

been beyond the entrance of the second poort, yet they willingly accepted the proposal of making a day's journey within it on horseback, following the course of the river as far as it might be practicable or adviseable to proceed. The kloof we found to be in general so very narrow, and the river serpentized so much from side to side, passing close under the steep rocky points, that we were obliged to cross the stream at least a hundred times; and we had almost abandoned the hope of making much progress, when we fell into a large beaten track of the hippopotami or sea-cows. This carried us, without further interruption, through reeds and thick shrubbery, and shallow parts of the river, to the very end of the kloof, which we computed to be about fifteen miles from the entrance, where we had left our waggons. Here also we found the termination of the Sea-Cow river; its tranquil waters formed a confluence with another river of prodigious size, whose rapid stream rolled over the rocky bed a vast volume of muddy water. The current of this river flowed to the north-westward. Though there had not been a cloud in the sky since we left Graaff Reynet, it was obvious that very heavy rain must have fallen in some part of the country through which this river took its course. From the wreck of trees, and plants, and grass, yet green, which were thrown up near the banks of the river, it appeared that the water had subsided twelve or thirteen feet. The stream was now, at this place, above four hundred yards in width, and apparently very deep. The boors had no name for it but that of the *Groot*, or Great, river; but, from the magnitude and the direction of the current, there could be no doubt of its being the same which empties itself on the western coast between

the two tribes of people called the Great and the Little Namaquas, and to which Colonel Gordon there gave the name of the Orange river. In point of size, and the bulk of water which it contained, all the rivers of the colony, taken collectively, would not be equal to it.

The banks were finely fringed with the Karroo mimosa, the willow of Babylon, and the *rhus viminalis*. Vast numbers of the hippopotamus were snorting and blowing in every part of the river, endeavouring as it were to emulate the torrent that roared among the rocks. Under the shade of the trees, and on the reedy banks near the mouth of the Sea-Cow river, we discovered the beds where these enormous animals had been playing and rolling, on venturing forth from their watery abodes. The description that the author of the Book of Job has put into the mouth of the Almighty, of the behemoth, is poetic, grand, and figurative; and it is more than probable that the animal he alluded to was the hippopotamus:—

“ Behold now behemoth which I made with thee; he eateth
 “ grass as an ox: His bones are as strong pieces of brass;
 “ his bones are like bars of iron: He lieth under the shady
 “ trees, in the covert of the reed and fens. The shady trees
 “ cover him with their shadow: the willows of the brook
 “ compass him about. Behold he drinketh up a river; he
 “ trusteth that he can draw up Jordan into his mouth. He
 “ taketh it with his eyes; his nose pierceth through snares.”

In the rocky mountains of the long pass, through which we had approached this magnificent river, were great numbers of klip-springers and reeboks, and of a species of monkey of a

grizzled greenish tint, with a straight tail, a third longer than the body, and black at the extremity ; a horizontal white line across the forehead, just above the eyes ; cheeks bearded with whitish hair. But the most fascinating object that presented itself to our observation in the kloof was a plant of the liliaceous tribe, with undulate ensiform leaves ; the flower-stalk was six feet high, and an inch in diameter, supporting an umbel that consisted of twenty to thirty flowrets ; the petals, striped on the outside with red and white, were within of a clear snowy whiteness ; the antheræ were of a bright crimson color.

On returning to our waggons and directing our course easterly, we rounded the mountains of the above-mentioned kloof, by which means we approached the Orange river, where, with an easy current, it flowed through a level part of the country. We soon found, however, that it was impossible for the waggons to proceed far in this direction, and that in very few places they could be brought near the banks of the river. We therefore took to our horses, and followed the windings of the river four days, in the hope of meeting with a ford where it was passable by the waggons. The first day the water had subsided near two feet perpendicularly, and it continued to fall for three successive days ; but on the fourth an end was put to every hope of crossing, by a sudden swelling of the water to a greater height than that at which it stood when we first approached it. The mountains also, among which it pushed its current, began now to be so rugged, that the banks were seldom accessible even on horseback. Nothing therefore remained for us but to return to

the waggons, and, abandoning the idea of penetrating farther to the northward, to content ourselves with striking off in the opposite direction towards the Kaffer country.

The general breadth of this river, when free from inundations, appeared to be about three hundred yards. In many places it extended to five hundred, and in others was contracted to two hundred yards. The volume of water was immense, and, in the narrow parts, forced its way with great rapidity. Yet from this place to the embouchure on the western coast, supposing it to be the Orange river, the distance was not less than five hundred miles. On each side, the surface of the country was as naked and barren as the Karroo, and infinitely more disagreeable, being covered with loose sand; but at the distance of a couple of miles on the south side, were extensive plains well clothed with herbage. In several places the inundations had extended beyond a mile from the river, as was apparent by the wreck of large trees, roots, shrubs, and ridges of sand, lying in a long continued line. The elevation of the ground, at such points of the inundation, could not be less than thirty to forty feet above the level of the river at its ordinary state.

The Orange river, like the Nile, has, as it would seem, its periodical inundations, and, as well as that river, might be made subservient, by the help of canals, to the fertilization of a vast extent of adjoining country. It also has its cataracts. One of these made a prodigious roaring noise, not far from one of the places where we halted; but as it was not approachable without a great deal of fatigue and trouble, we

did not get a sight of it. It cannot fail to be remarked by every traveller in Southern Africa, who may have attended to the accounts that are given of the northern parts of the same continent, that there is a strong and striking analogy between them. Egypt and the colony of the Cape lie under the same parallels of latitude: they have the same kind of climate, the same soil, the same saline waters: they both abound in natron; and the same plants and the same animals are common to both. Egypt, without the Nile, would be a desert waste, producing only a few saline and succulent plants like those of the Great Karroo, where rain falls as seldom as in the former country; and the sandy soil of the Cape, with the assistance of water, is as fertile as that of Egypt possibly can be. The rains in the Abyssinian mountains generally begin in May, and cause the inundations of the Nile to take place in June, continuing to the month of September. The rains in the Great mountains beyond the Kaffers and Tambookies, along the feet of which the Orange river runs, collecting their tributary streams in its passage, commence in November, and cause the inundations to take place, towards the Namaqua country, in December, corresponding thus exactly with the former, both countries being nearly at the same distance from the equator, but on contrary sides. The same singular peculiarity has been observed in the conformation of the Egyptian women that pervades the whole of the Hottentot nation. That extraordinary animal the camelopardalis is said to be an inhabitant of Ethiopia, nearer to the Line than Egypt; and it is first met with in Southern Africa, beyond the Orange river, which is also nearer to the Line than any part of the colony of the Cape. Many

other analogies might be drawn ; but these are more than sufficient to establish the fact of there being a striking resemblance between the two countries.

The Orange river, at this time, though far from being full, exhibited a very grand object ; but in its low state, when the water is clear, its stream and its bed must be exceedingly beautiful. In the level parts of the country, through which its smooth and easy current ran over pebbly beds, they were composed entirely of stones that were not common, nor were many of them wanting in beauty. We gathered among them a coarse kind of opals, cornelians, chalcedonies, and agates of every form and color, figured, plain, and striped, zoned, and stalactitical ; not thinly scattered here and there, but in such quantities that, judging by those few banks which were uncovered with water, a waggon-load might be collected in a few hours. The onyx and sardonyx were the most common. These beds consisted generally of round and oval pebbles, some having a black ground, others light-brown, and others chocolate color. These were inlaid with other small, white, quartz pebbles, forming, on the smooth surfaces of the former, circles, stripes, and irregular spots and lines. They appeared to be of that description of aggregated stones called, by some French mineralogists, variolites, and to which Mr. Kirwan has proposed to give the general name of porphyrites. The white parts grew as it were into the colored base, and adhered to it so closely as not to be easily separated. It is remarkable enough that this should be the only river in Southern Africa, at least between it and the Cape, in which stones of this nature are found. According to the

relations of Vaillant and Patterson, the agates extend down the bed of the river as far as its mouth, on the western coast; but neither of these authors makes any mention of the spotted stones which, had they been there, must have obtruded themselves on their notice, being no less singular and beautiful than they were numerous; whole banks were entirely composed of them and the others above mentioned. They occurred of all sizes, from a line to a foot in diameter, generally rounded and smoothly polished by attrition in their passage down the river. The rocky banks were composed of masses that apparently consisted of clay and mica, containing also a considerable portion of the oxyd of iron. The angles of these were likewise rounded off, and their surfaces worn smooth by the action of the current. From alternate exposure to water and the sun, they had contracted a glossy black color, bearing a resemblance to black, glazed, earthen ware. The mountains that were contiguous to the river had generally their summits of grey quartz; under this a stratum of iron-stone, then sand-stone, and lastly slate. The strata were laid horizontally, or very nearly so.

The fishing-tackle of the Bosjesmans, lying in several places on the banks of the river, and in good order, indicated plainly that many of these people were in the neighbourhood. It consisted principally of baskets made of osiers, and of the stems of reeds worked in alternate rows; one being white, and the other dark-brown, the mixture gave them a very pretty appearance. The workmanship was firm and neat, and the contrivance sufficiently clever, being of the same nature as those wicker-baskets used in Europe for the like purpose.

We found also several harpoons of wood, many of them pointed with bone, and fixed to ropes that were apparently made of some sort of grass. Deep holes were dug along the side of the river at certain distances, and most of them covered over with so much care that they were not easily discoverable, which made it dangerous to ride along the sea-cow paths. One of our horses fell into a hole near nine feet deep, which, fortunately, had no stake in it, otherwise he must inevitably have been killed.

In what part soever we approached the river, hippopotami were snorting and playing in vast numbers. Of these animals we killed no less than four in one day. They were all remarkably lean; a circumstance which was attributed to the locusts having devoured every green plant for a considerable distance from the banks of the river. We dissected a female, and took out of the womb a full-grown foetus, which was perfectly formed in every part except the teeth and tusks. Though in this state it was only seven inches long, the same animal, had it not been destroyed, would, in the course of time, most probably have attained the enormous weight of three or four thousand pounds. I put it in brandy, but the jolting of the waggon had, in a few days, reduced it to a jelly.

Near the end of the last day's journey, which we made along the banks of the river, we halted under the edge of a wood of tall mimosas. The branches of the trees were loaded with many thousands of the nests of the locust-eating thrush;

and, not far from the same place, we crossed the route of the only troop of young locusts that had occurred in the vicinity of the river; these voracious insects having withdrawn from this quarter on account of the herbage being, as already noticed, wholly consumed. This troop covered a plot of ground at least a hundred yards in width and five miles in length. Its march was directed towards the river, which it seemed to be inclined to cross. Close to the water's edge these creatures were heaped together in clumps of five or six inches deep. Myriads had already entered the water, most of which had perished, and were borne away by the stream.

On the fifth of December we left the river, and, turning off to the southward, travelled over a flat country of a strong clayey soil, well covered with fine grass, but destitute of wood or bushes, and ill supplied with water. Springs here and there occurred; and these were easily discovered by the patches of tall reeds that surrounded them. Elands and gnooks, hares and partridges, were very plentiful, and none, except the second, difficult to procure. Most of the antelope tribe allow themselves to be approached more closely on the plains, about one or two o'clock, when the heat of the sun is greatest, than at any other period of the day, perhaps from their being then in a state of languor, or from their eyes being dazzled by the strong light, which renders them incapable of judging of distances. The thermometer stood at 88° in the shade, about the middle of the day. For eight or ten days past its greatest height had been 84°. The weather almost constantly calm, with a cloudless sky.

The following day, after ten hours travelling directly south, over a level country, brought us to the highest ridge of mountains that run across the southern angle of Africa. It might be considered as a continuation of the Compass-berg before noticed, though there are several interruptions in the inter-jacent chain. At this part it had the name of Zuure-berg, or the Sour Mountain. The waters that issue from its sides run in opposite directions. Those that take a northerly course fall into the Orange river; and the united streamlets, flowing to the southward, form at length the Great Fish river which divides the colony from the Kaffer country.

Early on the morning of the seventh, in consequence of one of the party having asserted that some years ago he had met with the drawing of an unicorn in a kloof of the Zuure-berg, we set out upon an excursion across this mountain. Paintings or drawings of a variety of animals we found in several places, but none which bore the least resemblance to a quadruped with a single horn. I had frequently been assured by many of the boors, that representations of unicorns were commonly found among drawings of this kind; but none of them as yet had been able to point out to me the drawing of such an animal, though we had visited several caverns in the Bosjesmans' country solely for that purpose. If, however, we were disappointed in not finding the object that had been the occasion of this day's excursion, we were amply repaid for the inconvenience and fatigue of an exposure of eight hours to the scorching rays of an unclouded sun, by a variety of other interesting subjects that were constantly occurring. In no part of our travels had we met

with such an assemblage of rare plants as were growing on the sides of the Zuure-berg. The number and variety of the geranium family, especially of that genus which, by a late botanical arrangement, has been named *pelargonium*, were truly astonishing. The *xeranthemum fulgidum* with its brilliant yellow flowers, and the still more showy *speciosissimum*, were equally numerous; not less so many species of the *everlasting gnaphalium*. Two species of that very singular and beautiful plant the *disa*, found also on Table mountain, decorated the margins of the springs upon the Zuure-berg. At the feet of the mountain we procured one of the most beautiful, and also one of the most disgusting, quadrupeds that are perhaps to be found in the whole creation. The first, it would almost be unnecessary to add, was the zebra, which we shot in the midst of a troop consisting of six; and the latter was the *bosch-varke*, or wild hog of Africa, described in the *Systema Naturæ* under the name of *sus Ethiopicus*. This creature is not more ugly than it is vicious and cunning. The long ivory fangs that, like horns, project from its mouth, and bend upwards, make it dangerous to be approached, whilst its little eyes, placed near the top of its square forehead, and the fleshy bags hanging from each cheek like an additional pair of ears, give it a very hideous and frightful appearance. A great variety of lizards were observed, and one in particular, in the agonies of death, reflected transient shades of colors that were remarkably beautiful. The permanent tints were cerulean blue and green, with a line down the back of dark-blue and yellow spots; tail marked with wavy lines orange and ferruginous; body muricated, eight inches long. Another species, about a

foot in length, was entirely of a brilliant yellow. Cameleons were also plentiful, particularly of the small species peculiar to the Cape, the *pumila* of the *Systema Naturæ*. This reptile is supposed to be always found of the same color with the body on which it may happen to rest. Though in general this, perhaps, may be the case, yet the rule does not always hold good. I have seen it remain black for many minutes, on a white ground, and white when placed upon a black hat. Previous to its assuming a change of color, it makes a long inspiration, the body swelling out to twice its usual size; and, as this inflation subsides, the change of color gradually takes place. The only permanent marks are two small dark lines passing along the sides. The cameleons are characterized from the rest of the lizard tribe by their perching on the extremities of the branches of shrubby plants, from whence, holding themselves fast by their prehensile tails, with outstretched tongue they catch the passing flies. Hence seems to have originated the idea that this class of reptiles live upon air.

The zebra that had been shot was left at the foot of the hill until our return, when it was our intention to have taken off the skin. We had not been absent from the carcass more than an hour, in which space of time it had been completely eviscerated by a flock of vultures, consisting of the condor, the percnopterus, the white crow, and the vulturine crow; yet it was an extraordinary circumstance that the skin was unbroken in every part of the body, except that the hole in the neck, where the ball had entered, was a little enlarged. Out of this small hole the greater part of the entrails had

been drawn. The animal was a female, and its full-grown foal had been dragged by the vultures more than half way out of the vagina. It would seem that the sacred bird of Egypt is a kind of caterer to the condor, and is employed in drawing the carcasses of animals, whilst the other sits by "to prey on garbage."

In the evening we reached a farm-house, situated on the skirts of the colony, in the division of the Sea Cow river and the Rhinosceros-berg, where, after a very long day's journey, our waggons also arrived. In this part of the country are still a number of families that, like the people of Sneuwberg, have withstood the attacks of the Bosjesmans, by keeping together and affording to each other mutual assistance. The wealth of the farmers consists here entirely of sheep and horned cattle; their scanty crops, sown only for home consumption, were entirely destroyed by the locusts.

At this place the party of boors which had accompanied us was discharged; but, as it was our intention to skirt the colony to the eastward, and pass through the deserted division of the Tarka, a second *commando*, as it is called, was selected from among the farmers of Agter Sneuwberg, as being best acquainted with this eastern part of the country. Six boors, and as many Hottentots, in addition to our own strength, were deemed sufficient to enable us to perform this part of the journey with safety.

Directing our course to the south-eastward, we came to a chain of four salt-water lakes, lying one immediately after the

other. Three of them were fully as large as, and one smaller than, that near Swart Kop's river; but there was very little water in any of them. The bottoms were covered with a crust of salt that in the thickest part did not exceed an inch. Immediately under the salt was a thin coating of red sand, and below the sand a stratum of soft impalpable blue clay two feet deep; the next three feet consisted of a coarse friable yellowish clay, containing small crystals of salt; under this was a small quantity of water, resting upon a covering of rotten purple slate half an inch thick; and below this a dry reddish-colored soil that did not apparently contain a particle of salt. Close to the margin of the third salt-pan were several springs of clear water, having a bitter earthy taste; and along the rills that fell from these into the pan, grew tall reeds and rushes into the very centre among the salt. The others were entirely naked, without a bush or shrub on their banks. The surrounding country was also destitute of plants, and the surface was strewed over in many places with thin pellicles of salt. The quantity of game on the neighbouring plains, consisting chiefly of elands and springboks, was to us a sufficient inducement to pitch our tents near the salt-pans; but we were disturbed the whole night by the roaring of lions.

Continuing our route to the eastward, on the tenth we entered the division of the Tarka, under the point of a lofty mountain called the Bambos-berg, which also forms a part of the highest ridge that crosses the continent near the southern angle of Africa. The Bambos-berg is a double range of mountains, and is completely impassable either with waggons or on horseback. In order to have got beyond them, even with

our horses, it would have been necessary to return to the northward and to cross the Zuure-berg. To the eastward, no passage over them has yet been discovered in any of the expeditions that, with different views, have been made through Kaffer-land. The country therefore, behind the Bambos-berg, at the feet of which the Orange river flows, may be considered as very little known, and on that account it was a subject of no small regret to some of the party that no direct passage could be made over it. It would have been imprudent also to continue our route to the eastward, as a horde of Bosjesmans, commanded by one *Lynx*, said to consist of five hundred people, had posted themselves near a point of the Bambos-berg. We were obliged, therefore, to turn off to the southward, directly through the Tarka.

In one of the mountains which terminate this division to the eastward, we discovered a cavern full of the drawings of different animals generally of the larger kind, such as elephants, rhinosceroses, hippopotami, and, among the rest, one of the camelopardalis. The representation of this animal proved the assertion of the Bosjesman to be true, that the people who made these drawings were from hordes dwelling on the northern side of the Orange river; because, on the southern side, the camelopardalis has never yet been met with. It is an animal entirely unknown to the inhabitants of Graaff Reynet.

The division of the Tarka is named after a river that, rising in the Bambos-berg, flows directly through it, and afterwards forms a confluence with the Fish river. It is a well-covered country; and, when inhabited, was considered as one of the

best divisions of Graaff Reynet for sheep and cattle. At some of the deserted farms we found vineyards loaded with grapes, peach-trees, almonds, apple and pear trees full of fruit, and vegetables of various kinds, thriving well without the assistance of water, or any kind of attention. Game seemed to be scarce, except springboks and elands. The only interesting object was a flight of the gryllivorous thrush, seemingly in search of locusts, that, like a cloud, continued to pass over-head for the space of fifteen minutes.

Quitting the Tarka on the twelfth, we encamped at night on the Fish river, so called from the great quantity of fish it was said to contain of a species of cyprinus or carp. The same river, after flowing some distance to the southward, and receiving a number of tributary streams, takes the name of the Great Fish river, and from thence becomes, as before mentioned, a boundary of the colony.

On the right bank of the river were two wells of hepatized water, easily distinguished by the strong smell they emitted, not unlike that of the rinsings of a foul gun-barrel. The wells were only a few paces asunder, and differed but one degree of Fahrenheit in temperature, the larger being 88° and the smaller 87°. The latter boiled up in an uniform motion; but the former threw up the water by starts. This was about three feet deep, and the sides rounded into the shape of a pot; it consisted of a hard crust of cemented rock, formed of minute pebbles of various colors, of small quartz crystals worn round in their subterranean passage, and ferruginous globular pyrites. The cement appeared to be chiefly fine

emery-sand. The soil of the adjacent country, and of the banks of the river, was a firm bluish clay. On every side of the wells, and not many yards distant from them, were several circular bogs puffed up to the height of four or five feet above the common surface. These were highly elastic, and gave out springs of water that was cold, and clear, and tasteless. The waters of these hepatic wells are said to have been found very efficacious in healing bruises and sprains, and favorable also to rheumatic complaints, to which, from the great changeableness of the climate, the peasantry are very subject.

About twelve miles to the westward of the wells, in a kloof of a detached mountain, we found a considerable quantity of native nitre. It was in a cavern similar to those used by Bosjesmans for their winter habitations, and in which they make the drawings above noticed. The under surface of the projecting stratum of calcareous sand-stone, and the sides that supported it, were encrusted with a coating of clear white saltpetre, that came off in flakes from a quarter of an inch to an inch or more in thickness. The fracture resembled that of refined sugar : it burned completely away without leaving any residuum ; and, if dissolved in water, and this evaporated, crystals of pure prismatic nitre were obtained. This salt, in the same state, is to be met with under the sand-stone strata of many of the mountains of Africa ; but perhaps not in sufficient quantities to be collected as an object of commerce. There was also in the same cave, running down the sides of the rock, a black substance that apparently was bituminous : the peasantry called it the urine of the Das. The dung of this gregarious animal was lying upon the roof of the cavern

in quantity sufficient to load several waggons. The putrid animal matter, filtering through the rock, contributed, no doubt, to the formation of the nitre.

The hepatic wells and the native nitre-rocks were in the division of Agter Sneuwberg which joins the Tarka to the southwest. A great part of its surface resembles that of the other Sneuwberg ; but the side which adjoins the Fish river is Karroo ground, and the plains there are covered with tall bushes of the *salsola*. The soap that the inhabitants make from the ashes of this plant, and the fat of sheeps' tails, is no inconsiderable article of their revenue. Cattle and sheep are purchased by the butchers upon the spot ; but soap and butter are carried in waggons to the Cape. The corn of this division was wholly consumed by the locusts ; and the grass and the shrubs were so much devoured that the cattle were almost starving. The numerous herds of springboks assisted also to bare the ground of its produce. In no part of Africa had we seen such prodigious numbers of these animals together as in this division. Our party, who were accustomed to judge pretty nearly of the number of sheep in a flock, estimated one troop of the springboks to consist of about five thousand ; but if the accounts of these people may be credited, more than ten times that number have occasionally been seen together. Such enormous herds however only collect when they are about to migrate to some distant part of the country.

On the fifteenth we made another long excursion into the Tarka mountains, near where they unite with the great chain

that runs along the upper part of the Kaffer country. Our object was to find among the drawings, made by the Bosjesmans, the representation of an unicorn. One of the boors promised to bring us directly to the spot where he knew such a drawing stood. We set off at an early hour, and rode through several defiles along the beds of temporary streamlets. In one place was a very large and curious cavern formed by a waterfall, that from time to time had deposited a vast mass of stalactitical matter; many of the ramifications were not less than forty or fifty feet in length. Some were twisted and knotted like the roots of an old tree, and others were cellular and cavernous. This great mass, reflected from a sheet of deep water beneath, clear as crystal, hemmed in by two steep faces of solid rock, and fronted by two old weeping-willows, made as fine a piece of wild and romantic scenery as fancy could design. A little on one side of the cavern, and under a long projecting ridge of smooth white sand-stone, were several sketches of animals, and satirical attempts to represent the colonists in ridiculous situations and attitudes, characterizing them by some of their most common and striking habits. But the grand object of our research was still wanting. The long-necked camelopardalis was easily distinguished among the rest; as were also the rhinosceros and the elephant.

The same kind of black matter that had been found along with the native nitre, was here abundantly adhering to the rocks, and oozing down the sides of the cave. A Bosjesman that belonged to one of the party informed us that his countrymen mixed it with water, and drank it as tea. This cavern

was near the source of the Riet river, a small stream that falls into the Fish river.

We still continued our search in the kloofs of the mountains, in the hope of meeting with the figure of the unicorn, the peasantry being equally sanguine to convince me of the truth of their assertions as I was to gratify curiosity. We came, at length, to a very high and concealed kloof, at the head of which was a deep cave covered in front by thick shrubbery. One of the boors mounted up the steep ascent, and having made his way through the close brushwood, he gave us notice that the sides of the cavern were covered with drawings. After clearing away the bushes to let in the light, and examining the numerous drawings, some of which were tolerably well executed, and others caricatures, part of a figure was discovered that was certainly intended as the representation of a beast with a single horn projecting from the forehead. Of that part of it which distinctly appeared, the following is a *fac simile*.



The body and legs were concealed by the figure of an elephant that stood directly before it.

Nothing could be more mortifying than such an accident ; but the peasantry, who could form no idea of the consequence I attached to the drawing of such an animal, seemed to enjoy my chagrin. On being told, however, that a thousand, or even five thousand, rixdollars would be given to any one who would produce an original, they stood gaping with open mouths, and were ready to enlist for an expedition behind the Bambos-berg, where some of them were quite certain the animal was to be found. Imperfect as the figure was, it was sufficient to convince me that the Bosjesmans are in the practice of including, among their representations of animals, that of an unicorn ; and it also offered a strong argument for the existence of a living original. Among the several thousand figures of animals that, in the course of the journey, we had met with, none had the appearance of being monstrous, none that could be considered as works of the imagination, “ creatures of the brain ;” on the contrary, they were generally as faithful representations of nature as the talents of the artist would allow. A striking instance of this appeared in the cavern we last visited. The back shell of the *testudo geometrica* was lying on the ground ; and the regular figures with which it is marked, and from which it takes its name, had been recently, and very accurately, copied on the side of a smooth rock. It was thought, indeed, from several circumstances, that the savages had slept in the cavern the preceding night. I have been told, that the figure here given of the Unicorn must have been made by some of the boors, from its very near resemblance to the fanciful animal we see painted under that name. It may be so, but I do not believe it to be so. That the unicorn, as it is represented in Europe, is a work

of fancy, is unquestionably true ; but it does not follow from thence that a quadruped with one horn, growing out of the middle of the forehead, should not exist. The arguments, indeed, that might be offered are much stronger for its existence than the objections are against it. It is doubtful from whence the idea of this animal, as painted in Europe, has been taken, but if from that which is described in Holy Writ, the painter, in the representation he has given of the Unicorn as a supporter of the Royal Arms, has not, by any means, entered into the spirit of the description. The animal, to which the writer of the Book of Job, who was no mean natural historian, puts into the mouth of the Almighty a poetical allusion, has been supposed, indeed, with great plausibility, to be the one-horned rhinosceros : “ Canst thou bind the unicorn with his band in the furrow ? or will he harrow the vallies after thee ? Wilt thou trust him because his strength is great, or wilt thou leave thy labor to him ?” Moses also in all probability meant the rhinosceros when he mentions the unicorn as having the strength of God. Aristotle had a very different idea of the animal, to which he gives the name of unicorn, for he describes it as a species of wild ass with solid-ungulous feet.

The African rhinosceros, having invariably two horns, cannot be supposed to be the prototype of the Bosjesmans' paintings of the unicorn. Besides, the former frequently occurs among their productions, and is represented as the thick short-legged figure that it really is, whilst the latter is said by the boors to be uniformly described as a solidungulous animal resembling the horse, with an elegantly shaped body,

marked from the shoulders to the flanks with longitudinal stripes or bands. The greatest number of such drawings are said to be met with in the Bambos-berg ; and, as the people who make them live on the north side of this great chain of mountains, the original may one day, perhaps, be also found there.

This part of Africa is as yet untrodden ground, few if any of the boors having proceeded beyond the mountains. It may be said, perhaps, that if such an animal existed, and was known to the natives inhabiting a part of the country not very distant from the borders of the colony, the fact would certainly before this time have been ascertained. This, however, does not follow. Very few of the colonists have crossed the Orange river, or have been higher along its banks than the part where we were under the necessity of turning off to the southward ; and the sort of communication that the peasantry have with the Bosjesmans is not of that nature to supply much information respecting the country they inhabit. The mouth of the Orange river is much nearer to the Cape than the plains behind the Kaffer mountains ; yet it was but the other day that the existence of the camelopardalis was ascertained near the former place, though no savage nation, but a civilized tribe of Hottentots only, intervened. Certain animals, as well as plants, confine themselves to certain districts of the same country. The animal above mentioned was never known to have passed the Orange river. It would appear also that in Northern Africa it has its limited range ; for, since the time of Julius Cæsar, when one was publicly exhibited in Rome, it had been lost to Europe till within the

present century. The accounts given of it by ancient writers were looked upon as fabulous. The gnoo is found only in certain parts of Southern Africa; and the blue antelope, (the leucophæa,) which confined itself to the banks of one small river in the vicinity of Zwellendam, is now entirely lost to the colony. The springbok, seen in the northern parts in troops of thousands, never made its appearance in any part of the district of Zwellendam.

The Bosjesmans have no knowledge of any doubts concerning the existence of such an animal as the unicorn; nor do they seem to think there is any thing extraordinary in a beast having only one horn. There does not indeed appear to be any good reason why a quadruped should not be left with a single horn as well as a fish. Much greater anomalies occur in nature. The boors take it for granted that such an animal exists beyond the limits of the colony. Vertomannus, (or Berthoma,) who travelled over the deserts of Arabia, observes that "at Mecca were to be seen two unicorns, which are there shewed to the people for a wonder. The one of them, which is much higher than the other, yet not much unlike to a colt of thirty months of age; in the forehead groweth only one horn, in manner right forth, of the length of three cubits. The other is much younger, and like a young colt. This beast is of the color of a horse of a weasel color, and hath the head like an hart, but no long neck; a thin mane hanging only on the one side; their legs are thin and slender, like a fawn or hind; the hoofs of the fore feet are divided in two, much like the feet of a goat; the outward part of the hinder feet is very full of hair. These unicorns

one gave to the sultan of Mecca, as a most precious and rare gift: they were sent him out of Ethiopia by a king of that country, who desired by that present to gratify the sultan of Mecca." Father Lobo, in his history of Abyssinia, describes the unicorn as a beautiful horse; but Father Lobo was considered as a person worthy of little credit, because he related things that were new. A modern traveller through the same country, in detailing some of the same circumstances touched upon by the former writer, has met with no better success. The schooled mind is apt to feel a propensity for rejecting every thing new, unless conveyed to it through the channel of demonstrative evidence, which, on all occasions, is not to be obtained; whilst, on the other hand, credulity swallows deception in every flimsy covering. The one is, perhaps, equally liable to shut out truth, as the other is to imbibe falsehood. Nature's wide domain is too varied to be shackled with a syllogism. What nations, what animals, what plants, and other natural productions, may yet be discovered in the unknown parts of the globe, a man, who has studied nature in the closet only, would hardly be supposed presumptuous enough to form a conjecture; yet such is the bias that the reputation of a name begets with the multitude, that the verdict of a few closet philosophers generally establishes or destroys the credibility of an author's testimony.

Of all the accessible parts of the earth, the interior of Southern Africa is the least known to Europeans. A few paltry establishments of the Portuguese lie widely scattered along the two coasts; and the Dutch have colonized a few hundred miles from the southern angle along the two shores;

but neither the one nor the other have supplied any information of the interior. Among the latter, Colonel Gordon was the only man who seemed desirous of extending the knowledge of the southern part of this continent, and even his travels were very circumscribed. This gentleman had several occasions to see the drawings of the unicorn made by the savages; a circumstance to prove the existence of such an animal, on which he used to lay great stress. The following particulars, related to me by the persons themselves, may not perhaps be considered as entirely irrelevant to the subject. I give them as I had them; they carry with them no conviction, though they shew at least how imperfect is the knowledge of the natural history of parts bordering immediately on the colony of the Cape, and that much yet remains to be discovered by an attentive traveller.

Adrian Van Yarsveld, of Camdeboo in Graaff Reynet, shot an animal a few years ago, at the point of the Bambosberg, that was entirely unknown to any of the colonists. The description he gave to me of it in writing, taken, as he said, from a memorandum made at the time, was as follows:

“ The figure came nearest to that of the quacha, but of a
“ much larger size, being five feet high and eight feet long;
“ the ground color yellowish, with black stripes: of these
“ were four curved ones on each side of the head, eleven
“ of the same kind between the neck and shoulder; and
“ three broad waved lines running longitudinally from the
“ shoulder to the thigh; mane short and erect; ears six
“ inches long, and striped across; tail like the quacha: on

“ the centre of the forehead was an excrescence of a hard
“ boney substance, covered with hair, and resembling the
“ rudiments of a horn ; the length of this with the hair was
“ ten inches.”

About the same time, *Tjardt Van der Walt*, of Olifant's River in Zwellendam, in company with his brother, saw, near the same place, an animal exactly of the shape of a horse, and somewhat larger than the quacha, that had longitudinal black stripes on a light ground ; it was grazing among a herd of elands. The two brothers having been some time without food, from their anxiety first to secure an eland, neglected the striped animal, intending afterwards to give chase to it ; but his gait was so wonderfully swift, that, bounding towards the mountains, he was presently out of their sight.

Martinus Prinslo, of Bruyntjes Hoogté, when on a hunting excursion, saw behind the same mountain several wild horses, entirely different from either the quacha or the zebra, but they were so shy that they never could approach them sufficiently near to make minute distinctions ; they appeared to be of a light cinereous color, without stripes. This, however, might be a deception of sight arising from distance, as dark stripes upon a light ground cannot be distinguished very far ; they form a shade between the two colors, and the lighter tint is predominant ; as the primitive colors disposed in concentric circles on a card, and put in motion, will appear white. The black and buff zebra, even when very near it, and especially if in motion, appears of a dull bluish ash color, like the common ass. It is therefore probable, that

the animals described by the three different persons were of the same species. Vaillant also, who may generally be depended on, when he speaks of animals, mentions his having chased beyond the Namaaquas, day after day in vain, an Isabella colored zebra. This also, in all probability, was of the same kind as the others.

The missionary Vander Kemp mentions a streaked horse of incredible swiftness, which is called by the Hottentots *Kamma*; and he adds, that "the *Imbo* (a nation residing north-east from Kaffer land, and separated from the sea by the *Malawi*) confirm the report of an unicorn existing in that part of the country. They represent it as a very savage animal; they are horribly afraid of it, as it sometimes overturns their kraals and destroys their houses. They say, that it has a single horn placed on the forehead, which is very long; and that it is entirely distinct from the rhinosceros, with which they are well acquainted." Vander Kemp is a man of research, and of a different cast from the missionaries in general. He studied physic at Leyden, became a captain of dragoons, then studied at Edinburgh, where he took his degree, and published a work on Cosmology, which he called *Parmenides*. Yet few perhaps will acquit him of credulity, on reading the following paragraph contained in one of the reports of his mission:—"A remarkable circumstance of the care of the Lord, in order to assist us in his work, we cannot pass by in silence. Our people being frequently dispersed, it was very difficult to call them together; for this a *bell* was wanting very much, and we did not see any means to get it. But *he* who com-

mands the sea and the waves permitted a ship to strike on a rock, and to dash to pieces; the crew and the cargo were saved, and the sea cast up the ship's *bell* for our use."

The weather had been excessively sultry for many days; and towards the setting of the sun on this day, as we were descending the mountain, the heavens became suddenly overspread with heavy black clouds that momentarily threatened to burst. The waggons just reached in time a spot in the valley, in some measure sheltered from the wind, when the storm opened with incredible fury. The violence of the wind was so great, that it swept away every thing before it; and it was followed by a burst of thunder that seemed to "shake the foundations of old earth." Peal after peal incessantly rushed on each other, and roared in the mountains as if tearing and riving in pieces their masses of rock; and streams of vivid fire flew with terrible swiftness to every part of the horizon. Heavy rain, mingled with hailstones of unusual bigness, and violent squalls of wind seemed to be contending for the mastery with the thunder and the fire.

" —— Since I was man
" Such sheets of fire, such bursts of horrid thunder,
" Such groans of roaring wind, and rain, I never
" Remember to have heard."

The storm continued a great part of the night; and on the following morning some of its effects were seen in the wreck of a grove of tall mimosas, the greatest part of which was torn up by the roots. Such like storms are said to be very frequent in these great chains of mountains during the sum-

mer months ; but the south-east winds, which blow with such strength at the Cape, are not felt in the interior parts of the country. At the Cape there happen less thunder and lightning than perhaps in any other part of the world, the island of St. Helena excepted, where they are scarcely known to the inhabitants.

Passing over a rough mountainous country, we halted on the thirtieth near the source of the Bavian's, or Baboon's river. It rises out of a chain of mountains in the Kaffer country, and joins the Great Fish river. Tall spreading mimosas were here scattered over the face of the country, and, with their new foliage of lively green, displayed a very beautiful appearance ; they were also studded with clusters of golden flowers, not more pleasing to the eye than agreeable to the smell. Thousands of bees were busily employed in collecting from these flowers their winter's store. This part of the country seemed to abound in honey ; it was hanging in large clusters from almost every rock, and this was the season of its greatest plenty and perfection. The Hottentots have a common observation among them, that when the *Doorn boom* blossoms the honey is fat.

Quick as the Hottentots are in observing the bees, as they fly to their nests, they have still a much better guide on which they invariably rely. This is a small brownish bird, nothing remarkable in its appearance, of the cuckoo genus, to which naturalists have given the specific name of *Indicator*, from the circumstance of its pointing out and discovering, by

a chirping and whistling noise, the nests of bees ; it is called by the farmers the honey bird.

In the conduct of this little animal, there is something that approaches very nearly to what philosophers have been pleased to deny to the brute part of the creation. Having observed a nest of honey, it immediately flies in search of some human creature, to whom, by its fluttering, and whistling, and chirping, it communicates the discovery. Every one here is too well acquainted with the bird to have any doubts as to the certainty of the information. It leads the way directly towards the place, flying from bush to bush, or from one ant-hill to another. When close to the nest, it remains still and silent. As soon as the person, to whom the discovery was made, shall have taken away the honey, the Indicator flies to feast on the remains. By the like conduct it is also said to indicate, with equal certainty, the dens of lions, tygers, hyænas, and other beasts of prey and noxious animals. In the discovery of a bee's nest, self-interest is concerned ; but in the latter instance, its motives must proceed from a different principle. That involuntary and spontaneous agent, which is supposed to guide and direct the brute creation, and which man, unable to investigate the nice shades of cause and effect that, no doubt, govern all their actions, has resolved into one general moving power called Instinct, is perhaps less a blind unconscious impulse of nature than a deduction of rational combination. It does not appear indeed that there are any solid grounds for supposing that the same scale of gradation does not exist in the mental as well as in the corporeal part of creation, in both

of which man is clearly the head. If it be instinct that in Europe causes the shyness of birds at the approach of man, the same instinct instructs them to be so bold in India and China, where they are not molested, as almost to be taken by the hand. The different propensities of animals, proceeding from the different organs with which nature has furnished them, are no doubt modified and altered according to situation and circumstances. Most of the small birds of Southern Africa construct their nests in such a manner, that they can be entered only by one small orifice, and many suspend them from the slender extremities of high branches. A species of loxia, or grossbeak, always hangs its nest on a branch extending over a river or pool of water. It is shaped exactly like a chemist's retort; is suspended from the head, and the shank of eight or nine inches long, at the bottom of which is the aperture, almost touches the water. It is made of green grass, firmly put together, and curiously woven. Another small bird, the *Parus Capensis*, or Cape Titmouse, constructs its luxurious nest of the *pappus* or down of a species of *asclepias*. This nest is made of the texture of flannel, and the fleecy hosiery is not more soft. Near the upper end projects a small tube about an inch in length, with an orifice about three-fourths of an inch in diameter. Immediately under the tube, is a small hole in the side, that has no communication with the interior part of the nest; in this hole the male sits at nights, and thus they are both screened from the weather. The sparrow in Africa hedges round its nest with thorns; and even the swallow, under the eaves of houses, or in the rifts of rocks, makes a tube to its nest of six or seven

inches in length. The same kind of birds in Northern Europe, having nothing to apprehend from monkeys, snakes, and other noxious animals, construct open nests. Is this difference the effect of mere accident or of design?

From the Bavian's river we made an excursion, for the second time, into the Kaffer country, where we ascended the Kaka, the continuation of the first range of mountains in the Sneuwberg. The summit was broken into hill and dale, and the surface beautifully varied with patches of green grass, and clumps of tall forest trees. The thick and sombre foliage of the woods, throwing their deep shadows into the hollows, contrasted with the bright and lively green knolls of grass, produced a succession of *gleams and glooms* that were extremely beautiful and pleasing. No part of Africa had yet afforded such grand, picturesque, and diversified scenery, as this commencement of a double chain of mountains, and the intermediate forests, of which the eye, looking easterly, could discover no end. The trees that were most plentiful were two species of the *Geel-hout*, or Yew, some of which were from twenty to thirty feet in circumference, and sixty to seventy feet in length.

The summit of the Kaka mountain commanded a most extensive view of the Kaffer country, as far as the sea-coast to the south, and beyond the residence of the king to the southeast. The level plains over which the Kat and the Kaapna are seen to serpentize, those plains where once the Glonaqua nation tended their flocks and herds, now desolate, were laid as it were at the feet of the spectator.

A number of rare and beautiful birds were seen about the forests of the Kakaberg. Among these, one of the most remarkable was the *Cuculus Persa*, or Touraco. This superb bird, by its gestures, seems as if conscious of its superior beauty. The *Upupa*, or Hopoe, was very plentiful; the *Numida meleagris* equally so. A fifth species of bustard was also seen here, with brown and white wings, and neck of a cerulean blue color; size, that of a pheasant. Along the road were numbers of that beautiful little pigeon, called here the Namaaqua dove, not larger than a sparrow.

On entering one of the narrow vallies, we seemed on a sudden to be overtaken in the midst of a shower of snow, which we thought to be the pappus or down of certain plants. On closer examination, however, it was found to proceed from myriads of white ants, on the wing. The life of the *Ephemeris*, in its perfect state, is that of a single day; but the flight of the white ant is but a leap into the air for a few moments, from whence they tumble to the ground never to rise again. The wings are so very fine, and so slightly attached to their bodies, that they generally fall off, or are broken with the fall. Others immediately roll them off, and afterwards creep into the crevices of the ground to end their existence in quiet. It would seem they had some presentiment of the doom that awaited them, and that they hastened to escape under the cover of the earth to avoid being devoured by their own children, which, in numberless myriads, swarm in the roads and naked places of the ground, particularly after a shower of rain. Heat and moisture, the two great productive powers in nature, or those at least that call the vital principle into

action, bring forth the young from the eggs of all the insect tribe that are deposited in the ground. Thus, though a rainy summer may promote vegetation, yet it at the same time calls to life such multitudes of destructive vermin, which otherwise would have remained dormant in the ground, that on the whole a dry season is perhaps the best.

From the Bavian's river into Bruyntjes Hoogté is a day's journey, and through this to the entrance of Camdeboo another, and three from hence to Graaff Reynet, at which village we arrived on the twenty-fourth, on one of the warmest days that we had yet experienced in the whole country. The thermometer, when exposed to the wind in the shade, rose to 108° ; whilst in the house it was cool and pleasant at 82° . It was one of those hot winds, such as we had once before experienced on the banks of the Great Fish river. They happen most frequently upon the Karroo plains, where they are sometimes attended with tornados that are really dreadful. Waggon are overturned, men and horses thrown down, and the shrubs torn out of the ground. The dust and sand are whirled into the air in columns of several hundred feet in height, which, at a distance, look like the water-spouts seen sometimes at sea; and with those they are equally, if possible, avoided,—all that falls in their way being snatched up in their vortex. Sometimes dust and small pebbles are hurled into the air with the noise and violence of a sky-rocket. Rain and thunder generally succeed those heated winds, and gradually bring about a decrease of temperature to the common standard, which, in the summer season at Graaff Reynet, appears to be about 80° to 84° in the middle of the day. The mornings and the evenings are generally cool and pleasant.

CHAP. IV.

Sketches made on a Journey from Graaff Reynet along the Sea-coast to the Cape.

THE long continuance of dry weather had, for more than a month, rendered the passage of the Karroo, or great desert, impracticable, on account of the scarcity both of water and of herbage. All the rivers that intersect it, and the few springs that are found upon it, were said to be completely dried up; and the farmers of Graaff Reynet, who, at this season of the year, just after their harvest, generally make their annual visit to the Cape, were under the necessity of delaying their journey, or of going round through the district of Zwellendam, in all parts of which, and at all seasons of the year, there is abundance of water. Three days, however, previous to our departure from Graaff Reynet, there had fallen such heavy and continued rain, both at that place, and to the westward in the mountains of Camdeboo and Sneuwberg, that little doubt was entertained of its having brought upon the Karroo a plentiful supply of water, as far at least as De Beer valley, the delightful meadow of the desert, mentioned in a former chapter.

On the strength of this conjecture, we departed from Graaff Reynet on the ninth of December, and found the two rivers,

Sunday and Camdeboo, so much swelled with the rains as scarcely to be fordable. At the port also of Camdeboo, which opens upon the desert, the small river there was running with a copious and rapid stream; a circumstance that nearly removed every doubt, and scarcely suffered an idea to exist of the probability even of experiencing any want of water on this side of De Beer valley. We soon however found, by fatal experience, that the extent of the rains had been very limited. In fact they had reached only a few miles beyond the Poort. Still we had hopes that the Hottentot's river, a day's journey farther, would contain some water; or, should this fail, that the Karooka, whose source was in the mountains of Camdeboo, must undoubtedly be full from the late rains that were perceived to fall in those mountains.

On the eleventh, therefore, we left the Poort, and the farther we proceeded upon the desert, the fainter became the traces of the rain that had fallen, till at length they totally disappeared. The face of the country very soon presented only one continued plain of uniform aridity and barrenness. The few saline plants, thinly scattered over a surface of white clay sprinkled with reddish sand, were shrivelled up, crackling under the feet like so many bundles of rotten sticks. The rays of the sun playing upon the naked surface were painful to behold, and their dazzling light highly injurious to the eye.

About the middle of the day a melancholy object presented itself before us, near the side of the road. It was a horse at his last gasp, for want of water. He was known by

our Hottentots to have left Graaff Reynet eight days before, with a party of farmers, who had gone from thence, in order to proceed across the Karroo to Zwarteberg. He had probably strayed from them in the night, the time they generally travel, and by that means was left behind. The poor animal, on perceiving us, made a faint attempt to advance towards the road, as if to intreat a drop of water, but the exertion was too great. He fell exhausted on the ground, and the only relief that could be given to his painful sufferings, was that of bringing them to a speedy end. A few miles farther, another of these poor creatures, which had belonged to the same party, was found by the road side already dead. Such objects were but ill calculated to inspire sanguine hopes in our present situation. We ventured, however, to proceed, and to make the best of our way to Hottentot's river; which, after a long and very fatiguing day's journey, we reached about nine o'clock at night; but, to our great grief and mortification, we found it completely dry; and its clayey bed broken and divided, by the heat of the weather, into polygonal figures, like the summits of basaltic columns. The disappointment may more readily be conceived than described; and we now began to be seriously alarmed at the situation of our cattle. To quench the thirst of man a small quantity of water is sufficient for a length of time; but cattle, after the fatigue of a long day's journey, require more than can easily be carried for their use. The little that we had brought upon the waggons was shared among our people, who happened to be numerous enough to require our whole stock.

A consultation was held, to take into consideration the steps that appeared most advisable to be put in practice; and the result of it was, that as soon as the oxen, which had been in the yoke the whole day, had refreshed themselves by a few hours' rest, the relays should be put to the waggons, and proceed on the journey. We were unwilling to return, and it was in vain to think of remaining longer where we were. Beside the total want of water, there was neither a blade of grass, nor shrubbery of any sort, upon which the cattle could browse. The succulent and fleshy leaves, even of the mesembryanthemum tribe, were shrivelled up to a leathery consistence, and all their juices evaporated. Scarcely a living creature had appeared during the whole day, but at night there came into the tent, attracted by the light of the candle, such a multitude of a species of cock-chaffer, that they literally extinguished the candle and drove us out. This insect was of a pale ash color, and the thorax was covered with a whitish powder.

A little after midnight we started afresh, directing our way across the desert towards the nearest part of the Karooka, still hoping to be fortunate enough to meet with water there. On arriving at day-light on the wished-for spot, not a vestige of moisture appeared even in the bed of the river for several miles. We were now totally at a loss what step to take. We found we had advanced too far to think of retreating, and were entirely uncertain of what might be the event of proceeding. In the midst of painful reflections, the sun began to dart his scorching rays, and to display a widely ex-

tended horizon presenting to the eye a melancholy picture of cheerless desolation. No quadrupeds, except our own exhausted oxen, not a bird, nor even an insect appeared. A total suspension of the vivifying principle seemed to prevail on every side, and all traces of animated nature appeared to have fled from the dreary waste. With such a prospect, and under such a situation, the oppressed mind sickened, and was ready to sink under a

“ — secret dread and inward horror
“ Of falling into nought.”

One single hope only now remained, and that was fixed upon De Beer valley. This place we knew to be a kind of reservoir, in which a number of periodical streams had their confluence from various parts of the distant mountains of Nieuwveld, Winterberg, and Sneuwberg. The distance from our present situation to it was not very far, but our cattle were exceedingly exhausted; and had long expressed their suffering by hollow lowings, and the sheep by their perpetual bleating. The children also of the Hottentots who were with us cried incessantly for water.

The appearance of De Beer valley, from a distance, indicated no want of water; it was that of a beautiful green meadow; and the cattle, and the horses, and the Hottentots, the moment it caught the eye, scampered away towards it in full career. Those in the waggons were not behind the rest. Their looks and manner, on arriving at the spot, sufficiently expressed the disappointment they felt on finding the beds of the pools and the rivers all perfectly dry. In

one place only, shaded by mimosas that had withstood the drought, was a small puddle of muddy water. Of this we contrived to bale out with our hats a small quantity for the horses, but it afforded none for the cattle. The strong grass, in many places, and the reeds still retaining some verdure, were greedily devoured by the oxen; and it was to this circumstance, I am convinced, that their final safety was owing.

Riding over the surface of the valley in search of some pond or rivulet that might afford a little water, the glimpse of a small pool caught the eye of my horse through some thick bushes, into which he furiously sprung, and, in spite of resistance, forced his way into the water. He had no sooner, however, applied his mouth to it, than he withdrew his head, finding it to be as salt as brine. It was in fact the Salt river mentioned on a former visit to this place. Much of the water having evaporated in the course of the long series of hot weather, the banks were now encrusted with plates of salt, that wore the appearance of ice.

The reeds and rush-like grass having in some degree refreshed our cattle, towards the cool of the day we determined to start afresh, to strike off towards the edge of the desert, and cross the great range of the Black mountains, beyond which there was no uncertainty of meeting with water. Our miserable cattle were, therefore, once more put into the waggon, and moving slowly through a pass of the mountains, which proved to be tolerably level, we came about midnight to a place where a Hottentot had told us was the *Karreefonteyn*. After searching about for some time in the dark,

a kind of swamp was discovered, containing, in places, a little muddy and fetid water. Bad as it was, both Hottentots and cattle swallowed it with great avidity. For our own part, a bottle of chalybeate, and another of hepatic water, that had been taken and kept for experiment, were found very acceptable and refreshing.

On the fifteenth, after travelling about five hours, and after having been four days without fresh water, we came to a clear limpid stream called the *Keur fonteyn*, or Precious Spring; and never certainly did any stream of water appear to be more truly valuable and delightful. It was with the greatest difficulty that either the cattle or the Hottentots, who with the former are equally void of thought or reflection, were restrained from drinking to excess after so long an abstinence.

The great scarcity of water on those plains of Africa, known by the name of Karroo, rendering it sometimes hazardous, and almost always harassing, for cattle to pass, should seem to point out the camel or the dromedary as the kind of animals best suited for the transport of goods and passengers in the colony of the Cape. The camel is more patient of hunger than most quadrupeds, and is able to endure thirst for a much longer space of time; and the harsh, thorny shrubs, or the succulent plants, one or the other of which are to be met with on the most dreary of the deserts, would furnish for it abundance of food. It will carry with ease half a ton weight, which is more than twice the quantity that is ever drawn by an African ox.

We encamped on the seventeenth near the banks of the Olifant's river, where several hot springs issued out of a bog, consisting of a brownish oxyd of iron, mixed with irregular shaped pieces of ponderous iron stone, many of which seemed once to have been in a state of fusion. The water was chalybeate, as appeared from the great quantity of orange colored sediment deposited in the channels through which it ran, and the fine steel blue skum with which the surfaces of the wells were covered. Of the four principal wells, all rising out of the same bog, the temperatures were 111°, 109°, 105°, and 95° of Fahrenheit's scale. They are much frequented by the neighbouring peasantry, and held by them to be efficacious in the cure of bruises, sprains, and rheumatic complaints.

How friendly soever the water of the wells might prove to the human constitution, it could not be more so than in appearance it was favorable to the growth of plants. Along the sides of the streamlets a zone-leafed geranium was observed climbing to the height of fifteen feet, and all the shrubs that grew in the vicinity of the water were more than usually luxuriant.

The long drought had completely exhausted the Olifant's river of water, and the face of the country was nearly as barren and parched as the Karroo on the opposite side of the Black mountains, except indeed along each side of the bed of the river, where the mimosas, now loaded with golden blossoms, still retained their verdure, and where the Canna plant, or Salsola, was growing to the height of eight or ten

feet. Should these two articles, at any future period, be considered as worthy attention in a commercial point of view, the division of Olifant's river is the most favorable situation for encouraging their culture, and for procuring their products in the most considerable quantities.

None of the larger kind of game, except the Koodoo, are now to be met with near Olifant's river, though the animal, whose name it bears, in all probability, once abounded there. The river otter is plentiful, as are also two or three species of wild-cat, one of which appeared to be that described by naturalists under the name of Caracal. The body was of a deep chesnut brown, and the points of the ears tipped with brushes of long black hairs; a second species, or rather variety, was of a cinereous blue color; and a third, clouded black and white. Here also is abundance of that species of viverra called the *Ratel*. Its choice food is honey, and nature has endowed it with a hide so very thick, that the sting of a bee is unable to penetrate through it. No animal is perhaps more tenacious of life than the ratel. A dog with great difficulty succeeds in worrying it to death; and it is a species of amusement for the farmers to run knives through different parts of the body, without being able, for a length of time, to deprive it of existence.

Turning off to the southward from the Olifant's river, and passing round a high detached mountain called the *Kamnaasieberg*, we crossed a range of hills, and descended into Langé Kloof, or the Long Pass. This is a narrow valley, in few places exceeding a mile in width, hemmed in between a high

unbroken chain of mountains on the south, and a parallel range of green hills on the north, stretching nearly due east and west, without any interruption, about one hundred and fifty miles. The hills on the northern side increasing to the height of mountains in their progress to the eastward, terminate on the plains near Zwart Kop's river; and the great chain of mountains on the south side runs into the sea near Camtoo's bay, and extends to the westward till it meets the high mountains of Hex river.

Langé Kloof abounds with streams of water and good pasturage. The ground throughout consists of a fine rich soil, and annexed to almost all the habitations are good gardens, fruiteries, and vineyards. Being considerably elevated above the level of the sea, and situated in the midst of mountains, snow frequently falls in the winter months, and lies on the ground for a length of time.

From one end to the other of Langé Kloof there is but one passage for waggons over the south chain of mountains, and this is seldom made use of, being considered among the most formidable and difficult roads and passes in the colony. It lies, in fact, over the very summit of one of the points in the chain, called the Duyvils kop, or the Devil's head. We had sixteen oxen to each waggon, in order to effect our passage of this mountain. The road was dreadfully steep and stoney; and as it approached the summit, where the width of the ridge was not above fifteen paces, the ascent was from stratum to stratum of rock, like a flight of stairs, of which some of the steps were not less than four feet high. Upon these it

was necessary to lift the waggons by main strength. Just as we reached the summit, the weather, which had been remarkably pleasant, the thermometer standing at 74°, now began to be overcast, the wind blew fresh, and shortly after an immense sheet of black vapor was observed to approach, borne upon the south-east wind from the sea. Ascending rapidly in rolling volumes, it completely immersed us upon the summit of the mountain. The temperature of the air was immediately decreased to 39° of Fahrenheit. Before our three waggons had got over the highest peak, the weather began to clear up, and it was then curious enough to observe all that tract of country lying between the mountains and the sea involved in dense clouds, and deluged apparently with heavy rain, whilst the northern side of the same mountains enjoyed a sunshine unsullied by a single cloud.

The instability of the climate of the southern angle of Africa has frequently been noticed in the course of these sketches; yet a more remarkable instance of it had not perhaps occurred than in the present situation. An elevation of about one thousand feet, or little more, produced a variation of temperature, in the course of two hours, equal to thirty-five degrees. It afterwards appeared, that, on the same day, being the longest in the year, snow had fallen and lain for some time upon the same chain of mountains, close behind Zwellendam, where the surface is not by any means particularly lofty.

The descent of the Duyvil's kop was much more gradual than had been the ascent, and the smooth grassy surface of

the northern side was now changed into an extensive shrubbery, among which the most conspicuous plants were heaths and proteas of amazing sizes; one of the latter having a round thick leaf with a purple margin, bore a flower that measured very nearly ten inches in diameter. Several species of the *Ixia*, of the *Iris*, of the *Morea*, and *Gladiolus*, now in full bloom, adorned the sides of the hills, whilst the *Cape Sophora*, and the *Arduina* with its jessamine-like smell, perfumed the whole country.

At the feet of this chain of mountains runs a belt of wood, extending with little interruption near two hundred miles in length; and consisting chiefly of a great variety of forest trees, many of which are found of a prodigious magnitude. Some of the woods of the colony have already been noticed. Here I completed my catalogue of such as appeared most applicable to common uses, having procured in the whole forty-four different sorts. Of these, I could have wished to be able to gratify the Botanist with Linnæan names, but the little time I had to spare, and the difficulty of procuring blossoms from tall forest trees, made it impossible. I must, therefore, content myself with giving the colonial names only of most of them; and even these may prove of infinite service to the future traveller, who may wish to direct his attention to the subject.

Catalogue of useful Woods, growing in the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope.

VOL. I.	No.	COLONIAL NAMES.	GENERAL SIZE.		Quality.	Uses.	Linnæan Names.	Remarks.
			Height, without a Branch. Feet.	Diameter. Feet.				
	1.	Autnicquas Geel hout	20 to 50	10	Not unlike deal	Balk, beams, plank, &c.	<i>Taxus elongatus</i>	
	2.	Zwart yzer hout - -	25—45	4	Very hard - - -	{ Ploughs, axles for } { wheels, &c. }	{ <i>Sideroxylon Me-</i> } { <i>lanophlecos</i> }	
	3.	Wit yzer hout - -	25—45	3½	Nearly as hard as d ^o	Ditto Ditto	<i>Sideroxylon</i>	
	4.	Hassagai hout - -	20—40	3	Like plain mahoga ^y	{ Fellies and spokes of } { wheels, chairs, &c. }	<i>Curtesia faginea</i> - -	{ A very good wood for all kinds } { of house carpentering }
	5.	Wit peer - - -	15—20	2 to 3	Hard and tough	{ In general use for } { waggons }		
	6.	Rood peer - - -	20—30	3	Harder than ditto	{ Axes, waggon-poles, } { beams, &c. }		
	7.	Rood hout - - -	12—15	1½ to 2	— — —	Not much used		
	8.	Gomassie hout - -	12—15	1½ to 2	— — —	{ Veneering, household } { furniture }		
	9.	Saffran hout - - -	10—15	1 to 2	Close and hard			
	10.	Coyatte hout - - -	12—20	1 to 2	Tough - - -	Staves for butter firkins		
	11.	Roodde Els - - -	15—25	2	Stands water well	Mill work - - -	<i>Cunonia Capensis</i>	
	12.	Witte Els - - -	10—12	3	Soft and tough	Plank for boxes, &c.		
	13.	Stinkhout - - -	20—35	3 to 5	Like walnut - -	Furniture		
	14.	Buckan hout - - -	15—25	2	Tough - - -	Waggon wheels		
	15.	Massanie hout - -	20—25	3 to 5	Like yzer hout	{ Known only near } { Bosjesman's river }		
	16.	Camdeboo Stink hout	12—15	3	Soft and porous	Very little used		
	17.	Dorn hout - - -	8—10	1 to 1½	Hard and tough	{ Waggon wheels, } { shoes, poles, &c. }	<i>Mimosa Karroo</i>	
	18.	Olyven hout - - -	6—10	1	Very hard - - -	General - - -	<i>Oliva Capensis</i>	
	19.	Wilgan hout - - -	6—10	1½	Of willow - - -	{ Little used but where } { wood is scarce }	<i>Salix Babylonica</i>	
	20.	Hottentots' bourbonje	12	1	Hard and short	Not used - - -	<i>Schotia speciosa</i> - -	{ African Lignum Vitæ, but not } { applicable to the same pur- } { poses as that wood }
	21.	Zwart bast - - -	12	1½	Hard and tough	Not much used - - -	<i>Royena?</i> - - -	Fit for poles of all sorts
	22.	Niest Hout - - -	15	1	Very hard - - -	{ In Bruyntjes Hoogté } { only }	— — —	Stands water remarkably well

Catalogue of useful Woods, growing in the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope.

No.	COLONIAL NAMES.	GENERAL SIZE.		Quality.	Uses.	Linnæan Names.	Remarks.
		Height, without a Branch. Feet.	Diameter. Feet. Inch ^s				
23.	Kersen hout - - -	12	1 0	— — —	Not used - - - -	— — —	{ Apparently not of much value ; the tree scarce
24.	Castanie hout - - -	20	1½ 0	Soft - - - -	— — —	Callodendrum	
25.	Hard peer - - -	14 to 16	1½ 0	Harder than No. 2.	Sometimes in waggons		
26.	Hoenderspoor - - -	12—14	0 9	Hard and close	Not much used		
27.	Buffel hoorn - - -	12—14	0 9	Ditto - - -	Not used		
28.	Bosch bourbonjes - -	—	—	— — —	— — —	{ Schotia, or Guia cum, new species }	Found only in Kaffer land
29.	Melk hout - - -	6—8	1 0	Very hard - - -	Ploughs - - - -	Ficus?	
30.	Essen hout - - -	—	—	— — —	— — —	Taxus?	
31.	Geel hout (proper) - -	—	—	— — —	— — —		
32.	Karru hout - - -	6—8	0 10	Tough - - - -	Nothing particular - -	Euclea? - - - -	{ Used by the Bosjesman Hot- tentots for bows
33.	Cyperus, or Cedar-hout	12—20	1 0	Of fir - - - -	{ Chests, drawers, fur- niture }	Thuia, new species?	{ The strong smell of turpentine it emits, prevents insects from entering it.
34.	Klip Essen - - -	20	8 to 10 in.	Hard and short	Little used		
35.	Saly hout - - -	15	8 to 10 in.	Hard and heavy	{ Yokes for waggons, charcoal }	Budleia Salvi folia?	
36.	Witte bosch hout	20	2 0	Light and soft	{ Fellies for light car- riage wheels }		
37.	Wilde Granate - - -	12	0 8	Short - - - -	Nothing particular		
38.	Wilde Vier - - -	10	0 7	Hard - - - -	Chairs, Table feet, &c.	Lyceum?	
39.	Wit Essen hout - - -	12—15	3 0	Close and soft	{ Plank for various purposes }	— — —	{ Recommended to be tried as plank in boat building
40.	Koeha - - - -	10—12	0 7-9	Hard and tough	Carriage poles - - -	— — —	{ A close-grained, shaded, hand- some wood
41.	Seybast - - - -	10—12	0 7-9	Tough - - - -	Ditto - - - -	— — —	{ The interior bark of this tree is just like silk, but not of long fibre.
42.	Zwarte hout - - -	20	1 to 2½ 0	Hard and tough	{ Fellies for waggon wheels }	— — —	{ Good for poles ; being long, small, and straight
43.	Keur hout - - -	20	1 to 2½ 0	Light and soft	Spars, rafters, &c. - -	Sophora Capensis	
44.	Witte hout - - -	15—20	1 to 2 0	Ditto - - - -	Ditto - - - -		

It may be observed that the sizes marked in the above list are, as nearly as could be guessed, such as they run in general, but of both the Geelhouts abundance of trees may be met with, from seventy to ninety feet in length, and very proper for ships' masts, spars, and other timber used in ship building.

Between the foot of the Duyvil's kop and Plettenberg's bay, the latter of which is about fifty miles to the eastward of the former, the country is beautifully wooded, and intersected with numberless rivulets, issuing out of the forests; there are also several broad deep rivers, over which it is necessary to pass in boats. Some of these terminate in large sheets of water, forming beautiful lakes, whose margins are finely fringed with wood. One lake is sufficiently curious, having neither inlet nor outlet, and the water is greener than any part of the ocean, not salt, but so slightly saline as scarcely to be perceptibly so to the taste. One of the farmers told me, with great triumph, that he had puzzled the Governor Van Plettenberg, with respect to the water of the Green lake, by asking him whence the color proceeded. The governor had made him for answer, that it came from the surrounding shrubbery, being green matter washed away by the rains. Upon this the peasant shewed him some of it in a glass, where it appeared clear and colorless. There is a tradition among the Hottentots, that this lake, now six or seven miles in circumference, was, no very long time ago, a beautiful green meadow, and it is still said to be increasing in size. If the quantity of water thrown in by the rains, and its springs, should exceed the quantity that may escape by ab-