

began to desert the settlement, or to demand as high wages as were given to Europeans in Grahamstown. The wages we paid our servants were low, but quite as much as we could afford, considering our distance from Grahamstown, which was the only market for our produce.

Further to encourage the infant settlement, the acting-governor allowed rations to our servants for nine months, until it was supposed we should be able to support them from the produce of our land. Advantageous as these terms appeared to be to the officers, they did not compensate by any means for the expenses we incurred in procuring agricultural implements, and by being compelled to remain in the village.

It was in vain we attempted to enforce our agreements with the soldiers. To prosecute them before the landdrost at Grahamstown, we had to ride upwards of fifty miles; and even after they had been imprisoned and flogged, when they returned to Fredericksburg they were so unruly that we could do little with them, and soon deserted us again.

Many of us, however, to prevent the entire

desertion of the settlement, agreed to increase their wages. While matters were in this state, Lord Charles Somerset, the governor, returned to the colony, and immediately began to overturn every arrangement or alteration which had been made by the acting-governor during his absence. The new settlement at Fredericksburg, which had been the favourite child of his predecessor, felt the first effects of the change of system; and we soon found that we could no longer expect encouragement on the part of the colonial government.

As might have been expected from Sir Rufane Donkin's short residence on the Kaffre frontier, many parts of the plan of this settlement were crude and inapplicable to the nature and circumstances of the country; but, from an express promise made by Sir Rufane in our written articles of agreement, we had every reason to expect that they would afterwards be modified to suit the interests of the first settlers, in the event of their being found incompatible with the success of the establishment. From the present governor, we met with no such encouragement; and from what followed we plainly saw that he

was decidedly averse to the settlement altogether.

Though the acting-governor had himself seriously checked the progress of the settlement, by granting discharges to the soldiers of the Royal African Corps who had not accepted the terms offered them on its first establishment, and who were to have been drafted into other condemned regiments—yet, had our farms been measured and granted to us without delay, there is little doubt that we should ultimately have been able to establish ourselves in the ceded territory, and have continued to afford protection to the settlers behind us.

One of the first acts of the governor on his return to the colony was to remove a party of the Cape regiment which had been stationed at Fredericksburg by Sir Rufane Donkin, as a further protection to the new settlement, particularly when we should be scattered over the country on our different farms. The answers we received to our humble memorials on these subjects showed us plainly that we had no favour to expect. We still hoped to keep

our ground, in spite of all these discouragements, if the government would only grant us our farms according to the terms of the agreement entered into with the acting-governor; but our applications on this head were evaded until many of the officers had relinquished the settlement in despair.

We now heard that the governor had stated to his friends that the country on which we had been located had been established by a treaty with the Kaffres as a *neutral*, and not a *ceded* territory, and that the acting-governor had unwittingly infringed the said treaty by forming the settlement in question. This, however, was never stated to us in the answers to our memorials, and we continued in our present position, at a great loss to ourselves, for several months longer; for we naturally enough concluded, that our settlement being contrary to treaty, would be at once broken up by the governor on his own authority.

This, however, was never attempted; and thus we were doomed to be sacrificed between the conflicting views of two governors, with

whom we had no connexion but in their official capacity as heads of the government, and on the stability of whose measures we had every reason to rely.

In these observations, I have no intention of imputing blame to either the governor, or to Sir Rufane Donkin, the latter of whom in particular, into whatever errors he may have fallen from insufficient acquaintance with the circumstances of the colony, had undoubtedly its interests at heart. I only wish to give a fair and unprejudiced narrative of the proceedings connected with the settlement, and the causes of its ultimate failure.

My eldest brother, who had been appointed "special humraad," or magistrate, to our settlement, had been so long detained in arranging his private affairs in the district of Swellendam, that he had not been able to join us at Fredericksburg until great disturbances had occurred among our servants, who, being almost all bad and dangerous characters, had broken out into a hundred excesses for want of any legal restraint.

Their late commanding officer, whom they

hated beyond measure, was, in particular, in considerable danger from these armed ruffians. One day, in crossing a ford in the river, I overheard a curious conversation between some of his servants, who were abusing him in the most unqualified manner. One of the miscreants, a ferocious-looking fellow, said to the others in plain terms, "I'll put a ball through the ould —!" "Let him alone," said another; "he's only an ould woman." The first speaker repeated his threat in a still more ferocious and determined tone.

My appearance interrupted the conversation; and, not allowing them to suppose that I had heard what was said, I lost no time in communicating their kind intentions to the object of their indignation, who was extremely shocked to find that he was not so much beloved by his men as he had imagined. This gentleman, like several other weak minds, was afflicted with an extreme desire of becoming popular among the common soldiers; but, as frequently happens, he concealed it with so little skill, that he only got their contempt and hatred. But the people, on their side, flattered him so skilfully,

when it served their turn, that he was thoroughly persuaded of their attachment to him.

On another occasion, during their master's absence in Grahamstown, some of his people, after regaling themselves with his brandy, were amusing themselves galloping about on his horse. One of the fellows, who wished to have a ride in his turn, but could not prevail on the present occupant to relinquish his seat, ran into the house for his firelock, and, concealing himself behind a bush, lay down on his face, and, taking a deliberate aim at the other over an ant-hill, fired at him as he passed. The ball whistled so close past the man's head that he fell from the horse, and I thought, as well as the man who fired, that he was killed.

The rascal immediately jumped from his concealment, waved his hat, and running towards his fallen enemy, called out to him, "Have I done for you, you ——?" The other, getting on his feet, shook his fist at him, and shouted in reply, "Is it you that fired at me, you ——? I'll pay you off for this yet!"

Frequently, while walking about the village

with some of the officers, a ball would whistle past our ears, and it was impossible to say whether it was meant for us or not. I believe, however, it generally proceeded from drunkenness and utter indifference as to the consequences.

Our numbers, in the mean time, were diminishing by desertion every day, so that in a short time we had not above half the people we had originally engaged as servants, who amounted at first to upwards of sixty, the number fixed upon by Sir Rufane Donkin. Several of the officers, however, still remained at Fredericksburg; but at last a report was brought to us that the Kaffres intended to make an attack on Grahamstown on the next full moon, and that they would take Fredericksburg on their way. This intelligence induced all the officers to leave the settlement without delay, excepting my brother and myself; and Mr. Colin Mackenzie, of the Royal African Corps, whom I have already mentioned, generously determined to remain with us for some time.

Just about this time, an offer was made to the officers to put them on full pay again, if they

would go to the west coast of Africa. Several of them accepted the terms, and before they had been in that unhealthy country twelve months they all died from the effects of the climate, including our friend Mackenzie.

This young man was a singular character. He had an excellent understanding, and was fond of reading; but he was so indolent and improvident, that he literally allowed the morrow to provide for the things of itself. His ruling passion was for hunting, and he would pass days and nights in the fields, accompanied by a half-wild Hottentot, whose habits he had completely adopted.

In company with his "*fides Achates*," he had had several hair-breadth escapes from elephants and rhinoceroses, and knew every bush and wild ravine in the ceded territory. When in search of game, he pulled off his trousers and walked with his bare legs in the sun, till they were nearly as brown as those of his companion. If his provisions fell short, which often happened on these expeditions, like the Hottentots, he would tie a leather thong round

his middle, and thus deaden the pangs of hunger until he fell in with something to shoot.

He one day persuaded me to try his light mode of travelling, and, in imitation of him, I pulled off my nether garments and carried them slung over my shoulders. After walking between twenty and thirty miles, over hill and dale, and through woody ravines, I found that my legs had got completely scorched with the heat of the sun, and smarted as if they had been dipped in boiling water. The pain became so intolerable by the time we reached the village, that to ease it I waded into the river, where I remained for a quarter of an hour.

This at first gave me some respite, but afterwards aggravated my sufferings, and the skin, which had been all in one blister, afterwards contracted so that I could not straighten my knees or walk for two or three days without great pain. This was an excellent joke for Colin, who was fond of showing the superiority which custom had given him in this respect. He was of a dark complexion, and was well

aware of the advantage this circumstance gave him in enabling him to escape being blistered by the sun.

Poor Mackenzie was no economist, and always left everything he possessed to the mercy of his servants, who were anything but honest. His money was often deposited between the leaves of any book he had been reading, or left in an old trunk which contained his scanty wardrobe, and which had no lock. The provisions which should have lasted him and his servants for a week, the latter generally managed to consume in two or three days, leaving their master almost destitute of food. I often found him in this condition, poring over a book with a cup of tea before him and some cold rice; yet he never complained or lost his usual composure.

Sometimes, in pure compassion, one of his servants would come to tell him that he saw some wild pigeons sitting on a tree, or a duck swimming on a pool in the river, when Mackenzie would take his gun and endeavour to shoot something for his dinner. On other occasions, after he had been traversing the coun-

try for several hours, he would find a beehive in a hollow tree, and might be seen coming home with his face much swollen from the stings, and his hat full of honeycombs, which he was devouring with great relish, young bees and all.

When he happened to kill any eatable animal, such as a buffalo or an antelope, he cut off just as much of it as would satisfy his hunger for a couple of days, and gave the remainder to his brother officers, or to any one who would take the trouble to fetch it home. On determining to remain with my brother and me at Fredericksburg, after we were deserted by the rest of the officers, his whole stock of provisions consisted of some tea, to which he was very partial, and a few pounds of rice.

For the rest, he depended on his gun. Yet he was so independent, that I had great difficulty in persuading him to share our provisions with us, which were of a more substantial description. Money, poor fellow, he had none; and where his half-pay went, neither he nor any one else knew, except his servants who plundered him.

We at last fell on a plan to spare his delicate feelings. I told him one day that we had no more rice, of which he had still some remaining, and therefore wished to join our stores to his, so that we might have some of his rice to eat with our beef, and he might have part of our meat at the same time. This arrangement satisfied him, and he consented to join our mess. Thus we lived very contentedly together for two or three weeks, without any sensible diminution of our friend's rice. The threatened invasion of the Kaffres never took place.

Though a few stragglers of this nation had occasionally been seen near us, they had never made any attempt of a hostile nature on our village, with the exception of stealing a few head of cattle. At last, Mackenzie, to whom we were extremely attached, was obliged to quit us to join the other officers of the Royal African Corps, who were going to the country where their bones were destined to remain. I never felt more at parting with a brother, than when this generous, brave, kind-hearted, and careless young Highlander took leave of us and

our ill-fated settlement. He had, with all this indifference to self-interest, more strong sense, acuteness of observation, and originality of thinking, than any of the other officers of his regiment. He was generally esteemed by the men of the regiment, simply because he was fearless of danger, and did not care whether they liked him or not.

My eldest brother, who had been appointed as magistrate to the settlement, seeing how matters were going on at Fredericksburg, had procured another grant of land near the Bosjesman's river in the district of Uitenhage, where he determined to take up his new abode; my brother D——went to meet him, while I remained at the now almost deserted village with the five men whom we had persuaded to remain with us.

CHAPTER VII.

Continued Disappointments. — Nocturnal Attacks of the Kaffres. — An unexpected Meeting. — Forbearance of the Author. — Protection afforded by the Dogs. — Cowardly conduct of a Servant. — Repeated annoyances of the Kaffres. — Application for the assistance of a Party of Soldiers. Ludicrous Adventure. — Patrol sent to Fredericksburg. — Muscular strength of the Irish and Scotch. — Traces of the Enemy. — Refusal of the Commandant of the Frontier. — The Author and his Brother quit the Settlement. — Faculties of the Elephant. — Defence against wild Animals. — Troop of Elephants. — An alarm. — Arrival at Grahamstown. — Journey to the Bosjesman's River. — Strata of Sandstone. — Passage over Jager's Drift. — House of a Dutch Farmer. — Place of Destination.

D—— had become thoroughly discouraged with our hopeless situation; but as I determined to remain at Fredericksburg as long as the governor or the Kaffres would allow me, he would not leave me. Nothing had as yet occurred to alarm us particularly, and we had

still some hopes that we might get some compensation for our losses, which had been principally occasioned by relying too much on the good faith of the government. We foolishly imagined that one governor was bound to perform what another had promised, and we could not conceive why we should be the sufferers by the diversity of their views. We were bad grammarians—we mistook the plural for the singular.

The Kaffres, in the mean while, who were naturally jealous of our settlement, had been watching our motions from the tops of the hills above the village, where they concealed themselves in the clumps of bushes in the daytime, and had been prowling about the deserted cottages at night, to pick up any pieces of iron they might find.

Seeing that the settlement was only occupied by five or six people, they soon began to annoy us exceedingly every dark night ; and our dogs kept up a continual barking, so that we were at last compelled to be on the watch round our cottage, with our guns loaded to prevent their setting fire to the thatch.

One night they carried off a large iron pot, a quantity of spades, and other agricultural implements, which we had deposited in a neighbouring hut; but it was so exceedingly dark, that we could not get a sight of them, though we could hear their voices. The following day I took my horse and gun, and rode round the country in the neighbourhood of the village, to endeavour to find their tracks in the long grass, and was returning after a fruitless search, when, as I was descending a steep path along the sharp ridge of a hill above the settlement, I suddenly heard a rustling in a clump of bush I was passing.

Thinking it was a leopard, I drew back a few paces, and, dismounting from my horse, advanced towards the bush; and looking under the branches, I saw three Kaffres sitting on the ground observing the village. The moment they perceived me, one of them gave a whistle as a signal to his companions, and scrambled down the face of a precipice on one side of the narrow path, while another ran off in an opposite direction towards a thick jungle.

The third, who had been asleep, was taken

so unawares, that he knew not what to do, and continued crouching under the bush looking at me with a bundle of "assagays" or javelins in his hand. I had him completely at my mercy. I cocked my gun and took aim at him; but though I well knew how he would have acted in the like case, I could not bring myself to shoot a man so entirely in my power; and, taking the gun from my shoulder, I allowed him to make his escape in the bushes.

I thought my forbearance would have some effect in conciliating our enemies, and save us some of their nightly visits. In this expectation I was completely disappointed, for it was hardly dark before the barking of the dogs was renewed as usual, and we soon perceived that a cottage near us was in flames, and several attempts were made to set fire to another house next to the one we inhabited.

Two or three times the Kaffres succeeded in thrusting a lighted stick into the thatch; but by the glare from the flames of the burning cottage we were enabled to fire upon the assailants, and to defeat their object. I now set the people to work, and barricaded all the

doors and windows of the cottage we occupied in the best manner we could; and, collecting all our ammunition in the middle of the largest room, we determined to defend ourselves to the last, should they renew their attempts against us.

There was a low sod wall round the house which we found of great use, as no one could easily get over it without being seen and fired at. But our dogs afforded us a still greater protection, by attacking any of the Kaffres that approached the building; and I believe to them we principally owed our safety. All our people conducted themselves exceedingly well on this occasion, except one of my own servants, who behaved in a very dastardly manner.

On one occasion, when we expected to be attacked in the house, he collected all his clothes in a large bundle, and throwing it over his shoulder, swore that he would stay no longer with me, to be murdered by the Kaffres, and that he would rather take his chance of reaching the military post at Kaffre Drift.

Fearing that this would be the signal for a general desertion, I told him that "he was a

cowardly rascal, and that I was sure the rest of his comrades, who knew how to behave like men, would be glad to get rid of him; but that I was certain, at the same time, that the Kaffres would soon catch him on the way and serve him as he deserved."

The other four men, some of whom had already been meditating a flight, approved of what I said, and abused the cowardly fellow until he was ashamed of himself; he saw, besides, how small his chance was of making his escape from the Kaffres; so he threw down his bundle and returned sulkily to his post. We continued from time to time to be annoyed with a repetition of the attempts to set fire to the thatch, through a great part of the night; but, by firing in the direction of the dogs, we managed to keep our enemies off till it was near the morning.

The Kaffres had evidently expected that they would be able to scare us from the village by burning the cottages, when they might help themselves to whatever they wanted; but, being exceedingly afraid of fire-arms, and seeing that we kept our ground, they at last desisted

from further molestation. The people now declared that though they would not have it said they had deserted me, they would not remain another night at Fredericksburg unless I could get a party of soldiers from Kaffre Drift to assist us.

I accordingly set off on horseback for the military post some time before it was daylight, in order to escape the observation of the Kaffres, who might have intercepted me in some of the narrow paths between the bushes, and rode as hard as I could, till I reached the high woody banks of the Fish river, opposite to the military post.

In descending one of the grassy ridges towards the ford, I observed on an opposite hill a number of black things in motion which resembled men. It was not yet light enough to discern objects distinctly, and I fancied they were a party of Kaffres making for the jungle along the river, through which the road passes, where they could readily intercept me. As I saw that they would easily reach the woods before me, I hesitated whether to proceed. Dismounting from my horse, therefore,

I tied the bridle to a bush, and, lying down behind an anthill, reconnoitred the suspicious objects for some time as they descended the face of the hill.

At length they stopped and collected nearer together, as if for consultation. Suddenly, one of them uttered a hoarse cry like nothing human, and springing up in the air, turned round, when they all set off scampering up the steep bank like devils in the human form. I now perceived that what had occasioned my apprehensions was a troop of huge baboons, that frequent such situations in great numbers.

The captain commanding at Kaffre Drift readily consented to send a patrol with me to Fredericksburg for a couple of days to scour the bushes. The soldiers, who had recently arrived on the frontier, and who were totally ignorant of the habits of the Kaffres, were delighted with the opportunity of coming in contact with them, and showing that supposed superiority on which British troops always pride themselves.

After crossing the Fish river, they all pulled off their trousers, to lessen the fatigue of ascend-

ing the steep bank. The men were all fine healthy-looking fellows ; but, for the first time, I observed the great inferiority of the English soldiers to the Scotch and Irish in the muscular strength of their legs. The English were much more fresh-coloured and handsome men—they were broader and better formed in the body and chest ; but they were generally more fleshy than muscular, and had less appearance of vigour and hardiness.

The party consisted of about twenty men, chiefly English ; but I observed four or five among them who were hard-featured and rougher in their faces. As we ascended through the woody path, they suffered less from fatigue, and appeared to enjoy the exercise, while the others looked fatigued and discontented. These men I soon found by their speech to be Scotch or Irish ; and the comparative ease of their motions was readily accounted for by the muscularity and strength of their legs.

When we came within two or three miles of Fredericksburg, we halted and concealed ourselves in a bushy valley, in hopes of keeping

the Kaffres in ignorance of our motions ; and as soon as it was getting dark, we proceeded to the village, where we found our people anxiously expecting our arrival. They had barricaded themselves closely in one of the smaller huts ; had tied a bedstead across the door, and were sitting in the dark with their loaded muskets in their hands, ready to defend themselves against the Kaffres should they make any attempt to enter.

They told me that they had seen several Kaffres during the day on the hills above the settlement, and had no doubt that they intended to pay us another visit in the course of the night. We stationed a few of the soldiers in several of the houses, and patrolled about in all directions ; but our enemies, who had probably observed the arrival of the soldiers, did not make their appearance, as we expected. The following day we scoured the bushes along the banks of the Gualana, where we found the places where two fires had been kindled, which the Kaffres had attempted to conceal by covering them up with earth. We also discovered several of their tracks, and some of the snares

which they use to catch the antelopes in the woods.

Seeing it would be of no use to detain the patrol, as the Kaffres must have observed the soldiers, I sent the party back to their station on the Fish river, and determined to remain at Fredericksburg until my brother's return, when we should quit the settlement, if we got no further assistance from government.

In the mean time, I applied to the commandant of the frontier to have a small party stationed at the village for a few weeks. This however he refused, well knowing in what light our settlement was regarded by the governor, who had taken no pains to conceal his sentiments, though he had not thought proper to order our removal. This refusal was accompanied by a kind letter from the captain commanding the post at Kaffre Drift, offering to give us every assistance in removing our effects to a place of safety.

We continued a few days longer, however, keeping a constant watch by day and night, as it was necessary to be on our guard, lest the Kaffres should renew their hostilities. We

were all nearly exhausted with fatigue and want of sleep when my brother arrived at Fredericksburg. He had heard of our perilous situation at Grahamstown, and, concluding that I had given up all thoughts of remaining in the ceded territory, had brought two waggons to remove the remains of our property.

We soon packed up everything worth removing, and proceeded on our way to the ford of the Fish river at Trompetter's Drift. It may be easily conceived with what feelings of mortification we quitted this once-promising settlement, where we had every reason to expect the peculiar favour and patronage of the colonial government, and which was now sacrificed to the inconstancy of its measures. While our waggons were ascending the hill above the village, I rode back to take a last view of Fredericksburg; and finding a piece of chalk, I wrote in large letters on the walls of the principal house, "A Town to be let: for particulars apply at the Colonial Office."

Towards evening we arrived on the banks of the Fish river above Trompetter's Drift, and descended into the deep valley by a steep

woody road. Here we halted for the night close to the stream. We had seen among the low bushes on the sides of the hills several troops of elephants, which turned round and blew the dust in the air from their trunks as we passed to windward of them.

These animals possess a keen sense of smell, which enables them to perceive the approach of man even from the distance of a mile or two. Their hearing is also very acute—the slightest noise alarms them; so that the hunters are obliged to use great caution in approaching within gun-shot of them. Were their sight equally good, elephant-hunting would be much too hazardous to be followed either for profit or amusement, as they frequently give chase without previous provocation, when a person happens to come within their reach. Like other creatures, however, they have a natural fear of man, and though it operates irregularly, it generally induces them to avoid his haunts, particularly in the daytime; in most cases they may be scared away by shouting and cracking a waggon-whip. The greatest danger is when a person comes suddenly within a few

paces of them in the woods before they are aware of his approach, when they will often run furiously at him ; and in that case his only chance of escape is by plunging into the woods, or dodging them round a bush, so as to get out of the range of their scent.

To secure our cattle and sheep against the attacks of the wild animals, we instantly set to work to form a temporary "kraal," or enclosure of mimosa thorns. For this purpose, we took advantage of one of the round clumps of bush, which the Kaffres had hollowed out in the inside for making a garden, and we had only to stop up the gaps of the circle with thorns, leaving an opening for the entrance, before which we lighted a large fire of decayed trunks of trees. Drawing up our waggons near the fire for greater security, we killed a sheep and cooked a part of it for our supper.

After refreshing ourselves, we loaded our guns and lay down to sleep in our blankets, some in the waggons, and the rest on the ground, one keeping watch to prevent the fire from going out, which would have exposed us to danger from the elephants, which generally

come down in the night-time to drink and enjoy themselves in the water. Before going to sleep, we employed one of the Hottentots in cracking the waggon-whip from time to time, to acquaint them with our situation, and that their favourite resort was preoccupied.

We had not lain down half an hour when we heard a troop of these animals descending through the bushes, breaking the branches of the trees that came in their way, and making the valley echo with their screams. They came to the opposite bank of the river before they were aware of our being near them, and it was some minutes before we could drive them away by firing at them and shouting.

We had scarcely got rid of these unpleasant visitors, when our sleep was again disturbed by the roaring of a lion, whose tremendous voice was re-echoed and multiplied among the wild ravines along the banks of the river. This was succeeded by the howls of several hyenas, and the panting of the leopards, as they prowled about among the bushes. In a few hours most of these animals had quitted the valley to wander over the open country in search of prey,

and we were only disturbed by a solitary leopard that had scented our sheep, and continued to hover round the "kraal," watching his opportunity to pounce upon one of them when we might be off our guard.

The moon afforded us a little light, and as I could not sleep I employed myself in guarding the sheep, until I thought that the cunning animal had taken his departure. Rolling my blanket round me, I lay down near the fire in hope of procuring a short nap before the day dawned. I was just falling asleep, when I was awakened by the sheep making a sudden rush over us, followed by some wild animal which bounded over me in pursuit of them.

I jumped up, and seizing a piece of wood from the half-extinguished fire, nearly felled one of our people, who had got on his hands and knees covered with his blanket, and whom in the darkness I mistook for the intruder in the act of devouring a sheep. The shout I uttered at the same time, or the lighted stick, had the effect of scaring away the animal, and we soon collected our flock together, and again secured them in the "kraal," without sustain-

ing any loss. After allowing our cattle to graze for a couple of hours in the morning, we yoked in our oxen and proceeded on our journey.

The road from Trompetter's Drift to Grahamstown passes through a rocky and arid country, which affords tolerable pasturage for sheep, but the larger cattle were in low condition. The mountains near Grahamstown form the boundary between two different kinds of country, all the lands to the northward of them for several miles being arid, while the tract of country extending from the mountains towards the sea is verdant and productive, but better adapted for cattle and horses than for sheep.

We only waited for a day in Grahamstown to visit our friends before proceeding to join my eldest brother near the mouth of the Bosjesman's river. We crossed the mountains behind it by a dangerous and rugged road, which the government have taken little pains in improving, though it communicates with the more fertile parts of the district of Albany, whence the troops and the inhabitants of the

town receive the greater part of their supplies. To avoid this execrable road, the farmers are compelled to make a circuit of several miles in bringing their produce to market, which of course tends to enhance the prices considerably.

Were the colonial government to employ a portion of the troops stationed on the frontier in improving a road of so much consequence to the farmers, it would materially increase competition, and thus produce a saving in their expenditure, which would more than compensate the expense incurred.

The worst part of this road is on the south side of the mountains, where it descends in a direct line from the summit to the bottom of a deep ravine, whence it again ascends another mountain of inferior height by a winding course, and, after skirting its base for a few miles, enters an elevated plain intersected with deep woody ravines, with small rivulets running through them.

After crossing the mountains, we pursued our journey along a high, level tract of country, towards "Jager's Drift," or Hunter's Ford,

which is about eight miles from the mouth of the Bosjesman's river, where we arrived in the evening. The country improved in verdure as we approached the coast, and the cattle were in better condition, though the grass was not of the most nutritive quality. As we descended the high hills which environ the river, on either side we had a fine view of the romantic and wild scenery along its banks. The stream winds its way through level plains covered with soft nutritive pasturage, and sprinkled here and there with clumps of small wood and bushes. The steep hills on both sides of the valley were thickly covered with low wood and bushes, overtopped by tall euphorbia growing among the rocks.

About half a mile above the ford, a perpendicular rock, composed of horizontal strata of red sandstone, rose to the height of four or five hundred feet above the river, which washed its base; and higher up we observed a succession of stupendous precipices, where the strata appeared in all positions, from horizontal to perpendicular. What struck me as particularly remarkable was, that one of these precipices, where

the strata were horizontal, was covered at the summit by a thin layer of rocks, also of sandstone, but of a different colour where the strata were nearly perpendicular. If the sandstone strata were originally formed in a horizontal position, as is generally supposed by geologists, it is difficult to account for this appearance. The various inclinations of the principal strata may, however, be easily explained by supposing that the river had in the course of ages gradually undermined the land in its way to the sea, and, by the falling in of the upper strata of sandstone, produced the confusion which we now witnessed, and lowered the valley to its present depth below the general level of the country in its neighbourhood. The action of the sea, which still flows up to the ford, and alluvial deposits from the occasional floodings of the river, would soon fill up the hollows and reduce the valley to an éven surface.

As I have already stated, it appears highly probable, if not certain, that the sea has gradually receded from the land on this side of the colony, or rather that the land has been gradually elevated above its former level from

causes which I shall have occasion in the sequel to show are still in active operation along the coast.

After crossing "Jager's Drift," we pursued our journey along a road excavated in the face of a steep woody bank on the margin of the river, and which was so narrow in some places that any mismanagement would have precipitated our waggons into the water. The trees above us supported huge fragments of rock that had been detached from the precipices, and seemed ready to break loose from their uncertain hold, and crush us to atoms in their course.

We at length emerged from the bushes near a house occupied by a Dutch farmer and his sons, and a horde of Hottentots, of all ages and complexions, many of them almost in a state of nudity. Their cattle and sheep were fat and thriving: they had cultivated several acres of land on a rising ground, where their crops were secure from the occasional floodings of the river, which occur every four or five years. It was with extreme toil that we ascended the steep and rugged bank on the western side of

the river, by a rocky path cut through the woods.

We had now attained the general level of the country, and in a couple of hours arrived at a little spring, where my eldest brother had erected a temporary shelter with long poles fixed in the ground in the form of the roof of a house, and covered over with long reeds. Another habitation of the same description was in progress for the use of his servants. Here we fixed our abode for the present, and renewed our applications to the governor to be compensated for our losses and disappointments at the ill-fated settlement at Fredericksburg.

CHAPTER VIII.

Fine tract of Country. — District of Uitenhage. — Domestic Arrangements. — Temporary Habitations. — Variety of Wild Animals. — Nocturnal Visitations. — Wood Antelopes. — Flesh of the Quagga. — Grants of Land to the Author and his Brother. — Journey through the Forest. — The Onder Bosjesman's River. — Wild Pigs. — Elands. — Fertile Soil. — Death of a Child. — Lines to her Memory. — Visit to a Dutch Farmer. — Limited Accommodations. — Scenery of the Coast of Algoa Bay. — Erection of a Dwelling.

THE country in which my eldest brother had now fixed his residence was exceedingly beautiful and fertile. With the exception of the ceded territory which we had just left, we had seen nothing as yet to compare with it in point of verdure and productiveness; and for agricultural purposes I am inclined to think it superior to any other part of the southern coast of the colony. The sea-coast of the district of Albany, to the eastward of the Bosjesman's

river, is nearly equal to it in point of verdure ; but the soil is not by any means so rich.

This fine tract of country extends for about thirty miles along the sea from the river just mentioned to the Sunday river, and varies from six to ten miles in breadth. At a greater distance from the sea, the soil becomes drier and poorer, and the grass suffers more from the summer droughts. About half a mile from my brother's house, an extensive forest of fine large timber commences, and entirely covers a range of high hills which runs parallel to the coast for upwards of twenty miles. This particular division of the district of Uitenhage is called the "Onder Bosjesman's river."

In the spot we now occupied, a little spring trickled along a pretty valley between two gently swelling hills, ornamented with clumps of small trees and bushes, and sprinkled lightly here and there with graceful mimosas. Over the tops of the grassy hills appeared an extensive range of much higher hills, entirely covered with wood.

As soon as my brother had housed his people, he constructed an earthen dam across the little

rivulet near his house to enable his cattle and sheep to drink with greater facility. My naval brother and I, as we expected to remain here for some months, immediately set about constructing a similar habitation at a little distance. We accordingly selected a beautiful spot farther down the valley, where the little rivulet entered the woods. In a few days we got our rude huts covered in, and began to plough as much ground as we required to supply us with Indian corn and pumpkins. These temporary habitations are called by the Dutch colonists "harte-beest" huts, as they are in the habit of constructing them as a shelter when they are far from home, employed in hunting the "harte-beest" antelope, which at this time abounded near the Bosjesman's river.

There are a great variety of wild animals in this part of the country. The extensive forest near us abounded with elephants and buffaloes, which are generally found in herds; but they are seldom seen on the plains in the day-time, as they are much hunted by the Dutch and Hottentots. Sometimes, in the morning, we found the tracks of elephants within a few

paces of our flimsy huts, which they might have overturned with their tusks with perfect ease were it not for our dogs, which generally scared them away by their barking. Our hut was so near the edge of the forest that we were frequently exposed to these nocturnal visitations: we had often to get up in the night to defend ourselves with our guns.

We sometimes saw two or three wild pigs early in the morning, or in moonlight nights, tearing up the ground in search of roots, on the margin of the forest; but they were so exceedingly shy that I rarely could get within shot of them.

The woods also abound with large wood-antelopes, and an elegant little antelope not more than a foot in height, called the "blaawe bock," or blue buck. On the plains we generally saw troops of quaggas, which are often hunted by the Dutch for their skins, of which they make large bags to hold their grain, and by the Hottentots, who are often fond of their flesh.

Being one morning at the house of a neighbouring farmer, who had just shot one of these

animals, I requested that he would have a piece of the flesh cooked for my breakfast. His "frow" expressed some disgust at my proposal, but ordered a small bit to be grilled, with butter and pepper. I did not find it at all unpalatable, and certainly it was better than horse-flesh, to which I had been treated in the hospital at Bergen-op-Zoom in 1814, when lying wounded there, after the unfortunate failure of that well-planned attack.

A fine rivulet ran along the base of the wooded hills in our neighbourhood, and a number of Dutch farmers had built their houses on its banks, or near the outskirts of the forest. The soil in most of these situations is so exceedingly fertile, that though they have cultivated the same ground for ten or fifteen years without manure, they still calculate on reaping from forty to sixty returns of wheat, and yet the land does not seem to deteriorate.

This part of the district is so well supplied with rain or heavy dews, that the crops never suffer materially from drought. There is a narrow strip of open country, extending for several miles between the woody hills and the

sea, which is still more fertile and beautiful. Here a considerable extent of land had been reserved by government, for which the neighbouring farmers had often applied in vain.

After several ineffectual memorials, the governor at length, a short time before the arrival of the commissioners of inquiry, consented to grant my brother D—— and me farms in this neighbourhood, not in compensation for our losses at Fredericksburg, but as an acknowledgment of the service my elder brother had done in bringing out two hundred labourers and artisans to the colony. The landdrost of Uitenhage was ordered to have the reserved land measured for us by the land-surveyor of the district.

My brother and I therefore set off one morning on horseback to examine our new grants. After riding about fifteen miles along the north side of the forest, we came to a farmhouse near a wild ravine, through which a rivulet winds its way towards the coast. As we were quite ignorant of our road through the forest, we applied to the farmer for assistance. He was a hale old man of sixty years of age, and

very civil until we told him that we were to have farms in the tract of land reserved by government, which excited his jealousy exceedingly, as he had several times made unsuccessful applications for a grant of land for his sons in the same situation.

He tried all he could to dissuade us from pursuing our journey, telling us that we should be killed by the elephants, which swarmed in the woods along the stream. The place we were going to, he told us, was the "eye of the elephant's nest;" and that the road was so bad, that "a baboon could hardly keep its feet in travelling along it." Finding that we were determined to grope our way through the forest, he pointed out to us where we should descend into the ravine; but, though we offered to pay him handsomely, we could not prevail on him to spare us one of his Hottentots as a guide.

We fortunately pursued the right direction, and descended from a beautiful verdant plain at the edge of the forest into a deep chasm which divided the high range of hills towards the sea. We got into a labyrinth of elephant-paths, covered with the fresh tracks of these animals,

and followed the winding course of the river as well as we could, crossing it in a hundred places—sometimes dragging our horses through the tangled mazes of the jungle, or scrambling along the face of a rocky precipice. In some places we found a little grassy peninsula clear of wood, where we could see about us; but in general we had nothing to guide us in our way but the course of the stream, the banks of which were thickly covered with tall trees and bushes with hooked thorns, which are here expressively denominated “wagteen bityes,” or “stop a littles.”

At length, after a toilsome journey of six miles, in which we had not encountered any of the elephants, we suddenly emerged from the forest into a level plain, about two miles long and half a mile broad, covered with the most luxuriant herbage. On either side of this beautiful glen rose steep grassy hills five or six hundred feet in height, having their summits partially covered by the edge of the forest. Numerous steep woody ravines descended into the plain on either side; and its opening towards the sea being obstructed by high sand-hills, the

rivulet, having no outlet, had formed a small lake at the bottom of the valley. Surrounded on all sides by high hills and woods, a more wild and sequestered spot could not be conceived.

The ground was everywhere torn up by the elephants and wild pigs. In wading through the long grass we started three of the latter, which instantly made off for the woods at full speed. In one of the little ravines we found nine elands quietly grazing on the side of a steep hill. This is one of the largest and tamest species of the antelope. They are as high as a cow, with long straight horns, and elegantly formed in their limbs; but they have now become exceedingly scarce.

I had never before met with any soil bearing such indisputable tokens of fertility as that of the Kaba, as this alluvial valley is called by the Hottentots and Dutch. The level bottom was everywhere covered over with a rich black vegetable mould, from one to three feet in thickness, containing land and sea shells in considerable quantities.

The sides of the hills were adorned by long

grass to their very tops, and here and there rocks of soft limestone showed themselves through the soil. We observed several deep ruts resembling waggon-tracks, occasioned by the elephants sliding down the hills where it is too steep for them to keep their feet. When these animals come to a place of this kind, they sit down on their haunches, and, supporting themselves by their fore-legs, allow themselves to descend without any effort, leaving two deep ruts behind them. Highly delighted with the appearance of this rich but lonely spot, we returned through the wood the same way we came, guiding ourselves by the tracks of our horses.

We were obliged to remain some months longer on my elder brother's farm, as we could not proceed to our new grants until they had been measured by the land-surveyor of the district. During this interval, he was busily engaged in erecting a substantial brick house, being the first of the kind that had been built in this part of the district, which for several years had not been considered quite secure from the attacks of the Kaffres.

While he still inhabited his reed-hut he had the misfortune to lose one of his children, a beautiful little girl, to whom we were all much attached. As there were no churches or churchyards in this part of the colony, her grave was dug, according to the custom of the farmers, within a few hundred yards of the dwelling, under the branches of a small milk-wood tree. Two Dutch farmers, who happened to stop at the house, attended the funeral; but when the rest uncovered their heads, as the little coffin was lowered into the grave, they surlily kept on their hats, with a smile of contempt at the token of respect we paid to the remains of the innocent child, which only a few days before had been climbing on our knees with her eyes beaming with health and kindness.

My brother D—— penned the following lines to her memory:—

Sleep, smiling cherub, soundly sleep!
Ah! when we miss thy smiles to-morrow,
'Twere vain—'twere selfish *then* to weep;
'Tis we, not thou, who wake to sorrow!

Sad was thy doom, yet kindly given:
Thy light, unclouded, playful day,
Like the pure dew exhaled to heaven,
Was soon ordain'd to pass away!

The many anxious cares of life—
Its hopes, its fears, its glittering toys—
To thee were yet unknown: nor strife
Nor passion marr'd thy cherub joys.

We'll dig thy grave where the tender gleam
Of the orient sun reposes:
It shall not parch in the midday beam,
For we'll shadow it o'er with roses.

The dewdrop late shall linger there,
And the lark build free from danger:
No evil thing may breathe that air,
For thy breast to guile was a stranger.

The midnight wolf shall check his howl
As he glides by thy hallow'd dwelling;
The twilight bat and the mournful owl
Shall shun that verdant swelling.

Oh! nothing unholy can thee molest;
For a sentinel fairy hovers
Around thee to guard the pure earth on thy breast,
And the innocent one it covers.

Soon shall thy guardian milk-wood tree,
Whose boughs are yet unbending,
Fling them with fondness over thee—
Kind shade and shelter lending.

When soothing time hath dried *our* tears,
Shall its dewy leaves be weeping,
And its hoary stem, in future years,
Bend over Cicie sleeping.

The land granted jointly to my brother D— and me, consisted of about five thousand acres, in two lots, included between the forest and the sea-coast. One of these places, which I have described, had a constant stream of water, taking its rise in the woods. The other, though equally beautiful and fertile, was only supplied with water by a natural pond formed by the rains, which was subject to be dried up in the course of the summer. We therefore determined to fix our residence at the former, the name of which we altered from 'Kaba to Hoy, after our native island in Orkney.

Having completed my arrangements for moving, I set off with my waggon and cattle to our new habitation, without waiting for my brother D—, who was on a visit to some friends in the neighbouring district of Albany. We had only two servants, of the soldiers of the Royal African Corps, who remained in our employ after the failure of the settlement at Fredericksburg. These I took along with me to erect temporary huts to shelter us till we could build houses of a more comfortable description, and procure Hottentots, who are more useful

on a farm than Europeans, from their being accustomed to the management of cattle.

There being no direct road for a waggon, we were obliged to make a circuit of some miles to a place where several of my elder brother's people were employed in sawing timber for the house he was erecting, as well as for sale, in Grahams-town. A narrow road had been opened through the forest by a Dutch settler, who inhabited the next farm to the one we were to occupy, and who had constructed a rude hut on the opposite side of the woods.

We descended through a narrow strip of wood into an extensive and romantic savanna, covered with rich pasturage, and surrounded by high hills partially clad with tall forest trees. After passing over this beautiful spot, we entered the forest, which was about two miles broad in this place, and with some difficulty reached the farmer's house before dark, where we rested for the night.

This Dutchman, who was a lazy, good-natured man, and conceived bodily exertion to be one of the greatest evils to which human nature could be subjected, managed to vegetate