

Of the Victuals, Drink, and other Refreshments of the HOTTENTOTS.

- I. *Their Victuals.* II. *Meats they abstain from as forbidden.* III. *They eat Lice.* IV. *When in Want they will eat Old Shoes.* V. *Fond of Victuals dress'd by Europeans.* VI. *Men and Women eat not together ; and Why.* VII. *How the Men sometimes feed and accommodate themselves when they are hunting or travelling.* VIII. *Their ordinary Drink.* IX. *Their Love for Tobacco and Dacha.* X. *Account of the Kanna Root, of which they are extremely fond.* XI. *Their Love for Wine, Brandy and Arrack.*

I. **T**HE Victuals of the *Hottentots* are the Flesh and the Entrails of Cattle and of certain Wild Beasts, with Fruits and Roots of several Kinds. But setting aside the Sacrifices, which are indispensable, at Births, Legitimations, Marriages, and other *Aderfmakens*, the *Hottentots* rarely kill Cattle for their own Eating but when they are at a Loss for other Sustainance. The Cattle they devour between the *Aderfmakens*, are, for the most Part, such as die naturally ; and they reckon 'em, as I have said, very delicious Eating.

When, between the *Aderfmakens*, Death, by Disease or Old Age, does not furnish them with Carcasses from the Herds, and the Men are not contented with Fruits, Roots, and Milk, provided wholly by the Women, they go a hunting or  
(if

(if they live near the Sea) a fishing. They ever hunt in Troops. Sometimes they bring Home a great Deal of Venison ; and sometimes they return without.

The Entrails of Cattle, and of such Wild Beasts as they kill for Food, they look upon as most exquisite Eating. They boil 'em in Beast-Blood, if they have any; to which they sometimes add Milk. This they look upon as a glorious Dish. If they have not Blood to boil 'em in, they broil 'em. And this they do on the bare Fire, for they have no such Thing as a Gridiron.

The *Hottentots*, Men and Women, love their Victuals, whether roasted or boil'd, should be very rear. They neither roast nor boil half long enough for an *European*. And the Entrails they broil are often done as slightly.

They eat every thing in such a Hurry and with so much Indecency, that they look extremely wild and ravenous at Meals; particularly, when they eat Flesh; which being always serv'd up to 'em half raw or more, they make a very furious Use of their Hands (where they have no Knives) and of their Teeth to tear and devour it.

Their Manner of Roasting and Boiling has been shewn already. A Wife is ever her Husband's Cook, excepting when she has the *Menses* upon her; at which Times he either sponges upon his Neighbours, or dresses his own Victuals.

Many are the Sorts of Fruits and Roots the *Hottentots*

*tentots* eat ; and the Fields up and down, for the most Part, abound with 'em. These, as I have said, are gather'd wholly by the Women. In the Choice of Roots and Fruits for Food they follow the Hedge Hog and the *Bavian*, a Sort of Ape ; and will not taste of any Sort which those Creatures do not feed upon. For in the *Hottentot* Countries there are a great many Fruits which are very lovely to the Eye, and a great many Roots which promise well for Food, that are of a poisonous Nature, and produce, many of 'em, very dismal Effects upon such as eat 'em.

One Sort of Fruit they eat is call'd the Wild or the *African* Almond. They boil those Almonds twice or thrice in fresh Water, and then lay them in the Sun to dry. So prepar'd, they are very agreeable wholesome Food. But if they are eaten without some such Preparation, they cause terrible Gripings of the Guts, and leave a horrid Bitterness in the Mouth, which remains there for many Days, spite of All you can do, by Washing or any other Means, to get rid of it.

The *Hottentots* have no Set Times for their Meals. They have no Notion of Dividing them, as we do, into Breakfast, Dinner and Supper, but take 'em at Random, as Humour or Appetite calls, without any Regard to the Hour of the Day or the Night. In fair and calm Weather they eat in the open Air. When'tis windy or rainy they eat within Doors.

II. The *Hottentots* have Traditionary Laws, for bidding the Eating of certain Meats, which they accordingly abstain from very carefully. Swine's  
Flesh

Flesh and Fishes that have no Scales are forbidden to both Sexes. The Eating of Hares and Rabbits is forbidden to the Men, but not to the Women. The pure Blood of Beasts and the Flesh of the Mole are forbidden to the Women, but not to the Men. The Book of *Leviticus* will shew the Reader what a Support those Laws give 'to What I have said upon the Origin of the *Hottentots*. The Mens' Abstaining from the Milk of Ewes has been mention'd already.

III. The *Hottentots*, Men and Women, often eat Lice: And the *Hottentots* are certainly the loudest People in the World. Their Nastiness and the Heat of the Region contribute largely to the Generation of this Vermin. You see 'em often crawling upon their Bodies and *Krosses* in large Troops: And some of the Vermin are of a prodigious Size. Men, Women and Children swarm with 'em. When they shake their *Krosses*, or putting 'em off, and hanging 'em to a Bough or the Side of a Hut, beat 'em with Sticks, the Lice tumble off in Clusters, and Thousands upon Thousands swarm on the Ground. But the Vermin stick so fast to the Grease, that the *Krosses* are not to be clear'd of 'em without a very tight Drubbing, and a laborious Use of Eyes and Fingers afterwards. You often see Legions of Lice crawling upon the Roads where the *Hottentots* have lous'd themselves. They often swarm on the Area of a *Kraal*, where they look like Regiments on a Parade. When the *Hottentots* louse themselves, they generally pick up the large swagging Lice, which they judge to be full of Blood, and devour 'em. Ask 'em, How they can eat such detestable Vermin, and they tell you

you, they do it in Revenge. “ They fuck our  
 “ Blood, say they : Why should not we be even  
 “ with ’em. They do not spare us : Why should  
 “ we spare them ? They rob us of our Blood ; and  
 “ we make Reprifals.” And so on.

You can hardly pass by a *Kraal* but you see many of the Inhabitants, Men and Women, sitting in Rows and lousing themselves. But they generally give their *Krosses* a thorough Drubbing before they sit down to make Inquisition with their Eyes and Fingers. They have no Notion of being ashamed when they are discover’d at this Sport, but pursue the Game, let who will appear before ’em, with as much Countenance as we do the most laudable Employments or Diversions.

IV. I have inform’d the Reader already, that the *Hottentots*, when they are in a great Strait for Food, will devour the Rings of Leather which the Women wear upon their Legs. They will likewise, in the same Strait, eat old cast-off Shoes.

The *Europeans* at the *Cape* have a Sort of Shoes they call Field-Shoes. These are cut out of the raw Hide of an Ox or Stag, and made, the hairy Side outward, in the Shape of a Half-Stocking, slit down in Front from the Ankle to the Toe. On the Lappets on both Sides, from the Ankle to the Toe, are several little Holes, through which runs a String that laces the Shoes on. But before they put ’em on, they wrap their Ankles and Feet in Linnen to prevent Galling from the Roughness of the Leather. In these Shoes the *Europeans* often travel in the *Hottentot* Countries ; and they wear  
 ’em

*the CAPE of GOOD HOPE.* 205

'em upon most Buſineſs in the Fields. And as theſe Shoes are very cheap, the Hide of an Ox or Stag coming at the *Cape*, the firſt for about a Crown, the other for about Half a Crown, there is hardly an *European* there who is not provided with Half a Dozen Pair of 'em. When the Hair is worn off, or Holes are diſcover'd in the Soles, they are thrown away.

Theſe old caſt-away Shoes the poor *Hottentots* gather and lay up very carefully againſt a Time of Want, upon which, through their abominable Lazineſs, they are often thrown. For though the Fields abound with wholeſome and very nourishing Fruits and Roots, which they might lay up in Plenty againſt a rainy Day, yet it being the Cuſtom of the Women, to which their Lazineſs for ever holds 'em, to gather in a Morning only ſuch a Quantity of Fruits, Roots, &c. as will ſerve their Families for the Day, they are ſometimes, in long and exceſſive Rains, when there is no Stirring out for Any one, reduc'd to great Extremities; and then they eat old Shoes, if they have any by 'em.

Their Manner of Dreſſing 'em is this. They ſinge off the Hair; then, having ſoak'd 'em a little in Water, broil 'em upon the bare Fire till they begin to wrinkle and run up. And then they devour 'em.

V. The *Hottentots*, as has been obſerv'd more than once already, never eat Salt among themſelves. Nor do they, among themſelves, ſeaſon their Vic-tuals with any Manner of Spice. Yet they are not a little delighted with the Salt- and otherwiſe high  
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season'd Victuals of the *Europeans*. They lay in lustily of those Viands whenever they get at 'em, and turn a watering Mouth and a loving Leer upon every Dish that passes by 'em. But, as has been observ'd, such Victuals are very pernicious to 'em. They are often sick at the Stomach, and often attack'd with Fevers, after such Eating. And such of 'em as eat for any Length of Time with the *Europeans*, thereby subject themselves to many other Maladies they were in no Danger of before they fell into such a Way, and attain to Nothing near Age to which the *Hottentots* ordinarily live.

VI. It has been observ'd up and down in the foregoing Part of this History, that the Men and the Women eat not together.

“ It has been ”, say they, “ the Custom in all  
 “ Times for the Men to avoid joining with the  
 “ Women not only in their Meals but in any En-  
 “ tertainment whatsoever. There is no Excepti-  
 “ on to this but the Indulgence that is granted to  
 “ a Man on his Marriage-Day. }” The Reason  
 they assign for this Custom, which I got after  
 much Tugging, is this : “ We look upon a Man,  
 “ say they, as extremely defil'd who touches a  
 “ Woman or any Thing belonging to her, or par-  
 “ takes with her of the same Food, or comes but  
 “ near her, while the *Menses* are upon her ; and  
 “ if he is known to be under such Defilement, he  
 “ is oblig'd, if he is not content the Men should  
 “ for ever shun him, to purifie himself by offering  
 “ an Ox. Now, we so often, Men and Women,  
 “ are call'd to partake of the Feasts at the *An-*  
 “ *derf-*

“ *dersmakens* , and we so often eat with our  
“ Neighbours, that if the Sexes at those Times  
“ were to eat together, it were a great Hazard  
“ every Time, but all the Men were defil’d; for  
“ it rarely happens in an Assembly of Women, but  
“ one or other of ’em has the *Menses* upon her.  
“ We therefore, the Men, avoid the Women at  
“ those Times. And those Times return so quick,  
“ that we make it, as our Ancestors did for the  
“ same Reason a Custom to avoid eating  
“ with our Wives or joining in any of their  
“ Entertainments at Home. This Reason, which  
I have put in the best Light I can , is a very  
shallow one, as the Reader, if he weighs the fore-  
going Part of this History, will easily see. But  
’tis the only one I could get from ’em.

If a *Hottentot* Man and his Wife are in the Service of an *European*, and under the same Roof, the Regard they pay to this Custom obliges the *European* to assign ’em each a distinct Portion of Victuals, which they constantly eat at a good Distance from one another.

VII. The Men, when they travel or go a hunting, provide themselves with *Dacha* and Tobacco, and with Brandy if they can. They never stir without a Pipe of some Sort. If they are attack’d with Hunger at any considerable Distance from Home and from any *Kraal* , they repel it with Roots and Fruits which they find in the Fields, and which they eat raw.

But the wealthy *Hottentots*, when they travel, generally carry with ’em. a convenient Portion of  
Flesh



Flesh. And being generally provided with Flint and Steel, and Fuel being to be had in any Part of the *Hottentot* Countries, they can easily make a Fire any where for roasting the Flesh. Such as are not provided with Flint and Steel get Fire for lighting their Pipes, by rubbing a dry Twig upon a Piece of Iron-Wood they carry with 'em. They rub the Twig so quick and hard, that Smoak is presently begot, and presently a Flame; which, if they want to roast Meat, they preserve by the immediate Addition of other Fuel. If they are obliged to lie all Night in the Fields, they generally make a large Fire to fright the Wild Beasts from 'em, and guard 'em, while they repose, from any Inclemency of the Air. Their Tinder is a dry Reed, which catches Fire as quick as the Tinder we make of the finest Rags.

VIII. The ordinary Drink of the *Hottentots* is Milk and Water. This Beverage is the prevailing Liquor on every Occasion; for they have Nothing better of their own; and they cannot afford to make large Purchases of Wines or Brandies. When they are plentifully provided with Milk, they often drink it without Water. And when Milk runs low, they often content themselves with pure Element. The Reader remembers what has been said of Sheeps Milk.

IX. The *Hottentots*, Men and Women, are doatingly fond of Tobacco. Their Passion for this Plant has no Bounds. When they are out of Tobacco they will part with any Thing they have, or do almost any Thing in the World, to procure more: And they manage it at all Times with so much Thrift

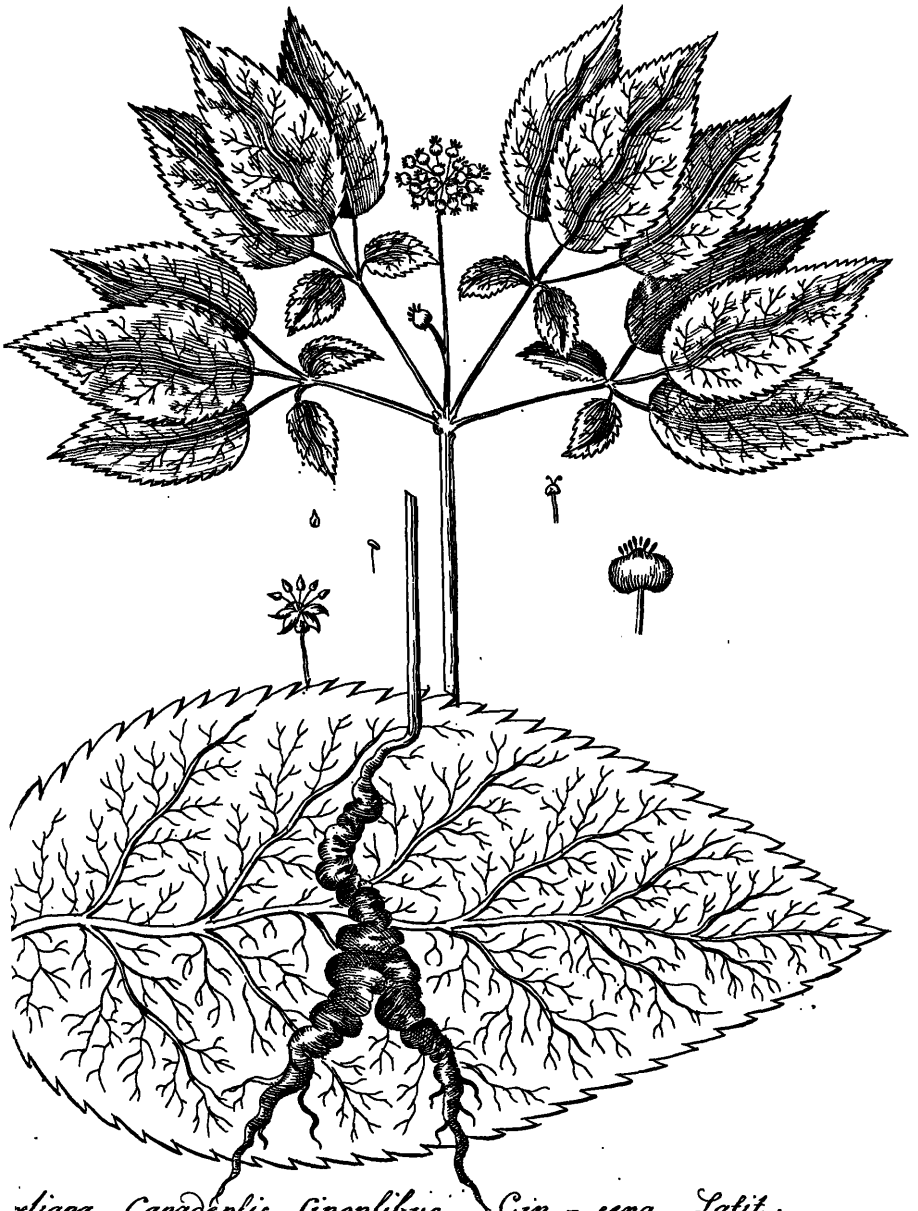
Thrift and Care, that they neither lose nor waste the least Bit of it. A *Hottentot* had rather lose a Tooth than a Corn of Tobacco. They say, Nothing they eat or drink is so exquisite a Regale. It comforts and refreshes them, say they, beyond Expression. A *Hottentot*, who is in Want of Tobacco, and has no other Means to procure it, will perform a hard Day's Work for half an Ounce; and when he gets it, will hug it in Transports; stare with a crack-brain'd Joy on the precious Reward, and laugh, caper and swagger like a Fellow quite out of his Wits.

The *Europeans* at the *Cape* look upon the *Hottentots* to be much better Judges of Tobacco than themselves; And I believe the *Hottentots* are so. They will, by Smoaking a Pipe of a Parcel of Tobacco, discover its good or bad Qualities to a wonderful Nicety, and give you a Detail of 'em, which, when you come to smoak the Tobacco your self, you find in every Particular true. For this Talent they are not in a little Esteem among the *Europeans* at the *Cape*, who hardly ever purchase a Parcel of Tobacco there, till a *Hottentot* has smoak'd a Pipe of it and pass'd his Judgment. I have often made Use of 'em my self in the Capacity of Tobacco-Triers. When I have wanted to lay in a Stock for my Self, and have been shewn a Parcel, it was constantly my Way, as it is the Way of most others at the *Cape*, to call to the next *Hottentot*, known or unknown, to come and smoak a Pipe of it, and give me his Opinion. They are very proud of this Office; and they discharge it, indeed, with wonderful Abilities.

A *Hottentot* will not enter into the Service of an *European*, unless Tobacco be made Part of his Wages. He must have a certain Allowance of Tobacco every Day, or 'tis in vain to treat with him. And if the Portion it is agreed he shall receive daily, is but withheld for one Day, he becomes restive and untractable; and upon the like Usage the Day after, throws up the Cudgels, demands his other Hire, and can hardly be persuaded to strike a Stroke more for such a Master.

*Dacha*, is a Thing, of which the *Hottentots* are likewise mighty fond. It banishes Care and Anxiety, say they, like Wine or Brandy, and inspires them with a Million of delightful Fancies. I know Nothing by Experience of the Delights, they say, it throws into the Imagination: But this I know, that it often intoxicates 'em to downright Madness. The strongest Distillations have not a more furious Effect upon the Head of an *European*, than *Dacha* has upon the Brains of a *Hottentot*. It sets his Tongue a going like the Flyer of a Jack. He raves, stares and capers as if he was possess'd; and loses himself in a Million of the wildest Actions and Incoherencies. They often mix *Dacha* and Tobacco together, and then call it *Buspasch*.

X. There is a Root, gather'd in the *Hottentot* Countries, call'd *Kanna*; which is in such Esteem among the *Hottentots* for its great Vertues that they almost adore it. What greatly enflames the Value of this Root, is its Scarcity; for 'tis very rarely found. They look upon it as the greatest Chearer of the Spirits, and the noblest Restorative in the World. They will give almost any Thing  
in



*Azianus Canadensis Sinensibus* Gin - seng Lafit.  
 supposed to be the same Plant the Kottentots call Kanna. p. 211

in Exchange for it; and will, any of 'em, run Twenty Miles upon an Errand, or perform a hard Day's Work, for a very small Bit of it. With a Piece of *Kanna* you may manage 'em almost in any Manner you please. You win their Hearts for ever by presenting them with the smallest Chip of it; and they will run, fetch and carry for you like your Slaves, under so charming an Obligation. I once distributed a Bit of this Root, not bigger than a Finger, in small Chips to several *Hottentot* Families, near which I resided, and so gain'd those Families to my Pleasure by those little Presents, that, from that Time to the Time I left 'em, they sought all Opportunities to oblige me.

Father *Tachart* says, “ the *Namaquas* presented “ of this Root to some *Hollanders* of Note, who “ travell'd through their Country in the Year “ 1682, and thought it a noble Return for the “ Presents of Tobacco, Brandy, &c. the *Hollan-* “ *ders* had made 'em.” This Father is of Opinion that the *Kanna* of the *Hottentots* is the *Ginsseng* of the *Chinese*. Upon this I can say Nothing of my own, since I never saw the *Ginsseng*: Of the same Opinion with Father *Tachart*, is *Erasm. Francisci*, who, in his *East and West India State- and Pleasure Garden*, gives a Detail of Vertues as common to the *Ginsseng* and the *Kanna*; many of which, 'tis certain, the *Kanna* possesses in a very high Degree: The Reader, perhaps, will be pleas'd with his Account of the *Ginsseng*, “ In the Province of *Pecking*, “ says he, is gather'd the Root, which the *Chinese* call “ *Ginsseng*, highly esteem'd throughout all *China* for “ its Great Vertues. This Root is gather'd likewise in “ *Japan*, and is there call'd *Nisi*. The *Chinese* call it

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*Ginsseng*

*The Present State of*

“ *Ginffeng*, because in Shape it nearly resembles a  
 “ Man, call’d, in the *Cbinese* Language, *Gin*. ’Tis  
 “ pretty like a straddling bow-legg’d Man ; and,  
 “ indeed, is very curious to the Eye. ’Tis Some-  
 “ thing like the *European Mandragora*, but much  
 “ less ; and is, without Doubt, a Sort of it, be-  
 “ cause it resembles the *Mandragora* pretty nearly  
 “ in its Effects too. When dry, it is of a yellow  
 “ Colour, divided by fine Streaks of Black. It  
 “ yields in the Mouth a Mixture of Bitter and  
 “ Sweet, very easily endur’d. So small a Quanti-  
 “ ty as a Penny-weight gives wonderful Relief in  
 “ Sinkings of the Spirits : And on such Occasions  
 “ the Dose is rarely larger. It wonderfully forti-  
 “ fies the Nerves, and warms a cold Constituti-  
 “ on. But then the Dose must be somewhat lar-  
 “ ger. ’Tis dangerous to Temperaments that  
 “ abound with Cholera, or are very sanguine ; for  
 “ to the Blood and Spirits of such it gives the most  
 “ furious Action. It is excellent for Broken Con-  
 “ stitutions, and in all Consumptive Cases. In  
 “ short, it is, in a Sort, a Catholicon for all Consti-  
 “ tutions but the very choleric and the very san-  
 “ guine ; and is of so great Value in *Cbina*, that  
 “ a Pound of it is rarely sold there for less than  
 “ three Pounds of Silver.

I have often seen the Effects of *Kanna* upon *Hot-  
 tentots*. They chew and retain it a considerable  
 Time in their Mouths. But taking gene-  
 rally too much of it at a Time, it drowns ’em  
 in Intoxications. They chew it not long, be-  
 fore their Spirits visibly rise, their Eyes brighten,  
 their Faces take a jovial Air, and they sport and  
 wanton under a thousand Gaicties of Imagination.  
 But

But in the End it strips 'em of their Senses, and throws 'em into the wildest *Deliria*.

XI. The *Hottentots* are great Lovers of Wine, Brandy and Arrack. For Wine, they never trouble themselves about the Qualities of it. If 'tis as foul as Thunder, as thick as Molasses, or as sour as Verjuice, they buy and swallow it with a great Deal of Pleasure. Nay, if they are to be believ'd, they prefer foul thick Wine before such as is fine : " For taking", say they, " a Pipe of "*Dacha* or Tobacco immediately after it, we get " Three or Four fine Stools, which contribute not " a little to the Keeping us in Health. Thick " Wine for us : 'Tis a generous Regale, and admirable Physick into the Bargain." But this is, doubtless, a Sham of theirs. In the Choice of Wines I always found they were determin'd by the Price only; and that the cheapest was always the best with them. They will buy Hog-Wash for Wine, that has but the least Taste of the Grape in it.

They love Brandy immoderately, because it presently heats and makes 'em merry, Most of the Brandy they buy, is distil'd at the *Cape* from Grapes that grow thereabout. Malt Spirits, which are likewise made at the *Cape*, are not much drank by 'em, tho' they are as cheap or cheaper than the *Cape*-Brandy; for they apprehend, as well as other people, that Malt-Spirits are not so wholesome as Brandy. They are ever charm'd with a Glass of Brandy, and are your humble Servents a thousand Times over for so agreeable a Present,

*Arrack*, which is plentiful at the *Cape*, is likewise much coveted by the *Hottentots*. Being there much cheaper than Brandy, they frequently drink it to Excess; and, what is more, brag of it the next Day as a mighty Honour to 'em. You often see one *Hottentot* carrying another, who is dead-drunk with *Arrack*, Home upon his Back.

But a great many *Hottentots*, about the Town at the *Cape*, were once, in my Time there, so four'd with *Arrack*, that they took up a Resolution never to touch it again. The Occasion was this. A Governour of *Ceylon* dying at Sea, short of the *Cape*, in his Return to *Europe*, his Corpse was immediately put in *Arrack*, to preserve it. The Ship touching at the *Cape*, the Corpse was brought ashore there, in order to be laid in a new Coffin and fresh *Arrack*. The Corpse being taken out of the Coffin, the Coffin was brought into the Street, in order to the Turning out the *Arrack* the Corpse had laid in. A Number of *Hottentots*, who were assembled before the House where the Corpse was lodg'd, getting the Scent of the *Arrack*, and seeing what was going to be done with it, came up hastily to the Coffin, and while the *Arrack* was pouring out, receiv'd it, some of 'em, upon the Lappets of their *Krosses*, which they held up Pocket-wise, while others of 'em caught what they could in the Palms of their Hands and carried it to their Mouths. They were so dexterous at this Work, that they got the greatest Part of the *Arrack* among 'em, and were presently, most of 'em, quite drunk with it. So eagerly they swallow'd it, that they did not mind the abominable Stench it had contracted from the Corpse. This *Arrack* in a few Hours after, gave  
\*em



'em such a Number of furious Stools, and the Stench of it remain'd so long in their Mouths, Spite of all they could do by Washing and other Means to get rid of it, that they were frighten'd almost out of their Wits, and could hardly endure themselves. They thought themselves bewitch'd. They rav'd and storm'd; and for a long Time after had neither the Courage to drink it nor the Patience to hear it nam'd. But at Length, being made thoroughly sensible, how the *Arrack* they had drank had contracted the pernicious Qualities that had disorder'd them, which at first they could not comprehend, they banish'd their Prejudices, and *Arrack* became again a darling Liquor.

C H A P. XVIII.

Of the **KRAALS**, or Villages, of the **HOTTENTOTS**; their Huts and Hut-Furniture.

I. *Their Kraals.* II. *Their Huts.* III. *Their Hut-Furniture.* IV. *Their Hut- or House Dogs.*

I. **T**HE Huts of a *Kraal* are, as I have said, rang'd in a Circle, the Area of which is quite open. But tho' the *Hottentots* are frequently involv'd in Wars, one Nation against another, and their *Kraals* are frequently in the Night Time invaded by Wild Beasts, they have no Notion, any of the Nations, of erecting about their *Kraals* any Sort of Fortification. And when they are told of the Practice of the *Europeans* to fortifie their inland Towns against an Enemy, they generally

laugh at 'em very heartily, as guilty, in that Matter, of a most ridiculous Folly, tho' they will give you no Manner of Argument to prove it one.

*Boewing* says, " A *Kraal* consists of about Fifteen Huts; rarely more." He never saw a right *Kraal*, if, as I understand, he was never farther up in the Country than the *Lion-Mountain*, which is but a little Way from the *Cape*; between which Mountain and the *Cape* not a Village or Collection of Huts is to be seen, which the *Hottentots* dignify with the Name of *Kraal*. The Villages between those Places the *Hottentots* look upon as contemptible out-fraggling Knots of Huts. And indeed they are not only far from the Spacioufness and Regularity of the *Kraals*, but there is little or Nothing kept up in 'em of a *Kraal* Government. They are Fragments of *Kraals*; the Inhabitants of which, the *Hottentots*, higher up in the Country, look upon as a Sort of Revolters to the *Europeans*, and are ready to disown.

I have seen Hundreds of *Kraals*, and never saw one that consisted of less than Twenty Huts. There are many so large that the Huts are not easily counted; And it is, in the Eye of a *Hottentot*, a very contemptible *Kraal* that contains not more than a Hundred Souls. The Generality of the *Kraals* contain each from Three Hundred to Four Hundred Souls. Some contain above Five Hundred. On the Area of a *Kraal* is sometimes lodg'd several Thousands of small Cattle: Now, since the Huts are always rang'd as close as possible to one another, in order to keep the Cattle in, the Reader will easily conceive, there can be no inconsiderable Number of Huts in such a *Kraal*. I

I must here observe upon a Mistake of *Vogel*. I forgot to do it in the Chapter on the *Hottentot-Cattle*, where the Observation would perhaps have stood better. This Author says, the *Hottentots* make large Fires in the Night Times round their *Kraals*, behind their Great Cattle, in order to keep those Cattle within the Bounds, and secure 'em from the Wild Beasts.

I could never see or hear of any Fires made about a *Kraal*. In the scambling Villages indeed (such as are seen between the *Lion Mountain* and the *Cape*, where the Huts are not enough for the Forming a convenient Circle,) it being the Custom to drive their Cattle at Night up to their Huts, and put 'em there in a Sort of Fold, made with Boughs, laid one upon another, they make Fires, which burn all Night at the Doors of their Huts, to fright away the Wild Beasts.

All the Authors I have seen upon the *Hottentots* are one Way or other mistaken in their Accounts of the *Hottentot* Huts. *Boeving* says, "they resemble Ovens and Hay-ricks." Ovens, indeed, they resemble pretty nicely; but not Hay-ricks; at least, no Hay-ricks that I have seen.

*Vogel* says, "the *Hottentots* cover their Huts with Straw." Here's a Mistake indeed. Where should the *Hottentots* get Straw? It does not appear that they knew any Thing of Corn or Straw till the *Dutch* came among 'em, who were the first that sow'd Corn in the *Hottentot* Countries. I never saw or heard of a *Hottentot* Hut that was cover'd with Straw. Nor do I believe, a *Hottentot* would cover  
his

his Hut with Straw, or make it any Part of the Building, if he had a Thousand Loads. The *Hottentots*, I have found, are as tenacious of the Customs of their Ancestors with Regard to the Shape and Materials of their Huts, as they are of any other Customs they derive from 'em. For the Rest, *Vogel* describes the Huts tolerably well.

Father *Tachart* says, the *Sonquas*, a *Hottentot* Nation, make their Abode, for the most Part, in Caves; and only now and then dwell in Huts. In this the Father was certainly misinform'd; for I made many Enquiries about it at the *Cape*, of Such as had seen the whole Territory of the *Sonquas*, and was ever answer'd, that they never heard that any of the *Sonquas* dwelt at any Time in Caves, nor saw, in any Part of the Territory, Caves they might dwell in.

The same Father says, “ the *Hottentots* are either Huntsmen or Shepherds: That the Huntsmen dwell in deep Caves, and subsist altogether upon the Chace; and that the Shepherds dwell in Huts, and live upon the Flesh and Milk of their Cattle. ” How was the Good Man abus'd! He never saw a Cave a *Hottentot* dwelt in; for he was never farther than the *Cape* Town; and I am sure there is no such *Hottentot* Dwelling there; nor could I ever see or hear, that any of the *Hottentots*, at any Time, made their Abode in Caves.

*Boeving* says, the Building of the Huts is the Business of the Women only: This is a Mistake: And he makes many more in his Account of the Manner in which the Huts are built.

The

*Tab. VII. fig. 1. p. 219.*



*The Kraals and Huts of the Hottentots.*

*Fig. 2. p. 230.*



*The Hottentot Skinner. &c.*

*the* CAPE of GOOD HOPE. 219

The *Hottentot* Materials for the Building of Huts, are Sticks and Mats. The Sticks are of the Thickness of a Rake-Handle, but much longer. The Mats are made of Flags and Bull-Rushes dried in the Sun; and are wrought so close that they are not to be penetrated by the Rain tho' beaten with it for many Days together. These Mats are the Manufacture of the Women.

\* The Area of a Hut is an Oval ; the longest Diameter of which is generally about Fourteen Feet ; the shortest about Ten. Over the shortest Diameter they fix a Stick, if they have one long enough , Arch-wise , both Ends fasten'd in the Ground ; and the Top of this Arch, which is rarely so high as that a Man can stand under it erect , is the Summit of the Hut. If they have not a Stick long enough, they fix Two Sticks, one at each End of the short Diameter , and joining them Arch-wise, fasten them together with a Sort of Rope they have, made of Rushes. On the Side of the short Diameter , towards the Front, they generally set up, at equal Distances, three more of those Arches , gradually decreasing in Height from the Middle - Arch ; and the smallest Arch, on this Side, is the Entrance of the Hut. The Arches on the other Side the short Diameter , for the Back-Part of the Hut, are generally Five in Number , gradually decreasing too in Height from the Middle-Arch. The Arches being fix'd, they cover them with Mats, which they lie somewhat over one another, and fasten to one another

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\* Vide Tab, VII, Fig. 1.

and to the Arches so tightly, that they are not to be remov'd by either Wind or Rain. If they have not Mats enough, they supply the Deficiency with raw Skins.

The Huts of the wealthy *Hottentots* have generally Two Coverings; one, the undermost, of Mats; the other of Skins. These Coverings are not to be penetrated by the most raging Heats, or the most violent Rains.

A *Hottentot* Hut receives no Light from the Sun, but what comes in by the Entrance, which is an Arch about Three Foot high, and Two broad: After saying which, the Reader needs not be told, that the Men and Women are oblig'd to go in almost upon All Four. On the Top of this Arch is fix'd a Skin, to be taken up and let down, like a Falling Window - Shutter, with which, when the Wind blows incommodiouly into the Hut, they close up the Arch so tightly that not a Breath can enter. If the Wind holds long in the incommoding Quarter, they make a Door-Passage in the Back Part of the Hut, and go in and out only by that till the Wind shifts,

There is, as I have hinted above, no such Thing as Standing upright in a *Hottentot* Hut for any but Children. The Men and Women therefore squat down in 'em upon their Hams; a Posture the *Hottentots* are so us'd to, that they keep in it, as long and with as much Ease, as we do in a Chair.

*Boëring* agrees with me pretty well in the Dimensions of a *Hottentot* Hut: And I agree with him,  
that

that a *Hottentot* Family is generally from Ten to Twelve, young and old, in such a Hut. But 'tis a wild Mistake of Father *Tachart*, that Four or Five Families dwell together in a Hut. Here and there, indeed, you see a large Hut, in which perhaps they might do it; but 'tis never done.

III. For the Furniture of a *Hottentot* Hut, Two or Three Pots for Cookery, a Pot or two for Drinking, and several other earthen Vessels for Milk and Butter, together with *Krosses*, Bows and Arrows, *Hassagayes*, *Kirri*- and *Rackum*-Sticks, are generally the Whole of it. Their spare *Krosses*, their Bows and Arrows &c. are hung up on the Sides of the Hut. For the Accommodations in a Hut, they are only Holes, dug on each Side, to sleep in, excepting one in the Middle, about a Foot deep, which is the Fire-Place for Cooking their Victuals and Warming themselves in Cold Weather. Every Man, Woman and Child (unless 'tis a sucking one) has a particular Hole to lie in. In these Holes, when they go to Rest, they spread their *Krosses*, and lying down upon 'em, cover themselves; if the Weather be cold, with spare *Krosses*. The Women always wearing two *Krosses*, lie upon one of 'em, and cover themselves with the other.

Smoak in a *Hottentot* Hut having no Vent but by the Entrance, there is no Staying for an *European* in a Hut that has a Fire in it. But a *Hottentot* stays in the Smoak with some Pleasure, and is little or nothing offended with the thickest, made with moist Wood and the Dung of Cattle, which the *Hottentots* often lay upon their Fires.

It



It is a Thing of great Enquiry among the *Europeans* at the *Cape*, who have not hitherto, that I could ever hear of, obtain'd any Satisfaction in it, How the *Hottentots*, when they have Fires in their Huts, secure their Huts from being fir'd; which, by some Means or other, they ever do. Their Huts are so small, and are made of Materials so susceptible of Fire, and are so lin'd with greasy *Krosses* and other combustible Things, that the Preservation of them from Fire, at such Times, is to me and to all the *Europeans* at the *Cape* a most unaccountable Thing. I was, Time after Time, at a great deal of Pains and Expence among the *Hottentots* to get out the Secret of this; but could never obtain a Tittle of it. And that they have a Secret for it, is, I think, a Thing not to be doubted. I know not what they thought of my Knowledge or Capacity, but they generally laugh'd, when I enquir'd of 'em How they preserv'd their Huts from Fire, and told me they wonder'd how I could be ignorant of the Thing. And this Laughing and Wonderment were the Utmost I could get from 'em. I don't think tho', they have a Charm for this, as, some aver, have the Gipsies. 'Tis an idle Whim to imagine, as many do, that the Gipsies gather and sell a Root that for ever preserves the House it is lodged in from accidental Fire.

I have Nothing farther to observe concerning the Furniture of the *Hottentot* Huts, save that the Huts of the Wealthy are often hung with beautiful *Krosses* and a Variety of Trinkets; and that narrow, filthy and dark as are all the *Hottentot* Huts, Harmony reigns continually in almost every one of them;

them ; that heavenly Charm, so rarely to be met with in the Palaces of *Europe*.

When a Difference happens between a *Hottentot* Man and his Wife, 'tis quickly accommodated. All their Neighbours interpose in an Instant as Mediators, and in an Instant the Quarrel is made up. The *Hottentots* run to the Suppression of Strife that has seiz'd a Family, as we do to the Putting out of a Fire that has seiz'd a House; and allow themselves no Rest till every Matter in Difference is adjusted:

IV. There is hardly a *Hottentot* Hut that has not a Dog or two belonging to it; brave, honest, loving Creatures, extremely cherish'd by their Masters for their Fidelity and Good Services. *Boeving* falls heavily upon the *Hottentots* for allowing their Dogs to sit about the Fire, and lie in the Huts with 'em. Why, in the Name of Wonder, should he blame the *Hottentots* for allowing their Dogs to edge in about their Fires. Is it not the Practice of the *Europeans*? Who in *Europe* has not got such a Love for those generous Creatures as to suffer them about the Fire. Do not Multitudes of *Europeans* suffer them to lie upon their Beds too? Yes; and in this carry their Respect for a Dog much farther than the *Hottentots*; for (*Boeving* is mistaken) the *Hottentots* don't suffer their Dogs to lie in the Huts with 'em. They ruin 'em out every Night to guard their Cattle; an Office the Dogs are well vers'd in, and discharge with great Watchfulness and Courage. For these Qualities, as I have said, the *Hottentots* cherish and care for 'em; And does not Reason, as well as the Practice of  
Eu-

*Europe*, justify 'em for doing so. It is in the *Hottentot* Nations, as with us, [*Love me, Love my Dog*; and a Dog is respected there, as he is with us, according to his Abilities or the Family he belongs to.

And great are often the Capacity and Accomplishments of a *Hottentot* Dog. In the Day, if it is his Master's Turn to go with the Herds to Pasture, he attends him thither, with other Dogs which follow their Masters on the like Occasion. Nor Shepherd's nor Butcher's Dog in *Europe*, perhaps, has Half the Cues for the Driving and Watching of Cattle these Dogs have. While the Herds are upon the Way to Pasture, the Dogs are incessantly running to and again in the Flanks and the Rear and barking with a very lively Authority, to keep the Herds to the Line upon which their Masters intend to drive 'em, and which they readily apprehend: And when the Herds are arriv'd at the Place where they are to graze that Day, the Dogs employ themselves, without Bidding, partly as do the *Backeleyers* or Fighting Oxen, to fetch in Stragglers, and keep the Cattle together, and partly in scouring the Fields about the Herds; which they do from Time to Time, as they are commanded, in a Body, to keep off the Wild Beasts. And when the Cattle are fix'd for the Night in and about the *Kraals*, and their Masters are retiring to Bed, out of the Huts turn all the Dogs, to mount the Guard for the whole Night against the same Enemy. And in this Service they are so watchful and active, that they come in, perhaps, for a third Part of the Security of the Great Cattle; which, notwithstanding their Lowing and Disorder upon the Approach of Wild Beasts, would often suffer  
by

by 'em before the *Hottentots* could fall out of their Huts and come up, if it were not for the Dogs, which patrol from Time to Time about the Herds, and upon the least Lowing or Disorder, fall a roaring and barking, and run to meet and engage the Enemy. The *Hottentots* are in a Minute at their Heels ; and in a Minute the Enemy is either dispatch'd or put to Flight. Rarely, very rarely, does he go off with any Booty.

A Dog is the only Domeftick Animal the *Hottentots* have ; and he is fo neceffary, that they can by no Means do without him. But he is fuch a Piece of Ugliness, of the Dog-Kind, as is not to be feen, perhaps in any other Part of the World. Tho' he has a Thoufand good Qualities, you fee nothing in his Features that is indicative of one of 'em. Appearance never gave fuch a Lie as it does in him. All is fo ugly without, that you would think, all was ugly within. He feems all Falfehood and Surliness, whereas he is all Fidelity and Complaisance. In *Europe*, if a Man was not fond of fhewing him as a Curiofity, he would be afham'd to fee him at his Heels. He is more like a Fox than he is any Sort of Dog we have among us. His Mouth is pointed : His Ears are erect : His Tail is long and narrow ; and he drags it on the Ground. His Hair, which is thin, but long, points every Way, and falls no where fteek upon his Body. He makes fuch a Scoundrel-Figure, that all his good Qualities together, are hardly a Ballance for it ; and every Man living, but a *Hottentot*, on every Occafion, but that of Curiofity, would be quite afham'd of him.

This Account of the *Hottentot* Dog the Reader will think, perhaps, had been better inserted in the Chapter on the *Hottentot* Management with Regard to Cattle.

### C H A P. XIX.

Of certain Handy-Crafts the *Hottentots* exercise among themselves.

I. *Of the Butcher.* II. *The Skinner.* III. *The Taylor.* IV. *The Worker in Ivory.* V. *The Mat-Maker.* VI. *The Rope-Maker.* VII. *The Potter.* VIII. *The Smith.*

**I**F the Character of the *Hottentots* is not already rescued from the Ignorance and Stupidity in which all Authors upon 'em have involv'd it, it remains to be done in this Chapter: And if I do it not here, I shall despair of doing it any where else. The Handy-Crafts they exercise among themselves shew 'em to be a contriving dexterous People. The Mischief of All is their Laziness. They will neither work nor reason but upon a Kind of Force. Let it not be said then, *as stupid as a Hottentot*, but *as lazy as one*.

I. I shall begin with an Account of the Butcher's Art, and say at once, that there is not a Butcher in *Europe* who handles a Knife with Half the Dexterity of a *Hottentot*. They kill a Sheep in the following Manner. \* They tie his Fore-Foot toge-

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\* Vide Tab. VIII. Fig. 1



*The Hottentots Butcher.*



*The Hottentot Mat-Maker-Potter &c.*

ther. The same they do with the Hind-Feet, Then, One taking Hold of his Fore-Feet, and another taking Hold of his Hind-Feet, they stretch him on his Back on the Ground; and a Third, with a Knife, rips up the Belly of the Sheep, so that all the Entrails appear. Then, with one Hand, he tears gently the Guts from the Carcass and nobler Parts; and, with the other, stirs the Blood, to keep it from congealing. While he is doing this, he avoids as much as possible the Breaking of any of the Blood-Vessels about the Heart. By which Means the Sheep is at least a Quarter of an Hour a dying; and you have in all that Time a full View of the Heart in all its Motions. The Blood-Vessels about the Heart he touches not till the Sheep is dead. Having torn away the Guts, he gives 'em to another, who forthwith strips 'em of their Excrement, and, having wash'd 'em very clean, lays Part of 'em immediately upon the Fire to broil. And this Part (such Dispatch they make) is generally devour'd before the Sheep is dead. They scoop the Blood out of the Carcass, sometimes with Sea-Shells, sometimes with their Hands only, into Pots; where they mix it with the Remainder of the Guts, minc'd very small: And this Mixture they set forthwith a stewing.

When the Sheep is quite dead, and the Carcass clear'd of the Blood, the two Fellows, who held the Fore- and Hind-Feet, join with him who ript up the Belly, to take off the Skin: And they take it off very nicely. The Skin they spread on the Ground, and lay the Carcass upon it. They then proceed anatomically to separate the Parts of the Carcass one from another. And this Work they perform with such Dispatch and Exactness as would

surprise the ablest Anatomists among us. In a little Time you see the Flesh, the Bones, the Membranes, Muscles, Veins, Arteries &c. all in separate Parcels. Every Thing is apart; and every Thing entire. They take a Carcass to Pieces as readily and exactly as we do a Watch. They are not, methinks, so properly to be call'd Butchers as Anatomists.

I have been often present at those Dissections; and was ever astonish'd at the Dexterity with which they were perform'd. But I could never see 'em kill a Sheep, or any Beast they kill the same Way, without being shock'd at the Cruelty of leaving the Creature to languish to Death under such grievous Torments, as the Ripping up the Belly and tearing the Entrails from the Carcass. This had always a very horrid Aspect for me. And with much Pains and not a little Expence I sought for the Reason of this Practice; but could never meet with any Thing like a Reason for it, but a conjectural one of my own. They would at no Time be prevail'd on, by any Means I could use, to utter a Syllable towards Accounting for it. My Conjecture is, that they practise it merely out of Curiosity, to see how the Motion of the Heart ceases and Life goes out, that they may have a Notion after what Manner Life goes out of Themselves. Upon my Communicating this Conjecture to a very sensible *Hottentot*, whom I had long and fruitlessly teas'd upon the Subject, he shook his Head, and said, the *Europeans* are very discerning. But whether he banter'd or not, I could not discover; for he kept his Countenance, and would not add a Word more. I know not whether it be a Custom for the Physician of a *Kraal* to be present, when they kill Cattle;

but



but I never saw either Great or Small Cattle kill'd by 'em when the Physician was not present: And I ever saw him, when the Bellies were ript up, pore for a considerable Time towards the moving Heart. The old Women too, who dabble in Medicine, are very buisie on those Occasions, and pry with all their Eyes into the Breasts and Bellies of the Cattle. It cannot, I think, be suppos'd, that this is done to discover whether the Cattle be sound or not, because sound or unsound they devour 'em; nor can it, I think, be suppos'd, that it is done with a View to the Improvement of Medicine or their Skill in Anatomy, since every one is as eager to pry as the Physician and the old Women.

They observe pretty much the same Method in the Killing of a Bull, Ox or Cow. All the Difference is, that they throw those down on their Backs; and having fasten'd their Horns in the Ground, stretch their Legs to the full Length, with Ropes, fasten'd to Stakes in the Ground. Sometimes they will not give themselves the Trouble, to drive Stakes into the Ground, but hold, Numbers of 'em together, the four Ropes, tied severally to the Feet of the Beast, at full Stretch in their Hands. But the Great Cattle at all Times, suffer a much slower Death than the Small. Their Roasting Pieces, which are always pretty large, they generally cut out of the Hind-Quarters,

Kill what Beast they will, no Part of it is rejected but the Excrement, the Bones, the Hoofs and the Horns. Every other Part they either eat or use. The Bones, which, when they extract 'em from the Flesh, are taken out all so compleat and laid together

ther in such Order, that they might be quickly rear'd into a perfect Skeleton, they boil, to get the Marrow out of 'em (such is their Way) and then they throw 'em to the Dogs. With the Marrow they anoint their Bodies. Of a Sheep-Skin they make a *Krossé* or Mantle. If 'tis a very small one, they cut it into Slips to make Rings with for the Legs of the Women. The Hide of an Ox, Bull or Cow is cut into long Straps (of which I shall speak presently) or laid, as a Fence against the Weather, upon their Huts. If they have no Occasion for *Krosses*, Rings, Straps, or Coverings for their Huts, they lay up the Skins for Food, and dress 'em much after the Manner they do Old Shoes.

II. I shall now let the Reader into the Art and Mystery of a *Hottentot* Skinner. \* He takes a Sheep Skin, fresh and reeking from the Back of the Sheep, and rubs into it as much Fat as he can. At this Work he takes Abundance of Pains; and the Effect is, that the Skin is thereby render'd tough and smooth, and the Wool or Hair is secur'd from Falling off. This is All he does if he dresses a Sheep-Skin for an *European*: And he does the same, and no more, if he dresses the Skin of a Wild Beast for him. And, whatever the Reader may think of the Matter, a Skin dress'd in this Manner by a *Hottentot* is a very curious Piece of Work.

But if he dresses a Sheep- or Wild-Beast's Skin

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\* Vide Tab. VII. Fig. 2.

for the Wear of one of his Countrymen, after rubbing it well all over with Fat, he rubs it all over with fresh Cow-Dung. He then lays it in the Sun to dry. When 'tis dry, he rubs it again with Fat, and again with Cow-Dung, and again lays it in the Sun to dry. He runs this 'Round with it, till 'tis become very black, and smells furiously of the Cow-Dung.

Father *Tachart* says well, "the *Hottentots* wear " Sheep-Skins, prepar'd with Cow-Dung and " Sheep's-Fat; Apparel unfufferable to the Noses " of any but Themselves." The Skins they wear do indeed generally stink most abominably. But what you take for a Stink, a *Hottentot*, if you will believe him, receives as the most agreeable Perfume. They are extremely fond of Skins that are thoroughly season'd with Cow-Dung,

The Hide of an Ox, Bull or Cow, a *Hottentot* Skinner manages thus. He rubs Wood-Ashes very plentifully into the Hair. After which he sprinkles the Hair with Water. He then rolls up the Hide and lays it for a Couple of Days in the Sun. All this is done to fetch off the Hair. In Two Days Time he opens the Hide; and if he finds the Hair is easily to be pluck'd off, he quickly tears off all; but if it comes hardly, he rubs it again with Ashes; and, having sprinkled it with Water, rolls up the Hide again, and lays it for Two Days more in the Sun. A second Bout never fails to rot and loosen the Hair so, that it comes off very freely. Having rid the Hide very clean of the Hair, he rubs as much Fat into it as he can, labouring and currying the Hide on this Occasion with all his

Might. And then has the Hide receiv'd a full *Hottentot* Dressing, or, if you will, a Tanning.

III. A *Hottentot* Skinner is generally a Taylor too ; and very expert and nimble withal in the Profession. When he cuts the several Parts of a *Krosse* out of a Skin, he follows neither Line nor Pattern, but only his Eye; and yet, tho' he only makes Use of a Knife, he cuts 'em out with such Dispatch and Exactness, that I question whether any Taylor in *Europe* could do the Like. When all the Parts are cut out, he squats down to stitch 'em together. At this Work he uses the Bird's Bone, that has been often mention'd, as an Awl ; and the split Sinews of Beasts as Thread. A *Hottentot* Taylor has no better Tackle: Yet he whips a Stitch with wonderful Dexterity, and finishes a *Krosse* in a great deal less Time than, I apprehend, an *European* Taylor could do with his own Tackle; and works on many Occasions as well.

The *Hottentots* generally chuse, for Thread and String, the Veins and Sinews that run along the Back-Bones of Cattle. These they extend in the Sun till they are dry, upon the Tops of little Sticks they fix upright in the Ground.

'Tis the Business too of a *Hottentot* Taylor to cut the Hides of the Great Cattle into Straps. And this is a Work too, which, trifling as it may seem to the Reader, requires some Dexterity ; and he performs it with a great Deal. These Straps are generally of the Breadth of Two Fingers ; and are longer or shorter, according to the Uses they are design'd for. But most of 'em are of a great Length.

Length. When he has a Hide to cut into Straps, he makes Holes here and there on the Edges of it ; and in every Hole ties a String. To every String he fastens a Peg ; and by these Pegs stretches the Hide on the Ground to the Full every Way. Then with a Knife he cuts out the Straps : And tho' he follows only his Eye, he cuts 'em with such Exactness, that no Part, from one End to the other, of a very long Strap, appears to be broader or narrower than another. He will cut a Strap of a great many Yards in, Length out of the same Hide, as soon as an *European* can, with any Exactness, cut out one of the Length of the Hide only ; and this so truly, that 'tis All of the requir'd Breadth, and no more, from End to End.

These Straps are of great Use to 'em. With these they tie up the Materials of their Huts, and their Hut-Furniture, when they remove their *Kraals*; and with these they gird 'em on the Backs of the Carriage-Oxen, as they do likewise all other Burthens they convey upon those Beasts. The Pannels ( resembling Biers ) on the Backs of these Oxen are likewise girt on with these Straps. And to many other good Purposes do the *Hottentots* make these Straps very serviceable.

IV. The next *Hottentot* Artificer, in the Order I place 'em, is the Worker in Ivory. And a very ingenious Workman he is. He makes Ivory-Rings to be worn upon the Arms by Way of Ornament. And tho' in the whole Process of his Work, from the Moment he lays his Hand upon an Elephant's Tooth, to cut out a Ring, to the Moment he finishes the Ring, he makes use of no other Instrument

ment than a Knife, yet is the Ring, when he has done with it, as round, smooth and bright as the expertest *European* Turner could have made it with all his Machines and Tools about him. But, as the Reader will readily conceive, the Work, under no other Tool than a Knife, is very tedious. The Patience of a *Hottentot* in going through it, is admirable. So is his Skill. He never miscarries in his Work ; but, on the Contrary, always brings it to Perfection.

V. I now come to the Mat-Makers. \* These are, for the most Part, Women: And they are very expert in their Business. They go out in Troops to gather Flags, Reeds, Bullrushes &c. for the Making of Mats. These, when they have brought them Home, they lay in the Sun to dry, and, when dry enough, weave them with their Fingers into Mats. If the Flags &c. by lying too long in the Sun, become too dry, they moisten 'em a little with Water before they weave 'em : And their Weft is so close, that nor Light nor Wind nor Rain can penetrate it. But these Mats are, like other Things, you must think, the Worst for Wearing. As the Mats that cover the Huts go to Decay, their Places are supplied with new ones, of which every *Kraal* is, for the most Part, provided with a good Stock.

VI. The next *Hottentot* Artificer is the Rope-Maker. The *Hottentot* Ropes are made of the same Materials with the Mats ; viz. Flags, Reeds, Bull-rushes &c. and are as strong, neat and durable

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\* Vide Tab. VIII. Fig. 2.

as *European* Ropes, made by the best Hands and of the best Hemp. The Flags, Reeds &c. they twist up separately into small Strings. These Strings they tie together, to the Length of about Four Yards. When they have made a sufficient Number of these Four-Yard-Strings, they twist 'em very tightly one round another to the Thickness of about an Inch or an Inch and a Quarter. Their Ropes are rarely thicker; and rarely are they longer than four Yards. The whole Work they perform with their Hands only; and they perform it, as they do all their Handy-Crafts, with a very surprising Dexterity. Experiments have been often made of the Strength of a *Hottentot* Rope of this Thickness; and not a Pair of Oxen has there been found, I could hear of, that was able to break a found one. The *Europeans* at the *Cape* often purchase those Ropes of the *Hottentots*; and use 'em at the Plough, and on every Occasion, as they do those that are made of Hemp. The *Hottentots*, as I have said, rarely make Ropes above Four Yards long; but they can make 'em of any Length; and do now and then make very long ones for the *Europeans*.

VI. I shall now shew the Reader How the *Hottentots* make Earthen Vessels. All the *Hottentots* are Potters, every Family making its own Pots. And their Earthen Vessels of every Kind are made only of the Mould of Ant-Hills. This Mould they take off even with the Surface of the Ground (they meddle not with any below the Surface) and having clear'd it of every Particle of Sand or Gravel they can discover in it, knead it tightly, bruising and incorporating with it the Ant-Eggs that are scatter'd up and down it. Bruis'd Ant-Eggs  
are

are such a Cement as not many in *Europe*, perhaps, are aware of. Of this Mould, now a Clay or Dough, they take such a Quantity as will make a Pot of the desir'd Bigness; and, upon a smooth flat Stone, rear and fashion the Pot, by Hand only (as a Pastry Cook does a Pye) to the Shape of such an Urn as the old *Romans* preserv'd the Ashes of the Dead in. All their earthen Vessels are in the Shape of the *Roman Urn*. They then smooth it, inside and out, with a very careful Hand; leaving not the least Pimple or Unevenness in any Part. This done, they set it for a Couple of Days in the Sun, 'Tis still on the Stone on which it was rear'd. In Two Days Time, the Pot is thoroughly dry; when they separate it from the Stone, by drawing a dried Sinew to and fro', like the Working of a Saw, between the Stone and the Bottom of the Pot. They then put the Pot in the Oven; a Hole, as deep as the Pot is high, but of twice the Circumference or more, in the Ground: And over and about the Pot they make a quick Fire, which they leave to burn till it goes out of itself. While the Pot is burning, there melts, say the *Hottentots*, I know not What, in the Ant-Eggs, that spreads it self through all the Matter of the Pot, and binds it up to that surprizing Firmness that is found in all the *Hottentot* Earthen Vessels.

The Colour of the Pots, both within and without, is a Jet-Black; which they acquire, say the *Hottentots*, and (I believe 'em) not from the Smoak or the Fire, but from the Ant-Eggs. And in no Part of the Pot does the Colour at any Time suffer a Change,

This



*Tab. IX. fig. 1. p. 237.*



*The Hottentot Smith &c.*

*Fig. 2. p. 244.*



*The Throwing of the Haſſagaye*

This *Hottentot* Manufacture alone, is sufficient to rescue the Character of the People from that Ignorance and Stupidity in which it is involv'd in *Europe*; where, I believe, there is not one Potter, who, on the Sight of one of their Pots, would not do 'em Justice, and say, they were very ingenious. A *Hottentot* Pot being made without any Implement, but now and then a Knife, is a Proof of the *Hottentot* Dexterity: And their Making it of Mould, impregnated with Ant-Eggs, is no inconsiderable Evidence of their Invention.

VIII. But the *Hottentot* Smith \* does, perhaps, his Country more Credit than any other *Hottentot* Artificer. Smithery, as it stands among the *Hottentots*, requires a great Deal of Labour and a great Deal of Ingenuity: For the Melting of Iron from the Oar is comprehended in it; and, what is much worse, it is furnish'd with no other Implements than Stones. The *Hottentots* melt Iron from the Oar after the following Manner. They make a Hole in a rais'd Ground, large enough to contain a good Quantity of Iron-Stones, which are found here and there in Plenty in the *Hottentot* Countries. In this Hole they melt out the Iron from the Oar. About a Foot and a Half from this Hole, upon the Descent, they make another, something less. This is the Receiver of the melted Iron, which runs into it by a narrow Channel they cut from one Hole to the other. Before they put the Iron-Stones into the Hole, where the Iron is to be melted out of them, they make a Fire in the Hole,

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\* Vide Tab. IX. Fig. 1.

quite up to the Mouth of it, in order to make the Earth about it thoroughly hot. When they suppose the Earth about it is well heated, they fill the Hole almost up with Iron-Stones. They then make a large Fire over the Stones, which they supply from Time to Time with Fuel, till the Iron is melted and run, all of it, into the Receiver. As soon as the Iron in the Receiver is cold, they take it out, and break it to Pieces with Stones. These Pieces the *Hottentots*, as they have Occasion, heat in other Fires, and with Stones beat 'em out and shape 'em to Weapons. They rarely make any Thing else of Iron.

*Vogel's* Account of their Method of Making Iron Weapons, and of the Beauty and Service of those Weapons is pretty just : Only he has omitted the Fire. “ They take,” says he, “ a Piece of new  
“ or old Iron, and, without any other Implements  
“ than Stones, make a Weapon of it. They get  
“ the hardest flat Stone they can ; and putting the  
“ Iron upon it, as upon an Anvil, beat it with a  
“ roundish Stone, which serves for a Hammer, in-  
“ to the desir'd Form. They then grind it upon  
“ the flat Stone, and afterwards polish it so nicely  
“ that it comes out a very valuable Piece of Work  
“ both for Beauty and Service ; and which no  
“ *European* Smith could, perhaps, produce the  
“ Like to, by the like Means.”

I have seen 'em melt Iron out of Oar, and work it into Weapons ; and shall never forget the great Labour and Ingenuity they shew'd on those Occasions.

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The *Hottentots* have Copper-Oar too; out of which they melt the Copper in the same Manner as they melt Iron from its Oar. But they work but very little in this Metal; and what they do is only for Trinkets to adorn themselves withal. Nor do they work in Iron but when they want Weapons. Nothing but Necessity will set them to Labour. But when they do labour they labour excessively hard; and leave no Work for another, or for Pleasure or Idleness, till they have finish'd it. I never saw 'em work in Copper; but I have seen some Trinkets they have made of that Metal; and was agreeably surpris'd at the beautiful Shape and Polishing they had given 'em. Could the *Hottentots* but shake off their Laziness, I am persuaded they would in a little Time make as good a Figure in Arts and Arms, as any People in *Afric*.

I might have mention'd under the Article of the *Hottentot* Rope-Making, the Strings the *Hottentots* make for their Bows and Musical Instruments. Their Musical Instruments are strung with dried Sinews and Guts of Sheep. Their Bows are strung with twisted Guts only. For these Purposes they prepare Guts in the following Manner. Two Persons having Hold of a Gut, one at one End, the other at the other, twist it, one to the Right, the other to the Left, till it arrives at the Roundness and Solidity of an *European* Fiddle-String. They then lay it, extended on two Pegs, in the Sun to dry. And when 'tis dry, they grease it, the Gut still remaining on the Pegs, with Sheeps Fat; and having let it lie, thus greas'd, for some Time longer in the Sun, they take it off for Use.

## C H A P. XX:

### The HOTTENTOT Manner of Hunting and Fishing.

**A** Noble Testimony of the Dexterity of the *Hottentots* is the Figure they make in the Chace. They are certainly the expertest Hunters in the World. Their Excellency this Way, they principally owe to their Swiftness of Foot, and their Dexterity in Discharging an Arrow and Throwing the *Hassagaye* and *Rackum*-Stick. Of their Swiftness of Foot, Enough has been said in the preceeding Parts of this History. I know of no Author upon 'em, who allows 'em not to be the People, the swiftest of Foot in the World. They themselves have a Notion that they are so ; and value themselves not a little upon so excelling a Distinction.

Notwithstanding the Character I have already, here and there, given the *Hottentots* for Integrity and Simplicity of Manners, and the Character they have from others for Ignorance and Stupidity, the Reader, perhaps, would wonder, were no Instance to be produc'd, of their Making a knavish Use of a Quality, in which they so far out-strip the Rest of Mankind. 'Tis very true, that Honest as the *Hottentots* are, and Stupid and Ignorant, as many have represented them, they are cunning enough to discern this Temptation ; and sometimes, but very rarely, corrupt enough, to lay Hold of it. I have an Instance of this, which is both cautionary and diverting.

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A Dutch Sailor landing at the *Cape*, gave a Roll of Tobacco he had with him, of about 20 l. Weight, to the *Hottentot* next at Hand, to carry after him to the Town. The *Hottentot* took the Tobacco and follow'd him. Being got at some Distance from Company, the *Hottentot* ask'd the Sailor in *Dutch*, If he could run well. Run! replies the Sailor, yes, very well. Come let's see, says the *Hottentot*; and taking immediately to his Heels, ran away with the Tobacco, and was out of Sight in a Moment. The Sailor, instead of following, stood confounded at such miraculous Speed; and never saw the *Hottentot* or Tobacco again.

For the Dexterity of the *Hottentots* in Discharging an Arrow and Throwing the *Hassagaye* and *Rackum-Stick*, it strikes every Witness of it with the highest Admiration. The *Rackum-Stick* is describ'd in a former Chapter. I shall here describe the *Hassagaye* and the *Hottentot* Arrow. The *Hassagaye* is a Sort of Half-Pike. The Shaft of it is a Taper-Stick, of the Length and Thickness of a Rake-Handle. 'Tis arm'd at the thickest End with a little thin Plate of Iron, tapering to a Point; and very sharp on the Edges: This Arm, or Blade; is always kept clean and bright; and, when us'd against an Enemy or Wild Beast, is poison'd. A *Hottentot* Arrow consists of a small tapering Stick or Cane, of about a Foot and a Half in Length, and a Semi-circle of Iron, of the Compass of a Half-Sixpence, and of the Thickness of a common Knife-Blade; bearded by a small Angle, within and without, on each Point: To the Back of this Semi-circle of Iron, in the Middle, joins a small Iron-Barrel, of about Two Inches in Length; and into

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this

this Barrel runs the small End of the Stick or Cane. This is a *Hottentot* Arrow ; the Beards of which are always poison'd. With the *Hassagaye*, the *Rackum*-Stick and this Arrow, the *Hottentots*, if they make not such quick and bloody Executions as the *Europeans*, perform far greater Wonders of Dexterity both in the Chace and in War. In the Use of these Weapons they shew such a Quickness of Eye and Sureness of Hand, as, I believe, no People upon Earth have but Themselves. If a *Hottentot*, in the Chace of a Hare, Deer, or Wild Goat, comes but within Thirty or Forty Yards of the Creature, away flies the *Rackum*-Stick, and down falls the Creature, generally pierc'd quite through the Body. This I have seen many a Time. The *Rackum*-Stick, discharg'd from the Hand of a *Hottentot*, hardly ever errs.

But the most surprising Strokes of the *Hottentot* Dexterity are seen in their Throwing of a Stone. They hit a Mark with a Stone to a Miracle of Exactness, tho' the Mark be a Hundred Paces distant, and no bigger than a Half-Penny. I have beheld 'em at this Exercise with the highest Pleasure and Astonishment ; and was never weary of the Spectacle. I still expected, after repeated Successes, that the Stone would err : But I expected in vain : Still went the Stone right to the Mark ; and my Pleasure and Astonishment were redoubled. You would imagine the Stone was destin'd not to err, or that you was not destin'd to see it. Say People what they will of the Stupidity of the *Hottentots*, there is Nothing like their Dexterity in the Throwing of a Stone, to be seen in any other Part of the World. But a *Hottentot's* unerring Hand in this  
Exer-

Exercise is not the only Wonder of the Scene. You would be equally struck, perhaps, with the Manner in which he takes his Aim. He stands not still, with a lift-up Arm, and a steady staring Eye upon the Mark, as we do; but is in continual Motion; skipping from one Side to another; suddenly stooping; suddenly rising; now bending on this Side, now on that: His Eyes, Hands and Feet are in the most bewilder'd Action, and you would think he was playing the Fool, and minding Nothing less than his Aim, when, on a sudden, away goes the Stone, with a Fury, right to the Heart of the Mark, as if some invisible Power had directed it. You are amaz'd: The *Hottentot* is delighted to see it, and will give you as many *Encores* as you please.

The Dexterity of the *Hottentots* in Discharging an Arrow comes next, in Merit, to their Dexterity in Throwing a Stone. The *Hottentot* Bow is made of Iron- or Olive-Wood. The String is made of the large Sinews or Guts of Beasts; and is secur'd by a stout wooden or Iron-Hook at each End of the Bow. The Bow is neat, handy, and very durable. The *Hottentot* Quiver is a long narrow Bag, made of Ox- Elk- or Elephant-Skin; and which they sling, by a Strap fasten'd to both Ends of it, over the Shoulder. To the upper End of the Quiver is fix'd a Hook, on which they hang the Bow, when they go out to War, or to the Chace. In the Use of the Bow and Arrow stands not a little of the *Hottentot* Merit. When the Wind is calm, they will hit with an Arrow a Mark not bigger than a Silver-Penny at a considerable Distance. They err not often, and never widely if the Wind



is down. Here likewise they stand not, as do the *Europeans* like Statues, to take their Aim; but while they are gathering it, which they are not long a doing, they skip to and again from Side to Side, and stand not still a Moment; and when you least expect it, away flies the Arrow.

The Throwing of the *Hassagaye* and *Rackum-Stick* \* is What distinguishes the Eye and Hand of a *Hottentot* in a third Degree. The *Hassagaye* the *Hottentots* look upon as the most notable martial and venatick Weapon they have. With the *Hassagaye* they attack the larger Wild Beasts, and do the most Execution in the Wars. When they take their Aim with this Weapon at a Mark, a Beast, or a single Enemy, they skip and bounce from Side to Side, as they do when they take their Aim with an Arrow, and brandish and whirl it about in their Hands in such a Manner, that you would take their whole Action for idle Flourish, and not imagine they were aiming at any Thing. On a Sudden, away it flies with a whistling Fury; and the Mark it flies wide of, must be a very narrow One.

In this Account of the *Hottentot* Dexterity in the Throwing of a Stone, the Discharging of an Arrow, and the Throwing of the *Hassagaye* and *Rackum-Stick*, I am handsomely supported by *Vogel* and several other Authors. I now proceed to shew the *Hottentot* Manner of Hunting; of which Nothing near a perfect Account has been given by any Author I have seen.

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\* Vide Tab. IX. Fig. 2.

When a *Hottentot* goes by himself a hunting, or only two or three go together, they have Nothing in View but the Catching a Hare, Deer, or so, for their own Families. They look not for Beasts of Prey. And 'tis seldom any Thing happens on those Occasions worth taking Notice of. At those Times the *Rackum*-Stick does all the Execution. They rarely discharge an Arrow, or throw the *Hassagaye*, at a Hare, a Deer, or a Wild Goat. And they rarely kill any Thing else when they go only Two or Three together. The *Hottentot* Hunting Matches that merit a particular Description are such as all the Men of a *Kraal* engage in. These are undertaken on the following Occasions: Either when the Neighbourhood is infested more than ordinarily with Wild Beasts: Or when the *Hottentots*, being not overstock'd with Cattle, chuse not to kill Cattle for their own Sustainance. 'Tis true, they look upon Venison of almost every Kind to be much finer Eating than the Flesh of Cattle; and should therefore, one would think, go almost every Day a hunting. But tho' they love Venison well, they love their Ease much better. Their Laziness keeps 'em at Home, till the Appearance of Wild Beasts about 'em, or the Backwardness of their Flocks, frights 'em out of it, and drives 'em upon the Chace.

When all the Men of a *Kraal* are out upon the Chace, and discover a Wild Beast of any considerable Size, Strength and Fierceness, they divide themselves into several Parties, and endeavour to surround the Beast; which, through their Nimbleness of Foot, they generally do very quickly, tho' upon the Sight of such Danger, the Beast, of

whatsoever Kind, always betakes himself to all his Shifts and to all h's Heels. If 'tis an Elephant, a Rhinoceros, an Elk, or a Wild Ass they thus encompass, they attack him with *Hassagayes*. \* The hard thick Hides of those Creatures fortifie 'em against a Shower of Arrows. If they lay him not dead upon the Spot, they so loaden him with *Hassagayes* that he runs not long before he tumbles. But it would be diverting to Sportsmen to see one of those Creatures, who escapes Demolition at the first Onset, return the Attack upon the *Hottentots*. They now stand about him in a Ring, as large a one as they can make, so as to reach him with their *Hassagayes*. One or two or more *Hassagayes* are, perhaps, already stuck in his Body. The Creature runs, with fierce Eyes and a great Deal of Noise and Fury, at the *Hottentots* who threw 'em. Then others attack him in the Rear. He turns about to run at the last Assailants, and is again attack'd in the Rear. Again he turns about, and is again attack'd. The *Hassagayes* multiply upon his Body; many are fix'd upon his Back and Sides; and being violently shook, by his violent Motion, tear and enrage the Wounds. He runs, roars, tears up the Ground, and is stark mad with Pain. The *Hassagayes* still pour in upon him; and he is sometimes stuck quite round with 'em, and has, as it were, a Forest upon his Back before he falls.

When a Lion, Tiger, or Leopard is thus encompass'd, they attack him with *Hassagayes* and Arrows. With flaming Eyes and the wildest Rage

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\* Vile Tab. λ. Fig. 2.

the Creature flies upon the *Hottentots* who threw 'em. He is nimble; they are nimbler, and avoid him with astonishing Dexterity, till they are reliev'd by others of the Ring; who, plying him with fresh Arrows and *Hassagayes*, bring him in all his Fury upon themselves. He leaps towards One, so quick, and, as you would think, with so sure a Paw, that, Ah! (shuddering) he has him, You would say. But you see no such Thing. The Fellow in Danger leaps out of it in the Twinkling of an Eye; and the Beast spends all his Rage upon the Ground. He turns and leaps towards another, and another and another; but still in Vain. The nimble Fellows avoid him with the Quickness of Thought; and still he fights only with the Air. All this Time the Arrows and *Hassagayes* are showering upon him in the Rear. He grows mad with Pain; and running and leaping from one Part to another, and tumbling from Time to Time on the Ground to break the Arrows and *Hassagayes* that are fasten'd in him, foams, yells and roars very terribly. There is certainly Nothing so admirable of the Kind in any other Part of the World as the Activity and Address of the *Hottentots* on those Occasions. On one Side, they escape the Paws of the Beast with incredible Dexterity; and, on the other, relieve one another with incredible Speed and Resolution. The *Hottentots* engaging with a Lion, Tiger or Leopard &c in this Manner, is a Spectacle that cannot be seen without the highest Admiration, but by such as are more stupid than Some have represented the *Hottentots*. If the Beast is not quickly slain, he is quickly convinc'd there is no dealing with so nimble an Enemy; and then he makes off with all his Heels. And having by this Time a

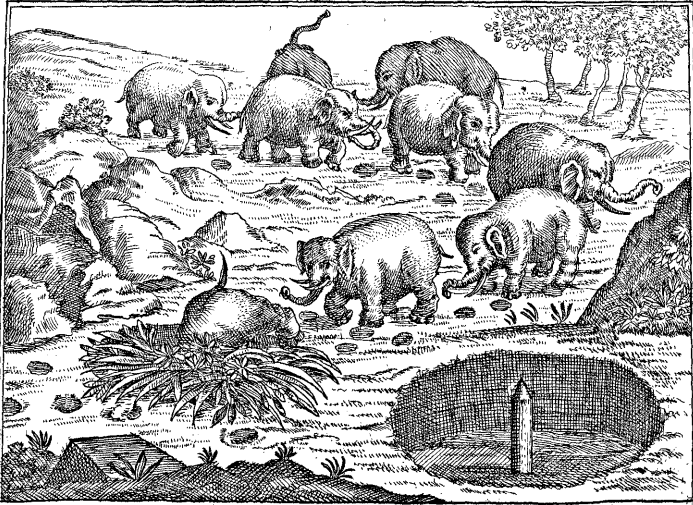
Multitude, perhaps, of poison'd Arrows and *Haf sagayes* upon his Back, the *Hottentots* let him go very freely ; but follow him at a little Distance. The Poison quickly seizes him ; and he runs not far before he falls.

But the *Hottentots* do not often engage an Elephant, a Rhinoceros or an Elk after this Manner. With these Creatures they generally go a far less dangerous and fatiguing Way to Work. The Elephants going always to Water in Troops, and always in a Line, one behind another, the Beasts are so heavy, and their Feet so large, that they ever make a deep Path, call'd the *Elephants Road*, from their Haunts to the Water-Side. In this Road the *Hottentots* (without Shovel or Pick-Ax, for they have no such Tools) make a Hole, from Six to Eight Foot deep, and about Four Foot Diameter. \* In the Middle of this Hole they fix a strong Stake, tapering up to a Point, which is almost upon a Level with the Top of the Hole. When this is done they cover the Hole with small Boughs, Leaves, Grass and Mould, so artfully, that the Covering seems to be perfectly of a Piece with the Surface of the Ground about it ; and no Man living would suspect the Trap. The Elephants always returning from Water by the Way they went to it, and keeping pretty closely to the Track, the foremost is ever in most Danger of the Snare. One or other is sure to tumble in. Into this Hole an Elephant falling with his Fore-Foot, (It is not of Dimensions to receive his whole

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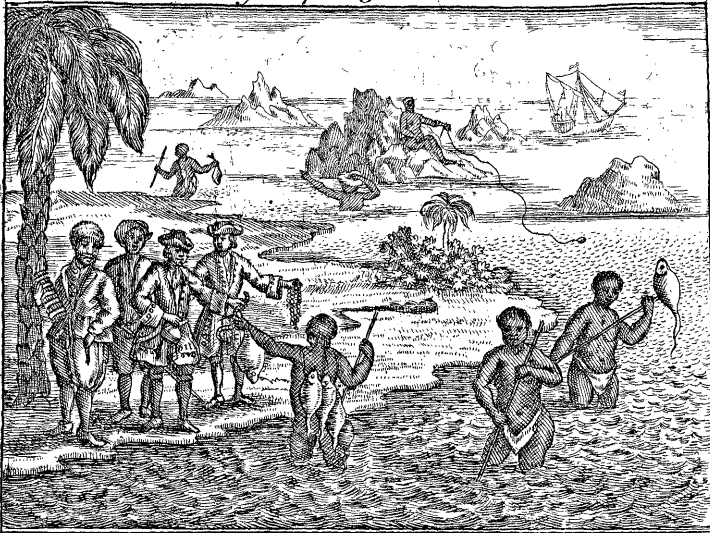
\* Vide Tab. XI. Fig. 1.

*Tab. XI. fig. 1. p. 248.*



*In what manner the Hottentots catch the Elephants.*

*Fig. 2. p. 254.*



*The Hottentot manner of Fishing.*

Body) he is pierc'd in the Neck or Breast with the Stake, and there held securely ; for his Fore-Foot not touching the Ground, the more he struggles, the farther penetrates the Stake, and the better Hold it gets. When an Elephant falls into this Snare, the Rest of the Troop makes off as fast as possible, abandoning him as a stricken Deer is abandon'd by the Herd he belong'd to. The *Hottentots*, who lie perdue upon the Watch, seeing the Elephant in the Trap, issue out of their Covert : And if the Beast is not already within an Ace of Death by the Wound with the Stake, they get upon his Neck, and, with heavy Stones, break his Skull to Pieces ; or else, with their Knives, they stab him, and cut his large Veins, so that he dies in a Minute. Then the Carcass is carried to the *Kraal*, and all the Inhabitants feast upon it very jovially.

The Rhinoceros and the Elk the *Hottentots* generally take after much the same Manner. And if this Invention, which appears to be purely *Hottentot*, does not argue away Imputations of monstrous Stupidity, I know not, for my own Part, any Thing that will argue the Sense or Capacity of a People, That the *Hottentots* have a great many idle ridiculous Customs, is most certain. But where is the Nation that has not, in one Corner or other of it, Customs, in many Particulars, as idle ? And where is the Wife Man, who has not a ridiculous Side ? Give the *Hottentot* Sense but fair Play, and 'twill appear like other People's.

The *Hottentots* have an Honourable Order of Men among 'em, distinguish'd indeed by no particular Name, but which I may very properly call the