

Customs in  
the Dutch  
time.

Under the dominion of the Dutch, the Governor and principal people who had houses at Simon's Town, only frequented it when fleets arrived from Europe; at all other times they resided at Cape Town and its environs. But in order to accommodate passengers and officers belonging to their own fleets and ships, as well as those of other nations who occasionally touched here on their passage, the Dutch East India Company granted leave to a few persons to build lodging and eating houses, where every person, who wished to refresh himself on shore after a long voyage, might have for a rix-dollar and a half a day, (about six shillings of their currency, and 4s. 6d. British) tolerably good board and lodging. Those houses paid a certain sum for this privilege to government, and were the first cause of the extension of this place to a town; which is however still very limited, the government of Cape Town not being willing to allow it to become a place of any consequence; but wishing as much as possible, if the season would at all permit, that vessels should rather put into Table Bay. The reasons which induced the Dutch government to adopt this policy, arose from their own avarice; the salaries of the inferior officers of their East India Company being so small, that those people were induced to allow privately of several abuses, for the sake of a little addition to their emoluments. The Company well knowing this must be the case, seldom placed any dependence on them, and endeavoured as much as circumstances would permit, to render Table Bay and Cape Town the

only places of resort and mart for trade, as here they could have their officers under their own immediate eye. On the first news of the arrival of a fleet or any shipping at False Bay, the Governor and two members of the council posted down, and were followed by those Dutch gentlemen, who had houses here, to offer their habitations as taverns to the passengers; their pride being readily lulled asleep by the hopes of gain. Besides being very handsomely paid for board and lodging, Mynheer expects over and above a present of some valuable Asiatic or European article for the Vrow his wife. I must indeed own, that this species of avarice is not confined to the Dutch settlements; at St. Helena it is also practised, where indeed the charges are still greater, and the extortion more unreasonable.

After having ascended the hills under which the town immediately lies, and descended on the other side, you come to a large flat and marshy plain or valley, some miles in length, and reaching to Chapman's and Hout's bay. Hither officers and passengers, belonging to the ships at anchor, generally go on shooting parties. In those occasional excursions I met with several kinds of game; partridges, Cape pheasants, lowries, wild ducks, snipes; several species of small birds of the thrush, bullfinch, and sparrow kinds; sugar birds, some of which variegated with green, yellow, and red colours, would be much esteemed for their elegant plumage in Europe. Eagles, vultures, baboons, and monkeys inhabit the rocks and steeps of the surround-

Country  
about  
Simon's  
Town.

Animals.

## THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

ing hills, and numbers of land turtles are to be met with crawling in the sands. The spring bock, the duyker bock, small antelopes and hares, are seen hiding in the bushes and tufts of long grass in the low lands and marshes. Hyenas, wolves, and jackals frequent the hills, and often shew themselves, as some alloy to the pleasure of the sportsmen at night. These animals often come down from the hills, and attack any loose or stray cattle; and if very hungry, will even approach the farm houses which are scattered up and down, endeavouring to break into the fences or out houses where the cattle are confined. This valley separates the southern promontory of Cape Falso from the hills of Musenberg, and those in the neighbourhood of Cape Town.

## CHAPTER IV.

*Road to Cape Town—Signal Posts and Batteries—Mode of Travelling in Waggons—Fish Hook Bay—Road from thence—Variety of Shrubs, Herbs, and Flowers, found here—Monkeys and Baboons—Musenberg, great strength of it and of all the Southern Peninsula—Taking of the Cape by the English Troops in 1795—Remarks in a Military Point of View, and Hints respecting the best Mode of attacking the Cape*

I Shall now leave this part of the Cape, and proceed towards Table Bay and the Cape Town, which is distant about twenty-four miles. The first half of the way lies along the shore till you reach Musenberg, where you have a broad lake to cross. From Simon's Town to this place, the journey by land is long and tedious, on account of the great curve formed here by the bay; but after leaving Musenberg, the road proceeds in a straight line to Cape Town. All along the shore are signal posts, provided with flags and guns to give information of ships being in sight. These are continued from Musenberg to the Cape Town, the posts being placed on the different eminences commanding views on the road; so that in a few minutes the intelligence is conveyed along the whole line. The flags, with bags of sand suspended from them, are hoisted in the day

Road to Cape Town.

Signal posts and batteries.

time to denote the number of vessels in sight, and if friends or enemies. Guns serve for the same purpose in the night time. Batteries are placed in different parts to defend the bay, where the beach admits the landing of boats. The first part of the road from Simon's Town to the Cape is over a heavy deep sand, the sea being on the right hand; and on the left, low white sandy hills, which add much to the heat and fatigue of the journey. It is necessary to cross several small bays, which indent the road; and to wade through several streams of water, that run into the sea from the hills. The inconvenience experienced from these obstacles, joined to the loose, heavy, and hot sands, over which one has to pass, render this journey extremely disagreeable and fatiguing to those who, as I did, undertake it on foot.

Obstacles on  
the road.

Mode of  
travelling.

Strangers will find conveyances very dear and difficult to be procured. A saddle horse cannot be hired at less than from six to eight rix-dollars, a paper currency worth four Dutch schellings, or about three British; and the general hire of a waggon to a stranger, is from twenty to thirty rix-dollars; and even scarcely to be had at that price.

Waggons.

A heavy surf which runs all along this shore proves very inconvenient to people travelling in waggons; as the heavy loose sand, which is but a little way removed from the surf, renders it difficult for the cattle to draw; the waggon must be kept close to the water's edge, where the sand being wetted by the surf, is more solid, and capable of sustaining the weight of the waggon. The surf often rises

above the nave of the wheels, and sometimes, if not dexterously avoided, it will rush into the body of the waggon itself, seeming as if it would carry horses, passengers, and all into the sea: a circumstance which made a particular impression on my memory, as it had like to have happened in my own presence to the late General Doyle and the Rev. Mr. Rosenhagen, in August 1796.

No object sooner attracts the eye of a stranger at the Cape than those waggons, the number of cattle yoked to them, the uncommon manner in which they are driven, and the astonishing dexterity of the waggoners. These waggons are made extremely large and strong; all great journics here are undertaken in them; and for size and accommodation they may be compared to travelling houses; while the very uneven and rugged roads require them to be of a peculiar construction, and of great solidity. The body of the waggon rests on an axle or pole, running lengthwise; below it is not unlike a coach, except that the body is seldom hung on springs. The waggons are made broad, to prevent overturning, for they are driven over rocks and declivities at full gallop, as it is a principle with the drivers never to spare the poor cattle. The inside is tolerably roomy and spacious, with platforms and benches, which are employed for sitting on, for bedsteads, or for holding goods. At one end they are even furnished with a place for cooking. The sides are constructed with strong boards well put together, and secured by strong pieces of wood placed perpendicularly. The roof is formed of

Mode of  
driving  
them.

boards, or thick sail cloth, well tarred, to keep out rain. The Dutch farmers who inhabit the interior, during their long journies to Cape Town, entirely live in those moving habitations; whilst at night, or when they stop to bait and refresh their cattle, their slaves find shelter under the waggon, and the cattle quietly graze hard by, in a spot that has been pitched upon for its herbage, this being the only method of procuring provender in that country. In general the horses and oxen are well-made, strong, and very steady.

The clumsy and unwieldy appearance of the vehicles; the great number of cattle yoked to them; the fury with which they are driven along, without any regard to obstacles, while the drivers, with their immense long whips, are constantly urging the speed of the cattle, and dexterously turning the waggons short at every corner, without the least hesitation or dread; present altogether a spectacle highly novel and interesting.

From four to ten or twelve pair of horses or oxen are yoked to one waggon. The horses, though a small race, are in general spirited and hardy; they do a great deal of work on little food, and are capable of enduring great fatigue. A bunch or two of carrots is sometimes their only sustenance during a long journey. Their hoofs being much harder than those of the European horses, they are not in general shod; and when they are, it is only on the fore feet. The Cape horses are not swift travellers; they hardly ever exceed fourteen hands in height; and on ac-

The horses  
and oxen.

count of the flies, which are exceedingly troublesome, their tails are seldom cut. The Dutch never paid any attention to the improving the breed of horses; they scarcely ever thought of introducing those of another country to cross the breed, and improve the blood. The oxen are strong, large, and boney; though rather of an awkward shape, being lank and long-legged. In general they are yoked both by the horns and the neck; and assist the draught with their heads as well as their breast and shoulders.

In front of the body of the waggon there is a bar or piece of wood for a seat, like that placed before our hackney coaches: on this two of their slaves sit, and from this station guide a long team of horses or oxen. One of the slaves holds the reins, and guides the cattle, whilst the other sits beside him with a long whip that trails on the ground till he has occasion to use it on the cattle, which he does with both his hands. The handle of this prodigious whip is of bamboe, from twelve The whips. to fifteen feet long, and is fixed to a thick leather thong of buffalo hide, rudely platted, and of an equal length with the handle, with a lash nearly three feet long attached to the extremity. The drivers are so very expert in the use of this immense whip, which to an European appears so unwieldy, that they can touch a team of ten or twelve pair of cattle in any part they have a mind, even with the certainty of hitting a fly off any of the animals. Indeed none of our English charioteers can at all be compared to them in such feats of dexterity. When they come to a deep place of the road, or steep and difficult ascent,



they keep cutting and slashing amongst the cattle to make them all pull together, and exert their strength equally. By this means the animals will draw the waggon over the most difficult places, even rocks and precipices, whilst the fellow who holds the reins, equally dexterous on his part, will guide them over in complete safety.

Inhumanity  
of the Dutch  
to their cat-  
tle.

The means employed to render the cattle thus manageable are, however, revolting to humanity. It excites not only compassion but horror to see many of those unfortunate beasts cut and mangled, as they are, in various parts of the body; for a Dutch boor, or farmer, if he finds his cattle lazy, or stopping from fatigue, or where they meet with obstacles which their strength cannot easily surmount, will not hesitate to draw out his great knife and score their flesh, or even cut slices off without mercy. These wretched animals seem indeed to know their cruel master's intentions; for their fear and agitation become excessive when they observe him taking out this instrument, and rubbing it to the waggon, as if making it ready for the purpose of tormenting them.

The drivers.

The slaves who act as their drivers are generally termed *baastards*, being a mixture of Hottentot and Caffree or Negro; or produced from their own connection with a female slave; the latter deriving in general a stouter make and fairer complexion from their parents. This race intermarry among themselves, and from being bred up in their master's family from their infancy, are handy, docile, and extremely useful; speaking the Dutch language as well as their own.

When these drivers appear pushing through the streets of Cape Town, at full gallop, and turning from one street to another, without pulling in, even where the corners are extremely narrow, which is generally the case, a stranger stops short with a mingled sensation of wonder and anxiety, dreading every moment some fatal consequences; which, however, rarely ever happen. The drivers are early initiated in this art; for, while as yet little boys, they begin by being employed to guide the foremost pair, when a long team is attached to a waggon, in passing through a narrow road. In many places about the Cape, these roads are merely rocky defiles between the hills, or narrow paths between ridges of sand. On coming to the entrance of those narrow places, they give notice of their approach by cracking their whips, which they do with such a loud report as stuns the ears of a stranger. This is the signal to warn any other waggon which may be coming from the opposite quarter, not to enter the narrow path till the other has cleared it; for if they were to meet there, it would be impossible for them to pass each other. This is a regulation to which they strictly adhere, and a very heavy penalty is attached to the breach of it, as the inconvenience arising thence would be extreme; one of the waggons would require to be completely unloaded, and the passage would thus perhaps be stopped up against all intercourse, probably for several hours.

Regulations  
as to the driv-  
ing of wag-  
gons.

Every waggon is provided with strong chains, or drags, like those used by our mail coaches, to prevent their being

overturned in going down the precipices and steeps. Sometimes they are obliged to drag all the four wheels, and have for this purpose a machine which they call a lock-shoe, being a kind of sledge or trough shod with iron, into which the wheels are set. This prevents the waggon from running down the cattle, and certainly is very ingenious in the invention. The cattle are generally placed in the team so as to draw by the shoulders, a bow or yoke of wood being put on each, and fastened by pegs, through which holes or notches are made to admit the harness. The yoke of the hind pair is fastened to the pole of the waggon, and those of the rest have a strap or chain, running along the yokes of each pair, and carried on to the head, where it is fastened to the horns. Their bellies and hinder parts are left at liberty, which gives them room to move about in the waggons, and appears to render the draught easier to them. The principal guidance of the waggon depends on the foremost pair, which are generally the best trained, otherwise they might trample down the little Hottentot boys, who usually run before, and guide them by a kind of bridle or cord passed through the nostrils. It sometimes happens that these little wretches are thrown down and trodden to death, before the cattle can be stopped. The attachment of the animals to their little leaders is very great, and sometimes you will see them look about for them and keep bellowing and uneasy till they come to their heads. The cattle are under great command, and will readily obey the slightest word from their drivers;

on being called to by name individually, they will increase their efforts, and draw together, even without the employment of the whip.

I left my reader traversing the barren sandy road from Simon's Town to Musenberg. The distance already passed is about ten miles, although to the eye it does not appear above five, owing to the sudden course which the bay here makes. In this course are formed two or three smaller bays, the largest of which is Fish Hook Bay. Along this latter the traveller is obliged to coast for more than a mile, wading all the while through small streams of water, some of which are knee deep. A battery is erected on an eminence at the east end, which flanks the whole beach, which is here sandy, though a heavy surf runs along it. After leaving Fish Hook Bay you ascend a small steep, and get into a rugged, narrow, and rocky road close to the hills, which you now approach. At some little distance, a bold rocky shore appears under you on the right hand, whose violent surf even reaches to the ascent along which you now proceed. This narrow road continues for about two miles, to the pass of Musenberg; and, notwithstanding its being so full of ascents and descents, and in different places rugged and rocky, it is much preferable to the deep and fatiguing sand which the traveller encounters on his first setting out from Simon's Town. The eye now meets with a different prospect, and full scope is afforded to the botanist for gratifying his favourite propensities. At the foot of the hills, which are close to your left hand, a great va-

Fish Hook Bay.

Road from Fish Hook Bay.

Plants here in abundance.

riety of evergreen African plants present themselves, amidst a profusion of other shrubs and flowers. Those which most attract the attention are, the red pepper tree, the castor oil shrub, the silver tree, (or protea argentea), myrtles several feet high, laurel and laurestinas in abundance, arbutus, jessamins, geraniums, sun flowers, blood flowers, cotton shrub, coffee plant, nopal or prickly pear, wild asparagus, mulberry, and many others peculiar to this part of the world. Several beautiful kinds of flowers grow among the sands. The sides of the hills under which the road passes, are also thinly covered with small scattered trees of the shrub kind, which appear to grow out of the rocks. Vul-  
Monkeys and baboons.
turs and eagles are seen hovering over the summit; while baboons and large grey monkeys appear in numbers skipping about, and jumping from one rock to another. In passing along, we were much diverted by the antic tricks and gestures of those creatures, whose continual amusement is to keep threatening the people as they pass underneath; and endeavouring to throw down upon them loose stones and pieces of rock. During this employment, a most extraordinary chattering and noise is kept up. The baboon is extremely mischievous, and particularly the bear ape, from its resemblance to a bear in the jaws and head. This ugly animal is both mischievous and ferocious; and where several of them fall in with a single person, they will not scruple to attack him.

Pass at Mu-  
senberg.

Beyond those hills is the strong and important pass of Musenberg, reckoned to be about twelve miles from Simon's

Town, and the same distance from the Cape. The mountainous tracts of the southern extremity of the Cape, as I have observed above, compose three divisions. The huge range which forms the Cape of Good Hope, and runs to Simon's Town, is the first; the hills of Musenberg, and those which run from Simon's Town as far as Constantia, where they terminate in a valley, form the second; and the Tyger, the Table, and adjoining hills, compose the third range. These indeed are all connected together, and rarely separated by any considerable intervals.

The Musenberg mountain may be said to cut off the extremity of the southern peninsula from the Cape, as the range of mountains extends from the shore on this side, quite across to the sea on the other side the Isthmus near Hoets Bay; all this extreme point of Africa is admirably defended by nature, but the pass here at Musenberg may well be compared to the ancient Thermopylæ of Greece; an enemy marching from Simon's Town to the Cape would here find an almost insurmountable obstacle to his progress. From the foot of the very high and steep hill to the sea is not more than fifty yards, and no boat can land within some distance at either side on account of the rocky beach and heavy surf. These natural causes form the great strength of the pass, which also is a defile of considerable length, being upwards of three hundred yards from where it narrows at the foot of the first hill to the further extremity where it widens into a more open space, which however still

The pass of  
Musenbergl.

possesses its own particular defences from nature. This pass struck us all with wonder at its strength ; and we could not help reflecting with a mixture of surprise and contempt on the Dutch troops who allowed ours so easily to take possession of it, while it is so exceedingly strong that a very few men with field pieces might defend it without any risque to themselves, and arrest the progress of a whole army.

Projecting from the main hill, which forms the great natural barrier on the left, is another smaller steep which covers the former, and also faces the sea. Since the arrival of the English this important pass has been much strengthened with additional works, lines, and batteries, erected along the slope of the hills facing the sea, and the road leading from Simon's Town, and may now be deemed impregnable from that side without any considerable force being requisite for its defence. All the different passes on this side the peninsula are much indebted to nature for their strength, and are capable of being maintained by a small number of troops ; General Craig added considerably to their security, and assisted nature with art wherever it was necessary.

With all the advantages which the pass of Musenberg derives from nature, it may be a matter of wonder how it was so easily forced by the British troops in the year 1795. A short account of that transaction will however remove the mystery, and afford a useful warning to other nations ; as it will shew that neither the advantages of strong position, of superior numbers, or local knowledge can avail for

the defence of a people whose courage has been corrupted by sensuality, and their public spirit swallowed up by the thirst of private gain.

General Craig came to anchor at Simon's Bay conveyed by Admiral Elphinstone with a British fleet. A landing was effected with little or no opposition; the Dutch evacuated the place on our coming into the bay, without even giving us a salute from the batteries, which protected the landing place and town. A few Dutchmen who did not chuse to abandon their property, remained behind, confiding in the honour and humanity of our countrymen, which in every instance amply justified their expectations.

Arrival of the  
English un-  
der Genera<sup>l</sup>  
Craig.

As the force which accompanied General Craig was only a part of what was destined for the attack on the Cape, and consisted mostly of new raised regiments, the General took up a position at Simon's Town, waiting for the arrival of Sir Alured Clarke, with a reinforcement, which was daily expected. Some time having elapsed without his appearance, and the season coming on which would render it dangerous for the fleet to remain in False Bay; and the General having also received a supply of stores and other necessaries, with near five hundred troops from St. Helena, he determined to move forward and attack the Dutch encamped at Musenberg. For this purpose he was reinforced from the fleet with a large detachment of sailors, and some marines, which were formed into two battalions, commanded by Captains Spranger and Hardy, of the Rattlesnake and Echo sloops of war. The General's advanced posts took

Marches to  
attack Mu-  
senberg.



possession of the different batteries along the shore, and at Fish Hook Bay; and marched straight to Musenberg, where the Dutch seemed strongly posted and determined to make a stand. They had a much greater force than General Craig, having nearly two thousand burghers and militia, all mounted, besides a corps of Hottentots, who were posted upon the hills. This was not sufficient to damp the ardour of our countrymen, who boldly advanced in defiance of all those discouraging circumstances. The Dutch on our approach neither behaved with courage or prudence, nor took a proper advantage of their strong position. They sent a party of armed Burghers, Hottentots, and Caffrees, to skirmish, and annoy the General's march; but without any good effect, as they were soon repulsed; and this measure, therefore, tended only to dispirit their own people and add to their indecision. On our approach, these skirmishing parties fell back with precipitation on the pass at Musenberg; and were thus the means of preventing their batteries from opening a full and well-directed fire upon us as we advanced. The General seeing them wait for him in the pass, and the hills lined with their Hottentots, Caffrees, and slaves, thought he would have a difficult and dangerous service to perform before he could dislodge them; for the Black troops, as well as the Dutch, were known to be excellent marksmen; and the position which they occupied was particularly well adapted for deriving much advantage from their skill in this way.

Ill conduct of  
the Dutch  
troops.

The flank companies of the 78th and the other regi-

ments with a battalion of seamen was ordered to ascend the hill, and attempt to drive off the parties stationed there. The enemy were soon routed, and fled in every direction, although with some loss on our part. Major Monnypenny of the 78th regiment, a most excellent and valuable officer, who commanded on this service, was severely wounded, and Captain Scott of the 78th, slightly, with seventeen sailors and privates. The Hottentots and Dutch slaves, seeing the boldness and intrepidity of our sailors and soldiers, took to their heels, and fled down the hills on the opposite side. A very characteristic trait of our gallant tars, on this occasion, was related to me by an officer present. The impatience and ardour of many of them was so great, that they flung away their firelocks, the sooner to overtake and grapple with the enemy, exclaiming that they were not used to carry arms aloft. Notwithstanding that a severe encounter was expected by our soldiers, yet they could not help laughing at the eccentric traits of natural intrepidity displayed by our brave sailors on this occasion. The Dutch burghers and militia with a degree of folly scarcely to be accounted for, retired, and made a stand about a quarter of a mile from the pass, leaving its defence to some riflemen and infantry. These, however, on General Craig's approach, and the advance of the flank companies and sailors from the hills, fell back on their main body, and abandoned this important place, which they should have defended to the last extremity. The Dutch being in great force, seemed again to shew a bold

Anecdote of  
our sailors.

front, having taken up a position at a place where there had been erected a barrack, a magazine, and a battery, which enfiladed the sea, and the head of Musenberg pass. But the America of 64 guns, which with others of our ships kept sailing along the bay, and attending the march of our army to Musenberg point, anchored as close to the shore as she could with safety; and fired on their battery with such effect, as to throw the Dutch into great confusion. Our troops at the same time pressed forward, and quickly passing this narrow defile, and forming with uncommon promptness and celerity, as soon as they got into the broad sandy tract which commences immediately here, advanced directly against them. Upon which the Dutch, dreading to encounter an enemy before whom they had all day been flying, took to their heels, and retreated to Wineberg, another post about six miles farther on. The only effort which the Dutch made with the great guns of their battery, was to fire at the America as she was approaching to anchor. One shot struck her, and passing right through between decks, killed two seamen; this compliment was speedily returned from the guns of the America, which succeeded in beating their magazine and battery to pieces, and killing some of their men. General Craig after securing Musenberg, and the country between it and Simon's Town, encamped here, waiting the arrival of General Clarke from Europe with reinforcements. The latter in a few days arrived, on which our army marched forward to Wineberg, where after another skirmish, the Dutch withdrew to Cape

Town, and sent proposals to the English General to capitulate, which being accepted, we thus got possession of this large and extensive settlement with little opposition and hardly any loss.

As it was from this point that the English made their attack on the Cape, it may not be unimportant to give some more particular account of its local situation and its military advantages. From the extremity of the Cape of Good Hope, as I already observed, a chain of mountains extends quite along to Cape Town. This chain follows from Cape Point the course of the beach to Simon's Town, and onward to the northernmost part or bottom of False Bay. It then strikes off to the westward towards Constantia, runs along again in a northerly direction, and joins with Table Mountain at the back or south side, the Tiger Hill appearing as an advanced angle or bastion to it. This chain, however, is interrupted in two or three places; in the first by a valley near Constantia, through which a road passes to Hoets Bay, and afterwards by a sandy long flat a little north of Simon's Town, which also opens a communication with a bay in the neighbourhood of Hoets Bay. There is a passage through this last valley from the east to the west coasts, which has led to a conjecture that formerly it was a small strait or sound, which has been gradually filled up by the violent winds drifting the sand. It is indeed supposed that all the low sandy tracts east of Cape Town, and particularly that beyond the pass of Musenberg, lying between the road and the sea shore, were in all probability formed

Military  
hints re-  
specting the  
attacking the  
Cape from  
this side.

in the same manner. The nature of the soil strengthens this opinion, as it is mostly composed of sea sand, shells, and various marine productions. These are found in every part of this low tract, as also towards the head of Table Bay, which is certainly becoming gradually shallower and decreasing in size, by means of the heaps of sand continually drifting in and forming dry ground. I shall here take the liberty to offer a few observations with regard to the mode of attack which seems most likely to succeed from this side against Cape Town. These observations were suggested by a view of the spot, and may therefore afford some hints to those who may hereafter be employed in this service. The works at Musenberg pass have been made so strong by the English, while in possession of this colony, that they are absolutely impregnable. The coast directly opposite it is full of shoals and rocks, and besides extremely dangerous from a dreadful surf, which rages equally along the sandy beach as where it is rocky. Men of war may render assistance at some distance beyond Musenberg pass, as happened in 1795, but they cannot act with effect directly abreast of it. By our judicious arrangement of works and batteries along the pass, we have given the Dutch great advantages, and pointed out to them the means of making the utmost of its natural situation. We may therefore be considered as having absolutely precluded ourselves from any reasonable hope of a successful attack on this position, against an enemy at all determined to oppose us.

When General Craig appeared before it in 1795, a want of energy and decision appeared equally evident in the conduct of the Dutch government and their troops. If they had any good officers, their advices were rejected, and their orders disobeyed; or if their representations were at all attended to, their plans were executed in so impotent a manner as to be utterly ineffectual. An easy conquest was the inevitable consequence of such circumstances. The militia and burghers, chiefly interested in the safety of their own personal property, were alike insensible to the calls of honour and patriotism, and seemed to entertain little concern for the interests of their government. Afraid of our troops carrying the town by assault, they dared not risk any exertions for its defence; and after a very short conflict they gave up the very post which was its strongest security. Afraid of our landing between Musenberg and the town, without giving themselves time to reflect on the difficulties and hazard we should have to encounter in such an attempt, and without arranging any plan to prevent us, they listened only to their fears, and in order to remove to some distance from us, retreated precipitately to Wineberg, and meanly gave up an easy prey to their enemies the key to Cape Town. With the pass of Musenberg, defended as it now is by impregnable works, an attack on Cape Town, to afford any prospect of success, must be attempted from a different quarter. If it would not be found expedient to attack from Table Bay, it might be attended with happy consequences to disembark at Hoets Bay;

## THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

making a diversion at the same time by landing a force at Simon's Town, and marching it across the mountains nearly due west, and afterwards in a northerly direction by the back of Constantia, where it might join with the force at Hoets Bay. The pass of Musenberg might thus be entirely avoided by several miles. After effecting the junction just alluded to, if necessary, a position might be taken up at Wineberg, which affords several strong ones; and from hence the force might act again Cape Town as circumstances should direct. The shipping in the mean time, if the season permitted, might go round to Table Bay, and attack the batteries Chevone and Amsterdam, whilst a body of troops landing at Green Point, or along the back of the Lion's Rump, might co-operate in gaining possession of those batteries. Were this once effected, the town would be found perfectly defenceless from that side, as these batteries, which here form its chief security, might be turned against it, while the castle, which lies on the other side, could not attack them without demolishing the town. The country between Hoets Bay, Wineberg, and Cape Town, would be found capable of greatly contributing to the subsistence of the troops during these operations; particularly as it would be in their power to intercept all the supplies destined for the town. The confidence and esteem which the British instilled into the Hottentots by their good faith, while they held possession of this colony, as well as the hatred which has been inspired among these natives by the contrary conduct of the Dutch, would at the same time be

found very beneficial to us; and should we not succeed in deriving a sufficient supply of provisions from the parts contiguous to Cape Town, there is every reason to expect we should be readily and amply furnished by the Hottentots.

It must however be at all times recollected, that should a force be sent against the Cape of Good Hope, the points from which the attack is to be made must in a great measure depend on the season of the year. From March till the latter end of September, the north-west winds prevail with great violence, so that during this period it is extremely hazardous to put into Table Bay, and nearly impossible to remain there for any length of time. The safe landing of the troops, and the co-operation of the fleet would then be equally precarious: at this season False Bay would be the place of disembarkation, and the operations which I have already described might be executed from Simon's Town. It is but seldom, and that only during the greatest violence of the south-west winds, that Hoets Bay could not admit of a force landing for co-operation. To land a detachment at Hoets Bay would be absolutely necessary, as it is altogether impossible to drag artillery along the route I have pointed out from Simon's Town to Wineberg; and this indeed is rather in favour of the invaders, as it prevents the enemy from annoying them with artillery on their march. If the weather should not allow of a landing at that side of the isthmus where Hoets Bay lies, there is a long range of sandy beach on the



## THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

north side of False Bay, quite beyond the flats of Musenberg, with a broad lake between them, where the men of war might easily and safely cover the landing of the troops. From this quarter the communication might be completely cut off between Musenberg and Cape Town, and the plans of defence which depend upon that post might thus be entirely overthrown. At every season of the year, except in the height of the two prevailing winds, the north-west and south-east, this might be attempted with every probability of safety and success. Wineberg would at all times afford a healthy and excellent post for our troops, with a considerable supply of provisions from the farms in the neighbourhood, and strong grounds and eminences for protecting our forces, till such time as it might be found convenient to commence offensive operations. In the event of the attacking force arriving at the Cape while the south east winds prevail from October to March, Table Bay must undoubtedly be the point of attack; and my remarks on this contingency will be found in a subsequent part of this volume.

## CHAPTER V.

*Road and Country beyond Musenberg—Broad Lake—Game—Quadrupeds—Constantia—A Dutch Boor's House—Wineberg—A Hottentot Krail—Description of that People—Their Traffic with the Dutch—Their Manners, Dispositions, and Modes of Life—Remarks on their Treatment by the Dutch.*

AFTER quitting the strong and important post of Musenberg, there opens before you a broad flat sandy plain, at the commencement of which is a range of store houses and barracks, with a battery, which I have already mentioned. A little beyond is a broad lake, which however is fordable, except in very wet weather; and, as it lies directly in the way, it must of necessity be crossed. Lake near Musenberg.

The hills here quit the shores of the bay, and begin to bend inland. They now assume a gentler aspect, and instead of abrupt and barren rocks, present an agreeable verdure. The broad lake just mentioned abounds with a number of wild ducks, and other species of aquatic visitors. Aquatic fowl and game. It affords excellent sport, and many shooting excursions are made to it. Here I first saw the flamingo, which standing up in the water, presented a most beautiful appearance with its intermixed white and vermilion plumage. All along the sides of this lake to Constantia, which is situated in an angle or nook formed by the hills that turn off from Musenberg towards Hoets Bay, there is a surprising

variety of game. The spring bock and small antelopes often start up before you on the road. The lake runs close to the sea on the right, from which it is separated by a ridge of sand formed by the violent winds. The water it contains is brackish. As you advance you encounter several smaller though deeper lakes, and also rivulets and marshes which must be crossed. This part of the country has a wild and desolate appearance; only a few stunted and parched shrubs grow amongst the ridges of sand. Wild beasts near Musenberg hills. Tigers, hyenas, wolves, and jackals infest the neighbouring hills, and frequently come down at night to devour the cattle, which may have strayed, or been left without a proper guard. They have often been known to attack men; a short time before our fleet arrived at the Cape, a picquet of the 78th shot two hyenas who approached their post; and the sentries at night were always doubled in consequence of those creatures. On my first going this way to Cape Town, I saw a slave pursued to some distance by a hyena, who followed him till he got assistance. Those wild beasts do a great deal of mischief to the Dutch planters and farmers, which they are the more enabled to do from the thinness of white inhabitants; the remoteness of one habitation from another prevents them from affording each other mutual assistance. The Dutch, who seem on most occasions to have been more ready to endure evils, than attempt to remedy them by any active exertion, took but little pains to destroy the wild beasts; and the black people, yet more indolent, never of their own accord made

the smallest effort for this purpose. From this want of enterprize on the part of the inhabitants, no quarter of the colony is free from these destructive invaders; for even the most highly cultivated spots have hills in their vicinity which afford a retreat to beasts of prey, from whence they issue at night, and devour whatever falls in their way. It is not unfrequent to meet in the plains, and at the foot of the hills, the half devoured bodies of oxen and sheep, who have either strayed or been dragged off by the wolves or hyenas. The Dutch seem to be well contented if they can keep them clear of their houses; and when these are not annoyed, they are little uneasy at the loss of their cattle, which they look upon as a matter of course. The only exertion which these indolent colonists make for their security is perhaps to dig a pit or trap in the neighbourhood of their farm-yard, and place a bait there to allure these animals, of which they generally find one caught in the morning. Not a vestige of any dwelling is to be seen from False Bay to Wineberg, a distance of eighteen miles. This may be deemed extraordinary, as it is the direct and only road between Simon's Town and the populous town of the Cape; and the more so, as several spots in the way are capable, with very little trouble, of being brought to a high state of cultivation.

On approaching Wineberg, the hills on our left hand began to change their wild appearance. At the foot of one of them, a very pleasant green hill about three miles distant, we had a view of the rich and beautiful plantations

and vineyards of Constantia, so celebrated for its luscious wine of that name.

First house  
from Simon's  
Town.

Immediately before we came to Wineberg, we fell in with a Dutch boor's house, which afforded us an opportunity of refreshment, extremely acceptable; as we were now become very hungry and fatigued by a long walk of eighteen miles, through a difficult and sandy road, which we felt still more toilsome from the length of time we had been confined on board of ship, where our utmost range extended only to a few planks. This house is the first that presents itself after leaving Simon's Town, and although but seven miles from the Cape it is called the half-way house. The master of this house of accommodation had been a Dutch soldier, and his time of service being expired, he afterwards rented a small farm here, and entertained travellers on their way to and from Cape Town. Being determined to remain here all night, and to prefer repose to every other consideration, we thought ourselves fortunate in getting some tolerably good mutton and potatoes for supper. Our landlord's beds, and particularly his wine, were scarcely capable of being relished by persons even in our fatigued condition. The wine commonly drunk at the Cape is a poor light white wine, without either body or flavour, and very unpalatable to those accustomed to the wines drunk in England.

This Dutch peasant I understood was miserably poor before the arrival of the English. His condition, however, soon became altered by the number of our countrymen con-

tinually passing and repassing on this road, and by part of the troops being encamped close by, at Wineberg. The latter he constantly supplied with bread, meat, vegetables, and fruit, by which he made a great deal of money; and, although at his first setting out, the accommodations his house afforded were very poor indeed, yet necessity obliged people to become his guests, and put up with his fare. On my return from India a few years after my first visit to this Dutchman, I spent some days with the officers of a regiment encamped near this spot, and I could not then but observe how my landlord had thriven by means of his English customers. He had now been enabled to build a handsome house, and to purchase a number of slaves and cattle with the profits arising from his being baker and sutler to the troops at Wineberg, and keeping a house of refreshment for the officers, and occasional passengers. He had several daughters, whose beauty deserved more to be praised than their civility and moderation; for, with an appearance of avarice which would seem altogether shocking to our countrywomen, those young girls took every opportunity to increase the charges of the house. When the landlord asked for his accommodation two rix-dollars, or two shillings, they would without hesitation call out to him to demand four. This practice of instigating to extortion, which is very customary among the housewives at the Cape, forms a remarkable and not a very pleasing feature in the characters of the Dutch women.

After leaving this house, we had to pass over a small

Wineberg. hill covered with shrubs, and having a stream of water at the foot of it. The country round is called by the general name of Wineberg. On a rising piece of ground near our left hand, the light companies of the 78th, 84th, 95th, and 98th, were very comfortably hutted. Their huts were formed into regular streets, like an encampment, and presented the appearance of a neat village. They were composed of large branches and limbs of trees, well thatched with very thick sedges, peculiar to this country, and well calculated to keep off the violent winds and rain. At the upper end of the encampment, and a little way detached, was a krael of Hottentots, consisting of nearly five hundred men with their families. Most of those had voluntarily entered into the English service; many had been before in that of the Dutch, and were part of their troops who attacked our army at Musenberg. General Craig formed them into a corps commanded by an officer of the 78th regiment, they were clothed in red jackets, canvas waistcoats and trowsers, leather caps and shoes; and armed with muskets and bayonets. Several of them understood the use of fire arms, and were excellent marksmen. Those who had lately come from the interior to enter into our service, and had not as yet been clothed or disciplined, were in a perfect state of nature. A description of those people, with their manners and customs, such as I learnt them to be from the inquiries which I was induced by my curiosity to make, will, I trust, not prove unentertaining to my readers.

A krael of  
Hottentots.

The Hottentots are the original natives of the southern

angle of Africa, and were the only race of people found there by the Dutch on their first arrival. They are naturally of a mild, peaceable, and timid disposition; the Dutch, therefore, without difficulty prevailed on them to consent to their forming a colony here. The Hottentots previous to this period were always at peace amongst themselves; they knew no wants, and their riches comprehended only a few cattle and some iron to make instruments, for killing fish and game. Since the Dutch have become masters of their country, the state of this wretched people has been very much reversed: the constant policy of the European colonists having been to keep the natives in a state of ignorance, poverty, and the most abject and degraded slavery. In proportion to the gradual encroachments of the Dutch, and the extension of their settlements, the poor Hottentots, not capable of withstanding them, retired farther into the country. Still, indeed, there are some kraels or tribes of these people living quietly under the government of the colonists, acknowledging their authority, rearing cattle for them, assisting in their husbandry, and in the culture of their farms and plantations. From policy, which they have been willing to pass for a sense of justice, the Dutch have paid some marks of attention and respect to the chiefs or heads of those tribes; and have publicly nominated them captains over the rest; adding, at the same time, as a badge of office, a chain and staff, or pole, headed with silver or brass, with the arms of their republic engraved on it. These chiefs, in return for those marks of distinction, are obliged

Description  
of the Hot-  
tentots.



to appear at certain periods at Cape Town, before the Governor and Council, and there give an account of the people under them, and receive orders from the Dutch. After performing this duty, they are generally sent back with presents of gin, brandy, tobacco, iron, and toys. While at the Cape, I have seen several of those Captains, as they are called, bearing their staffs of office, which they seem to hold in high estimation.

Population. If we consider the immense tract of country over which the Hottentots are scattered, their population is extremely small. Of late they have also considerably diminished from various causes; of which the severities exercised towards them by the Dutch form the principal. Although by an ancient law at the Cape, the Hottentots were not to be accounted slaves, but were to be entertained as hired servants in the service of the Dutch, yet the latter have always behaved to them in such a manner, as if they were resolved to eradicate every feeling of humanity out of the breasts of these unfortunate people. In this indeed they have succeeded so well, that a Hottentot seems now to consider himself as designed by nature merely to serve and to suffer; and there is scarcely one krael to be found within the reach of the Dutch government, which retains any idea of its original independence. The original Hottentots are, it is true, considered by the laws as freemen; but so many pretexts are found to entrench on this freedom, that it proves to be merely nominal.

A Dutch farmer claims all children born of a Hottentot

woman by another father than one of her own tribe, as slaves; even those arising from their own connection with a Hottentot woman; and also all the children which spring from the connection of a Hottentot man with a slave woman of any denomination. But the Dutch masters went still farther; for the children of Hottentots living with them as hired servants, although both father and mother belonged to that race, were yet retained as slaves till they arrived at the age of twenty-five years; and although the laws in favour of the Hottentots obliged the Dutch to register such children at the Cape, and to give them their freedom at this age; yet the period of their liberty was in reality little nearer than before, unless they deserted into the wild and uncultivated parts of the interior, far beyond the reach of their masters. Many arts were employed to retain them beyond the age of twenty-five years; it was usual to keep them in ignorance of the date of their birth, and thus make them continue to work till their strength began to fail them. When become old, feeble, and exhausted with labour, they were at last discharged, and turned out to misery, without being allowed to carry with them any thing which they had obtained during their servitude.

Those unhappy natives who engage by the year in the service of a Dutch farmer, when they wish to depart, often find their children detained from them. Hence arises that indifference to marriage and the propagation of children, for which this race of people is distinguished. It is not uncommon with many Hottentots to deprive themselves be-

fore marriage of the power of procreation, which many of the women in particular do in despite of their masters, to disappoint their oppressors, and prevent themselves from having the mortification of beholding their unfortunate offspring born to slavery and wretchedness.

The very thin population of the Hottentots must also, in some measure, be ascribed to their mode of life. The resources of sustenance are always very scanty in such a rude state of society: the peculiar indolence and want of vigour in the Hottentot character renders this still more the case; and something of their degeneracy and decrease of numbers has also been ascribed to their never marrying out of their own particular krael. These causes, with the oppression of the Dutch, seem sufficient to account for the scanty population of the Hottentots, without supposing, as some have done, that nature has assigned to this race any peculiar sterility. The Hottentots differ materially from all other races of Africans, being neither ferocious, avaricious, nor stubborn. Pliable and tractable in the extreme, they readily become the dupes of the designing, and might probably be with little more trouble turned towards the arts of civilization. Their honesty, fidelity, mildness, and strong attachment to each other, indicate dispositions the most favourable to culture and virtue. The narrow and barbarous policy of the Dutch, however, made them imagine that the encouragement of such dispositions would interfere with their own prospects of wealth and dominion; and that the Hottentots if once in any degree civilized, would no longer

Di-positions.

continue the obedient slaves of their oppressors. On this account the colonists have been assiduous in extinguishing those sparks of humanity which were the original gifts of nature; and the mild, yielding, and tractable Hottentot is now become a creature sunk in the most abject slavery, and the most hopeless despair. Their original bad qualities are comparatively but few, and such as might be removed by the advancement of civilization. They are indeed lazy to a great degree; even hunger cannot provoke them to be at any trouble in procuring food; yet when it is procured, they are most disgustingly voracious, and will swallow down at one time an enormous quantity of half broiled meat, or even raw intestines. Any preparation of their food seems indeed to be accounted by them altogether superfluous. Their only luxury consists in eating; and sleeping seems to be the only recreation from which they derive any enjoyment. The savages of America hunt the deer, and the other wild beasts of the forest, as much for the sake of the sport as for obtaining food; but it is not so with the Hottentot: his only motive for the chase is to prevent himself from starving; nor does he ever undertake it except when impelled by the imperious calls of hunger. Instead of salt to correct the putrid qualities of their meat, for it is in that state they prefer it, the Hottentots use the juice of limes, or of certain acrid plants, and also ashes of green wood. In general they seem to have an aversion to salt, and hardly ever use it in their food. In digestion they resemble the canine species; for they eat an enormous quantity, and then

**Appearance.** digest it by sleeping for many hours after. In appearance they are remarkably ugly; in height perhaps rather above the middling size. They are both more ordinary in their faces, and not so well made in their persons as the Malays. Their faces are flat and disfigured, as they have the gristles of their noses broken immediately after their birth. This, which is counted among them a mark of beauty, gives them a resemblance to the Chinese and Malays, who observe the same practice. I should imagine the original colour of the Hottentot to be inclining to a yellowish cast, but from their infancy they anoint their bodies with sheep's fat and grease mixed with soot, ashes, buckee powder, or such materials, which gives them a browner and more dismal tinge. The use of this ointment is however found necessary, as it keeps off the muskettoes and other vermin, with which this country abounds. Their foreheads are very large, and remarkably round. Their eyes are brown or of a dull black, and have not that sparkling vivacity which usually distinguishes those of the Asiatics; and though large, they appear sunk in their heads from the great protuberance of their foreheads. The cheek-bones are uncommonly high; their mouth and chin narrow; so that their face appears pointed at the lower end. Their teeth are as white as ivory, their hair is composed merely of short curly tufts of wool scattered very thinly; and not nearly so black or so thick as that of the negroes; and they have no beards. Their limbs are rather small, and do not seem formed for strength. The men are reckoned re-

**Agility.**

markably swift and active in their persons, although their dispositions are lazy and listless. The Boschermen Hottentots, who now are well known to be the aborigines of this country, are particularly distinguished for their activity, and will keep up with a horse at full speed for a considerable time. This has been found true on experience by several of our countrymen. General Vandeleur, though very well mounted, in making away from a party of them, whom he accidentally encountered, narrowly escaped being hasagayed or killed with their spears. Some of them have one of their testicles cut out, whilst they are young, to increase their speed; and all have a method of pushing them up into the abdomen, where from habit they remain, and exhibit the same appearance as if they were totally deprived of them. It is indeed truly astonishing to see them run without once stopping for several miles, at the same time carrying their arms, which are generally hasagayes or spears, headed with iron, which they throw with such dexterity as to hit an object of the size of a card at forty, fifty, or sixty yards distance. Besides these, they carry huge clubs, bows and arrows always poisoned, and small lances and darts. Their weapons are poisoned with juice extracted from certain herbs and plants, or from the heads of snakes, particularly the puff-adder and speckled snake, peculiar to the Cape. Gin, brandy, and tobacco, constitute their chief luxuries. The dress of the Hottentot men, in an uncivilized state, is a kind of cloak, called a kroess, made of sheep-skin thrown over their shoulders, and fastened at their

breasts with a leather thong or wooden skewer. In the cold season they wear this kroess with the wool inside, and it then also serves them for a covering when they lie down to sleep, as they have a peculiar manner of contracting themselves, and drawing up their limbs under it. For covering to their lower extremities, they wear some pieces of sheep-skin wrapped about them, and loosely sewed together. On their heads they have a cap or piece of skin of a conic shape, tied under the chin. Pieces of tanned leather or sheep-skin, wrapped round their feet, and tied on with dried guts or slips of leather, bound round the ancles, serve them for shoes. Several strings of dried guts and sinews of beasts are suspended round their necks and bodies, which as well as their covering they occasionally eat when pressed for food, and too lazy to go in search of it. They constantly wear a pouch and belt of sheep-skin to hold a knife and a pipe with tobacco, as they are fond to excess of smoking. A piece of wood burned at both ends hangs from their arms, as an amulet or charm against witchcraft, of which they are much afraid. Some have strings of brass, copper, beads, or fish bones polished by way of ornament. Dutch money, such as gilders and skillings, they also wear as pieces of finery.

Women.

The women are much lower in stature than the men, and very ill made. The chief difference between the dress of the male and female Hottentot is, that the latter wears an apron of sheep-skin before and behind. The back, neck, shoulders, and legs of the females are bare; their hair is

covered by a little cap of sheep skin. Some of the higher order among them are very grotesque in their appearance. I have observed their heads ornamented with short plumes of ostrich, turkey, and other feathers, mixed with strings of brass beads, hollow inside, which made a strange jingling noise. Round their arms and legs were several strings of the same, or of fish bones. The rattling of these ornaments, with the crackling of the sun-dried sheep skins, produces an uncommon noise as they walk along; and it is by the loudness of this noise, that the rank of the wearer is denoted. Several of the children and young girls, that I saw, were tolerably well made, and had some appearance of symmetry in their shape and make; for whilst young, the Hottentots are far from being so deformed as one might imagine from seeing them when full grown. The women soon lose every appearance of symmetry, the belly protrudes, and the posteriors also become remarkably large and prominent. The great hollow in the lower part of the back towards the spine, and the wonderful prominency of the parts beneath, form indeed a marked characteristic of the females of this race. But few of the men are shaped in this remarkable manner; some indeed are so in a slight degree, yet I have seen many as straight and well built men among the Hottentots, as among any other black race. The protuberances of the women's bodies, before and behind, give their shapes the appearance of an S; and to attain this form completely is accounted a great beauty. The protuberances seem composed of one large loose mass of



fat, and when they walk, these shake and quiver like a pyramid of jelly. It is a current opinion here, that this part of the body of a Hottentot woman will not dissolve or putrify after death, along with the other parts of their flesh, but will remain in a mass, not unlike spermaceti. The print which is given by M. Vaillant of another peculiarity in the female structure, I can affirm, from the coinciding testimony of many good judges at the Cape, to be extremely incorrect; but the discussion of this subject I leave to scientific researchers.

Huts.

The huts of the Hottentots are miserably poor and small, shaped like a bee-hive, with a small hole or door-way, through which they are obliged to creep on all fours. The fire place is always in the centre of the hut, to allow the whole family to sleep round it, which they always do with their feet towards the fire; and as their fires are generally made of green wood, the smoke is intolerable to others, although from habit endurable to themselves. To this cause is to be attributed the dull appearance of their eyes, and the soreness with which most of them seem affected. The constant smoke, however, has the effect of keeping off flies and other vermin, engendered in the filth and corrupted pieces of flesh and guts, which are every where scattered about their huts. The houses of every distinct tribe are ranged in a form nearly circular, or like a crescent; and during the day they lie without, in the open space before their huts, basking in the sun.

Dogs.

A number of ugly looking half-starved dogs constantly

attend them, of which they are very fond; as they are useful to them in hunting, and are also trained to take care of their cattle, and frighten off wolves and hyenas. The Dutch keep a number of these animals for the same purpose; they are large and strong, and much resemble that species called the wolf dog.

I was highly entertained by seeing a number of Hottentots dance to an instrument played on by a young woman. <sup>Amuse-ments.</sup> It was a piece of deal board, three feet long and one broad; four or five strings of brass wire were stretched along it, and supported at each end by bridges or bits of upright wood, like those of our fiddles. In this rude sort of guitar, which they called a gabowie, was inserted a piece of looking glass, of which they are immoderately fond. It was fixed in the centre of the board; and the young woman who played, kept stedfastly looking at herself in it, and grinning with great complacency at the beauty of her round hunched figure. She kept touching the wires with a quill, whilst a dozen of the men formed a ring round her, dancing and violently beating the ground with their feet and sticks; they continued also incessantly to place themselves in the most grotesque attitudes, yet still with some reference to the player. Another woman, for the females it would seem are the musicians, and the men the dancers, accompanied the former on a goura. This instrument is formed by strings of dried gut, or sinews of deer, twisted into a cord and fastened to a hollow stick, about three feet in length, by a peg, which, on being turned round, brings the cord to

a proper degree of tension. At the other end, the cord is placed on quills; and the instrument is played on by applying the mouth to the quills, which by the successive processes of respiration and inspiration, produce a faint noise like an Eolian harp. I was very nearly the innocent cause of turning their mirth into a bloody quarrel; for on throwing amongst them a few pieces of small coin, they began to scramble for them with the utmost violence; the men had even recourse to their clubs, and several severe blows had passed between them, before the effects of my inadvertent liberality could be done away. However I did not leave them till harmony was restored, and they had resumed their amusements. They first, however, endeavoured to procure something more from me, and begged hard for brandy, which is their favourite liquor.

The Dutch have ever held the Hottentots in the greatest contempt, and never thought them worth an attempt to introduce civilization among them. A very unjust opinion has ever been held out, that in understanding, and the powers of the mind, they scarcely deserve to be ranked with human creatures; and are but little above the level of the brute creation. Whenever I asked a Dutchman any question concerning them, he looked as if he thought the subject too contemptible to deserve an answer. When I first arrived at the Cape, and saw the miserable kraels I have just mentioned, and the wretched inhabitants absolutely in that state of nature described by travellers, I own that my opinion of them was little different from that of the Dutch. But when

a few years afterwards I saw the corps of Hottentots in our service; and conversed with the English officers who had an opportunity of knowing them, and the qualities they naturally possessed, as well as the state they were capable of being brought to, I had reason to conceive a more favourable opinion of the dispositions, as well as the talents of a Hottentot. This corps formed a regiment, upwards of seven hundred strong, many of them fine, active, and soldier-like fellows; they seemed well disciplined, and many exhibited a pride in their gait, that would do credit to an European soldier. They seemed much attached to the English; and when sent at different periods into the interior, against the Caffres and Boschies, with other detachments, they proved equally faithful and obedient, and shewed a degree of courage and discipline, evidently the effect of the attention paid them by their British officers. Much praise is due to Major Fielder King, of the 91st regiment, for the good discipline and management of that corps.

Should ever the Cape fall permanently into the hands of Great Britain, those people under proper management, may speedily arrive at a great degree of civilization. Their industry may be excited, and be turned to produce the most important advantages to the colony. By instructing them in the arts of husbandry, by accustoming them to a mild and equitable treatment, by granting them those rights which ought to be common to the whole human race, although barbarously withheld from them by the Dutch; the Hottentots would speedily be allured from

the remote parts and wilds of the interior of Africa, to colonize the country nearer the Cape. The progress of civilization would soon inspire those already in the colony with confidence in themselves, as a people who have a certain part to act in life, and recover them from that state of utter degradation to which they have been reduced; while the knowledge of the comforts of life, and the means by which they are to be procured, would stimulate them to exertions of which they are at present incapable. Let this mode of conduct be once adopted towards them, and its good effects will soon appear on the face of the country; advantages will speedily be obtained that perhaps have never hitherto even been thought of.

The people of the interior, the Caffrees and Boschies, may in the same manner be gradually conciliated, by promoting a friendly intercourse between them and the Hottentots, hitherto under the authority of the Europeans, instead of keeping up a desultory warfare against them, which can never be attended with any good effects. Those people, like Cain, fly from the face of man, and with him they may justly exclaim, "Where shall I hide myself? my race is detested, is accursed; every man beholds me with detestation, and seeks my destruction." These strong terms do not overdraw the wretched state of the Hottentots, for the Dutch actually hunted them like wild beasts, and destroyed them wherever they met with them. This naturally enraged the wild Hottentots, who had not yet lost all the feelings of men, and excited them often to make excursions

against both the Dutch planters, and those Hottentots who acknowledged their authority. Yet it was not for the sake of shedding blood, nor from an implacable sanguinary disposition, as the Dutch were willing to have it believed, that these unfortunate people made incursions on their oppressors; they seldom did so, but to retaliate some recent injury, to recover their cattle which had been torn from them, and to enforce their own security in those wild and barren tracts, to which they had been driven. These facts, disgraceful to the possessors of the Cape, will be confirmed by the united testimony of all who have long resided at this colony, and have candour enough to confess what they have witnessed.

The Boschies Hottentots, in some respects, differ from those who live nearer the Cape and acknowledge the Dutch authority. A few that I saw at Cape Town seemed to me to differ externally, merely in colour; they being yellower and not of such a dirty hue as those of the colony. In colour they resemble the Chinese, and are not unfrequently called here, Chinese Hottentots. This difference of colour is probably occasioned by their not so often anointing their bodies with soot, grease, buckee powder, and such like preparations; for the young Hottentots of every description are of a much brighter yellow than those grown to manhood, on whom those preparations have had time to take effect.

The Boschies  
Hottentots.

The Boschies are looked on as of a more cruel, hardened, and savage disposition than the Hottentots at the Cape, although I could discover nothing of this in the appearance of those I saw.

This race are undoubtedly mortal enemies to the Dutch nation; but their hatred originates from the cruel and unjust manner in which they have been treated. No endeavours have ever been made by the Dutch to civilize them, and to make them more tractable or of use to the colony. This however might, without difficulty, be effected by adopting proper measures, if we can form an opinion from such of that people as have been made slaves, and remained in the service of the colonists, or those who voluntarily become hired servants. When the Dutch first settled here, none of that barbarous or vindictive disposition, which is supposed to characterise the Boschies, appeared, as the Hottentots of every part cheerfully assisted the colonists, and entered into traffic with them; till being dispossessed of their inheritance, both land and cattle, and gradually pushed back into the more rude and uncultivated parts, they quite withdrew from all connection with the Europeans, and to revenge themselves, carried on a continual warfare against them, in conjunction with their neighbours, the Caffrees. Though sometimes desperate in their encounters, they are generally extremely fearful and timid, and seldom stand when attacked. Though accounted savage and inhuman, they often treat accidental strangers, and white people, with gentleness and kindness. At times indeed they make incursions against the colonists, kill them wherever they can find them unprepared or unable to resist, and drive away their cattle. The colonists in the remote parts are in consequence often obliged to desert their farms and assemble together to op-

pos them. From their secret places the Boschies issue out at night, and attempt the more distant and lonesome houses. It is quite useless to pursue them in their retreat, as they are so swift of foot, and so used to the mountains. When closely pursued, they suddenly stop, and roll huge stones down the steps at their pursuers, or stopping behind a rock or thicket, aim with certain effect a poisoned dart or arrow.

The planters pursue them with great avidity, and never spare any, except for slaves. At certain places are posts for the farmers to assemble with dogs, in order to hunt these unfortunate people; and whenever they are surprised by the Dutch, a cruel massacre never fails to ensue. The government has scarcely ever taken cognizance of this barbarous proceeding; or if any notice was taken of it, it served only to shew what little account was made of the dictates of humanity. A few humane and virtuous citizens of Cape Town, indeed, remonstrated against the inhuman cruelty of the planters; but their efforts have been attended with no success; and the Boschies are still left to the mercy of the unprincipled peasants, who chuse to seize their properties, and either murder the possessors or reduce them to the more lamentable fate of slaves for life.

It is not to be denied that if this colony were in our hands, a considerable difficulty would be felt in restoring that harmony between the planters and the Boschies, which a long course of injuries on the one hand, and revènge on the



other, have so completely banished. Of this we have had a signal example when it was last in our possession; and it was not without the aid of a military force, that either the Dutch peasants could be restrained from the renewing their atrocities, or the Hottentots from committing the most cruel acts of retaliation.

## CHAPTER VI.

*Description of the Country round Wineberg.—An Encampment and Quarters for Troops—Some Military Observations on this Post—Fertility of the neighbouring Country—Farms and Plantations numerous—Game plenty—Wild Animals—Village of Round Bosch—Tiger Hill—First View of the Cape Town from this Side—Table Bay—The Hills and Country round described—Description of Cape Town—Remarks by the Author on the Mode of attacking the Batteries—Amsterdam Battery—The Castle—Situation of Cape Town—Streets—Healthiness of it—Regulations of the Dutch to prevent Infectious Disorders—Company's Gardens—Government House.*

WINEBERG itself is a level low plain, thickly covered in various places, where the sandy tracts do not interfere, with shrubs and brush-wood, which in India would be called jungle. Parallel to this tract, on the left hand, the ground gradually rises to the hills at the back of Hoet's and Chapman's Bay, and runs all the way to Witte Boem and the angle of the Tigerberg, (commonly called Devil Hill) and the back of the Table Mountain. This more elevated tract is covered with heath, long grass, flowers, and a few bushes, which in the dry season catch fire and often burn with great fury, endangering the encampment

Description  
of Wineberg  
and the coun-  
try round.