a proof that a connection with different nations counteracts the predisposition to such a conformation.

It would seem, however, that it is not to the southern angle of Africa alone where the same predisposition for the elongation of the nymphæ is manifested. The physical causes that tend to the production of so extraordinary an effect appear to have operated in those parts of Egypt which are situated under the same and opposite parallels of latitude as the Hottentot country. It seems, however, to have been considered here as a disease, whose appearance was so deformed and disgusting, that those who were troubled with it were glad to undergo the violent pain of the actual cautery in order to get rid of it.

The great curvature of the spine inwards, and the remarkably extended posteriors, are characteristic of the whole Hottentot race; but in some of the small Bosjesmans they are

carried to such an extravagant degree as to excite laughter. If the letter S be considered as one expression of the line of beauty to which degrees of approximation are admissible, some of the women of this nation are entitled to the first rank in point of form. A section of the body, from the breast to the knee, forms really the shape of the above letter. The projection of the posterior part, in one subject, measured five inches and a half from the line touching the spine. This protuberance consisted entirely of fat, and, when the woman walked, it exhibited the most ridiculous appearance imaginable, every step being accompanied with a quivering and tremulous motion, as if two masses of jelly had been attached behind her.

When we reflect on the Hottentot nation, which, with all its tribes, occupies, as it were, a point only on a great continent; when we consider them as a people differing in so extraordinary a manner from every other race of men not only upon it, but upon the face of the whole globe, the natural formation of their persons, their color, language, manners, and way of life, being peculiar to themselves, conjecture is at a loss to suggest from whence they could have derived their origin. Except in the flatness of the nose, which is remarkable in the Bosjesman, but not particularly so in the common Hottentot, and the short brushy hair, they approach nearest in color, and in the construction of the features, to the Chinese, how singular soever it may seem to trace a likeness between the most civilized and ingenious, and one of the lowest of the human species. If it be admitted, with several well-informed missionaries, that the Egyptians and the



S. Daniell del.

T. Meadmont sculp.

A Bojisman in Armour

Published Feb. 14, 1806, by Messrs Cadell & Davies, Strand, London

Chinese were originally the same people, and the arguments are certainly strong in favor of the supposition, notwithstanding the many learned and ingenious objections stated by the philosopher of Berlin, there would be no difficulty in conceiving some of the numerous tribes of people who inhabited the vicinity of the Nile to have found their way to the utmost limit of the same continent. Indeed, from all the ancient accounts that have been preserved of the Egyptians and Ethiopians; it would appear that the real Hottentots, or Bosjesmans, were the people intended to be described. In their general physical character they bear a strong resemblance to the Pigmies and Troglodytes, two tribes who are said to have dwelt in the neighbourhood of the Nile. The character drawn by Diodorus Siculus of some of the Ethiopian nations, agrees exactly with that of the Bosjesmans. A gross brutality is stated by him to have prevailed in all their manners and customs; their voices were shrill, dissonant, and scarcely human; their language almost inarticulate; and they wore no sort of clothing. The Ethiopian soldiers, when called upon to defend themselves, or to face an enemy, stuck their poisoned arrows within a fillet bound round the head, which, projecting like so many rays, formed a kind of crown. The Bosjesmans do exactly the same thing; and they place them in this manner for the double purpose of expeditious shooting, and of striking terror into the minds of their enemies. The annexed print is an accurate likeness of a Bosjesman Hottentot, but at the same time may be considered as the representation of one whose features are more favored than they are usually met with.

The whole of the Hottentot country, comprehending all the different tribes of this people, is limited to the

thirty-second degree of latitude on the east coast, and the twenty-fifth on the west. Beyond the line, connecting these two points, the various Kaffer tribes occupy a broad belt quite across the continent; and no two people can differ more than the Bosjesmans and the Kaffers, having no one agreement either in their physical or their moral character.

The Bosjesman, though in every respect a Hottentot, yet in his turn of mind differs very widely from those of this nation who live in the colony. In his disposition he is lively and chearful; in his person active. His talents are far above mediocrity; and, averse to idleness, he is seldom without employment. Confined generally to their hovels by day, for fear of being surprised and taken by the boors, they sometimes dance on moon-light nights from the setting to the rising of the sun. They are said to be particularly joyful at the approach of the first thunder-storm after the winter, which they consider as so infallible a token of the summer having commenced, that they tear in pieces their skin-coverings, throw them in the air, and dance for several successive nights. The small circular trodden places around their huts indicated their fondness for this amusement. His chearfulness is the more extraordinary, as the morsel he procures to support existence is earned with danger and fatigue. He neither cultivates the ground nor breeds cattle; and his country yields few natural productions that serve for food. The bulbs of the iris, and a few gramineous roots of a bitter and pungent taste, are all that the vegetable kingdom affords him. By the search of these the whole surface of the plains near the horde was scratched. Another article of his food is the larvæ of ants. Whether the soil of the grassy plains, near the Sea-Cow river, be too rich for the

support of these insects, or whether they are kept under by the Bosjesmans, I will not take upon me to say ; but an ant-hill, so very common in most parts of Africa, is here a rare object. Holes now and then occurred, over which the hills of the insect, demolished by this people, once had stood ; but they were not very numerous. A third article, the larvæ of locusts, he can occasionally obtain without much trouble ; but the procuring of the other species of food must cost him not a little labour and pains.

The marks of their industry appeared in every part of the country, in their different plans for taking game : one was by making deep holes in the ground and covering them over with sticks and earth ; another by piling stones on each other in rows, with openings or interruptions in such places as it was intended the game should pass, and where the hunter could conveniently lie in ambush to strike the animals with his poisoned spears, or shoot them with his arrows. In this manner were lines continued across the plains and mouths of defiles for several miles. Sometimes, instead of stones, were placed rows of sticks, with black ostrich feathers tied to the ends, as being more effectual in turning game towards the spot where they wished them to pass.

When all these means of subsistence fail them, and they are certainly very precarious, they are driven to the necessity of hazarding a toilsome and dangerous expedition of plunder into the colony. Such a mode of life naturally leads to habits of cruelty. The disposition of the Hottentot race seems to be mild and manageable in the highest degree, and by gentle usage to be

capable of being moulded into any shape ; but the treatment of the boors towards them has been so very flagitious, that even their cruelty admits of palliation. Though in the eye of political justice it may be considered as a crime for a starving family, driven by imperious want to the necessity of taking the property of another who has perhaps more than he can possibly use, yet in the law of nature such an offence must be deemed venial : but the Bosjesmans for their conduct have not only the plea of nature and humanity, but also that of retribution. They were driven out of their own country, their children seized and carried into slavery, by the people on whom they now commit their depredations, and on whom they naturally take every occasion of exercising their revenge. But their barbarity is extended to every living creature that appertains to the boors. Should they seize a Hottentot guarding his master's castle, not contented with putting him to immediate death, they torture him by every means of cruelty that their invention can frame, as drawing out his bowels, tearing off his nails, scalping, and committing other acts of violence equally savage. Even the poor animals they steal are treated in the most barbarous and unfeeling manner : driven up the steep sides of mountains, they remain there without any kind of food or water till they are either killed for use, or drop for want of the means of supporting nature.

The condition to which this people has been reduced by their persecutors has entirely subdued that timid and pusillanimous mind which characterizes the Hottentot. When a horde is surrounded by the boors, and little chance appears of effecting an escape, they usually determine to fight it out most furiously

so long as a man shall be left alive. It frequently happens on such occasions that a party will volunteer the *forlorn hope*, by throwing themselves in the midst of the colonists in order to create confusion, and to give to their countrymen, concealed among the rocks or in the long grass, at the expence of their own lives, an opportunity of exercising more effectually their mortal weapons upon their enemies, and at the same time to facilitate the escape of their wives and children.

Their plundering expeditions are not by any means conducted without system. If, in carrying off their booty, they should chance to be pursued, they always divide; one party to drive away the cattle, while the other continues to harass their pursuers; and, when the peasantry prove too many for them, they stab and maim with poisoned weapons the whole herd. On all such plundering expeditions, they carry, in addition to their bows and arrows, lances that resemble the Kaffers' hassagai, but of a much smaller size, and always steeped in poison. Their bows are remarkably small; and, in the hands of any one but of a Bosjesman, would be entirely useless. From their earliest infancy they accustom themselves to the use of the bow. All the little boys who came to us at the kraal carried their bows and small quivers of arrows. A complete quiver contains about seventy or eighty, made like those of the Hottentot that have already been noticed; and, in addition to these, a few small brushes to lay on the poison; pieces of iron, red ochre, leg-bones of ostriches cut in lengths and rounded, and two little sticks of hard wood to produce fire: this is done by placing one horizontally on a piece of withered grass, and whirling the other vertically be-

tween the hands, with the point acting in a hollow place made in the surface of the former. In a few seconds of time the velocity and friction set the grass in a blaze.

Miserable as the life of a Bosjesman appears to be, it is perhaps in reality not more so than that of most savage tribes. He has no invidious object of comparison to place against his condition. "He feels his little lot the lot of all." Universal equality prevails in his horde. When one feasts they all partake, and when one hungers they all equally suffer. "They take no thought for the morrow." They have no sort of management nor economy with regard to provisions. With them it is either a feast or a famine. When successful in bringing to the horde a herd of cattle, they slay them in such numbers that the kraal soon becomes a mass of putrefaction, and the whole air is tainted with the smell. The number of vultures that are attracted by the remains of the dead carcasses are frequently the means of discovering to the colonists the kraals of Bosjesmans. Like these voracious birds, they are equally filthy and gluttonous. The three little men who accompanied us to our waggons had a sheep given to them about five in the evening, which was entirely consumed by them before the noon of the following day. They continued, however, to eat all night, without sleep and without intermission, till they had finished the whole animal. After this their lank bellies were distended to such a degree that they looked less like human creatures than before. Accustomed to food of a strong and pungent quality, simple water seemed to have no relish for them; they prepared a beverage that was excessively disgusting; having cut the throat of the sheep, they opened the

belly to let the blood run among the entrails ; then cutting these with a knife, and pouring in a quantity of water, they stirred up all together, and drank the nauseous mixture with an appetite that sufficiently shewed it to be suited to their taste. Most of the Hottentots kill their sheep by ripping open the belly and taking out the bowels, without cutting the throat, being persuaded that the flesh is much better by suffering the blood to coagulate within the body rather than to let it escape.

It did not appear from those we saw, that they were in the habit of applying unctuous substances to the body any farther than by wiping their greasy hands on the skin ; but the hair and faces of many of them had been rubbed with red ochre after the manner of the Kaffers, and a few had the face painted black, as if they wore a mask : this they usually do with the kernel of a small nut burned in the fire. The oil expressed from this nut is considered by them as a preventive against stiffness in the joints, and by the colonists as an excellent topical application for rheumatic complaints. The oil indeed bears a very strong resemblance to that called cajapoota, which has obtained the reputation of being a specific in this disorder. The Hottentot name of the plant is *kai* ; and the nut resembles the seed of the tea-shrub.

The constitution of the body in this pigmy race is much stronger, and their lives are of longer duration, than those of the Hottentots. Many instances of longevity are found among those who live in the families of the peasantry. In every sickness, of what kind soever, it is usual with them to take

off the extreme joints of the fingers, beginning with the little finger of the left hand as the least useful. This operation is performed under the idea that the disease will run out with the effusion of blood.

It is customary with them to inter their dead, and, like the Hottentots, to cover the graves with piles of stones. Some of these were so large, and were heaped on the midst of grassy plains, where not a stone was naturally to be found, that the amassing of them together must have occasioned a very considerable degree of labor.

The temper of the mind of a Bosjesman is widely different from that of the Hottentot who lives among the colonists. The latter, for a life of indolence, would willingly barter all that he possessed in the world ; to the former a state of inactivity would be intolerable. The powers of the mind in the one, are languid, and difficultly brought into action ; in the other, they are vigorous, and capable of great exertion. Their mechanical skill appeared in their arrows, which were finished with great neatness ; in the baskets placed in the rivers for the purpose of taking fish, ingeniously contrived, and well executed ; in the mats of grass, of which their huts were composed ; and in their imitations of different animals, designed on the smooth faces of the rocks. Those we met with being questioned with respect to these drawings, informed us that they were the work of a numerous tribe of their countrymen that lived a little to the northward, on the other side of a very large river at no great distance from the spot where we then

The nature of their language is the same as that of the Hottentots, though they are not able to understand each other. In the latter, the action of the tongue against the roof of the mouth, or the teeth, is seldom applied to more than one syllable in each word. In the language of the Bosjesman, there is scarcely a syllable enunciated without it; and this action is performed by them much more forcibly than by the Hottentots. Notwithstanding the difficulty for an European to acquire such a language, several of the Dutch boors of Sneuwberg speak it as fluently as the natives, from their having been entrusted, in their infancy, to the care of Bosjesmans' nurses.

The abominable expeditions which are carried on, under the authority of government, against this miserable race of mortals, ought not, on any consideration, to be tolerated. They answer no other purpose than that of irritating, and rendering more savage, the unhappy creatures who are the objects of them. The boors are chiefly induced to undertake them with the view of securing for their service the women and the children. It is a well-authenticated fact, that in proportion as they are hunted down by the boors, their ferocity towards the Christians has increased.

Forty years ago, as appears from living testimony, the Bosjesmans frequented the colony boldly and openly, begged, and stole, and were troublesome, just as the Kaffers now are; but they never attempted the life of any one. They proceeded not to this extremity until the government had unwisely and unjustly suffered the peasantry to exercise an un-

limited power over the lives of those who were taken prisoners. It failed, at the same time, to fix any bounds to the extent of the expeditions made against them, which, if at all allowed, certainly ought not to go beyond the limits of the colony. Nothing could be more unwarrantable than the attack which was made by our party upon the Bosjesman's kraal; and the only palliation it can admit of is the consideration of the laudable purpose it was meant to answer. The poor wretches were peaceably sleeping under their humble covering of mats, in the midst of their own country, far removed from the boundary of the colony, and it was extremely doubtful if they had ever been guilty of any acts of aggression against the boors. Their inroads would in fact be more effectually checked by charging them boldly, when caught within the colony, than by pursuing and hunting them in their own country. This, however, would not answer the object of the farmer, which is that of procuring children. To attend his numerous flocks and herds, he must have many people; and Hottentots are now so scarce that a sufficient number is not to be had. These, too, must be paid wages; but the poor Bosjesman has nothing except his sheep-skin and his meat. The fatigues, however, that the peasantry undergo in their long expeditions against these poor creatures are by no means of a trifling nature. They are frequently, for many days together, without a drop of water, enduring hunger, want of rest, and the vicissitudes of heat and cold. Many of them suffer from the wounds of poisoned arrows, which, if not mortal, frequently, by injudicious treatment, bring on lingering complaints of which they never recover. Some are prudent enough to carry with them cupping vessels

to draw out the poison, and sweet oil to wash the wounds, and vinegar to take inwardly ; but the greater part rely entirely on the application of the snake-stone, which has been noticed before to be only a piece of burned bone. The Hot-tentots generally wash the poisoned wounds they may receive with a mixture of urine and gunpowder ; and it is observed that these people seldom die except when wounded very severely.

On the evening of the thirtieth we rejoined our waggons, which had proceeded along the bank of the Sea-Cow river to that part where it passed through an opening in a cluster of hills, which opening was called the *first poort*. Here the late Colonel Gordon, who had proceeded beyond his companion the Governor, met with an accident which also put an end to his journey : his horse fell with him into one of the deep holes made by the Bosjesmans for taking sea-cows, and was staked. From the northern side of the Snowy mountains to the commencement of these hills, there was scarcely an inequality in the surface of the country. Here it began to be considerably broken ; and blue mountains appeared in the horizon to the northward. The following day we reached the *second poort* or pass, through which also the Sea-Cow river bent its course. The hills now began to increase very considerably in height, and their summits were capped with a stratum of sand-stone. They were also lengthened out into a continued chain, so as to oppose to our researches an insuperable barrier, at least to the passage of our waggons. The only chance of proceeding was that of following the course of the river, and though none of the party had ever