

little camoleon. Had the eye been placed in the usual part of the face, just below the forehead, which is very large, the visual rays would have embraced only about 180 degrees, or half of the horizon; whereas, in their present position, they have a much greater range, the creature being able, I should suppose, without moving its head, to sweep a portion of the horizon equal to at least 260 degrees.

The people composing this little society seemed to live very happily together. They had horses, and cattle, and sheep, and gardens of no inconsiderable extent, well stocked with pumpkins, onions, and tobacco.

We met also, at this kraal, one of the nation above mentioned under the name of Damaras. From his appearance I took him to be a Kaffer, and he was unquestionably of that race of people. He represented the Damaras as a very poor tribe; that their country along the sea-coast produced nothing for the support of cattle; and that their whole existence depended on exchanging copper rings and beads, which they themselves manufactured, with the *Briquas* to the east, and the *Namaaquas* to the south. From the Orange river to the Tropic, under which these people live, runs a chain of mountains, which, from the various accounts of travellers, are so abundant in copper ore, that it is every where found upon the surface. From this ore, it seems, the Damaras are in possession of the art of extracting the pure metal. This man's account of the process of smelting the ore was as satisfactory as simple. They make a kind of charcoal from the wood of a certain mimosa, of which he gave me a large bean,

by smothering it when burning clear, with sand. They break the ore into small pieces. Thus prepared, they lay the materials in alternate strata, within a small enclosure of stones, on a clayey bottom. They set fire to the charcoal, and blow it with several bellows, each made from the skin of a gemsbok converted into a sack, with the horn of the same animal fixed to one end for the pipe. This is all that is necessary to procure the metal from the sort of ore they make use of; being that species called by mineralogists vitreous copper ore. It is in fact mineralized with sulphur, which a moderate heat will dissipate, and leave the copper in its pure metallic state. Such kind of ore is even more fusible than pure copper. The metal thus obtained is then manufactured into chains, rings, and bracelets, by means of two pieces of stone that serve as a hammer and anvil, and the workmanship would be no disgrace to an artizan furnished with much better tools. The links of the chains, however, are all open, as well as the rings, which shew that they have not yet discovered the art of soldering, or joining together pieces of the same metal by the interposition of a second, or a composition of a softer nature than those to be united.

As a nation of artists, and acquainted with metallurgy, they are, from all accounts, the poorest on the face of the earth. They keep no kind of cattle. Their country, in fact, is so totally barren and sandy, that no cattle could exist upon it. Though the Damaras are obviously the same race of people as the Kaffers, and these, as has in a former chapter been conjectured, of Arabic origin, yet there is no necessity of tracing them back to a more refined nation, in order

to account from whence they might have obtained the art of reducing copper ore into a metallic state. The accidental discovery is full as likely to have happened, as the Phenician story of the invention of glass related by Pliny.

The three tribes of Kaffers above-mentioned have each a different language, though they are all of the same nature, and have evidently been derived from the same source. This must be the case among every people who want a written character, especially when they become divided into tribes, and cease to communicate with each other. The different families of Hottentots all speak a different language, which, however, is very obviously perceived to have been derived from one common origin.

Having dried our clothes, we took leave of the kraal, and continued our descent of the mountain. It was night before we gained the plain, where we once more enjoyed a clear sky and a brilliant moon. The following morning the thermometer was down to the freezing point, and the whole surface of the country was covered with a hoar frost.

From this place we made the best of our way to the Bokkeveld, returning nearly by the same route that had brought us to it. At the edge of the desert the Bosjesmans' captain paid us a second visit, with the people of his kraal, and a whole string of Namaaqua Hottentots, generally women, whose husbands and children were in the service of the Dutch farmers. One of these appeared to be the oldest woman I had ever beheld. Much more than a century of years had

certainly passed over her head. She produced her eldest daughter, who headed five generations. On being asked whether her memory could carry her back to the time when the Christians first came among them? she replied, with a shake of the head, that she had very strong reasons to remember it, for that before she had ever heard of the Christians, she knew not the want of a bellyful, whereas it was now a difficult matter to get a mouthful. The condition of the whole horde certainly appeared to be very deplorable; but I feel a happiness in adding, that, by means of this captain and two or three well-disposed farmers, several hordes of the outcast Bosjesmans have since been brought in, and obtained by public subscription a considerable quantity of sheep and horned cattle, of which, it is to be hoped, they will speedily see the advantage of increasing the numbers.

On the morning of the fifth of May, after dropping the commandant at his own house, I proceeded inland to the eastward, and, passing over a rough stony country, reached in two days the foot of the Hantam mountain. The inhabitants at this time were in a state of alarm, on account of the Bosjesmans. A party of these people had carried off, into the kloofs of the mountain, several sheep and oxen, after severely wounding two Hottentots with poisoned arrows, one through the upper part of the arm, and the other in the ankle joint. The former seemed likely to do well, but the latter was in a very dangerous way. The point of the arrow had broken off and stuck in the bone. The leg was swollen as high as the knee, and gangrene appeared to have commenced round the wound. The people not knowing in what manner

to treat it, I directed them to apply poultices of bread, onions, and oil, and to wash the wound well with a solution of *ammonia præparata*, and to give him plenty of vinegar to drink. At the end of four days, which it took me in rounding the mountain, the patient was no worse, but the wound, on the contrary, seemed to put on favorable appearances; the other was nearly well.

The Bosjesmans have been generally represented as a people so savage and blood-thirsty in their nature, that they never spare the life of any living creature which may fall into their hands. To their own countrymen, who have been taken prisoners by, and continued to live with, the Dutch farmers, they have certainly shewn instances of the most atrocious cruelty. These poor wretches, if retaken by their countrymen, seldom escape being put to the most excruciating tortures. The party above-mentioned, having fallen in with a Hottentot at some distance from any habitation, set him up to the neck in a deep trench, and wedged him in so fast with stones and earth that he was incapable of moving. In this situation he remained a whole night, and the greater part of the following day; when, luckily, some of his companions passed the place and released him. The poor fellow stated that he had been under the necessity of keeping his eyes and mouth in perpetual motion the whole day, to prevent the crows from devouring him.

The habitations that compose the division of the Hantam, lie scattered round the feet of that mountain. The face of the country is similar to that of the Sneuwberg, and the breed

of cattle and of sheep are equally good ; the horses in general much better, but they are subject to the same endemic disease that prevails in most parts of Graaff Reynet. It is here, however, very partial, for while it rages at the foot of the mountains, there is not the smallest danger on the flat summit, on which account this part of the mountain is appropriated to the public use, each inhabitant having the privilege of sending thither eight horses during the sickly season.

As in the Sneuwberg, they are here also very much infested with locusts. One troop of these insects, in their last stage of existence, passed on the wing along the eastern side of the mountain, when we were encamped there. For several hours they continued to hover in the air as they passed along, at such a height as not to be individually distinguished ; but their immense numbers formed a kind of fleecy cloud, that completely took off the radiated beams of the sun, and made it appear as when seen through a mist. Like a thin cloud, also, they cast a confused shadow on the ground. In the Bokkeveld and the Khamies berg, for the two last years, these insects have been particularly troublesome. After repeated experiments to get rid of them, they at last hit upon one that at least saved their corn. This they effected by making fires of sour acrid plants, by the smoke of which they were driven away ; having, however, repeatedly extinguished the fires by the myriads that flew into them.

Leaving the Hantam, and proceeding south-easterly, I ascended the heights of Roggeveld, that are separated only

from the former by a narrow chasm or opening. These heights are so called from a species of rye-grass that is found very plentifully in most of the hollows, and on which the cattle, during the summer season, in a great degree subsist. In some places the Roggeveld presents to the next lower terrace, which is the Bokkeveld and Karroo plains, perpendicular faces of stone from two to four thousand feet in height. Yet from this great elevation, on the eastern side, the descent is scarcely perceptible. The Fish river, whose course is easterly, and which rises on the very summit of the mountain, scarcely has any current, but is a series of deep holes connected by periodical streamlets. The great inequality of the summit of the Roggeveld gives it the appearance of a chain of mountains rising out of the general surface of a mountain. Of these the *Kom*, or Cup mountain, is the highest. According to the information of a neighbouring peasant, who assisted Colonel Gordon in determining its altitude, it is fifteen hundred feet higher than the Table mountain, or five thousand feet above the Karroo plains. For several months in the year the Roggeveld is entirely under snow; the inhabitants are then obliged to descend upon the Karroo with all their cattle, where, in temporary dwellings of rushes or straw, they remain till the spring. This division of Stellenbosch is considered to produce the best breed of horses in the whole colony.

The country to the eastward of the Roggeveld is inhabited by different hordes of Bosjesmans. One of these, called the *Koranas*, dwelling on the right bank of the Orange river, directly east from the Roggeveld, is represented as a very

formidable tribe of people. The few that I had an opportunity of seeing were strong lusty men, apparently of the same tribe as the Namaaquas. They are considered as being more cruel, and at the same time more daring than any other tribe of this nation. They possess a few sheep and cattle, but have the same wandering inclination, and the same propensity to the chase and to plunder, with the other Bosjesmans. The Briequa Kaffers, who inhabit the country close behind them, are very considerable sufferers from such daring neighbours. Of these people, the Koranas not only carry off large herds of cattle, but they also seize and make slaves of their children, some of whom have been brought into the colony, and purchased by the farmers in exchange for cattle. The Briequas, with their hassagais, have little chance of standing against poisoned arrows. The shields too of the Koranas are enormously large, and so thick that the hassagai cannot penetrate them. I saw one made from the hide of an eland, that measured six feet by four. These people make regular attacks, in large parties of four or five hundred. Though very good friends among each other while poor, from the moment they have obtained by plunder a quantity of cattle, they begin to quarrel about the division of the spoil; and they are said to carry this sometimes to such an excess, that they continue the fight and massacre till, like the soldiers of Cadmus, very few remain in the field,

“ — suoque

“ *Marte cadunt subiti per mutua vulnera fratres.*”

The miserably bad roads, the nakedness of the country, and the very few animals that are found in a state of nature,

upon the Roggeveld mountain, make it a disagreeable, uninteresting, and tedious route for one who travels with no other view than that of gratifying curiosity. Crows, kites, and vultures, are almost the only kinds of birds that are met with. Of the last, I broke the wing of one of that species called by Ornithologists the Condor, of an amazingly large size. The spread of its wings was ten feet and one inch. It kept three dogs for some time completely at bay, and having at length seized one of them with its claws, and torn away a large piece of flesh from its thigh, they all immediately retreated.

Having proceeded for twelve days along the summit of the Roggeveld, till I fell in nearly with the track that had carried me on a former journey to Graaff Reynet, I descended to the Karroo plains, which, in this part, employed me three days in crossing. These plains are every where of the same nature, presenting to the traveller "a scene of dreadful uniformity; where a barren level is bounded only by the horizon; where no change of prospect, or variety of images, relieves the traveller from a sense of toil and danger; of whirlwinds, which, in a moment, may bury him in the sand; and of thirst, which the wealthy have given half their possessions to allay."

Bordering these arid plains, on the west side, are several clumps of high mountains, enclosing meadows and vallies, covered with good grass, that are also called the Bokkeveld, but distinguished from the other by the names of Little Bokkeveld and Cold Bokkeveld. These are ramifications of

the Great Chain mentioned in the former part of this chapter; and the vallies and meadows within them appear to have been the beds of lakes, in which there still remains a number of springs and swamps, that never fail to furnish a copious supply of water in the very driest seasons. The ground is productive of good grass, and yields abundant harvests. The cold in winter obliges the inhabitants to drive their cattle upon the Karroo plains, but not to quit their houses, as is the case with those of the Roggeveld.

On the twenty-seventh of May I repassed the great chain of mountains, through a ravine called the Eland's kloof. Here once more I had an opportunity of contemplating the venerable ruins that lay scattered around, strongly displaying the havoc of old Time. The road over this part of the mountains was much better than I had any reason to expect from the representations of the peasantry. Indeed at this time it was by much the best of the four passes through which I had now crossed this great range of mountains.

The Olifant's river runs along the feet of the great chain on the west side, and is hemmed in between it and a parallel range of high hills, called the *Kardouw*. From one of these issues a plentiful spring of chalybeate water, of the temperature of 108° of Fahrenheit's thermometer. The Dutch government caused a house to be erected at this place for the accommodation of such as might be inclined to use the waters, but, like all the public buildings of the colony, it has been suffered to go out of repair.

On the west side of the Kardouw lies the division of the Four-and-twenty Rivers, extending from thence to the banks of the Berg river. This part of the country to the sea-shore, including Zwartland, consists of a flat extended plain, very fertile in corn, grass, and fruits, and being well watered, is more populous than most parts of the colony. With a proper degree of labor and management in the culture of the land, by plantations and inclosures for shelter, warmth, and moisture, that part of the colony alone, which lies within the great range of mountains, would be fully sufficient to supply with all the necessaries of life the town and garrison of the Cape, and all the shipping that will probably ever frequent its ports.

Crossing the Berg river, I entered Zwartland, where, in consequence of a shower of rain, the inhabitants were busily employed in ploughing the ground, which the long drought this year had hitherto prevented them from entering. In this division there is no scarcity of water in springs or wells, but it is universally, and so strongly, impregnated with salt, as not only to be disagreeable, but almost impossible to be taken by those who have not been long accustomed to it. By such it is preferred to the purest water; this being accounted insipid and tasteless. An old man in the Bokkeveld, who, from his infancy till a few years past, had lived in Zwartland, never missed an opportunity of sending thither a few bottles to be filled with the briny water for his own particular use; the pure stream of the mountain, as he asserted, not being able to quench his thirst. Similar instances of habit, or of fancy, appear in ancient history. Some of the

princesses of the Ptolemy family would drink no other water but that of the Nile, though it is sometimes so strongly impregnated with nitrous and other salts, as to possess a purgative quality; and superstition directed the same water to be carried from Egypt into Syria and Greece, for the sole purpose of sprinkling in the temple of Isis.

Leaving Zwartland, and its saline springs to those who could relish them, I directed my route across the Tiger berg to the Cape, where I arrived on the second of June, without having experienced any of those inconveniencies which the season of the year seemed to threaten.

CHAP. VI.

Miscellaneous Observations, made on a military Expedition to the Kaffer Frontier, intended chiefly to shew the Character and Disposition of the Boors.

FROM the moment that the departure of the Earl of Maccartney for England was made known in the distant parts of the colony, the ignorant and misguided boors, excited by that party of mischievous, and not less ignorant, persons in Cape Town, who had long shewn their hatred to good order, seemed to think that with his Lordship had departed all authority and the means of bringing them to legal punishment. Their restless and turbulent minds and, above all, their avaricious and iniquitous views upon the harmless Kaffers, could no longer brook restraint; and they determined, at a select meeting, as one of them observed in a letter to his friend at the Cape, “Now that the old Lord was gone away, to prove themselves true patriots.”

The first act of their patriotic spirit was an attempt to take by violence, out of the hands of justice, a criminal whom the Landrost, or chief magistrate of the district, had forwarded, under the escort of a dragoon, towards the Cape. His crime, which was an act of forgery on orphan property committed to the care of a constituted board in the Cape called the *Weeskammer*, or chamber for managing the effects of minors and

and orphans, had been fully proved against him before the provincial court of judicature ; but being one of the patriotic party, and a very distinguished character in all the disturbances that had taken place in this district, he was considered as too valuable a subject to be taken off by a regular course of justice. Accordingly, about fourteen boors, each armed with an enormous musquet used for killing elephants and other wild beasts, were dispatched upon the Karroo, or great desert, on the meritorious enterprize of restoring the culprit to the society of which he was a member. The dragoon, however, into whose custody he had been committed, thought proper to demur, and told them, in a very resolute and spirited manner, that sooner than surrender him into their hands, or suffer him to be taken out of his, he should certainly blow out his brains. But the Landrost's secretary, who had also been sent in joint charge of the prisoner, no less frightened than the boors were at the determined manner of the dragoon, prevailed upon the latter, if not to relinquish the criminal, at least to suffer him to be conveyed back to the drosdy, and delivered up to the Landrost ; to this he reluctantly assented ; the courageous boors keeping at a proper distance from the waggon.

Having, however, proceeded thus far, without displaying any extraordinary exploits of patriotism, the shame of their failure seemed to require that they should go a step farther. With the assistance of a schoolmaster, whom they found no difficulty in persuading to be of their party, they issued circular letters to their brother boors, entreating such as they knew to be well disposed to act with them, and commanding, in a

menacing tone, others whose co-operation was doubtful, to assemble in arms without delay. Their first movement was to station themselves near the ford of the Sunday River, just at the entrance of the village; and to send from thence to the Landrost a threatening message, that, unless he would comply with all the demands they were about to make, they should, in the first place seize upon his person, and either hang him before his own door, or deliver him over to some of the boors against whom he had, on a former occasion, been the instrument of obtaining a decree of outlawry, and who were now living with the Kaffers. The Landrost, by means of a few dragoons who luckily happened at this time to be stationed at the drosdy, for the purpose of forwarding dispatches through the country, was not only enabled to hold this undisciplined rabble, though ten times the number of his forces, at defiance, but also secretly to convey to the government at the Cape speedy intelligence of the rebellious conduct of the farmers of his district.

Lord Macartney had been authorized by his Majesty's instructions to grant a free pardon for their misdemeanors, and to remit the arrears of ground-rent due to the Treasury, amounting to two hundred thousand rix-dollars. These gracious indulgencies, that appeared to make some impression for the moment, were however soon forgotten, and it now became obvious that nothing short of a military force could keep them in any sort of order. And as, at this time, the Cape was perfectly secure from any attack of a foreign enemy, General Dundas thought it expedient to direct that a detachment, composed of a squadron of dragoons, a few com-

panies of infantry, and the greater part of the Hottentot corps, should march into the district under the command of Brigadier General Vandeleur. The rebellious boors, now collected in very considerable numbers, had stationed themselves between the drosy and Algoa Bay, where they had formed a kind of camp, and, to a certain degree, according to the new term which their Cape friends had taught them to adopt, had *organized* their forces.

But as the courage of these people displays itself only on particular occasions, such as in acting against defenceless Hottentots, the moment they heard that troops were advancing, they thought proper to disperse, leaving, in the hands of a neutral person, a most humble petition, in which they acknowledged their error, and supplicated forgiveness. To this address the General very properly returned a verbal answer, stating, that he could hold no communication with rebels, until they had voluntarily surrendered themselves to his discretion, and laid their arms at his feet; that, for this purpose, he should name a certain place and day; and that all such as should not appear at the time and place appointed, would be considered in the light of rebels and traitors to his Majesty's government, and would be pursued accordingly.

On the day fixed, the majority of the rebels obeyed the summons; and never surely was exhibited such a motley group of armed cavalry so whimsically equipped. The greater part were such uncouth beings, so very

“ —— Huge of bulk,
“ Wallowing unwieldy, enormous in their gait,”

that it was morally impossible for the by-standers to observe the gravity of countenance which the occasion required ; and the awkward manner in which they dismounted, with the difficulty that some of them experienced on account of the protuberance of their bellies, in grounding their arms, were sufficient to throw the most serious off their guard. The General selected nine of the ringleaders, and sent them under an escort on board of his Majesty's ship the Rattlesnake, then at anchor in Algoa Bay ; on the rest he levied a certain fine towards defraying the expences of the expedition, which their absurd and rebellious conduct had occasioned.

Before this termination of disturbances, which, if suffered to extend to the other districts of the colony, might have been attended with more serious consequences, General Dundas accepted my offer to proceed through the district of Zwellendam, for the purpose of cutting off any communication with Graaff Reynet, and particularly with a view of preventing any supplies of gunpowder from reaching the rebels ; at the same time to send up to the Cape certain persons, who had shewn themselves active in promoting discontent in Zwellendam, and who were known to be disaffected, not only to the British government, but to every other that laid them under the restraint of laws. This journey, the extent of which was intended to be confined to the borders of the Camtoos river, dividing the two districts of Graaff Reynet and Zwellendam, was prolonged, by unforeseen circumstances, into the country inhabited by the Kaffers : and it thus afforded the principal part of the remarks and observations which are contained in the present chapter.

On the 8th of March 1799, I joined Lieutenant (now Captain) Smyth, of the corps of engineers and Aid-du-Camp of General Dundas, with a serjeant's party of dragoons at the foot of Hottentot Holland's Kloof, which is the only pass leading to the eastern parts of the colony, over the high chain of mountains that terminates the Cape isthmus; which chain, at a few miles to the southward of the Kloof, forms the eastern boundary of the extensive bay *False*.

The first river we had occasion to cross, beyond the mountains, is called by the Dutch the Palmiet, the name they give to a strong boggy plant that grows abundantly in this and some other rivers of the colony, probably from its resemblance to some of the palm tribe. If I mistake not, it is a species of *Acorus*. For eight months in the year this river scarcely contains a drop of water, but is mostly impassable the other four; which is also the case with the Bott river about ten miles beyond the Palmiet. Both of these periodical streams are unsafe in the winter season, and fatal accidents have happened to persons attempting to cross them when full. Among these may be mentioned that of Mr. Patrick, assistant-surgeon to the 8th Light Dragoons, whose horse being unable to stem the stream, was carried down the river, and the rider perished.

The country affords tolerably good pasturage, and will yield one moderate crop of grain in the season without manure. It is thinly inhabited, consisting principally of grazing farms which belong to persons who hold estates upon the Cape side of the mountains. The first house that occurred in our route was near ten miles beyond the kloof, which, by losing our way

in the dark across the wide heath, we did not reach before midnight.

The 9th of March was the hottest and most oppressive day I ever experienced in Southern Africa. I had no thermometer with me, but I afterwards learnt that, during the whole day nearly, the temperature in Cape Town was 104° of Fahrenheit's scale. In the whole of this day's march, of about twenty miles, we were not able to procure a drop of water for the horses, except once just after starting, nor even any shade from the scorching rays of the sun; for trees in this part of the country are as rare as Doctor Johnson found them to be, of as great an age as himself, in Scotland. The horse on which I was mounted was so much overcome by the heat, that it literally dropped down under me, and was unable to carry me any farther.

Wearied and exhausted we reached, at length, the hovel of a shoemaker, near which we found a few puddles of muddy water, stagnating in the clayey bed of a rivulet, but it was so much impregnated with earth and salts that the horses, thirsty as they were, would scarcely touch it. At this place we contrived to pass the night, but we experienced a most uncomfortable lodging. Unluckily for us it happened to be Sunday, and, the shoemaker being known to all his neighbours, living within the circuit of twenty miles, and particularly to his *nearest* neighbours of three or four miles, to be a jolly good fellow, who always kept a glass of wine, and a strong *sopie* to regale his friends, the house was crowded with people. There were but two apartments, one of which was filled with the

company ; the other we occupied. This, it seemed, was made to answer the four-fold purpose of bed-chamber, work-shop, cellar, and storehouse. The heat of the weather, the closeness of the room, which had only one small aperture to admit the light, added to the mingled odours arising from stinking leather, bunches of onions, butchers' meat swarming with flies, fumes of tobacco, dregs of wine and gin and Cape brandy, standing in pools on the clayed floor ; in a word, such "a congregation of foul and pestilential vapours," was sufficient to nauseate stomachs much less squeamish than ours. Nor was the sense of feeling less annoyed by an innumerable quantity of bugs, fleas, and musquitoes. Perhaps, indeed, it might be considered as an advantage in having two or three senses tormented at once ; as the pain affecting one might, in a certain degree, be deadened by the acuteness of feeling in another. How often, in the course of this night, did I bless my good fortune, in having used my waggon for my lodging house in all my former long journies through this miserable country ; inhabited by a still more miserable race of mortals ! How many sleepless nights, and nauseous scenes, have I not avoided by adopting such a plan !

To add to our present uncomfortable situation, the guests were perpetually interrupting us in their application to the wine cask, or the brandy bottle. Our patience, at length, being quite exhausted, we resolved to barricade the door. This, however, failed of success. The votaries of Bacchus were not so easily to be disappointed of their weekly libations. After several fruitless attempts to force the door, they thought of trying the window ; but this small pigeon-hole, being much

too narrow in its dimensions to admit the huge carcase of an African boor, obliged them to have recourse to the expedient of sending in a thin Hottentot girl; but, on account of the peculiar shape of the women of this nation, the lower part of the body refused to follow where the head had passed, and she stuck fast in the window. This produced a prodigious burst of boisterous mirth; the girl, however, after a great deal of squeezing and pushing, effected the purpose, and procured for the tumultuous boors a supply of their favorite liquors. To prevent a return, we barred in the window, and having thus completely made ourselves masters of the cellar, the boors, after several volleys of imprecations, accompanied with thundering assaults, sometimes at the door, and then at the window, thought fit about midnight to leave the house, in search of another jovial neighbour at the distance, perhaps, of eight or ten miles. This scene would have afforded an excellent subject for the pencil of Ostade, who, if we may form a conclusion from his pictures, must have been witness to many of the same kind.

The noise of the Bacchanalians was accompanied by a storm of thunder; and the rain, that fell in the course of the night, had rendered the air the next morning cool and refreshing. It was the first shower that had fallen in this part of the country for near four months, and the effects of it on the ground were very sensibly perceived in the course of four days.

At this season of the year, when the earth is thoroughly heated, the rapidity with which vegetation bursts forth, after

rain, is almost incredible. Among the earliest of such plants, as by the brilliancy of their flowers captivate the sight, are the various species of the *oxalis*, the yellow star-flower, and the three-colored *Lachenalia*, with two or three other species of the same genus. But one of the most singular among the small plants, that blossom in the beginning of winter, is the *septas*, whose name is derived from the regular septenary division of all the different parts of fructification, and is remarkable for being the only plant, yet discovered, in the seventh class and seventh order of the Linnæan System.

The refreshing coolness, occasioned by the rain, permitted us to extend our march to the river *Zonder End*, or Endless River, near the banks of which the Dutch East India Company had reserved, for its own use, an extensive tract of land called the *Sweet Milk's Valley*. It is bounded on the north side by a range of hills that were once well covered with forest trees, but these have long been cut down, few of any magnitude now remaining, except in the deep chasms where they are scarcely accessible. The country, on each side of the river, is extremely pleasant, and tolerably well inhabited, in comparison at least with other parts; the dwellings being seldom removed from one another beyond the regulated distance of three miles. A few of the small kind of antelopes still remain, as *reeboks*, *springboks*, *griesboks*, and *duykers*, and plenty of hares and partridges; but the large *bonteboks* are almost totally destroyed, or driven to some other part of the settlement. I observed, on a former journey, that in the neighbourhood of this river was once to be found the *Leucophæa* or blue antelope; but that, for many years past, it had been lost to the

colony. I understood, however, that a few months before we evacuated the Cape, a small herd of this beautiful animal had again made its appearance among the wooded hills behind Sweet Milk's Valley, where, instead of suffering them to remain unmolested, at least for some time, that their numbers might increase, the farmers were lying in wait for their destruction.

Close to this river is the establishment of the *Hernhüters* or Moravian missionaries, which I had occasion to notice on a former journey. These worthy men, by the protection afforded them under the British government, and by its liberality, through General Dundas, in enabling them to enlarge their territory, had considerably extended their society of Hottentots; whom they not only instructed in the principles of the Christian religion, but by example, as well as precept, taught to feel, that their value in society was proportioned to the benefits they were able to render to the community by useful labor and the example of good conduct.

These men have clearly shewn to the world, by the effects of this institution, that there is not among savages, in general, that invincible aversion to labor which some have been inclined to suppose. Those, indeed, whose daily subsistence depends on the chase, may contract a disposition to rambling and to a frequent change of place, but the precarious supply of food obtained by hunting is not the reward of sluggish indolence, but of toil, of lassitude, and anxiety. The fewer the wants that man has to gratify, the less inclination will he feel to exert his corporeal powers. In a mere savage state, if these

wants could be supplied without any effort, the predominant pleasures of life would consist in eating and sleeping. The propensity to inaction can only be overcome by giving the laborer an interest in the product of his labor; by making him feel the weight and value of property. The colonists of the Cape pursued no such plan with regard to their conduct towards the Hottentots. Having first held out the irresistible charm that spirituous liquors and tobacco are found to possess among all people in a rude state of society, they took the advantage of exchanging those pernicious poisons for the only means the natives enjoyed of subsisting themselves and their families; and, however extraordinary it may appear, instead of instructing and encouraging a race of men, of willing and intelligent minds, to renew the means of subsistence, of which they had deprived them, they imported, at a vast expence, a number of Malay slaves, not more expert, and much less to be depended on, than the Hottentots; to whom, indeed, they even preferred the stupid negroes of Mosambique and Madagascar.

Whether it happened from real ignorance of the character of these natives, or from strong prejudices imbibed against them, or from an adherence to a narrow policy, I cannot pretend to determine; but, from the inquiries I have made, it does not appear they have at any period experienced a treatment equally favorable to that of the meanest slaves. Not many years ago it was thought expedient, for some purpose or other, to assemble a considerable number in or near the town, but the business for which they were collected, dwindling into a job for the emolument of the persons who

had the management of it; and as the Hottentots were neither paid, clothed, nor fed, they exhibited a scene of filth, misery, and wretchedness; they became a nuisance to the town, and were in consequence disbanded.

The colonists were ready to predict a similar fate to the attempt of Sir James Craig, of forming them into a corps; but their predictions ended in their disappointment. "Never," observes Sir James, "were people more contented or more grateful for the treatment they now receive. We have upwards of three hundred who have been with us nine months. It is, therefore, with the opportunity of knowing them well, that I venture to pronounce them an intelligent race of men. All who bear arms exercise well, and understand immediately, and perfectly, whatever they are taught to perform. Many of them speak English tolerably well. We were told that so great was their propensity to drunkenness, we should never be able to reduce them to order or discipline, and that the habit of roving was so rooted in their disposition, we must expect the whole corps would desert, the moment they had received their clothing. With respect to the first, I do not find they are more given to the vice of drinking than our own people; and, as to their pretended propensity to roving, that charge is fully confuted by the circumstance of only one man having left us since I first adopted the measure of assembling them, and he was urged to this step from having accidentally lost his firelock."—"Of all the qualities," he further observes, "that can be ascribed to a Hottentot, it will little be expected I should expatiate upon their cleanliness; and yet

“ it is certain that, at this moment, our Hottentot parade
“ would not suffer in a comparison with that of some of our
“ regular regiments. Their clothing may, perhaps, have suf-
“ fered more than it ought to have done, in the time since
“ it was issued to them, from their ignorance of the means of
“ preserving it; but those articles, which are capable of
“ being kept clean by washing, together with their arms and
“ accoutrements, which they have been taught to keep
“ bright, are always in good order. They are now, likewise,
“ cleanly in their persons; the practice of smearing them-
“ selves with grease being entirely left off. I have fre-
“ quently observed them washing themselves in a rivulet,
“ where they could have in view no other object but clean-
“ liness.” It will be no less satisfactory to the reader, than
it is gratifying to myself, in thus having an opportunity of
adding, in support of my former description of the moral
character of this people, the opinion of such high and respect-
able authority.

None felt more sincere regret and uneasiness at that article
in the treaty of peace, which ceded the Cape to its former
owners, than these worthy missionaries. From the malignant
spirit of the boors, they had every thing to apprehend. The
friends of humanity, however, will rejoice to learn, that this
asylum for an innocent and oppressed race of men continues
to receive the countenance and protection of the present
government; the two leading members of which appear to be
actuated by views and sentiments very different from those
of the majority of the people, over which they are appointed
to rule. It is obvious, indeed, to every man of common un-

derstanding, that an institution so encouraged cannot fail to prove of infinite advantage to a colony where useful labor is so much wanted. If any example were capable of rousing the sluggish settlers, that of six hundred people being subsisted on the same space of ground, which every individual family among them occupies, for they had nothing more till very lately than a common loan farm of three miles in diameter, would be sufficient to stimulate them to habits of industry.

Other missionaries, but of different societies, have lately proceeded to very distant parts of the colony, and some even much beyond it, both among the Kaffers to the eastward, and the Bosjesman Hottentots to the northward. The latter they represent as a docile and tractable people, of innocent manners, and grateful to their benefactors beyond expression; but the Kaffers, they say, are a volatile race, extremely good humoured, but turn into ridicule all their attempts to convert them to Christianity. Mr. Kicherer, a regular bred minister of the reformed church, and a gentleman of mild and persuasive manners, proceeded, alone and totally unprotected, into the midst of the Bosjesman hordes on the skirts of the Orange River. He considered, that a solitary being without arms, or any visible means of doing injury to his fellow mortals, would be received without suspicion, and might enter into the society of the most savage hordes without danger. The event proved his conjectures to be right. He lived in the midst of a tribe, the most needy and wretched that he could discover, for many years; shared with them every inconvenience; and suffered a total privation of all the com-

forts, and very frequently even of the necessaries, of life ; with a weak constitution, he braved the vicissitudes of an unsteady climate in scanty clothing, in temporary huts and hovels that were neither proof against wind nor water, and oftentimes in the open air ; on deserts wild and naked as those of Arabia ; he learned their language ; instructed them in the benevolent doctrines of Christianity ; and endeavoured, with enthusiastic zeal, to assuage their miserable lot in this life, by assuring them that there was “ Another and a better world :” in a word, he became so much attached to this most indigent and deplorable race of human beings, who possess nothing they can call their own, but live from day to day on the precarious spoils of the chace, and commonly on the spontaneous products of a barren soil, that it was not without difficulty, and great distress to his feelings, he mustered resolution to tear himself from his little flock : lingering under a disease that threatened to terminate in a consumption, he could not be prevailed upon to desert them, when urged by his friends to accept of a vacant living of one of the colonial churches, which was offered to him by the government.

When one reflects for a moment on the toils and hardships, the dangers and the difficulties, that these religious enthusiasts voluntarily undergo, without any prospect of reward, or even reputation, in this world, it is impossible to withhold admiration at a conduct so seemingly disinterested, and whose motives appear to be under an influence so different from that by which most human actions are governed. Whatever degree of merit may be due to this class of missionaries, the

practical philosopher will, unquestionably, give the preference to the plan of the Moravians, which unites with precepts of religion and morality a spirit of useful labor; and whose grand aim is to make their disciples comfortable in this world, as a token or earnest of that happiness which they are taught to expect in the world to come. But after all the toil and anxiety which the worthy character above mentioned cheerfully underwent in the cause of suffering humanity, what must his feelings be, if he still be living, and happens to peruse the following letter, to find that his only reward is that of being considered by the vile people of the Cape as the abettor of murder, and that he has been with others the innocent cause of fifteen of his inoffensive disciples being inhumanly butchered in cold blood by those remorseless colonists who dare to call themselves by the sacred name of Christians. This letter, which just reached me as the present work was going to press, will serve to shew, among other facts I shall have occasion to state, of what deliberate and blood-thirsty ruffians the peasantry of the Cape are composed.

It states that, “ on the 6th of Decemder 1802, about the
“ evening, threc Bosjesmans came to the house of the Burger
“ Cornelis Jansen, having with them three pack-oxen (*draag-*
“ *ossen*); the said Jansen immediatcly reported it to the com-
“ mandant (*Veld-Cornet*), who instantly sent an armed party
“ (*commando*) to his house. On the following day, being the
“ 7th, there came twelve more to them, having three guns
“ and three pack-oxen; all the rest were well armed with
“ bows, arrows, and hassagays. The commandant Berger
“ went himself to Jansen’s in the morning to ask the reason

“ of their coming there, when he discovered that eight of
 “ them were *Koranas* and seven *Bosjesmans*. Being asked
 “ by the party what they came to do, they said that they
 “ were come to beg a little *dacha* (*hemp*) and tobacco. The
 “ commandant had the same answer, but *he understood the*
 “ *way to question them so closely, that he brought them to open*
 “ *confession* (by horrid tortures no doubt), that they came to
 “ examine how their farms (*plaatzen*) were to be attacked;
 “ and also to see if there was water enough to come with a
 “ *great troop*. Being asked who had sent them, they an-
 “ swered *Trüter* and the English missionary *Kicherer*, in order
 “ to spy the places, and return to the *kraal* where *Kicherer*
 “ and *Trüter* would wait their return, to furnish them with
 “ musquets, powder, and ball. On being asked how they
 “ were to execute it? they answered, by attacking the farm-
 “ houses by two and two at the same time, so that they
 “ could not assist one another. ALL THE FIFTEEN WE
 “ HAVE SHOT DEAD (*doodgeschooten*), HAVING FIRST EX-
 “ TORTED THIS CONFESSION FROM THEM. The hat which
 “ *Trüter* gave to the captain we have got; it is a black one
 “ with a silver band, and a cane with a brass head, on which
 “ is engraved “ Captain *Kauwinnoub*.” Mark now with
 “ what murderous intentions is this *Trüter* inspired against
 “ us! To have us all massacred in our houses!”

The account of this transaction is thus given by Baron Van P——, the private secretary to Governor Jansens.

“ A Hottentot captain, of the name of *Kouwinnoub*, bear-
 “ ing the distinguishing mark of his rank (a stick, on the

“ brass head of which were engraven the arms of his Ma-
“ jesty), and furnished, moreover, with a passport signed by
“ one of the members of Government, went, accompanied
“ by fifteen Hottentots, to procure a few leaves of tobacco
“ in the plains of Sneuwberg. The boors, recollecting, per-
“ haps, that three years ago these faithful soldiers had served
“ the Government by keeping them in order, thought it a
“ favorable opportunity to revenge themselves on these un-
“ happy creatures. Led on by a *Veld cornet*, of the name of
“ *Burgers*, they seized the whole company, who suspected no
“ ill; and, notwithstanding all the proofs in their favor, it
“ was agreed that they were criminals, and that they must
“ be treated accordingly. The *Boorish Court of Justice* re-
“ solved, therefore, to bind them to a tree, and to draw from
“ them by torture a confession of crimes, of which a thought
“ had never entered into their heads; to reiterated blows
“ and inhuman tortures they held out promises of forgive-
“ ness, if they would confess all that was required of them;
“ and by these means they forced from them the unfortunate
“ declaration that they came with an intention to plunder
“ the neighbourhood. The only concern of *the Court* was to
“ write down a confession, which the application of the tor-
“ ture and the hope of being set at liberty had wrung from
“ these innocent victims. The boors put their names to this
“ declaration, as an attestation of the truth, and made an
“ end of the business by voting for their death. The sen-
“ tence was instantly put in execution, and the poor Hot-
“ tentots were shot.—A whole half year has passed away
“ since this event, and justice hitherto has not interfered, I
“ should not dare to say wherefore.”

As this chapter is meant to exemplify the character of the Dutch boors of the Cape settlement, I shall extract another instance of their savage brutality, recorded in a pamphlet, written by the above-mentioned gentleman, which, if possible, equals, if not exceeds, in its atrocity, any thing of the kind which history has handed down. “ Des que les Anglois avoient quittés le fort, un colon nommée Ferreira, de famille Portugaise, s’en rendit le maître, et en prit possession pour lors, ce qui durá jusqu’au l’arrivée du detachment que le Gouvernement y a envoyé sous les ordres du Major Von Gilten, et qui y commande en ce moment. Les Caffres, croiant que la derniere paix avoit finie tout démêlé entre eux, envoyèrent une bête à tuer au nouveau commandant du fort, comme une marque d’amitié et de reconciliation ; le Caffre le fit conduire par un Hottentot ; et Ferreira par reconnoissance se saisit du Caffre, *le brula tout vif ;* attachá le pauvre Hottentot à un arbre, *lui coupa un morceau de la chair de sa cuisse, le lui fit manger tout crue,* et le relacha ensuite.”

“ As soon as the English had abandoned the fort (at Algoa Bay) a boor named Ferreira, of a Portugueze family, made himself master of it, and kept possession till the arrival of a detachment of troops which Government sent thither, under the command of Major Von Gilten, who is still there. The Kaffers, fully persuaded that the late peace had put an end to all disturbances between them, sent to the new commander of the fort a bullock to be slain, as the test of reconciliation and friendship. The Kaffer sent on the occasion put himself under the guide of a Hottentot ; and

“ Ferreira, by way of returning the kind intention, laid hold
“ of the Kaffer and *broiled him alive* ; bound the poor Hot-
“ tentot to a tree, *cut a piece of flesh out of his thigh, made*
“ *him eat it raw*, and then released him !”

The first day's march beyond the Sweet Milk's Valley was across a tame flat country, the road winding along the right bank of the Endless River ; a name whose fallacy was detected by crossing it the next day, just where it forms a confluence with, and of course ends in, the Broad River. The latter, in the winter months, is a vast volume of water sufficient to float a ship of the line, but, in summer, not more than ankle deep. The distance from this river to Zwelldam, the seat of the Landrost and capital of the district so called, is only about nine miles, over a country that is capable of an extensive cultivation, but which is suffered to remain almost entirely an unproductive desert.

As we knew this to be the only village that would occur in the course of our long journey, we thought it prudent to halt a day, in order to refresh the horses, to have their shoes removed or renewed, and the saddles repaired ; after which we continued our march, for three easy days, to a tolerably good farm-house called the *Hagel Kraal*, situated at the foot of the *Attaquas Kloof*. The country we had passed was little calculated to excite any degree of interest ; the dwellings, as usual, were thinly scattered ; the land under no regular system of tillage, exhibiting a barren waste, without a single tree, or even a shrub, that by its size or beauty would arrest the attention of the traveller ; yet the soil of the greater part

of the country appeared to be superior to most of the cornlands in the vicinity of the Cape. Here too a scarcity is observable of the most ordinary game of the country, such as small antelopes, hares, partridges, and the several species of bustards.

From this place it was our intention to cross the first chain of mountains which runs parallel, or nearly so, with the seacoast. Previous, however, to this undertaking, it was found necessary, in conformity to the instructions I had received, to take into custody, and to send up to the Cape, a certain boor who was known to have held communication with the rebels of Graaff Reynet; and strongly suspected of having assisted them with gunpowder. By escorting this person to the Landrost of the district, two fine young men of the 8th Light Dragoons unfortunately lost their lives. On their return towards the droosdy a violent thunder-storm arose, during which the rain descended in such torrents as to fill, to the brim, a small rivulet that we had passed the day before without observing a single drop of water in its channel. The Hottentot, who led the foremost pair of oxen in the team, finding himself unable to withstand the rapidity of the current, let go the rope and effected his escape as well as he could. The oxen, being thus left without a guide, turned their heads in the direction of the stream. The waggon was upset; two of the young men, who unfortunately could not swim, were seen no more; and Captain Smyth, with the rest, had a very narrow escape.

We crossed the mountains, over the Attaquas Pass, on the 18th of March, and entered the *Lange Kloof* or Long Valley. Here we met with, at almost every farm, an excellent vineyard of the Muscatel and Persian grape, both at this time fully ripe; we observed also extensive plantations of tobacco, and a variety of fruit trees. The oranges were large and remarkably good. Notwithstanding the great plenty, and the good quality of the grapes, the inhabitants made little wine, and that little was execrably bad. The distance, indeed, from a market, and the badness of the roads, hold out little encouragement to the farmer, either for extending the quantity or improving the quality of this article. Raisins, being a more transportable commodity, are more the object of their attention than wine. The making of these requires a very simple process. The bunch of grapes is first immersed in a strong solution of wood ashes, and afterwards laid upon a stage covered with rush matting, until it be thoroughly dried. The bruised grapes, the undergrowings, the stalks and expressed husks, with the lees or dregs of new wine, are thrown together into large vessels until they ferment, and are then distilled into a sort of brandy. From trash like this is most of the ardent spirit manufactured which is sold in the Cape under the name of *Brandewyn*, and which, from its cheapness and bad quality, not only poisons the bodies, but also corrupts the morals of the lower orders of the town, and the country farmers.

Our march along the *Lange Kloof* was delightfully pleasant. The road was extremely good, the country cheerful, being

mostly covered with grass or shrubby plants, exhibiting from a distance a continuance of verdant lawns, which are not frequent in this colony, by much the greater portion of the surface being either extensive wastes of karroo almost without a vestige of vegetation, or naked ranges of mountains. Here too there was a sufficiency of water to admit of farm-houses being placed at the regulated distance of three miles. The sloping sides of the valley were covered with a great variety of splendid heaths, in the height of their blossom, of the shrub called *gnidia*, of the showy and everlasting *Xeranthemum*, and a profusion of other plants that the eye of a botanist would have feasted upon with avidity. But the nature of our expedition would only admit of a glance in passing.

Having proceeded along the Kloof to that part which is nearly opposite to Plettenberg's Bay, we found it necessary to halt a few days in order to refresh the horses. In the mean time I crossed the mountains, agreeably to my instructions, and assembled the wood-cutters in the vicinity of the bay, to enter into a contract with them for a supply of timber for the public service at the Cape. Independent of the wants of the government, it was considered adviseable, at this juncture, to furnish these people with employment, in order to keep them at home; for, such is the nature of an African boor, that, having nothing particular to engage his attention, he is glad of an excuse to ride to the distance of eight or ten days, whether it be to a church or to a vendue, to hunt elephants or to plunder the Kaffers.

In justice, however, to the farmers of Plettenberg Bay district, it ought to be stated that they are the only class of people, in the whole colony, which deserves the name of being industrious. To fell the large trees, that are now only to be procured in deep glens, and then to drag them out, is a work of labor and toil ; and their profits are so trifling, that few of them are enabled to purchase slaves, and of course are reduced to the necessity of working themselves.

The extent of the forests, beginning at Mossel Bay, and running eastward parallel to the sea-coast, is at least two hundred and fifty English miles, and the breadth from the feet of the mountains to the sea is ten, fifteen, and in some places twenty, miles. A great part of this tract is composed of large and beautiful plains, intersected by numerous rivers, and abounding in lakes full of excellent fish. The ground is well calculated either for pasturage or tillage, and capable of complete irrigation. Was this long tract of country, together with that which is comprehended between the north range of mountains and the west coast, and from Saint Helena Bay to the Cape, inhabited by industrious families, a much greater mass of people than is at present contained within the widely extended limits of the colony might be subsisted with infinitely more comfort than they now are, and an abundance of corn and cattle, wine, and other necessaries, might be supplied, over and above, for a garrison of five thousand men, and for a fleet containing an equal number of souls. But, in order to make the country produce such a supply, it would be necessary to introduce a new race of inhabitants, or to change the nature of the old ones.

I have frequently had occasion to notice the abundance of iron ore that occurs in almost every part of Southern Africa, some of which is so rich in metal as to contain from seventy to eighty per cent., and to observe that the total want of fuel rendered it useless. Here, however, in the vicinity of the forests, that objection is removed ; and the ores might, in all probability, be melted to advantage, as all kinds of iron work are prodigiously dear at the Cape. We were told that, in the neighbourhood of the Knysna, another large mass of native iron had been discovered, similar to that which I mentioned to have seen in the plains of the Zuure Veldt, and which I then supposed the Kaffers to have carried thither from the sea shore. I paid little attention to the report at that time, nor did we go out of our way to look at it ; but since my return to the Cape, the discovery of a third mass, in an extraordinary situation, the very summit of Table Mountain, excited a stronger degree of curiosity. I imagined the first to have been the flat part of an anchor, although it was destitute of any particular shape ; but in this of Table Mountain, which might weigh from one hundred and fifty to one hundred and sixty pounds, there appeared some faint traces of the shape of the flook, or the broad part of the arm which takes hold of the ground. It was found half buried in sand and quartz pebbles, every part, as well under as above ground, much corroded, and the cavities filled with pebbles, which, however, did not appear to be component parts of the mass, not being angular, but evidently rounded by attrition. As, in the first instance, I suppose the Kaffers to have carried the mass into the situation where it was discovered ; so also,

with regard to the latter, I am inclined to think it must have been brought upon the summit of the mountain by the native Hottentots, as to a place of safety, when Bartholomew Diaz, or some of the early Portuguese navigators, landed first in this country. Others, however, who have seen and examined the mass, are of opinion that it must have been placed in its present situation at a period long antecedent to the discovery of the Cape of Good Hope by Europeans. Be that as it may, the resemblance it bears to part of an anchor, with the Neptunian appearances of various parts of Southern Africa, which are particularly striking in the formation of the Table Mountain, press strongly on the recollection the beautiful observation of the Latin poet :

“ Vidi ego, quòd fuerat quondam solidissima tellus.
 “ Esse fretum. Vidi factas ex æquore terras,
 “ Et procul a pelago conchæ jacuere marinæ
 “ Et vetus inventa est in montibus anchora summis.”

“ The face of places, and their forms, decay ;
 “ And that is solid earth that once was sea :
 “ Seas in their turn, retreating from the shore,
 “ Make solid land what ocean was before ;
 “ Far from the shore are shells of fishes found,
 “ And rusty anchors fix'd on mountain-ground.”

It may be observed, by the way, that Mr. Dryden has reversed the idea of the poet in the first couplet of his translation, and continued the same in his second, making only the land to gain on the sea, instead of contrasting it with the opposite effect of the sea encroaching on the land. Observing this to a son of my ingenious and learned friend

Doctor Tytler, a boy of twelve years of age, he requested to have the Latin lines, and immediately produced the following stanzas :

“ Turn'd into sea I've seen the earth
“ Dissolved in the wave,
“ And from the sea new hills spring forth,
“ And their broad backs upheave.

“ And far from ocean's utmost bounds,
“ Shells have discover'd been,
“ And on the tops of rising grounds
“ Old rusty anchors seen.”

In our return over the mountains from Plettenberg's Bay little occurred to attract attention. The *Sparmannia* in the woods, with its large leaves of light green, contrasted with the dark and slender foliage of the yellow wood tree, and the still darker *Eckbergia*, with the lofty summits of the naked mountains rising far above them, afforded scenery for the pencil extremely picturesque and beautiful. The fibres of the bark of the *Sparmannia* make an excellent kind of hemp, superior in strength to that of the *Hibiscus*, which I noticed on a former visit to this bay. Saplings of this tree the second year rise in a clear stem to the height of six feet, so that in the event of any future establishment being made at Plettenberg's Bay, the *Sparmannia* may become a very useful plant. The *Gardenia Thunbergia*, or the wild Cape Jessamine, being in the height of its blossom, gave out so powerful a scent, that, in the evening, it could be perceived at the distance of several miles. The *Nymphaea cerulea*, and another species of a smaller size with spear-shaped leaves,

(*foliis hastatis*), and rose-colored petals, ornamented the margins of the *Keurboom* River; and the *Wachendorfia* with the *Aletris Uvaria* were common in all the boggy grounds. The stately white *Strelitzias*, which are found only on the banks of the Pisang River, were also now in flower. The *Protea Grandifloræ*, on the summit of the mountains, resembled, in their size and appearance, old stunted oaks. Heaths also were very large, and bulbous rooted plants in great abundance. We found, likewise, growing among the rocks, numbers of that singular plant the *Tamus Elephantipes*, so called from the resemblance of its large tuberous root, rising above the surface of the ground, to the foot of the elephant. This district affords, in fact, a rich field for the naturalist. Let his favorite pursuit be what it may, botany, ornithology, or zoology, he may here indulge his inclination. The greater part of the forest trees still remain unexamined. The birds are numerous, and have not *seriously* been attacked by any other collector than Mr. Le Vaillant, of whom Mr. Meeding, for many years the postholder at the bay, speaks as being an excellent shot at small birds, and a most indefatigable pursuer of them. Of animals, from the little tailless *das* or Cavy, and the pigmy Antelope, to the huge Elephant, the woods of Sitsikamma furnish great variety. The *Plain* of *Hartebeests* abounds with that noble species of the antelope tribe from which it takes its name; and every thicket is filled with the beautiful *Bosbok*, or Bush deer, remarkable for its spotted haunches, and still more so from the near resemblance of its cry to the barking of a dog.

On reaching our quarters in Langé Kloof we were agreeably surprized to find that the shoes of all our horses had been removed, and new ones placed on such as wanted them. This had been a matter of serious consideration from the first day of our expedition ; for, as the horses of the colony are never shod, except those in the hands of the English, we could hardly flatter ourselves that we should meet with any person in the interior of the country, capable of undertaking such an operation. A young man, however, born deaf and dumb, without ever having seen a horse-shoe before, made several new ones, and replaced others with as much care and neatness, as one that had been brought up to the business of a farrier. This ingenious young man, the only one I can safely say that I ever met with in the course of my travels in this country, supported, by his labor, a worthless, drunken father, and a number of brothers and sisters.

Nothing of moment occurred until we reached the borders of the Camtoos River, which divides the district of Zwellendam from that of Graaff Reynet. Being passable only by waggons at one ford, we encamped there, as the most eligible situation for keeping open a communication between Brigadier General Vandeleur and the Cape. Scarcely, however, had we arrived, when an express from the General directed us to proceed to Algoa Bay.

The country between the Camtoos River and this bay is extremely rich and beautiful. Like a gentleman's park, or pleasure grounds, in England, the surface is diversified with thickets and knots of stately trees, planted, however, by the spon-

tancous and free hand of nature. The knolls are covered with thick grass, which, for want of cattle to eat it off, is suffered to rot upon the ground, or is partially burnt off towards the end of summer to make room for the young blades to shoot up with the earliest rains of winter. It is greatly to be lamented that so fine a country should be suffered to remain in total neglect. A few indolent boors grasp the whole district, which, when in possession of the rightful owners, the Kaffers and the Hottentots, some thirty years ago, maintained many thousand families by the numbers of their cattle it was found capable of supporting. The small game, which here are plentiful, gramineous roots, the bulbs of the iris, of the wild garlick, and of the *Cyanella*, the filaments and anthers of whose stamens bear a remarkable resemblance to the fingers and nails of the human hand, together with the seeds of the *Strelitzia Reginae*, and a variety of wild berries, were the chief articles of subsistence of the Hottentot tribes, and milk was the principal food of the Kaffers.

A few days before our arrival at Algoa Bay, General Vandeleur had subdued the rebellious boors in the manner I have already described in the beginning of this chapter, and had sent the ringleaders on board his Majesty's ship the *Rattlesnake*, to be conveyed to the Cape, to take their trial there by their own laws, before their own court of justice. Desirable as it might have been to punish the leaders upon the spot by martial law, as an example to a rebellious people, the General resolved to try once more what lenient measures might effect, concluding that, in the event of their own countrymen finding them guilty, the colonists must at least acknowledge the

justice of the decision; whereas in the other case, as it generally happens, the public are more ready to blame the severity of martial law than to acknowledge the criminality of those upon whom it is inflicted. The General having thus got rid of the rebel chiefs, and thereby put an end, as he thought, to further disturbances, concluded that little now remained to be done but to collect his scattered forces from the different parts of the district, and to assemble them at head-quarters in Bruyntjes Hoogté; part of which he meant to embark on board the Rattlesnake, and the remainder to send over land, by easy marches, to the Cape.

In crossing the country from Algoa Bay to the northward, in order to put his plan in execution, to our no less surprize than mortification, we fell in with a large party of Hottentots, so disguised, and dressed out in such a whimsical and fantastical manner, that we were totally at a loss to conjecture what to make of them. Some wore large three cornered hats, with green or blue breeches, the rest of the body naked; some had jackets of cloth over their sheep-skin covering, and others had sheep-skins thrown over linen shirts. The women were laden with bundles, and the men were all armed with musquets. We soon discovered, which indeed they readily confessed, that they had been plundering the boors. A Hottentot, among the many good qualities he possesses, has one which he is master of in an eminent degree,—I mean a rigid adherence to truth. When accused of a crime, of which he has been guilty, with native simplicity he always states the fact as it happened; but, at the same time, he has always a justification at hand for what he has done. From lying and stealing, the predominant and inseparable vices of the condi-

tion of slavery, the Hottentot may be considered as exempt. In the whole course of my travels, and in the midst of the numerous attendants of this nation, with which I was constantly surrounded, I can with safety declare that I never was robbed or deceived by any of them.

On making inquiry into the particulars of the unpleasant transaction that had taken place, one of the Hottentots, called *Klaas Stuurman*, or *Nicholas the Helmsman*, whom they had selected for their chief, stepped forwards, and, after humbly entreating us to hear him out without interruption, began a long oration, which contained a history of their calamities and sufferings under the yoke of the boors; their injustice, in first depriving them of their country, and then forcing their offspring into a state of slavery; their cruel treatment on every slight occasion, which it became impossible for them to bear any longer; and the resolution they had therefore taken to apply for redress before the English troops should leave the country. That their employers, suspecting their intention, had endeavoured to prevent such application by confining some to the house, threatening to shoot others if they attempted to escape, or to punish their wives and children in their absence. And, in proof of what he advanced, he called out a young Hottentot, whose thigh had been pierced through with a large musquet ball but two days before, which had been fired at him by his master for having attempted to leave his service. "This act," continued he, "among many others equally cruel, resolved us at once to collect a sufficient force to deprive the boors of their arms, in which we have succeeded at every house which has fallen in our way. We have taken their superfluous clothing in lieu of the wages due for our

“ services, but we have stripped none, nor injured the persons of any, though,” added he, shaking his head, “ we have yet a great deal of our blood to avenge.”

Such a rencontre at this time was extremely embarrassing, and the more so as it appeared these were a very small part of their countrymen that were then actually arming themselves against the boors, and plundering their houses. They informed us, moreover, that some of their countrymen, not willing to throw themselves on the protection of strangers, had fled among the Kaffers; but that the greatest part were on the road to Algoa Bay, to lay their unhappy situation before the English General.

The connection that had long subsisted between the boors and the Hottentots, a connection that was kept up by violence and oppression on one side, and by want of energy and patient suffering on the other, seemed now to be completely dissolved. The farther we advanced, the more seriously alarming was the state of the country. The boors, it seems, unable to restrain their savage temper, which the penalty levied upon them by the General had, with the assistance of a *sopie*, wrought up into a rage, determined to wreak their vengeance on the poor Hottentots, according to their common practice, whenever infuriate passion seizes them. The representations made to us by this party were more than confirmed by our own observations in our progress through the country. Among the numerous instances of cruelty to which we bore witness, the following were particularly striking.

We had scarcely parted from these people, when, stopping at a house to feed our horses, we by accident observed a young

Hottentot woman with a child in her arms lying stretched on the ground in a most deplorable condition. She had been cut from head to foot with one of those infernal whips, made from the hide of a rhinosceros or sea-cow, known by the name of *sambocs*, in such a barbarous and unmerciful manner, that there was scarcely a spot on her whole body free from stripes ; nor had the sides of the little infant, in clinging to its mother, escaped the strokes of the brutal monster. With difficulty we had her removed to a situation where medical assistance could be given ; but the fever ran so high, and the body was bruised to such a degree, that for several days there were little hopes of her recovery. It was a punishment, far inadequate to the crime, to keep the inhuman wretch on bread and water who had been guilty of such unmanly cruelty, until the fate of the sufferer was decided. Owing to a good constitution she gradually recovered ; and the fellow was suffered to depart, after making her a pecuniary compensation ; had the wounds proved mortal, the perpetrator would, no doubt, have afforded the first instance of retributive justice for the numberless cases of murder that have been committed with impunity on this unfortunate race of men. The only crime alleged against her was the attempt to follow her husband, who was among the number of those of his countrymen that had determined to throw themselves upon the protection of the English.

The next house we halted at upon the road presented us with a still more horrid instance of brutality. We observed a fine Hottentot boy, about eight years of age, sitting at the corner of the house, with a pair of iron rings clenched upon his legs, of the weight of ten or twelve pounds ; and they had remained

in one situation for such a length of time, that they appeared to be sunk into the leg, the muscle being tumefied both above and below the rings. The poor creature was so benumbed and oppressed with the weight, that, being unable to walk with ease, he crawled on the ground. It appeared, on inquiry, that they had been rivetted to his legs more than ten months ago. What was to be done in a case of such wanton and deliberate cruelty? It was scarcely in human nature to behold an innocent boy for ever maimed in so barbarous a manner; and at the same time to look upon the cold blooded perpetrator without feeling a sentiment of horror mingled with exasperation,—a sentiment that seemed to say it would serve the cause of humanity to rid the world of such a monster. The fellow shrunk from the inquiries of the indignant General; he had nothing to allege against him but that he had always been a worthless boy; he had lost him so many sheep; he had slept when he ought to watch the cattle, and such like frivolous charges of a negative kind, the amount of which, if true, only proved that his own interest had sometimes been neglected by this child.

Determined to make an example of the author of such unparalleled brutality, the General ordered him instantly to yoke his oxen to his waggon, and, placing the boy by his side, to drive directly to head-quarters. Here he gave orders to the farrier of the 8th regiment of Light Dragoons to strike off the irons from the boy, an operation that required great nicety and attention, and to clench them as tight as he could on the legs of his master, who roared and bellowed in a most violent manner, to the inexpressible satisfaction of the by-standers, and, above all, to that of the little sufferer just relieved from tor-

ment. For the whole of the first night his lamentations were incessant; with a Stentorian voice a thousand times he vociferated, "*Myn God! is dat een maniere om Christian mensch te handelen!*" "My God! is this a way to treat Christians?" His, however, were not the agonies of bodily pain, but the bursts of rage and resentment on being put on a level with one, as the boors call them, of the *Zwarte Natie*, between whom and the *Christian Mensch* they conceive the difference to be fully as great as between themselves and their cattle, and whom, indeed, they most commonly honor with the appellation of *Zwarte Vee*, black cattle. Having roared for three days and as many nights, at first to the great amusement, but afterwards to the no less annoyance, of the whole camp, he was suffered to go about his business on paying a penalty in money, for the benefit of the boy, whom he had abused in so shameful a manner.

Another instance occurred, since our departure from Algoa Bay, which strongly marked the little reluctance that is felt by the African boors in the shedding of human blood, even of *Christian Mensch*, for whom they affect so great a veneration. On leaving the bay it was discovered that three fine young lads of the 81st regiment had deserted with their arms; and as these deserters knew that the troops were to march that morning towards the upper part of the country, *Van Roy*, from whose house we departed, concluding they might return, inquired of the General what he should do in case of such an event? The answer was, "Secure them, to be sure."—"But if they should resist?"—"You must take them at any rate; you and your sons and people about the

“ house are more than sufficient to do that.” The following day the man came galloping after us, pale and frightened, and ready to sink into the ground. *He had shot the three deserters!* he had been obliged to do it, as he said, in his own defence, and for the protection of his family, whom they intended to murder. “ If you can make that appear to have been the case,” the General told him, “ you are justified in what you have done ; but the fact is so extraordinary, that a very rigid inquiry will be made into it.” It is wonderful how rapidly the fellow’s countenance brightened up, on hearing there was some palliation in favor of what he had done. It was evident he felt neither remorse nor compunction in having destroyed three of his fellow-creatures, but was apprehensive only of what might have been the consequences to himself.

The General immediately rode back to his house. He found the dead bodies lying on the ground, just where they had fallen, one at the distance of ten or twelve yards from the door, the other two at forty or fifty. The first had evidently been shot through the breast, but both the others *through the back*. From these circumstances it was strongly conjectured that Van Roy and his sons had waited at the door, with their loaded musquets, the approach of these unfortunate men ; that, on the first being shot, the other two had attempted to make their escape ; in doing which they afforded the Dutchmen an opportunity of taking a cool and sure aim. The family, of course, told the same story as the master : What then remained to be done ? Desertion had already begun, and threatened to become very general. It was, therefore,