

great opportunities of observing while travelling among them in the zealous discharge of the duties of his profession. In one of these excursions he was accompanied by Mr. I—, our other companion, the schoolmaster appointed by Government at Uitenhage. Arriving one evening at a farmhouse, their Dutch landlady began questioning them in the usual unceremonious manner as to their profession and pursuits. Mr. S— told her that he was the clergyman at Uitenhage.

On receiving this information, the Dutch lady instantly became exceedingly respectful and gracious in her manner; for however the Dutch may feel towards the missionaries, they always entertain a profound veneration for ministers of the Established Church. But when Mr. S— told her that his companion was a schoolmaster, her countenance assumed a reproachful and ironical expression, and eyeing Mr. I— for a few seconds from head to foot, she asked him, “if he was not ashamed to be a schoolmaster when he was such a strong healthy young fellow, and able to dig in the garden for his bread?”

Most of the Dutch inhabitants of the colony can now read and write; and when any of the men are without these necessary accomplishments they generally take care to marry women who are able to keep their accounts. All learning beyond this is accounted utterly superfluous and useless, and treated with contempt. Consequently, when a farmer wishes to have his children taught to read and write, he gets some of his neighbours to join him in hiring a schoolmaster at the lowest rate of wages. This man is generally some lazy, worthless, drunken, or decrepit person, often an old Dutch or German soldier, who is contented with earning a bare livelihood, and to put up with the insolence and contempt of his employers.

The "meester," as he is called, is generally referred to when his learning is required to solve any difficult point in the course of conversation; and he often becomes exceedingly loquacious and animated, on being allowed an opportunity of showing his knowledge. But he is soon checked in his career by some contemptuous observation, such as, "The meester must know these things, for he knows nothing

else." The "meester" is seldom at a loss for an answer to the queries of his employer, for he well knows that no one can contradict him.

Some weeks after my visit to Kaffreland, tired of the solitary life I had led for so many years, and finding that I could reap almost every advantage from my property in the district of Uitenhage, which it was capable of yielding without a personal residence, I took up my abode in Grahamstown, where my brother held the situation of chief magistrate of the district of Albany, and where I had several friends. I found, notwithstanding all my exertions, that I was not likely to be able to settle comfortably for life, or to have the means of providing for a family, according to my first expectations, in a country where the remuneration for labour is so inadequate and uncertain: and I therefore determined to wait an opportunity of returning to Europe and trying my fortune in some other situation. I hired a small cottage, and a Hottentot and his wife as servants, and contrived to spend several months very agreeably.

Grahamstown had now greatly increased in

extent and population, from being the headquarters of the troops on the frontier, and from the great trade carried on by the inhabitants with the Kaffres and the inhabitants of the inland parts of the colony, who came thither for their supplies of imported goods. When I first saw it, the town contained only a few substantial buildings, the greater part of it consisting of wretched wattled huts.

The population now exceeded three thousand five hundred; and two or three streets had been built, besides a handsome church and three or four dissenting meeting-houses. The number of houses, however, was a much better proof of the prosperity of the town than the number of churches or the state of morality among the inhabitants. These may be divided into six classes. Firstly, The civil commissioner, chief magistrate of the district of Albany, clerk of the peace, who is public prosecutor, and the clerks and others connected with their offices. Secondly, The military, who are stationed in barracks built on an eminence at one side of the town. These generally consist of a regiment of Hottentots, partly infantry and partly cavalry,

and several companies of European infantry. The Hottentots are found to be by far the most efficient troops for dealing with the Kaffres, from their intimate knowledge of their habits, and from being excellent marksmen and possessed of great experience and sagacity in following up the tracks of stolen cattle. Though naturally or habitually somewhat timid in their manners, the Hottentots have always shown great spirit and address, being in these respects nowise inferior to British soldiers, while they are much better qualified, from their activity and hardiness, for contending with the Kaffres. Thirdly, The merchants, who, with only one or two exceptions, are all retailers, form the middle class in Grahamstown. Some of them are men of education; but the greater number are persons who have raised themselves by their industry from the working classes. Fourthly, Mechanics and artisans, who are a very thriving class. Fifthly, European labourers, who are for the most part discharged soldiers, and usually a drunken, dissolute, and improvident set of men. And, sixthly, Hottentots, who seldom, if ever, rise above the condition of labourers.

There are a few slaves also, belonging chiefly to the Dutch inhabitants of the town, who form but an inconsiderable portion of the population. Any one of the class of mechanics or artisans who possesses industry and steadiness may easily raise himself to a higher situation in society; for, as soon as he has acquired a little capital, he may readily obtain credit with the merchants of Cape Town, who will give him goods to sell for them on commission, and he soon acquires the means of carrying on business on his own account. It would be well for the persons who have thus improved their circumstances could they content themselves with moderate profits, and retain the frugality of their habits: but unfortunately their ambition generally leads them to live expensively, and to speculate beyond their means; and after going on for a few years in apparent prosperity, they become bankrupt, and are obliged to return to their original employments.

The fate of such persons shows that it is easier for a poor and uneducated man in this colony to acquire wealth by trade than to retain it when acquired. Industry and frugality

are generally sufficient to enrich him, but education and sound judgment are absolutely requisite to enable him to retain his earnings. Ambition, which has in a great measure led to his advancement, as in the case of men who occupy a much higher station in the world, is also the cause of his fall.

Suddenly acquired power, and suddenly acquired wealth are alike uncertain. Where wealth is quickly and easily gained, extravagance generally keeps pace with it. All the lower classes in colonies are republicans in principle, and feeling their consequence in the community, are eager to be considered on an equality with the higher classes. This leads them to launch out into extravagance of every kind, and to compete with them in the costliness of their furniture, clothing, and mode of living. The same circumstance also accounts for the number of dissenting chapels and dissenters in Grahamstown. Dissenters are generally republicans in feeling, if not in principle; and it naturally follows that the ambitious of the lower classes will attach themselves to that party which will give them most consequence,

and is most likely to forward their worldly interests. This is one of the most active causes of the rapid increase of the different sects of dissenters in England; and the same principle operates still more powerfully in colonies. When a man in business becomes bankrupt, the surest way to retrieve his affairs is to join one of the sects of dissenters, where he will be certain of gaining the custom of the members in preference to others of the established church.

All the produce brought into Grahamstown by the farmers must, by the market regulations, be first exposed for sale in the market-place early in the morning, and there the merchants assemble to make their purchases, and generally endeavour to persuade the farmers to take the greater part of the price in goods from their stores, by which means they have a double profit, and many of them take the most dishonest advantage of the ignorance of the Dutch farmers; who, coming often from a great distance in the interior, have no idea of the prices of European goods.

The Dutch, on their side, are generally

equally dishonest, and when they see a favourable opportunity, often endeavour to conceal about their persons any articles they can lay their hands on, and convey them secretly to their waggons. When the shopkeepers detect them in pilfering in this manner, they never accuse them openly of the fact, for fear of losing their custom, but give directions to one of their assistants to watch the person who has taken the article in question, until he conveys it to the waggon, when he civilly reminds him *that it is not paid for*.

This always ensures the restoration of the goods, and often a much higher price than the shopkeeper could otherwise expect for them, and all passes off in perfect good humour on both sides. Scissors, needles, pins, thread, and all articles of small bulk, readily find their way in this manner into the huge pockets of the Dutch "frows," and even a shawl often glides with admirable dexterity under the vests of their husbands, which from their large and roomy dimensions, are well adapted for concealment.

After a residence of several months at Gra-

hamstown, an opportunity at length occurred of sailing direct for England from Port Elizabeth, Algoa bay, by a vessel which accidentally called there in consequence of some damage she had sustained in a gale of wind, on her homeward passage from the Isle of France. I had sometime before disposed of all my cattle and other moveable property by auction; but the proceeds of the sale not being payable for some months, a Jew who acted as auctioneer, and had raised himself by his industry and shrewdness from being a common labourer to comparative independence, kindly advanced me the money, and could hardly be induced to accept a very moderate remuneration for the accommodation he afforded me.

I mention this trifling circumstance in gratitude to the man, and because I firmly believe that persons of his religion are generally at least as fair in their dealings as any other class of men in similar circumstances.

In less than six hours after hearing of the arrival of the vessel, I had my baggage packed up, and on its way in a waggon to Port Elizabeth, which is about an hundred miles from

Grahamstown; and the following morning I set off on horseback to secure my passage.

Port Elizabeth, being the only safe roadstead in this part of the colony, has for several years been rapidly increasing in size and prosperity, and in all probability will soon be the most considerable town in the eastern districts. The country in its immediate vicinity, though by no means deficient in natural fertility of soil, is exceedingly arid from want of rain, and the scarcity of springs, and is in consequence very thinly inhabited.

We sailed for England on the 4th of August 1829, and after encountering a heavy gale off the southern point of the colony, and a tremendous sea which washed away the bulwarks of the vessel, we arrived at the Nore on the 21st of October. I should have given my readers a more particular description of our voyage, and the manners of my fellow passengers, which might have afforded them some amusement, but being about to embark with my family in a few days for Canada,* where I trust my exertions will meet with greater suc-

* June 20th, 1832.

cess than I experienced in South Africa, I am compelled to bring my narrative to a conclusion.

I have only a few words to say to my readers at parting.—In the preceding chapters, I have endeavoured to convey a just and true account of what I have seen and observed of the country of South Africa, and the manners of its inhabitants. I have endeavoured also, as much as was consistent with my plan at the outset, to avoid all reflections of a personal nature, while I have allowed no consideration to prevent me from speaking what I believe to be the truth, where doing so could be attended with any good effect. In conclusion, I confidently hope that in perusing these pages, the reader may find something to compensate him for his patience.

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX.

No. I.

ANECDOTES OF THE DUTCH AT THE CAPE.

A DOMESTIC SCENE.

THE work of the day being completed, Hendrick himself at length entered,—a perfect specimen of a boor ; phlegmatic, indifferent, a large lump of apathy, whose hat scarcely ever left his head, or the pipe his mouth. Again did my companion tell the oft-told tale, (his province, from my want of Dutch), which meant, that we wanted beds for the night, and horses in the morning ; to which the good man muttered assent. Next poured in some of the sons, powerful, hardy youngsters, and the schoolmaster, from all of whom our hands underwent most friendly pressures ; but the *Meester* deserves a separate notice. The tutor who teaches the ingenuous youth of Southern Africa is generally a discharged English soldier, and leads a kind of middle life—a connecting link between the family and the slaves : his salary is very small ; but then he is fed, and found in brandy, and, for this, instructs the younger branches in polite literature, and performs various trifling acts of servitude for the elders. For instance, I observed that he reported to Hendrick, that the calves were all present ; but I felt myself too much a stranger to inquire whether by that he meant his pupils, or the offspring of the cows. He brought forward several of the boys to exhibit their proficiency in the English language : the sounds that came from the unwilling urchins might be anything ; but they drew forth a compliment on the skill

and industry that had been so successful.—*Rose's Four Years in Southern Africa.*

AN ECCENTRIC HOST.

But I have passed the Lang-kloof, where a scene occurred worth the describing. We had stopped at the house of a boor, a man of a half-cracked, whimsical character,—the effect, I believe, of a tiger's bite in the head,—when an attempt was made by our guide to impose on us, and to take back his horses, on the plea of their being tired, when we, after having paid for five, had only ridden them three hours. My companion argued the point with much temper, but the fellow was dogged; and we finished the argument by leaving the house and catching and saddling the horses. While this was going forward, a tall, gaunt figure came to the door, and hallooing out that he would not see his countryman taken in, desired that we would come and explain the difference. My companion went in, while I saddled up and followed; but, before I arrived, the pleadings on both sides had been attentively listened to, and the sentence, which ran thus, pronounced:—"Scoundrels as the English are yet, you are a greater, for you are trying to cheat them." On entering, I was introduced as an Englishman about to leave the country:—"Ah! I suppose he has defrauded the poor Colonists, and has money enough to live at home now," was his strange and amusing comment: he shook me, however, heartily by the hand, and asked whether the Vrouw had given us anything to eat and drink. "Yes, some tea."—"Tea! baboons drink tea,—men drink brandy;" and three glasses were immediately ordered. I excused myself, saying, "that I did not drink brandy in the morning;" when the boor looked at me in astonishment, and mumbled something in which "English beast" was audible; and seeing that I did not look pleased, added, "No one cares what I say,—

every one knows I speak the truth." There was something irresistible in an excuse that made the first offence worse; and my companion, myself, and our strange host, touched glasses, and while he drank his off, we raised ours to our lips, and put them down again: he watched this incomprehensible manœuvre of ours with a strange glance of humour in his restless eye, and then finished the two remaining glasses. On rising, we received a most pressing invitation to stay, with a promise that he would give us a good dinner, good beds, and good horses in the morning, and would charge nothing: but we were not to be tempted; and I thought that the Vrouw, who had appeared very anxious during this scene with her extraordinary partner, seemed well pleased at our decision.—*Rose's Four Years in Southern Africa.*

HOSPITALITY TO TRAVELLERS.

Rude and uncultivated as are the minds of the Cape-Dutch, there is one virtue in which they eminently excel—hospitality to strangers. A countryman, a foreigner, a relation, a friend, are all equally welcome to whatsoever the house will afford. A Dutch farmer never passes a house on the road without alighting—except indeed his next neighbour's, with whom it is ten to one he is at variance. It is not enough to inquire after the health of the family in passing; even on the road, if two peasants should meet, they instantly dismount to shake hands, whether strangers or friends.

When a traveller arrives at a habitation, he alights from his horse, enters the house, shakes hands with the men, kisses the women, and sits down without further ceremony. When the table is served, he takes his place among the family without waiting for an invitation: this is never given, on the supposition that a traveller, in a country so thinly inhabited, must always have an appetite for something. Accordingly, "What will you make use of?" is generally

the first question. If there be a bed in the house, it is given to the stranger; if none, which is frequently the case among the graziers of the district of Graaf Reynet, he must take his chance for a form, or bench, or a heap of sheep-skins, among the rest of the family. In the morning, after a solid breakfast, he takes his *sopie*, or glass of brandy; orders his slave or Hottentot to saddle the horses; again shakes hands with the men, and kisses the women: *he* wishes them health, and *they* wish him a good journey. In this manner a traveller might pass through the whole country.—*Barrow's Travels in Southern Africa.*

A LION HUNT.

Mr. S—— had chased in the direction of the mimosas, trenching on the ground which our comrades were to take; he was getting closer to his object, and was about to dismount a second time, when his eyes glanced on the long-wished-for game,—an enormous lion! He was walking majestically slow; but when Mr. S—— gave the tally-ho to us, he couched and seemed inclined to wait, but soon afterwards cantered off to the mimosas.

In a few seconds we were all up, at least our division. The first object was to prevent him from climbing the mountain; we therefore rode through the mimosas, about three hundred yards from where he had entered, and got between him and the heights. Diederik, Muller, and Mr. S——, with their servants and led-horses, then rode round the little grove, whilst we were stationed where we first entered. The grove was hardly five hundred yards in length and twenty in breadth; consequently we could by this arrangement command the whole of it.

True to our engagement, as well as heartily wishing their assistance, we waited for the other party. The other part of our division having rode round the grove, came up opposite

to us, but at a distance ; and as we saw them dismount, we did the same. Our situation was not very enviable ; we had but one large gun, but Mr. Rennie, who carried it, was perfectly collected. We were talking to each other rather in a whisper, when Mr. Rennie very coolly said, " Listen — the gentleman is grumbling." The sound was so very like distant thunder, that we doubted it ; but, at the same moment, I caught a glimpse of the lion walking away not a hundred and fifty yards from us, and he must have been previously still nearer to us than we had calculated. I gave the alarm, which was echoed to our friends, who in an instant mounted and rode up to the lower end, calling upon us to advance. We were moving down to gain a position on a little height, when a gun was fired, followed by four more. This convinced us our other division had joined.

We thought there would have been an end to our sport before it had well begun ; but, on the contrary, the shots were fired not only to prevent him leaving the copse, but to prove their guns, for a miss-fire is frequently of consequence. The last shot had the effect of turning him, and we now had a full view of him returning to the centre, whisking his tail about, and treading among the smaller bushes as if they had been grass ; reminding us most forcibly of the paintings we had seen of this majestic animal.

The last shot, however, had convinced us that our position was not safe, for the ball passed very near us. We called to inform the party of this, and they resolved on another plan of attack. They desired us to station two Hottentots on the hill above our position, and we were to join them. We crossed again through the bushes, and it was then determined that we were all to dismount, and tie our horses together, and to advance on foot. This is the usual plan, and it is done to secure any person from galloping off by his horse

taking fright or otherwise, which would induce the lion to pursue, and thus one or other might be sacrificed.

We had hardly begun to tie our horses, when the Hottentots stationed on the hill cried out that the lion was running off at the lower end, where he had attempted to escape before. We were on horseback in a second, but the lion had got a head; we had him, however, in full view, as there was nothing to intercept it. Off he scampered: the Tambookies, who had just come up and mixed amongst us, could scarcely clear themselves of our horses; and their dogs howling and barking, we hallooing, the lion still in full view, making for a small copse about a mile distant, and the number and variety of the antelopes on our left, scouring off in different directions, formed one of the most animating spectacles the annals of sporting could produce.

Diederik and Mr. S—— being on very spirited horses, were the foremost; and we wondered to see them pass on in a direction different from the copse where we had seen the lion take covert. Christian gave us the signal to dismount where we were, as well as could be judged about two hundred yards from the copse. He desired us to be quick in tying the horses, which was done as fast as each came up. And now the die was cast,—there was no retreating. We were on lower ground than the lion, with not a bush around us. Diederik and Mr. S—— had now turned their horses; for, as we afterwards learned, they had been run away with in consequence of their bridles having broken. The plan was to advance in a body, leaving our horses with the Hottentots, who were to keep their backs towards the lion, fearing they should become unruly at the sight of him.

All these preparations occupied but a few seconds, and they were not completed, — when we heard him growl, and imagined he was making off again:—but no—as if to retrieve

his character from suspicion of cowardice for former flight, he had made up his mind to turn to attack us. To the growl succeeded a roar; and, in the same instant, we saw him bearing down upon us, his eyeballs glistening with rage. We were unprepared; his motion was so rapid, no one could take aim, and he furiously darted at one of our horses, whilst we were at their heads, without a possibility of preventing it. The poor horse sprang forward, and with the force of the action wheeled all the horses round with him. The lion likewise wheeled, but immediately couched at less than ten yards from us. Our left flank thus became exposed, and on it fortunately stood C. Muller and Mr. Rennie. What an anxious moment! For a few seconds we saw the monster at this little distance, resolving, as it were, on whom he should first spring. Never did I long so ardently to hear the report of a gun. We looked at them aiming, and then at the lion. It was absolutely necessary to give a mortal blow, or the consequences might perhaps be fatal to some one of the party. A second seemed a minute. At length Christian fired; the under-jaw of the lion dropped, blood gushed from his mouth, and he turned round with a view to escape. Mr. Rennie then shot him through the spine, and he fell.

At this moment he looked grand beyond expression: turning again towards us, he rose upon his fore feet, his mouth bleeding, his eyes flashing vengeance. He attempted to spring at us; but his hind legs denied him assistance;—he dragged them a little space, when Stephanus put a final period to his existence by shooting him through the brain. He was a noble animal, measuring nearly twelve feet from the nose to the tip of the tail.—*Scenes in Albany.*

A LEOPARD SHOT.

We entertained a considerable feeling of disappointment at not having encountered any of the wild game, which our

companions, as well as ourselves, had eagerly anticipated ; but just as we were passing a gloomy and intricate part of the thicket, one of the dogs made a steady point ; we prepared and moved forward, when up rose an immense leopard. The person in advance fired ; but his musket was only loaded with slug-shot, and the monster made off and climbed a tree with difficulty. A second shot missed ; he then crouched, shook his tail, and was in the act of springing, when we immediately retired ; he then jumped down, and the boor instantly fired, but only wounded him. He growled tremendously : the dogs attacked him, and forced him up another tree ; the boor took a favourable position, fired, and the animal fell mortally wounded.

It was very large, and the skin was beautifully marked. The Dutch call them tigers, but we were informed that there is no tiger in the colony, and this certainly was a leopard.
—*Scenes in Albany.*

No. II.

ANECDOTES OF THE HOTTENTOTS.

FACULTIES.

THE Hottentot is rather the creature of instinct than of reason, and here his instincts are particularly useful:—his sight is wonderfully acute; his power of finding his way through trackless wastes is as surprising as that of the American Indian; and he follows his prey with the certainty of the bloodhound. Add to this, that he is capable of undergoing great privation; that he can abstain from food for days, diminishing the gnawing pain of hunger by tightening the *girdle of famine* around him,* and is an unerring marksman, and you have all that is necessary.—*Rose's Four Years in Southern Africa.*

ELEPHANT HUNT.

“That strange old man, Skipper, may be thoroughly depended on in situations of danger, but is easily daunted by superstitious feelings. I remember his firing three times at a large sea-cow; the piece snapped in the pan, and Skipper turned back, and was not to be prevailed on to try again.” He said, “It was not to be.”

When the elephants do not fall after frequent firing, it is thought to be fate; and Skipper quits the bush and returns hopeless. The Hottentots generally wear charms about them; and a common one is the wood found in the head of the elephant. “Ay, I have heard of that wood,” I said.—

* When hunger presses, the Hottentot draws a girdle tightly round his stomach, which has the effect described: but even this strange power is less extraordinary than the quantity he can eat when food is offered to him, without feeling inconvenience from the long fast, or the tremendous repletion immediately following.

"To-morrow, I shall probably be able to show it you," replied the hunter.

Well, to-morrow came, and we took an early breakfast, and prepared for our sport. "I will not again trust to my own legs," I said, "but to those of my horse."—"He will be of little service to you near the elephants," replied the hunter: "fear deprives horses of all power; and I have seen them lie down under the bush to conceal themselves, crouching like dogs;—however, if you like, you can ride until you come near them."

We crossed the Fish River, and directed our course to its junction with the Kat, through a country strongly resembling that I have already described,—hills and hollows, covered with dusky-green bush, and traversed by elephant paths; while at times we came on the dark, deep, shadowy side of a kloof, or caught a gleam of the river winding its serpent way far below us. As we moved on, the noise of the honey-bird was heard, which a Hottentot quickly answered by a whistle, and followed, still whistling his response to every note; and the bird conducted him to the nest, which, unfortunately, overhung a cliff far out of reach, baffling both bird and follower. I have several times known the Hottentots pursue these winged messengers, and seldom return empty-handed.

The greater part of the day was spent in fruitless search, and the shadows had shifted before the quick-sighted Hottentots had discovered any recent traces: at length, one of them pointed to a distant, high, rocky hill on the opposite side of the Kat River, and forming a continuation to its steep wooded bank. We descended from the range of hills we had been skirting, reached the river, crossed it, and commenced the steep ascent: the low ground we had lately been traversing, and the abrupt banks of the stream, had

intercepted our view of the elephants; but on mounting the summit of the hill, we saw them plainly. Here, those who were riding dismounted, and tied their horses to bushes, turning their heads from the point of attack, and lighting round them the elephants' dried dung,—that, in the event of the animals charging that way, they might be safe,—left them, and moved cautiously and silently forward.

As we approached, we counted nine or ten, whose backs rose above the high bush that clothed the side of the steep kloof in which they were feeding. We walked quickly forward, until we got immediately above them. The two Hottentots halted, and took their posts; while the hunter, my companion, and myself, pursued our course: the surrounding bush and euphorbia were too thick to see anything, but we heard them close below us quietly browsing on the boughs of the Spekboom, their favourite food. We heard a shot,—another, and then a tremendous rush, as the elephants passed by us through the bush: the hunter fired without success; and I had not time to bring my gun to my shoulder before they were gone: the whole was a thing of a few seconds. We followed, D—— lighting the bush around us; and descending into the hollow, we again heard a shot, and having skirted round the small kloof, returned to the point from which we started.

The effect of the firing was the death of three: they were small, the largest not being above nine feet in height. I sat on one while they searched for the wood in his head. It lies about an inch beneath the skin, imbedded in fat, just above the eye, and has the appearance of a thorn, or a small piece of twig broken off; some are without it; and on examining the spot minutely, we found that there was a small opening in the skin—a large pore it may be; and I conceive that this phenomenon is simply accounted for, by the twig breaking

in this hole when the animal is in the act of rubbing his head against the bushes. That it is wood is certain; and that it is a charm of power, the natives consider no less so.

Having horses to carry away the spoil, we opened one of the elephants, and took out the heart; part of which—for the whole was enormous—we intended to take with us; his trunk, at least the upper part of it, was then laid by, and one of his feet completed our stock of provisions, which were bound together by a strip cut from his large flappy ear. The hunter marked their tusks; we took possession of their tails, and left the remainder a prey to the wolf and the vulture.—*Rose's Four Years in Southern Africa.*

PECULIARITIES OF FORMATION.

The person of a Hottentot while young is by no means void of symmetry. They are clean-limbed, well-proportioned, and erect. Their joints, hands, and feet, are remarkably small. No protuberance of muscle to indicate strength; but a body delicately formed as that of a woman, marks the inactive and effeminate mind of a Hottentot. The face is in general extremely ugly; but this differs very materially in different families, particularly in the nose, some of which are remarkably flat, and others considerably raised. The colour of the eye is a deep chesnut: they are very long and narrow, removed to a great distance from each other; and the eyelids, at the extremity next the nose, instead of forming an angle, as in Europeans, are rounded into each other exactly like those of the Chinese; to whom, indeed, in many other points, they bear a physical resemblance that is sufficiently striking. The cheek-bones are high and prominent, and, with the narrow-pointed chin, form nearly a triangle. Their teeth are beautifully white. The colour of the skin is that of a yellowish brown or a faded leaf; but very different from the sickly hue of a person with the jaundice, which it

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has been described to resemble. The hair is of a very singular nature: it does not cover the whole surface of the scalp, but grows in small tufts at certain distances from each other; and, when kept short, has the appearance and feel of a hard shoe-brush; with this difference, that it is curled and twisted into small round lumps about the size of a marrowfat-pea. When suffered to grow, it hangs in the neck in hard twisted tassels like fringe.—*Barrow's Travels in Southern Africa.*

No. III.

ANECDOTES OF THE KAFFRES.

APPEARANCE AND DRESS.

THE Chief is generally distinguished from his followers by a carosse of tiger's skin, and by a narrow tasteful beaded band worn round the head; and when he stands surrounded by his armed attendants, wrapped in their dark cloaks, it forms a most imposing sight, and one which, though my expectation had been raised, surprised me. Their figures are the noblest that my eye ever gazed upon, their movements the most graceful, and their attitudes the proudest, standing like forms of monumental bronze. I was much struck with the strong resemblance that a group of Kaffres bears to the Greek and Etruscan antique remains, except that the savage drapery is more scanty, and falls in simpler folds; their mantles, like those seen on the figures of the ancient vases, are generally fastened over the shoulder of the naked arm, while the other side is wholly concealed; but they have many ways of wearing the carosse, and of giving variety to their only garment.—*Rose's Four Years in South Africa.*

MISSIONARY SERVICE.

On the following morning we were present at the missionary service; and to me there was something highly impressive, in hearing the song of praise, set to their native airs, come from those wild dark groups. There was one hymn that had been composed by a Kaffre, with which I was particularly pleased, and which I afterwards obtained: the four first words of each verse were repeated by a single bass voice; while all, males and females, joined in the remainder. It perhaps owed much of its merit to the circumstances

under which I heard it, and will be by you considered monotonous. I send it, however, at all risks.

THE KAFFRE HYMN.

“ Ulin guba inhulu siambata tina,
 Ulodali bom’ uadali pezula,
 Umdala uadala idala izula,
 Yebinza inquis zixeliela,
 Utika umkula gozezulinè,
 Yebinza inquis noziliméle,
 Umze uakonana subiziele,
 Umkokeli na sikokeli tina,
 Uenze infaana zenza ga borni ;
 Imali inkula subiziele,
 Wena, wena q’a ba inyaniza,
 Wena, wena kaka linyaniza,
 Wena, wena klati linyaniza :
 Ulodali bom’ uadali pezula
 Umdala uadala idala izule.”

TRANSLATION.

“ He who is our mantle of comfort,
 The giver of life, ancient on high,
 He is the Creator of the heavens,
 And the ever-burning stars.
 God is mighty in the heavens,
 And whirls the stars around the sky.
 We call on Him in His dwelling-place,
 That He may be our mighty leader ;
 For He maketh the blind to see :
 We adore Him as the only good ;
 For He alone is a sure defence ;
 He alone is a trusty shield ;
 He alone is our bush of refuge ;
 Even He, the giver of life on high,
 Who is the Creator of the heavens.”

Ibid.

METHOD OF DISCOVERING A WITCH.

Some of our party entered Pato's kraal in the dusk of the evening, and were witnesses to a ceremony performed by the rain-maker, in discovering a witch. The chief had been long sick, and the rain-maker was summoned, for the sickness of a chief is always the effect of witchcraft or of poison; and the tribe was in doubt and fear. When I entered, I found the women ranged in a semicircle, beating the large shields of the warriors, and shouting a melancholy monotonous air,

“ To some dark being framed by their phantasy ; ”

but it appeared to me, that they liked not a stranger to see their wild rites, for they ceased soon after our approach.

The belief in witchcraft is general throughout the country, and the punishments are dreadful. The rain-maker, after his ceremonies, fixes on some obnoxious individual possessed of a large quantity of cattle: no proof is necessary, no protestations of innocence avail: the wretch is fixed to the earth by a thong, carried round the ankles and wrists, which are fastened to stakes driven into the ground; burning stones are then placed on his body, and nests of the large black venomous ants broken on the scorched and wounded parts. In his agony he confesses to all that is demanded of him, and is then ordered to give up the power by which he worked evil. He gives up something, — anything, — a string of beads or an ornament, and is then tortured to death, or driven from the tribe a wanderer and a beggar.—*Ibid.*

A WITCH WOLF.

In Hinza's territory, a Kaffre, whose possessions excited envy and dislike, was accused of keeping a wolf, which, though confined during the day, roamed about the country at night, and destroyed the cattle. On this plea he was seized

and deprived of everything, half of the cattle being taken by Hinza, while the other half were distributed among the councillors. The man was banished the country; and, on leaving it, seized on the cattle of another, and carried them with him to Voosani, a neighbouring chief of Tambooki's. Hinza sent to complain of the robbery, to demand the cattle, and to inform the chief of the crime of the man whom he had protected. The cattle were returned, and great horror expressed at the crime. The missionary who told me the story, in speaking to Hinza on the subject, said, "You have plenty of cattle; why did you ruin the poor man?" When the chief turned to him with a peculiar smile, which marked that he was not deceived, and with a tone of mock seriousness said, "Yes, but it is a shocking thing, you know, to keep a witch wolf."—*Rose's Four Years in Southern Africa.*

SUPERSTITIONS.

Several of the Kaffre superstitions almost approach religion, which they are said to be without.

A Kaffre selects as his guardian the spirit of some former chief or friend; invokes him on all occasions of difficulty; thanks him on all escapes from danger; sacrifices to him part of the ox that he kills, part of the game that he takes; and in harvest-time scatters a portion of the grain as an offering. In crossing a flooded ford he calls upon him; and when the string that fastens the ornaments of his carosse is loose, and he discovers it in time to save them, he ascribes to his kind spirit that the thought of looking had occurred to him.

When the kraal is struck by lightning, the site is either deserted, or an ox burnt on the spot, or buried beneath it, as an offering to the incensed spirit of the kraal, or to *Uhlanga*, the spirit of thunder.

The apparition of the dead, *Shulanga*, is supposed at times to haunt a kraal, when his dying wishes have not been com-

plied with, and an ox is sacrificed to appease it; and a man rushes from the habitations in wild pursuit of the dark shadowy form.

When the wife of a Kaffre dies, he becomes unclean, leaves the kraal, and lives in the bush for a certain time; and on his return, puts on a fresh carosse, burning that in which he had mourned. On the death of a chief, the ceremony is, I believe, similar, and the mourning longer.

We remarked on the banks of the Kei River, some of those heaps of stones which are to be met with on the hills near the Fish River, and which are generally said to be thus marked by the Kaffres, as the spots where European soldiers were killed. I inquired particularly regarding them, and was informed by our guides, that when a Kaffre felt weary, he had but to add a stone to the heap to regain fresh vigour. I asked how the first stone came there; and only heard that their fathers and their grandfathers had done it, and they did it. These heaps are by the Kaffres called *Vivani*.—*Ibid*.

METHOD OF DESTROYING THE ELEPHANT.

I had heard so much of the native mode of killing the elephant, and of the perseverance and daring exhibited, that I had long wished for an opportunity of witnessing the hunt; but something had always occurred to prevent, or to delay it. It had been described to me as lasting for days—sometimes for weeks—the huge monster, whose strength might appear to bid defiance to any weapon receiving its impetus from the arm of man, sinking at length under the wearying effect of long pursuit, and the weakness attendant on loss of blood flowing from innumerable petty wounds.

It is only in the chase and in war that a stranger can see the energies of the natives drawn out: in general, grouped around the fire, or beneath the shade of trees, their character—the effect of their climate—is that of listless apathy and

sluggish indifference, now and then broken in upon by something that excites an interest, and arouses looks and glances savagely intelligent. But in the pursuit of the larger animals, all their powers of action and enterprise are elicited; their arts of cunning circumvention—that knowledge which teaches them when to enlarge the circle of enemies that has been drawn around their victim—when to diminish it—to approach, and to pour their *assegais* in upon him. Then, too, is exhibited all the vigour of their fine forms in the attack, all its speed in their flight, when the maddened beast turns on his assailants; and at such times all that speed is frequently insufficient to save them. I longed to watch their noiseless, stealthy pace, and their dark figures, now half concealed in the underwood, now creeping through tangled thickets, and now bounding forward, while the rocky hollows echo their shrill scream of triumph; the skill with which, taking advantage of every bush, rock, or inequality of ground, they crouch from view, keeping below the wind to prevent discovery from the animal's accurate sense of smell; and when all these arts fail, and the tortured beast rushes forward in reckless despair, the wild effect produced by their firing the high dry grass and brushwood, and retiring in safety behind its dazzling flame. There was in all this much to pique my curiosity, and still more in the strange feeling of superstitious awe with which they are said to approach their prostrate prey, and to exculpate themselves of any blame in his death, by declaring to him gravely, that the thing was entirely the effect of accident, not design; while, to atone for the offence, or to deprive him of all fancied power,* they cut off the trunk and solemnly inter it, pronouncing repeatedly during

* In this extraordinary custom a resemblance may be traced to one mentioned by Shaw, in his *Travels*, of the Arabs burning the head of the hyena, lest it should be made the means of some charm of evil influence.

the operation, "The elephant is a great lord, and the trunk is his hand."

I received the following account of a Kaffre elephant-hunt from a missionary who witnessed it.

"The elephant, after receiving many wounds, plunged into one of the sea-cow holes in the Chilumni River: the place was deep, but narrow; and the Kaffres stood on the banks, throwing their assegais with certainty, until his huge back was stuck all over with them, and the water dyed with his blood. At length, a Kaffre made his appearance with a gun, and firing, struck him on the shoulder; the beast gave a tremendous scream, and rushed to the shore to face the hunters, who yielded him a clear path; and the elephant, to whom the last wound had carried death, turned to regain the water. At this moment I saw (said the narrator) one of the hunters, who had but a few minutes before leaped out of his path, return to the attack, jump up, and catch him by the tail, plunging at the same time an assegai into his flank,—the elephant regained the river and died."—"I never," observed the missionary, "saw so strongly contrasted the daring and the insignificance of man."—*Ibid.*

AN ARGUMENT.

The Hottentots were eloquent on the theme of the Kaffre depredations, and insisted on the great service and improvement that would follow their being organized, and having serjeants, and corporals, and officers appointed; indeed, they would never be good for anything until it took place. The Kaffre laughed; owned that there were some *Schelm*s among them; but then there were wicked people in all countries: he could not deny that at times they stole cattle. "And why should you steal," interrupted the soldier, "when you have plenty of your own?"—"We are so fond of our own cattle, that we prefer killing those of our neighbours," calmly answered the

Kaffre: "and then it is done so cleverly; they creep along the ground on their bellies: I wonder their bellies are not sore with it." I forget how the argument ended, but it excited great laughter round the fire; and the Kaffre kept up the fight with much grave humour.—*Ibid.*

COURAGE AND AGILITY.

On reaching our station, I found the hunters absent; and my companion told me that they had gone in a new direction, and that we were to take up a fresh bivouac, and then join in the search for sport. This last part of the arrangement, I must own, I was not particularly anxious about; for having satisfied my hunger, and bathed, I stretched myself beneath the shadow of the trees, and slept most deliciously. The hunters did not return till the evening; and my companion, a devoted sportsman, I thought appeared pleased that they had seen nothing. Our night-fires were again formed, and our dinner again discussed with admirable appetite. Stretched on the sheepskins, I gave an account of my adventure, and finished it by saying, "While you, I suppose, were greatly amused last night in thinking of our situation?"—"No, I was far from easy," replied D—, "and your meeting with the rhinoceros might have been a very serious one; for it is the most savage beast in the country, and dreads nothing except the elephant." He asked whether it had come towards us grunting, and rooting up the turf with his horn; and on my replying that, as far as I could tell, from the slight glimpse I caught of him, it was not so, and that I only heard his heavy tramp, he said, "Then it could not have been seeking you, but had probably been frightened by the elephants crossing the ravine. There is," he said, "an old chief who is known among the Kaffres for an act of desperate courage, or rather madness: A hunting party was out, when a rhinoceros started from the bush close to them—so close that the Kaffre

sprang upon his back. The monster rushed through the bushes, and ploughed up the ground with his horn, snorted with rage, and did everything to unseat his wild rider. In galloping on, the bushes tore the carosse from the Kaffre's back, and the rhinoceros turned upon it, and, while tearing it, the rider leapt from him, and escaped into the thick under-wood." When fired on—even when badly wounded, they rush forward; and flame, which turns other animals, has then no effect on them. The buffalo also charges impetuously forward when fired upon; but is less dangerous, as he keeps his head close to the ground; and if the hunter jumps into a bush, and is raised ever so little above him, he is safe. The common mode of attacking the buffalo is with dogs, and firing on him when surrounded and engaged with them.—*Ibid.*

CORPOREAL FORMATION.

Bordering upon the country of the Hottentots, the manners, the persons, and the whole character of the Kaffres seemed to be as widely removed from this phlegmatic race as the equator from the pole. The Hottentot young women had much the advantage, however, of the Kaffres in point of figure. The latter were mostly of low stature, very strong-limbed, and particularly muscular in the leg; but the good-humour that constantly beamed upon their countenances, made ample amends for any defects in their persons.

The men, on the contrary, were the finest figures I ever beheld: they were tall, robust, and muscular; their habits of life had induced a firmness of carriage, and an open, manly manner, which, added to the good-nature that overspread their features, showed them at once to be equally unconscious of fear, suspicion, and treachery. A young man about twenty, of six feet ten inches high, was one of the finest figures that perhaps was ever created. He was a perfect Hercules; and a cast from his body would not have disgraced the pedestal of

that deity in the Farnese Palace. Many of them had indeed the appearance of bronze figures. Their skins, which were nearly black, and their short curling hair, were rubbed over with a solution of red-ochre, and the tint it produced on the dark ground was very far from having any disagreeable effect. Some few were covered with skin cloaks, but the greater part were entirely naked. There is, in fact, perhaps no nation on earth which can produce so fine a race of men as the Kaffres. The women wore long cloaks that extended below the calf of the leg; and their heads were covered with leather caps, ornamented with beads, with shells, and with pieces of polished copper and iron, that were disposed in a variety of forms; but the fashion of the cap was nearly the same in all.—*Barron's Southern Africa.*

MANNERS AND CUSTOMS.

The Kaffres bring in ivory, gum, elephants' tusks, mats, and baskets, to a very considerable amount. We saw two enormous tusks purchased from them which weighed ninety-eight pounds each. The Kaffres are described as a very noble-looking race, tall, finely proportioned, and possessing great muscular strength. They display infinite sagacity, and evince an evident superiority over the common race of savages. The rush baskets made by the women are extremely ingenious; they are so firm and closely made, that they will hold liquids, and are always used by the Kaffres as milking buckets. They have as yet no estimation for European clothing; and, as an instance, at one of the late fairs, there were some common shawls taken in exchange; a woman gave some baskets for one, but she had no sooner got possession of it than she tore it in pieces, giving her companions each a part to put their beads in. They are very particular in their choice of beads and buttons, taking care always to bite them; and if they break, they are rejected."—*Scenes in Albany.*

No. IV.

ANECDOTES OF THE WILD BEASTS OF SOUTH AFRICA.

THE TIGER.

THE sun has sunk, and the cattle, horses, and sheep are all brought into their kraals* for the night, and woe to those that have strayed ! for the wolf has now descended from the hills and will scour the valley till daybreak ; and the beautifully spotted form of the Cape tiger is sometimes to be met with in the dusk, gliding through the thicket, and approaching close to the habitations of man. Crouched near the sheep kraal, the short quick howl which he gives on scenting his prey, may be heard in the stillness of the night ; and in the morning the farmer finds that he has sprung the high enclosure, and carried havoc among his flock.

The tiger seems to have a pleasure in destroying distinct from the necessity which urges other wild beasts ; for the sheep are frequently found untouched, save that the animal has sucked their blood. One of these beasts, whose nightly depredations had roused the farmers, was killed during my stay in the valley. This is the general course of proceeding on these occasions. The animal is tracked to its lair in the thick underwood, and, when found, attacked by large dogs : if possible, it flies ; but when unable to escape, makes a desperate defence, raising itself above the assailants by leaping on a bush, and from thence striking them down with its paws as they rush in, and, from its great strength and activity, frequently destroying them. But the tiger seems to know its master-foe, and should a man approach within the range of

* A palisaded enclosure, the Corral of South America ; it also signifies a native village.

its tremendous spring, it at once leaves the dogs, and darts upon him, and the struggle is then for life.

I was told of a slave, who, on going out early one morning to look after cattle, heard his dogs baying at a distance in the jungle, and, on coming up to ascertain the cause, was met by the tiger's spring. The savage clung, and, seizing him by the nape of his neck, tore the skin off, until the scalp hung over his eyes: but, even in this state of torture, the slave drew the wood-knife from his belt, and stabbed him to the heart.

In general, the man stands at a distance, waiting his opportunity until he can fire without injuring the dogs; and in this manner the animal I speak of was killed, as the single round hole in his rich skin proved.

THE ELEPHANT.

I will repeat two adventures related to me by the individuals to whom they occurred, and witnessed by many; an addition that to you may be necessary, but with me their simple assertion is sufficient.

I was out elephant-hunting with a party of Dutch boors: we had killed one, a female, "and I," said the narrator, "had dismounted from my horse, which a Hottentot was holding, to allow me to cut the wood out of the dead beast's head, and was stooping for the purpose, when I heard a strange unnatural scream; I never heard so wild a sound of terror, and turned only to see the Hottentot let go the horse, and rush away, and in a moment I saw a tremendous elephant rearing its trunk almost above me. It was the male come to revenge the death of his companion." "What did you feel," I asked, "at that moment?" "I know not what I felt—nothing, for I have no remembrance of anything until I found myself on the back of my horse; but the boors, who were looking on from a safe distance, said that I ran like a spring-

buck ; and indeed I must, for it seems that I caught my horse by its tail, and sprung on its back."

Before this adventure, Captain —— had been noted for his daring, or rather rashness, in these sports ; but he owned that this completely satisfied him, and proved, what he had been in the habit of denying, that there was danger in elephant-hunting.

The other story is of an officer, who was out with a party of Hottentots, somewhere, I think, near the banks of the Great Fish River, when the men pointed out to him elephants browsing in a hollow ; he left his party, and taking a small gun with him, loaded with a common ball, went to look at them, when one pursued him. In his fear, he quitted the thick bush that might have given him a chance of concealment and escape, and took to the open ground, where the elephant was quickly close upon him. He described himself as stopping from exhaustion ; and on the beast's coming close, as firing in despair,—for he had no hope that a common gun, with a small charge, could do anything,—he scarcely took aim, and waited not to see the effect of his shot ; but having gained a moment's breath, again rushed away ; and as he ran he heard a shout from his men, and thought it was sent up because the monster had reached him ; but they shouted in triumph at his fall—that single shot had killed him.—*Rose's Four Years in Southern Africa.*

We threaded the elephant paths with a swift silent pace, over hills and through ravines, until, from having been long unaccustomed to walking in this riding country, I began, greatly to the surprise of the hunter, to show symptoms of fatigue. "We shall soon be among the elephants," he said, "and then we can sit down and watch them." Forward we went—now in shadow, and now in light, as we wound through the high bush ; the light now glancing on the strange head-

gear of the leading Hottentot, now touching the yellow handkerchief that bound the hunter's head—now the blue one that shadowed the fair brow of the boy, and now running in a line along the muzzles of the large guns ; then again they were lost in the gloom of some dark descent or rocky ravine.

We had frequently traced the mighty foot-prints of the elephants, from which the Hottentots told us when the animals had been there. "This is three days old."—"This is last night." It was curious to observe the marks stamped in the mud around the small ponds, of animals that left their haunts at night to drink. The misshapen *spoor* of the elephant ; that of the rhinoceros, resembling three horses' hoofs ; the buffalo, the wolf, the timid and various antelopes, and the baboon, were all clearly to be traced.

The African sun of mid-day now poured all its fire upon us ; and it was with difficulty I could carry my gun, and the far-searching eyes of the hunters in vain looked around.

The only animals we had seen were three buffaloes, that rushed down the side of the hill close to us, and disappeared in the deep hollow below. We had passed in our search several bodies of elephants, their bones bleached by sun and shower, showing through the black, shroud-like, shrivelled skin ; and at one place the skeleton of a rhinoceros lay close to that of its mighty enemy.

The search was becoming hopeless, when the leader pointed to a distant hill : there was a consultation, in which it was decided that a troop of elephants was passing over it. I looked, and could see nothing. But now we went on with fresh vigour, and gained the hill opposite to that on which they were : we halted and watched ; a few words passed between the hunter and Skipper, and we descended silently the ravine that divided us. Again they whispered, marked from what point the light breeze came, and we commenced

the steep ascent in a direction that the wind might come from the animals to us ; for we were now so near them, that their quick scent would have discovered us. Skipper led, while we followed in Indian file, threading a narrow rocky path, which skirted one bank of a small hollow, while the huge beasts were feeding on the opposite one. The leader halted ; the hunter gave my companion and myself lighted sticks, and whispered directions to fire the bush and grass, and to retreat, in the event of the animals charging. It was a strange feeling to find myself within twenty yards of creatures whose forward movement would have been destruction ; but they stood browsing on the bushes, and flapping their large ears, pictures of indolent security. We were taking our stations, when we heard a shot, and then another ; and of eight elephants, seven fled. We went forward to see the effect of the shots. Skipper's had carried death with it ; the elephant had fallen, but rose again. I never heard anything like its groans : he again fell, and we went up to him ; the ball had entered behind the shoulder and reached the heart.

In looking at the mighty monster, I could not help saying, " Poor beast ! and were it not for these ivory tusks, you might live happy and unmolested ; and they appear given but for your destruction, for of what use are they ?"—" Defence," answered my companion. " No," said the hunter ; " for the most fierce and dangerous among them is a breed that the Dutch call Koeskops, and they have no tusks." We cut off his tail, in token of triumph, and then followed the troop that had fled down the hill : we saw them crossing the ravine, and traced their downward course by the destruction and uprooting of everything that had impeded it : branches were strewed around ; and the large palm-like euphorbias, so common in these wild regions, were broken like twigs. In our pursuit, we crossed the lairs of the buffalo and the elephant, and gained the ravine ; when I, who had walked full twenty-

four miles over the roughest ground, with a gun that weighed twenty pounds, found it impossible to keep up with my more active companions ; and seating myself on the ground, told the hunter to go and leave me, and, on reaching the bivouac, to send my Hottentot and horse. "It is impossible," he replied ; "it will be a dark night ; and even in the day no one would find you here."—"It is of no consequence ; I do not wish to spoil your sport, but I can go no farther ;" and I stretched myself on the ground, indifferent to the result. "Were a rhinoceros to come down, I think you would find your legs."—"No ; nothing could make me mount that hill." There was a consultation, which I scarcely heard ; and it was resolved that the little boy should remain with me ; and that, when I had rested, we should ascend the hill, lighting fires as we went, to mark our course. The remainder of the party followed the elephants.

In half an hour I again took my gun, which had been changed for one that would scarcely fire, and began to ascend the hill by an elephant path : the valley we had just left, and the side of the hill, were thickly covered with high dark bush,—on my right so close as to prevent our seeing any object in that direction. We were slowly rising the ascent, when I heard the heavy gallop of a large animal approaching : my little companion was at some distance from me, blowing a lighted stick : "Listen," I said : the boy's eyes looked wild, and he fled from the sound ; while I ran up the hill, not doubting that it was a rhinoceros ; the heavy tramp was close to me, and I scarcely saw a large dark animal burst through the bush within a few yards of me, in the spot I had just quitted, and in the very path I was following. I did not stop ; for, from the glimpse I caught, I believed it to be a rhinoceros : my young companion fired the bush, which I heard crackling, and in a few minutes came up to me. "What a narrow escape !" he said. "What was it ?—the rhinoceros ?" "Did

you not see it close to you? it turned from the lighted bush." It was certainly a situation of danger, for the boldest hunter dreads and shuns this savage animal, and troops of lions have been known to fly before him; yet, without affecting any particular courage, I trusted rather to my heels than my gun; which, as the event turned out, was fortunate, for, when I attempted afterwards to fire, it snapped three times. I do not remember that I felt much fear; nor do I believe that, under similar circumstances, fear is natural: there is no time for it; every energy is employed in escape. In a gale at sea, on board a small coasting brig, amidst the wild winds and waves of the Cape, though there was probably not one-twentieth part of the real danger, I have felt much more; for there I was a useless being, and no exertions of my own would avail, and memory and thought had time to be busy.

We at length gained the summit of the hill, and saw the elephants traversing the one before us, their huge backs showing high above the bush; we heard our companions fire, and saw the animals rush away, and one charging towards us: we fired the bush and grass around us, and stood in a circle of flame; we listened, but could hear nothing, and proceeded lighting the bush as we passed, and tracing the route of the elephant, and the point at which he had been checked by the fire. The effect of the shots, we afterwards heard, was the death of a large female elephant, that fell with ten balls in her, each ball a death; but she stood heaving her back in agony, while her young calf went round and moved under her, covered with the blood of its mother. 'Tis savage work!

We found on our route a small pond, or rather puddle, but never was anything more welcome! and yet, when I think of it, the thirst must have been indeed extreme that would stoop to drink it; the water had been trodden into mud by the elephants, and we were forced to suck it almost through closed teeth. It was the vilest abomination that ever went

down my throat ; and yet it refreshed me. We continued our course ; my young attendant trusting much to the hunter's promise, that he would watch the line of our fires and join us ; but I had less faith in it, for we were now far distant from each other, and the sun was fast sinking, and the surrounding mountains assuming a darker and darker hue. My little companion lighted the bush and dry grass around, and fired repeatedly to tell where we were ; but there was no answering shot.—*Rose.*

We intended that this day should be given to buffalo-shooting, and took the dogs with us, which is never done in following the elephants ; and though they are to be met with in herds of hundreds, yet our search was vain. As there was nothing remarkable in the sport, and you are probably by this time weary of the butcher-work, it is merely necessary to say, that three more elephants were killed ; and that my companion, who was a very fine sportsman, had the honour of bringing down a large one with a single shot, and a share in destroying the other two ; while I was a mere looker-on, carrying a gun by way of form.

One thing, however, I must mention, the death of a young calf elephant. We heard the distant but incessant bay of the dogs ; when D—— said, “They are probably baiting a young elephant, and they will not leave him until they have torn off his trunk, and he will then wander about till starved : if it is so, I will go and shoot him.” He left us, and we shortly afterwards heard a shot.

We returned to our bivouac, and I expressed my surprise to the hunter, that there could be any necessity for marking the tusks in an uninhabited desert, where no one could interfere with his rights. “’Tis easy,” he said, “to know where elephants lie, by the vultures that flock to them ; and the Cape-Corps patrols watch their flight, and follow, and take

the ivory. I remember," he added, "returning after some days to a hollow, where I had left elephants, and finding a party of Kaffres busily employed in extracting the tusks: this was a situation, however, in which a reference to marks would have availed little, and in which I waved my claim, and retired." I could not but think, even after his explanation, that the marking was rather superfluous.

Among other anecdotes, D—— told us of his having seen an elephant raise his fallen companion, and still assist him even when wounded himself. I saw the beast killed, rather than desert the one that could not follow; and they fell dead together. On my observing that, judging from the paths that intersected the country in all directions, they must be very numerous, he said, "They were, and indeed are so still. I have, I dare say, myself seen as many as three thousand in a troop on the banks of the Fish River; but I should think, in the last three years, full that number have been destroyed."

He mentioned one thing that struck me as very extraordinary,—that those who traversed the country never found the body of an elephant that had died a natural death, though they frequently found those that had fallen by the hunter's shot.—*Rose.*

THE SPRING-BOCK.

The spring-bock is a gregarious animal, never met with but in large herds, some of which, according to the accounts of the peasantry, will amount to the number of ten thousand. The Dutch have given a name to this beautiful creature indicative of its gait. The strength and elasticity of the muscles are so great that, when closely pursued, he will spring at a single leap from fifteen to five-and-twenty feet. Its usual pace is that of a constant jumping or springing, with all the four legs stretched out, and off the ground at the same

time ; and at every spring the hair on the rump divides or sheds, and falling back on each side, displays a surface of snowy whiteness. No dog can attempt to approach the old ones ; but the young kids, which were now numerous, were frequently caught after a hard chase. Both old and young are excellent venison ; and vast numbers are destroyed by the Dutch farmers, not only for the sake of the flesh, but also for the skins, of which they make sacks for holding provisions and other articles, clothing for their slaves, and, at the time of the capture by the English, for themselves also and children. The poverty and miserable condition of the colony were then so great, that all their numerous flocks and herds were insufficient to procure them decent clothing.—*Barrow's Travels in Southern Africa.*

HUNTING THE ELEPHANT.

A party of persons, to the number of fourteen, set off, and found upwards of three score elephants encamped on the banks of the Kounap river. It was late when the party arrived ; therefore an attempt would have been useless and dangerous. Large fires were lighted to keep off lions as well as elephants ; and the party being much fatigued, they lay down and slept.

The elephants awoke them early with breaking and pulling trees up by the roots, and rolling themselves in the water, &c. The party immediately pressed for the attack, and now commenced the sport. The elephants, upon receiving the first shot, as if by mutual consent, gave chase, though not for above six or seven hundred yards. This answered the desired effect. One of the party galloped between the elephants and the bush which they had just left, commencing at the same time a very heavy fire, which harassed them to such a degree that they fled to the plains, leaving behind them thick cover, in which they might have been perfectly secure from the

shots. On these plains great numbers of small bushes are found at no great distance from each other, so that if one party consents to drive the elephant out of one bush, the other will conceal themselves, and by this means may get some good shots.

One large bull-elephant stationed himself in the middle of one of these small bushes, and at least two hundred rounds were fired without being able to bring him down, or make him move from the place in which he had stationed himself. At every shot he received, he was observed to blow a quantity of water into the wound, and then tear up a large lump of earth to endeavour to stop the blood. The Kaffres do the same thing when they have been shot — that is, tear up a handful of grass and thrust it into the wounded place; and it is thought they have learnt this from seeing the elephants do it. At length, the great bull dropped: the party then entered the bush; and, to their great surprise, found that the reason he would not leave this spot was, that he had there found a pool of water, with which he had been washing his wounds. His height measured seventeen feet and three-quarters, and his teeth weighed one hundred and ninety pounds. Before the day's sport, was over they had killed thirteen.—*Scenes in Albany.*

UNNATURAL CONDUCT OF THE HOTTENTOTS.

There can be little doubt, that when food is so scanty, the health and vigour of the body are impaired,—that the children actually born may be so weak and sickly, as not to survive their infancy. But, if it be maintained that a low diet, or what in England would be considered so, renders mankind less prolific, we need not look far to find a practical refutation of the doctrine: Ireland and the North of Scotland are cases in point. In the latter country, where the agricultural labourers subsist almost entirely on oat and barley-meal, the population is rapidly increasing: this is also the case with regard to the agricultural day-labourers in England, who live somewhat better.

We are therefore led to conclude, that it is not poor living, but vicious habits and unhealthy situations and employments, which generally check the natural increase of our species. It is also supposed, that in savage countries in high latitudes, where subsistence is scanty and only to be procured with extreme difficulty, the people have fewer children born to them. That such tribes *rear* fewer children, I do not doubt; but it does not therefore follow that they are less prolific. The period of maturity is certainly later in life in cold than in warm climates; but I believe that this is the only natural check which restrains the multiplication of mankind.

When from their roaming and unsettled mode of life, or from the natural sterility of the country, men find that they cannot support a numerous offspring, they are always prompted by their foresight to adopt such preventives as they think necessary to obviate the miseries consequent on a redundant population. In a savage state of society, marriage will be confined to the more wealthy; or, if the poor marry at all,

either their children will die in their infancy for want of sufficient nourishment, or the parents will have recourse to some unnatural mode of freeing themselves from the encumbrance of a number of children.

We know that some of the savage tribes of America put their aged and infirm parents to death when they become unable to accompany them in their wanderings. Is it not therefore reasonable to conclude that they adopt other barbarous modes of preventing the evils consequent on an excess of population? From what I know of the Hottentots, I cannot help inferring that other savage tribes resort to similar expedients to prevent an inconvenient increase in their numbers. The practice to which I allude is that of procuring miscarriages, which is exceedingly common both among the Hottentot and slave women. This circumstance has never been noticed by any traveller in speaking of these people, either from ignorance of the fact or from motives of delicacy; and were it not for the desire of tracing facts to their true causes, and of lending my aid in clearing up a point equally interesting and obscure, I should not perhaps have touched on the subject.

In journeying through the country, and in visiting my neighbours, I had often noticed the comparatively small number of children reared by the slave women. The Dutch females have generally very large families, often exceeding twelve; but I rarely observed slave women to have half that number. I particularly remarked that the slaves of rich and lenient masters had more children than others; and further, that the Hottentot women who had been intimate for a length of time with Europeans or Cape-Dutch were apparently more prolific than those married to men of their own nation.

This last circumstance long perplexed me, as I could perceive no sufficient cause to account for it. With the poorest and worst masters, the slaves looked well and were better fed

than very many of the lower class of country-people in the North of Scotland, who are healthy and muscular. I afterwards, however, observed that the slave women belonging to poor masters were often too hard worked while in a state of pregnancy, and that the most humane husbands among the Hottentots had generally numerous families: this led me at once to the source of the evil.

To avoid the hardship of severe work during pregnancy, for which due allowance is seldom made by unfeeling masters, the slaves have been driven to seek relief by using decoctions made from the native plants to produce miscarriage. On making inquiries among the Hottentots as to this practice, they pointed out to me a plant which they used for this purpose, it was a small red berry like a currant, enveloped in a leaf like the Cape gooseberry. As the children of a slave man by a Hottentot mother are free, the slaves generally prefer connecting themselves with women of the latter class.

These two circumstances sufficiently account for the slave population not increasing in any proportion with the free class; and at no very distant period we may naturally expect that slavery will totally disappear in the Cape colony. I think it extremely probable that similar practices exist in other colonies as well as among the free savage tribes of America.

All the returns of the Hottentot population prove that there has been a great diminution of their numbers for many years past. Miscarriages also are the very frequent consequence of the barbarous treatment the Hottentot women receive from their husbands, who never regard the inevitable effects of the cruel beatings they give them when in this delicate situation. Many instances of this have come under my own observation during my residence in the colony.

It rarely happens that Hottentot women have children by men who are not likely to remain with them for any length

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of time, as they generally have recourse to the expedient already mentioned, to save them from the trouble of rearing children whose father may not choose to contribute to their support.

Notwithstanding this unnatural practice, no women can be more tenderly attached to their offspring, and I have never known an instance of child-murder among them. When one of these women forms a permanent connexion with a white man, or with one of her own people who treats her with humanity, she generally has a numerous family ; and, making allowance for the pernicious effects of frequent miscarriages, I firmly believe the Hottentots are naturally at least as prolific as the colonists.

THE END.

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