

oxen on account of the scarcity of water. Late in the afternoon we came to a peasant's house, who informed us, he had a neighbour about four hours ride from his place, by whom we should be kindly received, and who would further direct us on our journey. After having put us in the road, and given us some directions, he parted with us, and we pursued our journey till sun-set, but found no habitation. We therefore concluded, that we had certainly lost our way, and returned some miles back, where we found a road which branched off another way. In this path we continued till one o'clock in the morning, having got into a dismal valley, inclosed on each side with rugged precipices: at last we found ourselves in the middle of a thicket of thorn trees (*mimosa nilotica*) where we unfaddled our horses and kindled a fire. We passed the night with little comfort, having eaten nothing all that day; but to our great satisfaction we heard the murmuring of a stream, which we went in search of, and found good water: our concern, however, was still great for our poor horses that had nothing to eat. We spent the night in gathering wood and keeping our fire up till day-light, when I climbed up a high precipice, and viewed the country. Here I collected several curious plants, *geranium spinosum*, *stapelia euphorbioides*; and upon my return, we mounted our horses, and directed our course towards the high mountains, where we expected to find some relief, but were disappointed; for after being parched up with insupportable heat, we met not with a drop of water to quench our thirst

during the whole day's journey. But towards the evening we happily discovered a house, where we were kindly entertained, and the next morning overtook our waggons in Hartwig's Kloof; but our oxen were in a bad state, and one of them was quite unfit for service. We continued our journey without any other remarkable event, except that of losing more of our oxen by the above mentioned disease.

12th, Came to Buffels Tagt River, where we rested several days, ranging the adjacent woods, where we found many curious trees in bloom.

29th, We arrived at the Cape Town, after a journey of four months and fourteen days.

T H I R D J O U R N E Y.

R. Feb. 29;
1776. **S**EPT. 26, 1774, I set out from the Cape Town, but by the badness of the weather was obliged to stay all night at the Salt River, about two miles from the town, where there is a wine-house. I had in company only two servants, for driving my waggon and taking care of my oxen and horse.

27th, The morning being fine we travelled through the great sandy plain (lying between the Cape Town and Hottentots Holland Mountains) great part of which was under water. In the afternoon we had heavy rain, when
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we crossed the Eerfte Rivier, and lodged all night at a farm-house under those mountains, where we found the whole country enamelled with flowers.

28th, 30th, The weather began to grow more pleasant, the Sun shining out with force; but sudden heavy showers much retarded our journey, confining us to short stages along the foot of the Stellebosch Mountains.

Oct. 1st, To Draaken Steen.

2d, To Paarle Kerk, where I was joined by Dr. THUNBERG.

4th, We went up to the top of the Paarle Mountain, where we added greatly to our collection.

5th, To Paarde Berg (Horse Mountain).

6th, We mounted to the top of Paarde Berg, where we found a treasure of new plants, which we had not seen before, and on the top had an extensive view of the adjacent country, which is level, and has but a barren appearance; yet contains several rich plantations, producing abundance of corn and wine; and the peasants live luxuriously. Their plantations lie all around the foot of this mountain, which yields a number of fine rivulets, without which this country would be uninhabited.

7th, We directed our course Northward, through a level country covered with low shrubs; but it being now spring, it was every where decorated with flowers of the greatest beauty, every hour's march producing new charms. At night we arrived at the foot of a mountain called Van Riebeck's Casteel. There we lodged at Mr. DRAYER's, a
wealthy

wealthy farmer, who treated us in the most friendly manner, and begged that we would favour him with our company for a month, which should not cost us a farthing.

9th, We went up to the top of Riebeck's Casteel, which is very high, and on the North side inaccessible. It is about four or five miles long, and very narrow on the top; we collected here many remarkable new plants, in particular a hyacinth, with flowers of a pale gold colour.

10th, We came to the Berg Rivier, which was then impassable by reason of the late rain.

12th, With some difficulty we transported, in a large boat, our waggons and baggage to the opposite side, and afterwards obliged our oxen to swim over. From thence we proceeded through a barren uninhabited country; consequently were obliged to content ourselves with the shelter of a large *leucodendron*, that protected us from the S.E. wind, which at this season sometimes blows cold.

13th, We arrived at the foot of a mountain called Piquet Berg, lying direct North from the Cape Town, being a particular place of observation of the Abbé DE LA CAILLE, when he measured a degree on the meridian in the year 1750. All around the mountain the soil is sandy, but furnished with a great variety of beautiful plants, especially *aspalathi*.

15th, We mounted the Piquet Berg, which is very high but easy of ascent. On the top are fine plains covered

vered with excellent verdure, which are of great service to the peasants, who send up their oxen during the summer season. We saw here several zebras and two colts, but they were very shy.

18th, We came to Verloore Valley, which begins on the N.W. side of the Piquet Berg. It is a narrow extent of marshy ground, inclosed by hills on each side, with a small river, frequented by a variety of water fowl, which afforded good sport. Towards the sea, the river increases in breadth, in many places upwards of a mile, and is very deep; there we saw hundreds of pelicans and wild geese, which kept the middle of the river; but we shot several wild ducks and water hens, which swam among the reeds along the side of it.

23d, We arrived at the mouth of the Verloore River, where it is discharged into the sea; but found the coast barren, consisting of sandy hills, so loose that our horses were sometimes up to their bellies, which made our journey very fatiguing.

23d, We left the shore on our left hand, and directed our course Northward towards the mouth of the Olyfant's Rivier. The heat became now great, which the whiteness of the sand still increased, and obliged us to travel late in the evening and early in the morning, resting in the middle of the day. It was also not a little fatiguing to travel here on horseback, the mole-casts being so deep that the horses fell up to their shoulders every six or seven minutes. This animal is by the Dutch called Landmoll, but differs so much from the European mole, that
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it does not belong to the same class of animals, but is intirely new. It feeds upon the roots of *ixia*, *gladioli*, *antholyzæ*, and *irides*, often grows to the size of a rabbit, and by some is esteemed good eating. There is another species of the animal, called by the Dutch Bles-moll, which inhabits the hard ground; but seldom exceeds the size of the common European mole. This country is furnished with a great variety of elegant shrubs; viz. *enista*, *partia*, and *aspalatbi*. At night we came to Lange Valley, where we took up our lodging in a desolate place, the inhabitants being all removed; for this is only their winter residence, when the water is fresh, which had now began to be brackish.

24th, We set out early in the morning, expecting to find a river or fountain, where we could rest during the heat of the day; but, to our no small disappointment, we travelled till noon without finding any: our oxen were so hot that their tongues hung out of their mouths. About one o'clock we saw a lake of water at some distance, but on our arrival our horses refused to drink: we dismounted, and found it to be a salt lake. In the evening we came to a fountain of excellent water, where we spent the night with great comfort. Next morning we were visited by a peasant going to the Cape; who told us, he had been attacked in the night by a lion, which made a spring at his Hottentot who led the oxen, but happily missed him. He admonished us to be expeditious, and get to some habitation that night, otherwise we might expect a visit from him.

25th, At noon we proceeded on our journey, the road continuing still very bad; and in passing along we saw the prints of the lion's feet in several places. At night we came to Olyfant's Rivier, where we found a Dutch habitation; there we rested several days, being treated with great hospitality. This country abounds with game. They have two kinds of partridges, which are exceedingly plentiful and easy to shoot; and a person cannot walk ten paces without raising a brace of quails. Their hares are of an extraordinary size, but differ little otherwise in character from those of Europe. We hunted every day, and by the assistance of the peasant's son, who was an excellent marksman, never failed to come home laden. The sterile appearance of this country exceeds all imagination: wherever one casts his eyes, he sees nothing but naked hills, without a blade of grass, only small succulent plants. The soil is a red binding loam, intermixed with a kind of rotten *schistus* or slate. Next morning we traversed the adjacent hills, and were surprized to find all the plants entirely new to us. They were the greatest part of the succulent kind; viz. *mesembryanthemum*, *euphorbia*, and *stapelia*, of which we found many new species. The peasant told us, that in winter the hills were painted with all kind of colours; and said, it grieved him often, that no person of knowledge in botany had ever had an opportunity of seeing his country in the flowery season. We expressed great surprize at seeing such large flocks of sheep as he was possessed of subsist in such a desert; on which he observed,
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that their sheep never ate any grafs, only fucculent plants, and all forts of shrubs; many of which were aromatic, and gave their flesh an excellent flavour. Next day I paffed through a large flock of sheep, where I faw them devouring the juicy leaves of *meſembryanthemum*, *ſtappelia*, *cotyledon*, and even the green feed veſſels of *euphorbia*; by eating ſuch plants they require little water, eſpecially in winter.

30th, We were employed in unloading our waggons, and tranſporting our baggage acroſs the river in a ſmall boat; and afterwards drove over our oxen with the empty waggons, which were almoſt overſet in the middle of it. The river is about forty or fifty yards broad, and in ſome places very deep. The borders are covered with the *mimofa nilotica*, which forms a thick impenetrable wood. We were about a day's journey from the mouth of this river, where are ſtill ſome elephants remaining, the country being very wild and uninhabited. We had now the great Carro to paſs; a deſart of three days journey, where no freſh water, and only three pits of brackiſh water, enough to preſerve the lives of our cattle, were to be found. Theſe pits are at ſome diſtance from the road, which makes it very difficult for ſtrangers to find them. But while we were ſeriously conſidering theſe approaching difficulties, thinking, if we ſhould miſs the pits, we ſhould probably periſh in this inhospitable deſart, to our great joy we were overtaken by a Boor, with his wife and children, who were going the ſame road; but he having a freſh team of horſes, we could not keep up with him.

However, he directed us in the way; and told us, he would tye a piece of white cloth on a branch of a tree, where he knew there was water; but desired us not to go to those places without fire-arms, as there was commonly a lion lurking near them; who knowing that all the animals must come there to drink, he seldom failed to seize his prey. At night we overtook our fellow traveller, who had taken up his lodging on a bare eminence, without a bush to shelter him; though at some distance there was a small wood of *mimosa* trees along the banks of a river that was then dry, which we thought much preferable to his situation. But he told us, it was much more dangerous on account of wild beasts; and that there often fell such sudden showers in the mountains, that people who had lodged by the rivers, had, with their waggon and oxen, been carried away in the night while they lay asleep. He left us early next morning, but we were obliged to stay till noon to let our oxen feed, and then went on until sun-set; but unhappily found no water, which mortified us much, having a long day's journey to the next watering place. All next day we travelled over this thirsty land, where we suffered from the heat of the Sun and want of water; but our sufferings were still aggravated when we thought on our poor animals, who often lay down in the yoke during the heat of the day. This desert is extensive; being bounded on the N. and N.E. by a chain of flat mountains, called Bockland's Bergen (Bockland's Mountains) and on the W. and N.W. by the Atlantic Ocean.

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It is uninhabitable in summer; but in winter, or during the rainy season, the Bockland people come down with their herds, which by feeding upon succulent shrubs, that are very salt, in a short time grow remarkably fat. There still remains a great treasure of new plants in this country, especially of the succulent kind, which cannot be preserved but by having good figures and descriptions of them made on the spot; which might be easily accomplished in the rainy season, when there is plenty of fresh water every where. But at this season of the year, we were obliged to make the greatest expedition to save the lives of our cattle, only collecting what we found growing along the road side, which amounted to above 100 plants, never before described. Towards the evening we arrived at the foot of Bockland's Berg, where we passed the night by a penurious stream of fresh water, but which yielded us no small comfort.

Nov. 2d, The peasant who had passed us in the Carro, as soon as he arrived at home, immediately sent two team of fresh oxen to help us up the mountain, our own being much weakened by the heavy roads. In the cool of the afternoon we ascended by a winding road, which was so very rugged and steep, that it took five hottentots with ropes made fast to the waggon to keep it from overturning. The face of the mountain consists intirely of scattered rock, being accessible only in this place, and is overgrown with a great variety of large woody plants, most of which were new. We found a new species of aloe here, called by the Dutch Koker-

Boom, of which the Hottentots make quivers to hold their arrows; it being of a soft fibrous consistence, which they can easily cut out, leaving only the bark, which is hard and durable. These trees were about twelve feet high, with a straight smooth trunk, about ten inches or a foot diameter and five or six feet in length, which divided into two branches; and those were again sub-divided into two more branches, which terminated in a bunch of thick succulent leaves surrounding the stem, spear-shaped, entire, without spines, and hanging down like the leaves of *dracæna draco*. We did not see it in flower, but by the above characters took it for a new species, and called it *aloe dichotoma*. We gained the top of the mountain, and entered into Bockland, which is extended along the summit for many miles. It is pretty level, but very rocky. We enjoyed a pure cool air, it being several degrees colder here than in the Carro. Bockland lies nearly in a Northern direction from the Cape, and at the distance of about 220 miles. It was called Bockland on account of the amazing quantity of spring bucks which were formerly found there; but since this country has been inhabited by Europeans, it has ceased to be the settled residence; at least, the number of those which constantly remain in it is very inconsiderable. It generally happens, however, once in seven or eight years, that flocks of many hundred thousands come out of the interior parts of Africa, spreading over the whole country, and not leaving a blade of grass or a shrub. The peasants are then obliged to guard their corn fields night and day, otherwise those animals would cause a famine wherever they passed.

passed. It seems probable, by the accounts of these extraordinary emigrations, that their natural habitation is in the interior parts of Terra de Natal; and that they are forced Southwards by dry seasons, which happen sometimes in those regions to such a degree, that not a drop of rain will fall for two or three years together. These great flocks are said to be always attended by lions; and it is observed, where a lion is, there is a large open space. We saw several flocks, but not exceeding twenty in each. We met a party of Dutchmen, who had been about 150 miles to the Northward of Bockland, destroying the Boschman Hottentots. They informed us, they had seen great flocks of the spring bucks; but there happening much rain, which had recovered the grass and vegetation, they had been observed to change their course, and return to the interior parts of the country.

3d, 4th, We continued our journey along this elevated tract; having on our right hand, or South-side, the precipice, which is inaccessible; and on the North-side, a desolate hilly country, inhabited by a few wandering tribes of the Boschman Hottentots. At night we came to the place of our benefactor, whose name was KLAAS LOSPER; he was a very opulent man in those parts, having upwards of 12000 sheep and 3000 bullocks. Most of the plants that we collected here were new; and, I believe, many more remain, this having been the dry season, when most of the flowers were gone.

6th, We directed our course Northward, through a dry, barren country, called Hantum; and on the 10th
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came to the last Dutch habitation on this side of the country. As we passed along we found many new plants growing near the banks of rivers, which were then quite dry; but the soil consisted of nothing but rotten rock. The hills were of the same substance, all of a conical figure, and entirely covered with pieces of rock, about the size of a man's fist. We continued several days at this habitation, where we were well entertained. They had excellent bread, good mutton, butter and milk, but no kind of strong liquors. We made several enquiries about the country lying to the Northward; and were told, that it had been formerly inhabited by Europeans near a hundred miles further, who at first had greatly increased their herds; but that some dry seasons coming on afterwards, they had been forced to return: the country therefore was supposed to be uninhabited, except by the wandering Hottentots, who seldom stay above a month in a place. This place is about 350 English miles North from the Cape of Good Hope. We now changed our course, going directly S.E. through an uninhabited country much like the former, surrounded by high mountains, flat on the tops, and forming what the peasants call Table Mountains. I never saw the smallest rivulet or fountain issuing from them; all the water that we found being that which was left stagnant in the deepest parts of the rivers, that are formed by the rain in the winter season, which rivers, towards Midsummer, in other places become entirely dry.

14th, To Rhinoceros Rivier. Here we saw great herds of zebras, and were informed by three Dutchmen, who passed us on horseback, that this place was frequented

quented by a large lion; and, as a proof, they shewed us a zebra, which he had lately killed; assuring us, if we stayed all night there, he would pay us a visit. We travelled about ten miles further, and at night saw a flock of sheep and some bullocks, which greatly animated us, expecting to find some habitation where we might shelter ourselves during the night; but, when we came to the place where the sheep were, we found a Dutchman with his wife and several young children sitting under the shelter of some bushes, which they had formed into an alcove, to screen them from the heat of the Sun. We stayed here all night, and the man asked us to sup with them; which we did, and made them a present of some tea and tobacco, which they thankfully received; and the next day the husband saddled his horse, rode six or seven miles with us, and gave us very good directions how to proceed in our intended course.

16th, We ascended a flat chain of mountains, called Rogge Velds Berg, where we found the road extremely rugged. Rogge Veld extends along the summit of a high ridge of mountains, running obliquely across the country for several hundred miles. It is very arid, except in some vallies, where the Dutch peasants have their habitations; but the general face of the country is rock. The soil is a red ochrey loam; it binds very hard in summer, and is in most places salt, which causes bad water. There is not a tree in the whole country, unless we should so call a few miserable shrubs, and of these the largest not

exceeding two feet in height. The air is very sharp, and in winter they have frost and snow for several months, which obliges the Boors to remove, with all their flocks and herds, down to the Carro, or lower deserts, where they spend the winter; and at that time have plenty of fresh water, and all the shrubs green, which afford food for their cattle. They remove down in the beginning of May, when they have sown their corn, and return about the latter end of October, when the low country becomes parched, and the water turns salt, or is entirely dried up. All the game and ferocious animals observe the same removes. The ancient inhabitants of this country, called by the Dutch *Boschmenfchen*, are a savage people and very thievish; often carrying off 700 sheep at a time, and killing their shepherds. They use bows and arrows, and poison the arrows with the venom of serpents mixed with the juice of a species of *euphorbia*, which we had no opportunity of seeing. These Hottentots have neither flocks or herds, nor any fixed habitation, nor even skins to cover them; but live in the cavities of rocks, like baboons. Their common food is roots of plants, many of which we have not been able to discover. They eat snakes, lizards, scorpions, and all kind of reptiles. There is a caterpillar which produces a very large moth, and is found commonly on the *mimosa nilotica*. These are found in great plenty, often stripping the trees of all their leaves, and of them the Hottentots make many a delicious meal. They also eat the
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eggs of a large species of ant, which they dig out of the ground in great quantities, washing them in water, and afterwards boiling them. They are commonly called Hottentot's rice. This is an excellent country for sheep; but the inhabitants breed few oxen, and those only for their own use. We found few plants here; but those we found were all new. I did not see an *erica* or *protea* in the whole country.

22d, The ground was white with frost, and the wind sharp. At first we proposed to continue our journey along the top of these mountains to the N.E. extremity; but our waggons were so shaken by the ruggedness of the road, and our horses and oxen so tender-footed, that they became unserviceable, and we were obliged to drive them loose a great part of the way home.

Dec. 2d, We thought of descending the mountain, and directing our course to the Cape; but it blew a violent storm, and was extremely cold. The next morning the ground was white with frost, and there was ice upon the pools as thick as a crown piece. This alarmed the peasants, their wheat being then in blossom, which they expected would be entirely destroyed: a circumstance that often happens in this country.

3d, We were furnished with fresh oxen, and several Hottentots, who, with long thongs of leather fixed to the upper part of our waggons, kept them from overturning, while we were obliged to make both the hind

wheels fast with an iron chain to retard their motion. After two hours and a half employed in hard labour, sometimes pulling on one side, sometimes on the other, and sometimes all obliged to hang on with our whole strength behind the waggon, to keep it from running over the oxen, we arrived at the foot of the mountain, where we found the heat more troublesome than the cold had been on the top. We now entered a large division of the Carro which lies along the foot of the Rogge Veld's Mountains, being a desert of four days journey, with no more than three pits of brackish water to be found in all that extent, which was at this season forsaken by every living creature; but in winter it is the habitation of the Rogge Veld Boors, as I observed before.

5th, To Unlucky River, called so from a man having been there formerly devoured by a lion. We remained here a day to rest our oxen, having found a pit with brackish water, and some reeds, which the oxen devoured with greediness.

8th, About eleven o'clock at night we got clear of the desert, and arrived at the foot of the Bocke Velde mountains, where we lodged by a rivulet of pure fresh water; and we spent the remainder of that night and part of next day in great luxury.

11th, To Verkeerde Valley, where we rested three days, having found good pasture for our oxen, and a large lake of fresh water, well stocked with water-fowl. We
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lived on wild ducks and snipes, though the fields abounded also with korhaans (a kind of bustard), partridges, hares, &c. and great flocks of ostriches.

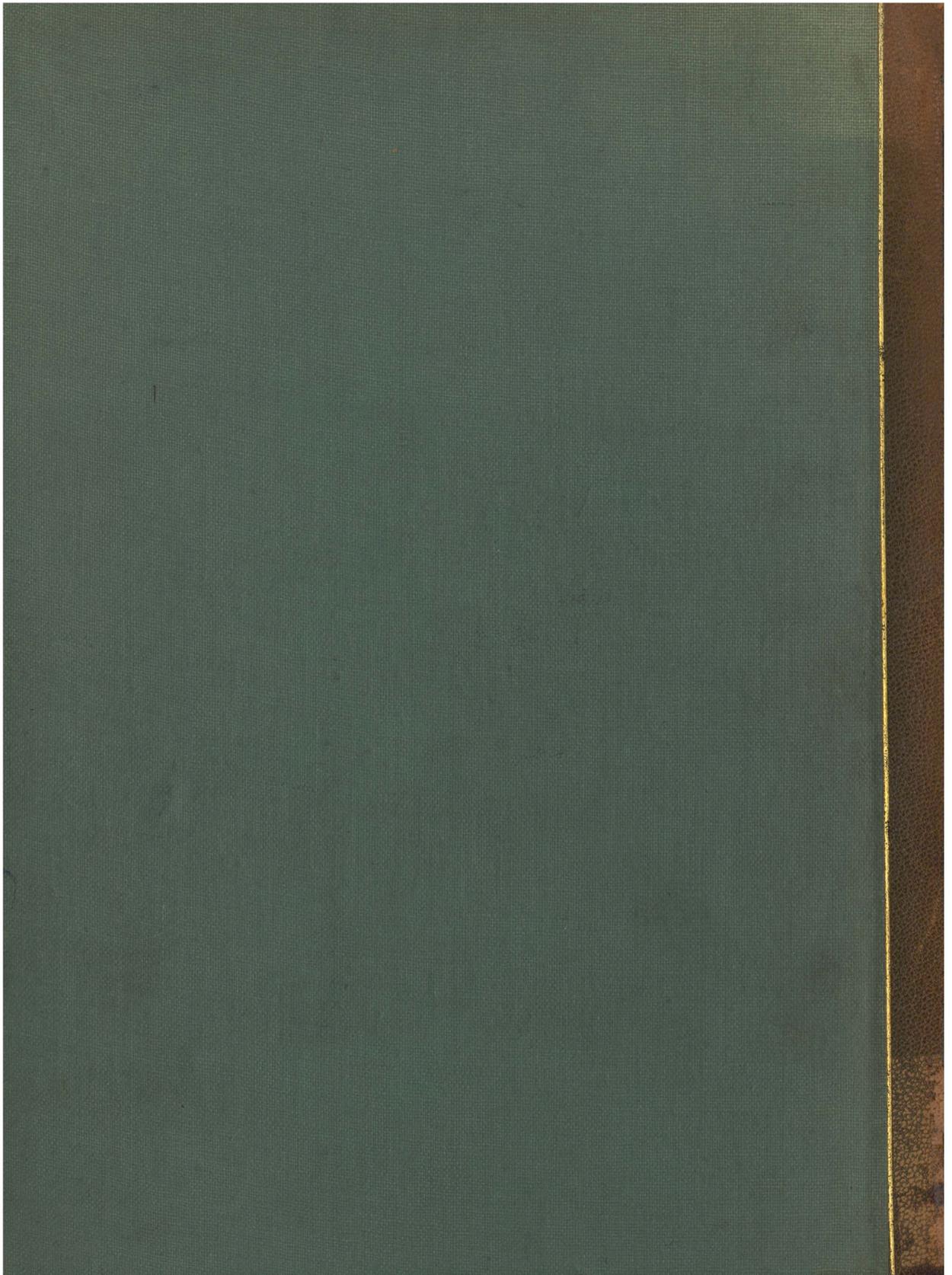
15th, To Hexen Rivier, which runs along a narrow passage through the great chain of mountains, between Rood Land and Zwellendam. This valley is inclosed on each side with impassable mountains, whose tops were still covered with snow. There are several very genteel habitations in it, where we got some wine and excellent fruit. We found many rare plants on the sides of these lofty mountains; and, I believe, there still remain many more entirely unknown to us.

18th, To Breede Rivier (Broad River).

22d, To Rood Land.

26th, To Paarde Berg.

28th, To the Cape Town.



OVER MASSON. JOURNEY FROM CAPE TOWN. 1775.