

the earth here is in those minerals; veins of lead and iron ore have indeed been occasionally discovered near the Cape, but scarcely ever further noticed. I am inclined to believe that no miner has ever been employed in the colony. The discovery of considerable veins of these ores would be an infinite addition to the value of the country; and the advantages to be derived from them is sufficient to justify the application of no small proportion of both labour and expense in the inquiry; particularly after the favourable symptoms which have already occurred. Iron, tin, copper, might be a great staple trade from the Cape to South America, Madagascar, and the isles of the Pacific Ocean. Coal I should imagine might be procured from the trial made near the Tiger Hill, when Lord Macartney was Governor. A vein was discovered of considerable extent, but from the embarrassed state of a newly conquered colony, and the want of people to work it properly, very little was taken up, and the mine afterwards entirely neglected. The coal, though not equal in quality to what is generally used in England, might very well serve for the kitchens, where in fact fires are only used in the colony. In regard to the investigation of the valuable substances contained in the bowels of the earth, the conduct of the Dutch has been the same as on all other respects. To the cultivation of grain, vegetables, fruits, and such trees as being naturally of a hardy kind, require little attention in the rearing and planting, their industry was sometimes able to extend; but whatever required further exertion, even where gain was evi-

dently the ultimate reward, the indolence of these degenerate colonists prevailed even over their avarice.

A sulphureous stratum is common in many spots. Hot mineral springs of a medicinal quality are found near Stellenbosch, and in parts of Hottentot Holland; they are often used by the Dutch in consumptive habits, and for purifying the blood.

As the warm baths in the country of Hottentot Holland have been often mentioned as effecting great cures, and are much resorted to, the following account of them may be acceptable, and perhaps hereafter useful to some of my countrymen. They were discovered by the Hottentots who used them when attacked with those epidemic and violent bilious fevers to which they are subject. Afterwards the Dutch made trial of them in various cases, but had been some time in the habit of using them before they could ascertain the benefits to be derived from, and the complaints particularly alleviated by, their use. During Lord Macartney's government they were analyzed by the English medical gentlemen at the Cape; and partly from their researches, and partly from what I learnt from respectable Dutch gentlemen, some of whom had experienced their efficacy, I have derived the following account. These baths are situated beneath a range of mountains known by the name of Zwarteberg or Black Mountains. Along the edges of the rivulets or streams issuing from the warm springs are several kinds of reeds, flowers, and herbs, which grow without being in any way affected by the warm water with which they are washed. The taste of those waters is

strongly tinctured with a metallic flavour; and are supposed by some to have a mixture of sulphur, though many who have tried them will not allow them this ingredient. The water is rather disagreeable to the palate, and considerably acid; though when swallowed it does not create any great uneasiness to the stomach or bowels. One of the springs has an extremely nauseous smell, much resembling the Harrowgate waters; which corroborates the opinion of some English medical gentlemen that it contains sulphureous ingredients. Concerning the original formation of these baths, it is generally believed that they have been produced by earthquakes or some subterraneous convulsion; and that they are probably supplied by some hidden fires in the bowels of the mountains. At some little distance are rocks, and large loose pieces of stone, which have all the marks of being forced out of the earth by some violent convulsions. They still retain marks of lava over various parts of them; and amidst their clefts and cavities a substance appears of a darkish grey colour with particles of iron ore, apparently united by the force of fire into one mass.

Such convulsions, and perhaps subterraneous fires, do not seem to be confined to the immediate neighbourhood of these warm baths. Small blackish substances like burnt cinders have been shewn me at the Cape found amongst the earth, and mixed in considerable quantities with it. They seemed to have been produced by the effects of volcanoes or earthquakes. All the country round is very deficient in springs, and few attempts to sink wells have been

attended with success. In several parts contiguous to Cape Town, particularly near Witte Boem, and the south-west part of the Table, I have seen warm springs issuing from a rocky soil. Their heat I very sensibly felt on dipping my hand into them; and the water had a strong taste of iron ore. On steeping the leaves of herbs and roots of rushy plants for a few minutes in it, the water constantly turned of a pale violet or purple hue. I also tried it with tea, which tinged it of a deep purple colour.

The water from the warm baths, on the application of various ingredients, was sensibly affected and changed its colour to several different shades. Sugar of lead drew a quantity of foul, slimy, matter to the bottom; and was the only substance it was mixed with when it retained its proper colour; but it gave the water a much clearer and more refined appearance. It also caused a number of air bubbles to rise so rapidly upwards as to produce a hissing noise on being first put into the glass.

Copperas changed it to a brownish colour. Quicksilver kept up for some time a violent motion; and on the smallest touch applied to the glass it repeated its agitation. Gold had no effect; but silver, when taken out, tasted like zinc. Tea made it more of a reddish than purple colour; on being left some time, the high colour was considerably lost, although it still continued to remain towards the bottom of the vessel. Such were the results of certain experiments I saw made on these waters; the causes of the several changes will be understood by those conversant in chemistry.

The Dutch built a tolerable house close by the dome, which covered the principal bath, for the accommodation of company resorting to it; which numbers did annually, but more from the country parts than Cape Town. The building containing the bath is merely a slight and miserable shed. The water runs from the spring a little way under ground, when it is conveyed by a wooden trough into the pits or sunken floors, where the bathers sit up to their chins in the water, which is very warm but not inconveniently so. The time necessary to remain is about eight or ten minutes; when its effects appear in causing a strong sensation of external heat, increasing the pulse, and producing a faintishness. The patient is then assisted out, and lays himself down on a bench well covered up, where he continues to perspire for a quarter of an hour. If there is occasion to force perspiration, he drinks a glass of the water. When this operation is over, he is washed as quickly as possible in the bath, and then well rubbed and dressed. This process is sometimes repeated twice or thrice every day. The Dutch do not allow blacks or Hottentots the use of this bath; there are some other springs contiguous which are thought good enough for them. These second rate baths are not covered in, nor the patient there much attended to. Indeed much improvement and many additional conveniences are required at the bath used by the colonists themselves. For instance the water is suffered to come some distance from the spring in the open air before it is received into the house; by which it must lose a

good deal of its strength and medicinal quality. Instead of glass vessels to drink from, a large iron ladle is made use of, which from the quality of the water is seldom clean, and cannot tend much to reconcile the stomach of a sick patient to the medicine. Considerable benefits might also be expected from a proper regulation of the seasons of bathing; and still more from ascertaining the particular diseases in which this remedy is really efficacious. In the dry season the water is much hotter than in the wet; yet in the latter they seldom make use of it. The Dutch apply to these springs for relief in a variety of disorders, and in some of which the bath has been found extremely hurtful. Consumptive and bilious habits are often cured. The strong perspirations which the waters cause seem to expel the noxious humours from the body and clear the lungs. Head aches and spasms in the chest, as well as rheumatic complaints, are greatly relieved by them. Sores, eruptions, and ulcers, have not derived that benefit from them which was expected. The Cape physicians were by no means men of science; they neither understood the composition of the waters, nor frequently the nature of the complaints for which they recommended them to their patients. Many instances have occurred of bad effects produced by recourse to these waters in improper cases; and where in such cases cures have been obtained, they may be attributed rather to a good constitution and habit of body than to any effect of the waters themselves. Some medical gentlemen, my countrymen, with whom I have conversed on this subject, seemed

to have but an indifferent opinion of them. Their chief effects are ascribed to the violent perspiration, which enables the system to throw out any morbid humours which it may have contracted.

The farmers, as well as some of the Cape people, make use of those baths as much from caprice as from any certainty of their medicinal virtues; and without once considering whether the remedy is applicable to the disease or not. This is particularly the case in all sores and swellings of the legs, which often demand a very different mode of cure. The most dangerous of these swellings are occasioned by worms of immense length, a complaint to which Europeans are very subject in the East-Indies. This worm, which is sometimes three, four, or even six feet long, is bred in the calf and lower part of the leg. I have seen some most painful instances of this kind; and great care, dexterity, and management, are required to eradicate it completely; for if the worm breaks in the operation of extracting, and any part is left behind, a mortification is usually the consequence. When the worm, which is very thin and white, is perceived moving about, an incision is made in the patient's leg, and the lower and upper part bound tight, leaving a space for the creature to move and turn about. A poultice to open and draw the sore is then applied, and the worm soon makes its appearance at the surface. At first but a few inches of the worm can be laid hold of, and this portion is carefully twisted round a quill. It then begins to give way a little more, and by degrees

is twisted completely round, perhaps several inches in the course of a day, till at length it is wholly extracted. Sometimes nearly a month is required before this operation is accomplished. The strictest attention is necessary to keep the animal closely twisted to the quill, to prevent him from making exertions and breaking: as then the leg must either mortify, or undergo a very painful operation, and be laid open to get out the remainder. The patient is in great agony during the operation, and the leg generally swells to an enormous size. Brackish and bad water is a cause assigned for this disorder. The physicians, or rather quacks, belonging to the colony seem to understand little or nothing of the proper mode of treating these and other ulcerous affections. Blotches and sores are the natural consequences of their gross manner of living; and these diseases seem, in many instances, to be hereditary among several of the Dutch as well as the native Hottentots. The latter are very skilful in curing several kinds of sores by means of herbs, pounding them between stones, and applying them to the parts affected. Even poisonous wounds are dexterously cured by the Hottentots, and I believe latterly few are known to die from wounds merely on account of their being poisoned. I have seen many kinds of the poisons they use in warfare, and brought with me home some arrows dipped in a kind of blackish composition like pitch. I have tried its effects on dogs, two of which died in consequence, though it was nearly a year since it had been put on the arrow. One of the dogs survived three days, the other died much swoln and convulsed in a few hours.

CHAPTER X.

Different Species of wild Quadrupeds—Opinion concerning the Unicorn—Various Species of Antelope and Deer—Domestic Animals—Oxen and horned Cattle—Sheep—Birds—Wild Fowl—Ostriches—Wild Peacocks and many other Species found here—Venomous Animals and Reptiles—Obnoxious Insects and Creatures of the Fly Species.

Quadrupeds. **T**HE various animals, which inhabit this part of the world, are extremely numerous; some are accounted peculiar to the Cape. Amongst the wild quadrupeds are the lion, the elephant, tiger, leopard, hyena, wolf, tiger-cat, jackal, rhinoceros, buffaloe, wild-hog, camelopard, and the hypopotamus. The elephant, the rhinoceros, and the camelopard, live far in the interior; excepting those last I have seen all the rest in the neighbourhood of the Cape. It is positively asserted by many that the unicorn is found in the deserts of Caffraria. I often endeavoured to ascertain the much-disputed existence of this animal; my repeated inquiries however ended only in increasing my doubts of the fact, for I could never find out any person who had seen it with his own eyes, or heard it described by a person who had. The horn which is often shewn as belonging to the unicorn, is that of a large and peculiar species of antelope, which I have frequently seen in India, and which in this particular much resembles what the unicorn is de-

Wild.

Unicorn said to be an inhabitant.

scribed to be, having one large horn growing in the middle of his forehead. One of those horns nearly three feet long, in the possession of a gentleman at the Cape, is shewn as belonging to the unicorn.

The lion is now become a very rare visitor of the Cape; he usually keeps far in the interior, though he has lately been met with on the borders of the colony.

Hyenas and wolves are numerous in every part, and do a great deal of mischief. Of the deer, antelope, and goat, several species are found at the Cape, and are known there by the following names: the spring-bock, the stein-bock, bosch-bock, riet-bock, duiker-bock, gries-bock, bonte-bock, haart-beast, common deer, large antelope, small antelope, and the little spotted deer, which is not larger than a hare, and seems to partake of the nature of both animals. Many of those animals are met with in abundance near Cape Town, and are often produced at the tables of the inhabitants.

The duiker-bock, or diving-goat, derives its name from its plunging and springing amongst the bushes when closely pursued. It is about the size of the common deer, of a dirty brown colour with two long straight horns of a blacker hue, tapering gradually from the forehead to the point. These animals spring so suddenly, and with such violence forward, when you come upon them in the marshy and sedgy grounds, that a stranger is apt to imagine himself attacked by a more dangerous foe. The gries-bock is also of the size of a common deer, but bears a considerable re-

semblance to a goat: its colour is greyish, and the hair loose and frizzled. This species is very plentiful, and does a great deal of mischief to the gardens and vineyards in the night time; it is exceedingly swift, and none of the wild beasts of prey can overtake it. The bonte-bock and haart-beast are uncommonly large, and are chiefly found in the interior parts: I never saw them at the Cape. Buffaloes are numerous in the Caffree country, and are much the same as those of India, being equally wild, fierce, and untractable. Hares and rabbits are numerous, particularly on Robin Island and at Saldahna. Various kinds of small quadrupeds abound, such as armadilloes, ant-bears, mongooses, racoons, squirrels, ichnucmons.

Monkeys, as I have already observed, are common at the Cape, but are not of so many different species as in India. The baboons seem to be the predominant race here. Those are extremely numerous, and exceedingly ugly and disgusting; as well as mischievous and brutal to a great degree. All the hills are infested with them, and it is dangerous for an individual to fall in the way of a number of them. Instances have occurred of their attacking the Hottentots; and particularly the female Hottentot, if she comes in their way, they will attempt to force her person, and even kill her on resisting their designs. The Cape baboon is as large as a middling sized dog, but much thicker in the body, which is covered with long hair of a greyish or bluish colour. When he stands up he is upwards of four feet high. These animals are vicious, subtle, and brutal; their tricks

and cunning are different from those of the small monkey. Instead of the gaiety and activity of the latter, they seem unsocial, dull, awkward, and malignant. They are frequently kept by the soldiers chained to posts before the tents, and led about the streets by the slaves and blacks. The Dutch however never allow them to be introduced into their houses; for if a child comes within their reach by accident, or if they by any means get loose, they will not fail to commit the most barbarous cruelty.

The domestic animals are few; chiefly consisting of horses, sheep, goats, and oxen. The horses at the Cape were originally brought from Batavia, Java, and South America, although these are intermixed with breeds from different other parts of the world. They are generally a small hardy race, and bear a great deal of fatigue. I have already remarked the little attention paid to the training and breeding of them by the Dutch. Their entire neglect of the outward appearance of their horses tended to impress strangers with a still worse idea of the breed; for they never suffered their tails to be cut on account of the number of flies which attack and fret them; nor indeed scarcely ever dressed their manes and coats; so that the stud of even a respectable Dutch burgher seemed rough and ill-conditioned, and had the appearance of those sorry animals used for draught and such purposes by our common peasantry in Wales and Ireland. The improvement made by the English in the appearance of the horses at the Cape, by their care and attention in the management and breeding of them, was very

Domestic
animals.
Horses.

considerable. I observed a kind of bluish spotted and strawberry colour to be a prevailing cast. When the 28th dragoons were first mounted here, they had great trouble in breaking in the Cape horses, they being very vicious and addicted to kicking and plunging. In the interior are still to be found some wild horses originating from the race which was turned loose to breed shortly after the Dutch arrived.

Zebra.

The zebra, which has something of the horse species, is very common in the remote parts of the colony, and is a native of Africa. It is a beautiful creature, and resembles the horse, the mulc, and the ass, in its make and proportions. Its colour is a beautiful brown and regularly striped, resembling very much some parts of a tiger's skin. For a full description of this animal I shall refer my readers to Buffon; but must observe that in his account he says it is wild, untractable, and incapable of being tamed; though I have seen the zebra as mild and gentle as our common ass, quietly grazing near Cape Town, and allowing people to approach and handle it.

Goats.

Goats are much esteemed at the Cape on account of their milk, and the number of kids they bring forth; there are various species of them, several differing from ours in Europe. The cows and oxen are also of various kinds; the large draft oxen are peculiar to the Cape and this part of Africa. They are distinguished by a large head, long horns and legs, with very broad hoofs; they are lank before and broad behind. A race of beautiful small oxen, like those of Alderney, are fattened for table; and the cows of

Cows and
oxen.

this breed afford a great quantity of milk. The beef however at the Cape is in general coarse and indifferent; for the Dutch scarcely ever keep up cattle as we do in particular meadows and places where they meet with sweet and nourishing grass. The butchers generally buy from the farmers in the country, and kill the beasts immediately after coming off a long journey, tired, jaded, and their fat all spent; consequently their flesh is dry and tough, and its flavour is besides much depraved by the sour acrid grass and shrubs they are accustomed to feed upon. A bullock will sell for ten, twelve, or fifteen rix-dollars, or from thirty shillings to two pounds ten shillings British. The head and inside parts of the beast were formerly never used by the Dutch but given to the slaves and Hottentots or thrown away; as were also the same parts of the sheep; but since the British have resided amongst them, they have learnt to sell those parts as well as the carcase, and likewise to dress them for their tables. The Dutch observing our soldiers, who were generally Scotsmen, carrying away the sheep and bullocks' heads to make soup, inquired if they made use of that part of the beast; and finding this to be the case, they immediately set a price upon them, at first about a penny a picce; but this was soon increased to a schillen or two, when they understood how much soup made with these parts was esteemed by our countrymen. Veal is very rare at the tables of the Cape.

Mutton is the principal part of the food of the Dutch Sheep. and black inhabitants at the Cape. Sheep are abundant in

every part of the colony. They are entirely different from those of Europe. The Cape sheep are tolerably large, but by no means look so well as ours; nor is the mutton of so good a flavour, being much coarser and stronger. The wool is more like frizzled hair than the fleece of European sheep, and of no other use than to stuff common mattresses or beds for the slaves. Their colour is a dirty brown, but they are of various shades. Some are spotted, black and white, others resemble our brown goats and strawberry coloured horses. They are uncommonly long legged. Their bodies appear thin, particularly across the fore-quarters, and across the ribs which proceeds from their having no fat about their loins or intestines, and having no bushy fleece to make them appear larger and broader. In their rumps and tails is concentrated the whole of their fat. Their tails are excessively broad, flat, and short; the under part being quite bald. One of them will weigh from nine to eighteen pounds. The fat is of a hard consistence, and when melted has the appearance of oil. They save all the tails with great care, and after melting them, preserve them in a tub, like lard; this they use in many cases where butter is required, basting and stewing their meat with it for their own tables; and they commonly feed their slaves with goat's flesh, offals of sheep, beef and vegetables stewed in the fat of these tails. The price of a sheep, before our arrival at the Cape, was from a rix-dollar to one and a half; now it is double, as the Dutch were careful to make the English pay handsomely for every thing.

Dogs are numerous; and there are many species all different from ours. Some are found in the interior parts of the colony in a wild state, and resemble the wolf species. In every Dutch house are a great number of dogs, either the property of the master, the slave, or the Hottentot. No person of any rank wishes to go out without one or two of these animals. The larger species has much of the wolf dog in its shape and countenance; the smaller are nearly similar to our cabin curs, and have something of the fox in their breed. They are all miserable, half-starved looking animals, full of blotches and sores, with scarcely any hair, and are very disgusting, especially crawling about as they are in swarms every where. They are however occasionally very useful in hunting game, scenting wild beasts, and driving off the jackalls at night. As soon as the jackalls find their prey at the back and skirts of the town, they begin their howling directly, which is a signal to a vast number of the town dogs, who, as if by previous agreement, rush out in a body and attack them.

Pigs are very scarce, not being much esteemed, and few are reared. I hardly recollect seeing one whilst at the Cape. They have in the interior different species of wild hog.

The feathered race are very numerous, and many of a beautiful plumage. The hills have eagles, vultures, and kites, hovering over them, and those and other ravenous birds come to the skirts of the town, and assist in clearing it of dead animals and filth. The crows are seen very busy in

all the streets, and are thus of the greatest use; on which account they are not allowed to be shot or molested.

Penguins, cormorants, divers, and many species of the crane kind, as also Cape snipes, ducks, teals, and widgeons, are in abundance. Those may be easily procured by giving a little powder and shot to a slave or Hottentot, who thinks himself well recompensed by the sport for his labour. There are some of those people constantly employed to procure game for the tables of their masters. The Dutch gentlemen at Cape Town seldom exert themselves, or take any pleasure in this amusement. Ostriches are often met with near Cape Town and Stellenbosch; they are inhabitants of every part of the interior. I have seen several at the Cape Town quietly grazing or feeding about the streets and fields adjoining. When erect and walking, the ostrich is taller than a man; their long neck and gait give them an appearance not unlike that of the camel. Their feet are long, and as thick as those of an ass, with three strong and thick toes. Some are blackish, others of a dirty greyish or ash colour, with a little white under the belly and wings. They are prevented from flying by the contracted form and smallness of the wing, in proportion to the rest of the body, and their great weight; but they run exceedingly fast, and by flapping their wings accelerate their motion, and keep themselves cool. Their bill is something like the goose, and the jaw and gullet are very wide and distended. The ostrich egg is as large as a 12lb. shot, and is eaten by

the black people. These eggs are sold in the market place of Cape Town for threepence each. The Hottentots are very ingenious in carving figures of elephants, antelopes, ostriches, and other animals on the shells, which is done with a sharp instrument like an awl or bodkin; it is then rubbed over with a black greasy substance, which never wears out of the punctures and lines drawn in the engraving.

When the English first got possession of the Cape, ostrich feathers were remarkably cheap, and easy to be obtained; but the Dutch seeing the eagerness of the English to procure them, raised the price immediately. When I first touched at the Cape I could get a very good one for half a rix-dollar, but on my second arrival I paid from one and a half to two rix-dollars, and they were then very scarce. In consequence of the ready sale and high price the Dutch obtained from us, the farmers and country people killed a great number of ostriches, and sent them to the town. Sir George Young fearing they might all be destroyed, except in the very remote parts of the colony, issued strict orders to prevent their being killed, and enacting a very severe penalty against those who disobeyed. Besides the ostrich there were several other birds of rare and beautiful plumage prohibited from being shot.

Peacocks of the same species as ours are numerous. The wild peacock is more beautiful, and generally found near the farmers' houses about Stellenbosch. It is an excellent bird for the table. It was called a bustard by our countrymen from its resemblance in size and shape to that bird.

Wild peacocks.

A penalty of twenty rix-dollars was laid on those who shot one of them by Sir George Young, who introduced the game laws at the Cape, and obliged every one to take out a license before he could use a fowling piece. Partridges, pheasants, and bustards of various kinds, are in great plenty all over the settlement. The Cape grouse is a species of pheasant. The jungle bird of Asia, with the double spur, is found here. The pelican is also a native. The flamingo is a common inhabitant of the pools and marshes; this bird is larger than a crane, but of the same shape, having a long thin neck and legs; the wings, back, and part of the belly a beautiful vermillion, the rest of the plumage a clear white. The grenadier bird is so called from the tuft on his head resembling the cap formerly worn by grenadiers. Its plumage is beautiful. The long-tailed bullfinch with two long feathers in his tail has a black plumage, mixed with yellow and crimson. Parrots and paroquets of different kinds, are got towards the eastward parts of the colony among the woods. Besides the common lowries, there is also a species peculiar to the Cape. Turtle-doves, wild pidgcons, and wood-peckers, are in great abundance. The mountain and Egyptian goose, species much smaller than ours, are inhabitants of the swamps near the corn fields, and do a great deal of mischief to the farmers.

The honey bird, or indicator, is common here in the woods: it has two long feathers in its tail, which on being shot it instantly drops. The secretary bird is a great enemy to serpents and all kinds of reptiles, and often discovers to man where

they are by his watching at the spot. This bird has two long black feathers in his crest or top-knot, which he drops when fired at; but he is seldom shot, except by a stranger who does not know his use, and extraordinary antipathy to the reptile class. Besides those birds here recounted, I have already mentioned several others in the course of my narrative, and there are many more whose names and qualities have necessarily escaped my observation.

Of the reptile class I met with few myself from the little intercourse I had with the interior, where they are much more numerous and dangerous, and where many species of them are to be found, which are almost unknown nearer the Cape. Few of those noxious creatures are to be met with about Cape Town, and the southern extremity of the peninsula. The inhabitants of the Cape Town may enjoy themselves without anxiety or fear of being stung to death in their houses, which is not the case in India, where one is never in complete safety from snakes, serpents, and the different species of poisonous insects, such as centipeds, scorpions, &c. I have more than once had snakes found in my bed room. The hooded snake, or *covre capelle*, so much the terror of the Asiatic world, is an inhabitant of the Cape. Its bite is mortal, and its attack and motions very brisk. By the interposition of Providence, however, this terrible and fatal creature, by its preparation for attack, warns persons to be on their defence or avoid it; for, when angry and vexed, or meditating an attack on any object, it raises itself up from about half the body to the

Reptiles and
venomous
creatures.

height of three or four feet, the remaining part of the body and tail being coiled up to accelerate its spring. When in that position it distends the hood, which is a sort of membrane such as that we find in the wing of a bat, and lying close along the side of the head and neck and over the forehead, enables him to dart at the object of his attack with great force and velocity. When the hood is expanded the creature has a different appearance, being distended like a fan three or four inches on each side in breadth, shewing a curved whitish streak like two horse shoes, and not unlike a pair of spectacles on a man's face. The preparation of expanding it gives time to those within its reach to get away.

The covre manille is not known at the Cape, fortunately for the Hottentots, who, from their lazy habits of always lying in the sands, or basking on the rocks and among the grass, might easily fall the unsuspecting victims of this animal, whose bite is instant death. The puff-adder is often met with: it is so called from its swelling itself out to a great size when enraged; its length is about three feet, and the colour dark brown or blackish, streaked with bluish lines; it is nearly as thick at the tail as the head.

The spring-adder derives its name from springing backwards at its object. Its spring not a little resembles those of a tumbler when exhibiting his feats of activity. In size it is small, from two to three feet in length, but very dangerous, in particular to a stranger who would unavoidably be taken unawares from the manner of its attack. If

you pursue the spring-adder, and he finds he cannot make his escape, when you least expect it, he darts himself backwards at you, and in all probability will bite if he hits you; the bite proves fatal if immediate remedies are not applied to destroy the effects of the poison.

The boem snake, or tree snake, from five to ten feet long, and very thick, is of a dark bluish colour, mixed with white and grey spots; it suspends itself from the branches of trees, and waits for its prey passing under, and from hence it has acquired its name. This reptile often attacks the natives, and darts particularly at the face. A similar species is found in the woods on the Malabar coast.

Grass snakes, and water snakes, are found at the Cape, as also toads and frogs of an immense size. At night the croaking of the frogs annoys one extremely; a great number of them seem to unite in a kind of cadence, and regularly commence each peal of croaking, quite different from any thing known in Europe; when one leaves off all the rest cease immediately.

Scorpions and centipedes are very common. The black Insects. scorpion is large and dangerous. The large black spider is also reckoned amongst the venomous creatures.

Land turtles are every where to be met with crawling about in the sand; the blacks broil them, separate the shell, and eat them; they make excellent soup. The guana is found here, and though so disgusting a creature in appearance, is delicious food, as white and tender as a chicken,

but more rich and luscious; it strongly resembles a young crocodile in shape.

Red and green locusts at certain seasons fly about in great numbers, and do much mischief to the vegetable productions. In the interior the damage they commit is very great to the farmers; whole fields are destroyed, and eaten up in a few hours. The south-east wind is a great enemy to them, dispersing and driving them in vast numbers out to sea. I have, whilst at anchor, seen many come on board tired and exhausted. They are of a very beautiful colour. The Caffrees and Hottentots, like the natives of Egypt, eat them for food at the season when they lose their wings, and are found in heaps on the ground.

Muskittoes though they are found in this climate, and may in the interior parts be troublesome, are not at all so in Cape Town. The small sand fly, which is scarcely visible, annoys one very much in the hot season in passing over the sands. Flies are in swarms all over the houses, and about the yards and offices. The meat and articles on the table, are covered instantly with them, and you can scarcely eat your victuals, or drink out of a vessel, without swallowing a number of them. The ladies at the Cape have small black slave boys, with whisks and bunches of ostrich or peacocks' feathers, standing behind their chairs to keep them off. The horses are much tormented by the flies, particularly one species like our wasp, called the horse fly,

which perseveres in sticking fast till he fills himself with the blood, rendering the animal quite furious and ungovernable with pain; and though you gallop off to get rid of them for a mile or two, yet they persist in following till they have accomplished their object.

Beetles are found of various kinds. The large black beetles are seen busily at work in collecting the dung of horses and oxen, forming it into round balls and rolling it to their habitations. The ingenuity and industry with which they carry on this employment is very surprising. When one of them finds a ball too heavy to be rolled up an ascent, he calls for the assistance of another; and if their united efforts cannot drive this ball before them, they turn their backs and push with their hind parts till they overcome the difficulty. These balls are much larger than marbles, rounded and smoothed with great art and dexterity. There are few things I have taken more pleasure in observing than the laborious and persevering exertions of these ingenious insects.

Cock-roaches are not numerous; and those found here, I believe, are rather brought accidentally in ships from India than natives of the country. Ants of every description abound here, but are not so troublesome, particularly in the houses, as in India. The white ant, commonly called termite, infests the fields and open country, builds nests in the ground, casting up pyramids of earth from three to six feet high of so solid a consistence that it is impenetrable except to a pick-axe. These ants destroy all kinds of

wood which comes in their way. Caterpillars, and those insects which live on fruit, leaves, and vegetables, do much mischief to the cultivated parts, particularly the vine plants.

CHAPTER XI.

Vineyards about Cape Town—Manner of rearing and planting Vines—Mode of making Wine—Various Sorts of Wine made—Bad Management of the Dutch in rearing and planting the Vines—Several Species of an excellent Quality—Constantia Wine—The Farm and Village of Constantia—Quality of the Grape—Other Wines of a superior Quality—Brandy Wine, or Spirits made from the Stalks and Refuse—Sugar Canes—Barley, &c.

I Have now given such a view of the local situation, and of the animal and vegetable productions of the Cape, as will enable the reader to form an idea of what presents itself chiefly to the attention of the visitor of this colony. Before I leave the part of the country south of Cape Town, I have yet to give a view of the village of Constantia and its vineyards, with the manner of planting and rearing the vines at the Cape, their different qualities and the several kinds of wine which are made.

Description of the vineyards, and mode of making wine at the Cape.

About Wineberg, Round-a-bosch, Witte Boem, and other spots in the neighbourhood of Cape Town, are several fields planted with vines, well fenced in and bounded by hedges of low oak trees, myrtle, quince, and others of the shrub kind, to keep off deer and cattle, and to shelter them from the violence of the winds. These fields are also laid

Manner of
rearing the
vines.

out into lesser divisions with hedges, the better to secure the tender shoots from the violence of the blast. The vines are planted and brought up in those enclosed spaces in regular rows or ridges, like drills of potatoes or beans in Europe. They are not suffered to grow up or spread out their branches, except one or two particular species which produce the grapes used at table or dried for raisins; these are permitted to grow and spread in the same way as our hot house vines, and are usually planted against the walls of their houses; the shoots form pretty arbours and shades before the windows, or over the porches of their doors, spreading very much and bearing most abundantly.

In the vineyards the plants are regularly pruned, and never suffered to grow more than three feet high; they are supported by twigs crossing each other, and interwoven to keep the vine shoots from dropping or falling to the ground with the weight of the fruit. These vines have the appearance of low currant bushes, being seldom suffered to grow higher. About Constantia and Wineberg to the south of Cape Town, and eastwards at the villages of Franche Hocke, Drakensteen, the Great and Little Parl, and further on towards Stellenbosch, Swellendam, and the adjoining country, are a great number of vine plantations, and no production here is so abundant or so profitable to the planter. It is computed that an acre of vines may contain about five thousand stocks or shoots which may produce, on a moderate calculation, seven hundred gallons of wine.

Various sorts
of wine.

The wines made at the Cape are of various qualities, and

called Constantia, Muscadel, Moselle, Cape, Madeira, Vin de Grave, and Rhenish; the latter is so called from some resemblance in taste to the European wine bearing the same name. They are all very much inferior to those of Europe; rather from the mode of manufacturing the grape into wine, and from not paying proper attention to the culture and nurture of the plant, than from any natural defect in the quality of the grape: for it is a well known fact, that the grapes in general at the Cape are inferior to none of any part of the world, and some kinds are even much richer than those which, in Europe, produce far superior wines. The Dutch have never arrived to any perfection in the art of making wine, or the rearing of vine shoots. As this subject appeared to me of very considerable importance, I bestowed some pains in collecting information with regard to it, and the observations I was enabled to make may be found not altogether uninteresting. The defects in the Cape wine proceed from the avarice of the planter on the one hand, and his extreme indolence on the other. His contracted disposition prevents him from ever foregoing a little present emolument for much greater acquisitions in prospect. Antipathy to laborious exertion, and a sordid desire of saving, combine to prevent the planters from allowing the grapes to be raised to any height from the ground by standards, as this would require more work and care in the management of them, and a greater expense of wood for supporting the shoots; though at the same time it is allowed that it would materially improve

Bad management of the Dutch in the rearing vines.

the quality of the grape besides adding considerably to the produce. It is indeed natural to suppose that the fruit, by growing so near the ground, imbibes many corrupting particles; nor can it be doubted that it is from the soil in which it grows that the grape derives that particular flavour peculiar to the wine made at the Cape of Good Hope. The Dutch planter also not content with the fruit itself, often mixes both leaves and stalks in the wine-press to increase the quantity by the addition of their juice. The grapes are too often pulled before ripe from the fear of losing any by birds, insects, or other causes; nor is the wine allowed a sufficient time to purify itself by a proper fermentation, and to acquire a ripe and agreeable flavour, but is immediately from the press put into butts which are well caulked up with lime. A quantity of sulphur which at the same time is thrown into it, is all the further means employed for its purification. I have often perceived a sediment in the Cape wine, which when analyzed was found to be impregnated with sugar of lead and sulphureous particles. The Dutch allege that the dearth and scarcity of wood, with the violent winds that often prevail, will not allow them to suffer the grapes to grow higher, and that the juice from the leaves and stalks gives a greater zest to the wine. These arguments upon examination were considered by our countrymen as extremely futile, and not justified by experience. Since the English arrived in the settlement some farmers have at their suggestion considerably improved the quality of their wines,

and have paid more attention to the planting and squeezing the grapes. Our countrymen indeed have it not in their power to become adepts in the making of wine, as that is not a species of produce granted to their climate; but good sense and activity soon find out remedies for defects in new situations; and the English at the Cape found themselves under the necessity of attending seriously to this article from the exorbitant prices which the merchants charged for European wines. At one time the different regimental messes were forced to come to a resolution not to drink any but Cape wine; and this had a temporary effect in lowering the price of port, which had been raised to a degree altogether extravagant. The Cape wine has one good effect on the body, that it keeps it moderately open; and a bottle or two serves to an European as a purgative draught. A constant and free use of it however irritates the bowels, probably proceeding from the sulphur and other substances used in fining it; and perhaps still more from the quality of the wine itself which has naturally a great degree of acidity.

A few Englishmen undertook to make wine here, and for some time succeeded very well; but not having the advantage of a large establishment of slaves, and of being themselves proprietors of the ground, they were at length compelled to abandon their undertaking by the jealousy of the Dutch, who discouraged these adventurers by every means in their power, and employed every art to prevent Englishmen from interfering in this article of trade. The grapes

are in general not inferior to those of Lisbon or France, and are reckoned in many instances, as I have observed, to be of a richer and more luscious quality. It is therefore a matter of serious regret to the possessors of the Cape, that this valuable article has not been more attended to, as the revenue of the colony would be benefited in a degree not to be calculated by an extensive cultivation of vineyards, and a great trade would by this means be established here to all parts of the world. The resources arising from such a trade would at once tend to stimulate the industry of the inhabitants, and afford the means of general improvement. The Dutch hitherto have appeared altogether blind to their true interests: the farmers go on in their old and rude way, equally inattentive to private advantage and the public good. Though the quantity of wine made at the Cape is very considerable, yet it is little esteemed from its poorness and insipidity, and comparatively no advantage is derived from the sale of it to the settlement. In India no Englishman would buy it; nor would a Captain of an East-Indiaman think it worth room in his ship. Were the possession of the Cape of Good Hope to remain permanent with Great-Britain, in some little time, by attention to this valuable article, great and solid advantages might be secured to this country. The British would no longer be compelled to accede to those extravagant demands and extortions of the planters in the island of Madeira, and other foreign countries from whence we are at present under the necessity of purchasing; and less incon-

venience would arise when at war with France and Spain, from our having excellent wines made in a British colony.

The sweet, luscious, and excellent wine called Constantia, Village of Constantia. so highly esteemed in Europe, is made in only one particular spot at the Cape of Good Hope. The village where this wine is made is called Constantia whence it derives its name. The village of Constantia is delightfully situated near the foot of a range of pleasant green hills about half way between Musenberg and Wineberg. It is distant about eight or nine miles from Cape Town, with which it is connected by a pleasant and romantic road, having several very handsome houses and gardens belonging to the Dutch on either side of the way. Every stranger who arrives at the Cape, if his time and other circumstances will allow of it, makes a point of visiting the village of Constantia, and those famous wine plantations; for these with the Table Mountain are looked upon as the great and first objects of curiosity at the Cape. There are only two houses on the estate, but the offices, farm-yards, and stores, where the wine is made and kept, are so very extensive that Constantia obtains the name of a village and appears so to the eye. Round the vineyards, dwelling-houses, and offices, are pleasant groves of the silver-tree, besides oak, elms, and other smaller plants, which completely shelter it in every direction, and hide it from the view till you wind round the hill, and come quite close to it. There are two distinct and separate plantations of vines here, each of a different colour

and quality, though both are called Constantia wines. The first farm called Great Constantia produces the red wine of that name; and at Lesser Constantia, in its vicinity, the white is made. The farm, which alone produces this richly flavoured wine, belongs to a Dutchman, Mynheer Pluter, and has been long in his family.

Quality of
the grape.

The grape from which this wine is extracted, is a species of the Muscadel, extremely rich, sweet, and luscious. Its qualities proceed in some measure from the situation and soil which are particularly favourable; but the exquisite flavour is chiefly to be attributed to the great care taken in the rearing, dressing, and encouragement of the vines, in preserving the grapes wholly clean from sand, and free from the ravages of the insects which usually attack them when full ripe. With the cleanliness and healthy state of the grape when put into the press, another cause contributes much to the goodness of the wine, the not suffering the leaves, stalks, or unripe fruit to be mixed in the press, as is done by the other Dutch farmers. If the same attention was paid to the vines in other parts of the colony, and the same precautions used in compressing the fruit, Cape wine would no longer labour under its present disrepute. The grapes of Constantia are indeed larger, and have a richer and more fleshy pulp than those of any other farm, and consequently give more juice in proportion. There must however be many parts of the soil equally adapted to the rearing of grapes as this of Constantia, although from negli-

Precautions
taken in
pressing the
juice.

gence overlooked; for those spots that require least trouble in the turning up or dressing, are universally preferred by the farmers here in laying out their plantations.

The quantity of wine made on the farms of Constantia, on an average, is about seventy-five leagers a year, each leager containing upwards of one hundred and fifty gallons of our measure. It is a sweet, heavy, and luscious wine, not fit to be drunk in any quantity, but chiefly suited to a dessert, as a couple of glasses are quite as much as one would desire to drink at a time. It is even here excessively dear and difficult to be procured, and must be often bespoke a considerable time. The captains of vessels touching here, who have wished to procure a quantity of it, have been frequently obliged to contract for it a year or two before the wine was made.

Under the Dutch government the farmer divided the produce into three parts; one-third he was obliged to furnish, at a certain price, to the Dutch East-India Company, who sent it to the government in Holland. Another proportion was furnished to certain of the inhabitants of Cape Town, chiefly the people in high office and power, at the same rate; and the remaining quantity he was at liberty to dispose of at what price he could to the passengers, and captains of ships of all nations. The price to strangers varied according to circumstances; when there was any deficiency in the produce of his farm, the price was always raised in proportion. The Dutch inhabitants of Cape Town, at whose houses and tables the passengers are ac-

Quantity
made an-
nually.

commodated, rarely ever produce a drop of this wine, except upon very extraordinary occasions. The Dutch indeed are sufficiently careful never to open a bottle of this valuable liquor at their tables, unless they perceive it may serve their own purposes. A rich Englishman who has made his fortune in India, and from whom they expect a handsome present of tea, sugar-candy, or muslin, is honoured now and then with a bottle of Constantia at the dessert; but a British officer who is not supposed to be flush of money or valuable articles, except where he is a favourite with the lady of the house, may go without it all the time he remains here.

When a bottle of Constantia is to be bought at the Cape Town, which is but seldom the case, and even then it requires some management to procure it, it is never sold under a couple of dollars. But it generally happens that strangers, although they procure this prize, are still as far as ever from tasting real Constantia, as there is another kind of sweet, rich wine, which the Dutch frequently pass off for it.

One may fortunately, by dint of persuasion, get at the village of Constantia, from Mynheer Pluter, a small cask containing about twenty gallons for ten or twelve pounds sterling; a stranger can seldom procure a larger quantity at the same time; indeed he must always be particularly recommended to take any quantity he can obtain, and also to prevent having the other heavy, sweet wine imposed upon him

Character of for Constantia. Mr. Pluter has a great number of visitors

to his farm, who are equally attracted by the beauty of the place, and the desire of seeing the vine plantations, with the manner of making the wine. He is in every respect a complete Dutchman. For though used to such a variety of the first company, and gentlemen of high civil, and military situations, who always pay liberally, and whom it is strongly his interest to encourage to his farm by civility, and a suavity of manners, he is generally morose, uncouth, and churlish in his manners; and it is rare to see him in a good humour, though he gains a great profit by entertaining his occasional guests with his nectar. Money is the idol of the Dutch; yet they receive it without thanking those who bring it, or encouraging them to come again by civility and attention; and when they have once received their extravagant demand, they laugh at the folly of our countrymen for their indifference in parting with that money which is their own idol.

I was so unfortunate as not to find this gentleman in a good humour during the two or three visits I made to his farm, and could scarcely get a bottle of wine, or leave to look at his wine vaults and presses, not having brought any particular recommendation from his friends at the Cape, which from pride he regularly exacts. I relied however on what I knew of a Dutchman's partiality for English customers; but on my requesting leave to see the place, he himself came out and informed me the gentleman was not at home. The other officers who were along with me, however, and who understood his disposition better, and

the requisite management, got some of the slaves for a present to get us wine, and shew us the plantations and manner of manufacturing the grapes into wine; nor did we take the smallest notice of the owner's surliness, and boorish manners when we afterwards met him, but went on to satisfy our curiosity, and obtain the wine and information we wanted. If company arrives before he is dressed, and has got over his usual quantity of pipes of tobacco, he denies himself, and does not wish to admit them, unless he is pretty sure of getting hard dollars; those perfectly acquainted with this, take care to let the slaves see the cash, on which he sends any quantity into an arbour in the garden, and when the bill is called he charges two Spanish dollars a bottle, equal to 11*s.* 6*d.* British. Some allowance must certainly be made for Mynheer Pluter's moroseness, as it is impossible for him at all times to attend to the reception of his visitors, some of whom by their teizing and forward loquacity, might render themselves extremely troublesome, and disagreeable to his grave and solemn habits. His slaves are exceedingly attentive and communicative, when allowed to wait on and conduct strangers, finding it highly to their advantage, as they always get something for themselves.

Mr. Pluter's wine vaults are very extensive and neatly laid out, and every thing is in much better order than at any
 Wine vaults. other wine farm I have seen. In the vaults and wine cellars of the merchants at Cape Town, the wine is kept in very large butts or vessels somewhat shaped like the hogshead, but the rotundity is vastly greater in proportion.

Those vessels are made of mahogany, or a wood very much resembling it, very thick, highly polished, and kept clean as our dining tables; they are bound round with great brass hoops, and the edges are also secured by the same metal, so that no accident or time can damage them. Each of those butts or reservoirs, which they call leagers, though an inapplicable term, as a leager is a measure of one hundred and fifty gallons, will contain from six to seven hundred gallons. The bung-holes are covered with plates of brass hasped down and locked; the cocks are also strong and large with locks and keys to them, so that the slaves are prevented from embezzling any of the wine, as they are never opened but in presence of one of the proprietors. Some of those leagers are elegantly carved and ornamented with various figures.

The next wine in estimation to the Constantia is a kind of Muscadel, or as they call it here Cape Madeira. The colour of this wine is a deep violet, and the appearance thick and muddy. Cape Madeira is a heavy, sweetish wine, with a stronger body than the generality of what is made here; for the various kinds of white wines at the Cape are thin, light, and acid. A person may drink five or six bottles without being intoxicated; and it is this wine which is generally used at the tables of the colonists. Except the red Constantia no wine made at the Cape is ever so high-coloured as port or claret.

Cape Madeira.

I scarcely ever drank any palatable wine at the tables of the Dutch, as they produce mostly unripe wine for domestic consumption; while they dispose of that which is

become ripened, for this wine improves wonderfully by age, to the captains of trading vessels. This is an invariable custom which they scarcely ever deviate from; as the wine is reckoned in with the board and lodging at the Dutch houses, and no extra price paid for it, they generally give their guests a new, insipid, and very indifferent sort, such as may be had in the wine houses for two or three pence a bottle. There are two or three kinds of sweet wine made, but too heavy to drink after meals. The Steen wine has a sparkling quality and tartish taste, something like Vin de Grave, but much inferior in flavour. The Hanepod made from a large white grape is very rich, but scarce and dear, and only used by the ladies at their parties in the same manner as the Constantia. The grapes from which this wine is made are chiefly dried, and preserved for raisins to eat at desserts.

Those wines are all of various prices and qualities, and differ much in their flavour, according to the difference of the soil the grape is reared in. The juice expressed from the very same species of grape tastes differently in some particular farms. Except at Constantia the soil on the southern side of Cape Town, and all this part of the peninsula, does not yield so rich grapes as the more eastern parts towards Drakenstien, Franche Hoek, the Parl Village, and Stellenbosch, and the country bordering on Hottentot Holland.

Cape Madeira, and the other wines of the first quality, are sold at from twenty to thirty pounds a leager of

one hundred and fifty gallons; formerly it was much cheaper; and the common or poorer sort generally drunk at the tables, on the first arrival of the English, might be had for fourpence or sixpence a gallon, but was afterwards raised to a shilling. A leager of the poorer species brings about eight or nine pounds British currency.

Besides wine, the farmers make a great quantity of a Cape brandy. strong, fiery spirit, which they call brandy-wine, and the British Cape brandy. I thought on my first arrival when I tasted this spirit it was distilled from malt, as it bore a strong resemblance to Irish whiskey, but was still stronger, harsher, and more fiery; but on inquiry I found that the planters principally extract it from the husks and stalks of compressed grapes by distillation. It has been a long time in use here, though seldom drunk by any of the principal Dutch, but is sold to the unfortunate Hottentots, and hordes of Caffrees and natives of the interior, who seem very fond of it, and barter for it their cattle and the little produce of their labour. It is a very bad and pernicious liquor, and our government, while we retained the Cape, much discouraged its sale to the soldiers. It is so fiery that it absolutely burns and scalds the throat and stomach when drunk raw and unmixed. Our common soldiers, though so notoriously fond of drinking spirituous liquors, could scarcely get a glass of it down.

Though sugar canes grow spontaneously in many parts Sugar canes
abundant. of the colony, the Dutch never paid any attention to their cultivation, from which they might have derived both sugar

and rum. The smallest quantity of those articles has never been manufactured at the Cape. The sugar cane would here require far less care and attention than in the West-India islands, from a variety of circumstances; and its cultivation might be carried to any extent with incalculable profit; yet these advantages have scarcely ever been noticed.

Remarks on
this subject.

Every European nation acknowledges the importance of the West-India islands, from the two great staple commodities of sugar and rum. How much blood has been shed between the different Powers in the conquest and attainment of them; while numberless lives have fallen victims to the unhealthy climate. Properties to an immense amount, consisting of large plantations of sugar canes, have often been destroyed in one night by furious hurricanes and tornadoes. Insects and vermin destroy another great proportion; while the heat is so intolerable that the planter cannot oversee his own works, much less assist by any exertion of his own. Those disadvantages are however still borne up against from the value of the sugar and rum which they afford. The Cape of Good Hope labours under none of those disadvantageous circumstances. Though it is sometimes subject to violent winds, yet they never arise to that degree as the tornadoes in the West-Indies, nor are their consequences to be at all compared. The climate is mild, temperate, and healthy; the soil clean and not subject to those weeds and other obstructions usually found in tropical climates, which suddenly spring up and choak the ten-

der plants. Insects and vermin do but little damage compared to what is experienced in other parts of the world which can afford the same produce. The planter here can stand the whole day exposed to the sun without any ill consequences, and can assist with his own bodily labour, if his circumstances require it, or inclination prompt him. When the sugar cane grows so well spontaneously, it is surely capable of being brought to much more perfection by the care and culture of man.

The Dutch, in exculpation of their own want of enterprise, allege that it would require more slaves than they can afford; or would risk introducing into the colony; and that those already in their possession are only sufficient for their household and domestic purposes. These reasonings with regard to foreign slaves may hold good; but there is a still greater benefit to be derived from entirely evading that objection, and employing the Hottentots and other natives of the interior. By this means the valuable articles in question might be raised, and at the same time the natives brought to a degree of civilization and to habits of industry, from which comfort to themselves and wealth to their employers would speedily arise. When I talked to the Dutch on this subject, they became silent and chagrined, and seemed to think those reasons unanswerable. At times when they entered into any conversation on the subject, they would speak of their government with the greatest detestation and contempt, for losing by its narrow policy many advantages which the colony possessed from nature.

THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

Though barley is produced at the Cape, and a good deal of it sowed annually, the Dutch seldom make beer; and what they do make is of a very indifferent quality: the quantity indeed scarcely deserves to be mentioned. The malt liquor drunk here comes all from Europe, and is consequently very dear. The Dutch usually cut down their barley in a green state for their horses.

CHAPTER XII.

Journey to Stellenbosch—Strickland a Post for Cavalry—Stellenbosch—Mountains of Parlberg—Swellendam—Graaf Reynet—Plettenberg Bay—Account of the Dutch Farmers and Planters—Their Manner of Living—Their Tillage and Husbandry—Domestic Pursuits—Characters and Customs—Treatment of their Cattle and Slaves—Manner of carrying on the various Branches of Husbandry—In want of Improvement of every Kind—The Colony in a very imperfect State owing to the bad Management of its Inhabitants—Plans of Improvement.

I Have now described whatever appeared most worthy of notice in that tract of country immediately connected with Cape Town, the south extremity and those parts bordering on Hottentot Holland. I shall now proceed to describe the country east of the Cape, which I visited during my stay here on my way from India to Europe.

Hearing that the village of Stellenbosch was worth visiting, I made one of a party for that purpose; and having obtained at a tolerably high price a waggon and six horses, we set out from Cape Town early in the evening, so as to arrive at our destination about breakfast time next morning, the distance being about thirty miles with a heavy sandy road most of

the way. Proceeding out of the town by the castle, we skirted the head of Table Bay along the sandy beach for about three miles, when leaving the shore and entering the country immediately opposite Cape Town, we began to ascend a hill which, though not steep, was extremely difficult to the horses on account of the loose sand into which the wheels of the waggon continually sunk. After coming to the top we stopped, and took some time in surveying the town, and the appearance of the bay, the Table, and other hills over it from this side, which afforded a very charming prospect. We now began to descend by a winding road round the hill we just came up, and found ourselves in an open sandy country, with a few plants, shrubs, and small trees, scattered over a wide range of country. On our left we observed a few plantations and Dutchmen's houses, from whence the town was supplied with fruit, vegetables, eggs, poultry, and other market stuff.

Strickland a
post for ca-
valry.

After crossing this barren sandy plain, we came to a greener, pleasanter, but more hilly country, with ranges of mountains at a distance rising above each other. After travelling about sixteen miles we came to a place called Strickland, where is a military post which Sir James Craig erected in 1796, to check and keep in awe the turbulent Dutch farmers. There are barracks here for cavalry or infantry, and ranges of stables for near half a regiment of dragoons; it is the first out-post from Cape Town on this side, and is a pass of some importance. The direct route from Cape Town into Hottentot Holland, and the interior

of the colony, is by this way, and the post of Strickland is situated at the commencement of a range of rather steep hills, called the Tigerberg or Tiger Mountain. At the foot of those hills round us were several farm-houses and pleasant plantations of grapes, corn, and vegetables, surrounded with thick hedges of oak, myrtle, jessamine, and laurel, rows of the silver-tree and other evergreens. Between the hills were several valleys covered with verdure, and having several streams of water running through them. Sheep and cattle were allowed to graze here all day, and at night were driven into pens and stables.

After passing the valley which separates the Tiger Mountain from a neighbouring one, we again found ourselves in a flat sandy country, but more elevated than that we had crossed before. Several lakes or ponds of water were interspersed in the hollows of the sand hills, visited by different kinds of cranes, gulls, teal, and other water fowl. In a short time afterwards we arrived at the village of Stellenbosch. Stellenbosch, which is situated in the midst of a number of sandy hills, the town lying very low. The place contains about twenty-five or thirty houses, large and well built in one long and regular street, and has about one hundred white inhabitants. A Lutheran church at the upper end of the street, and a small seminary where black children are chiefly educated, add much to the appearance of the village. A few of the houses accommodate visitors in the same way as the Cape Town, and a kind of inn had been established which was much pleasanter to our party, as we

enjoyed more society with Englishmen who preferred it to the Dutch conversation and manners. The town consists of one irregular street bending round where the sand hills prevent it from running in a straight line. Several of the houses are painted green, and rows of trees are planted before them. Stellenbosch, though prettily situated in the midst of hills, and the town rather neatly built, is far from being a desirable residence. The heat is uncommonly great from the reflection of the loose white sand of the surrounding hills. In the neighbourhood of the town are some plantations and gardens belonging to the Dutch gentlemen of Cape Town, who often come here to stay during the violence of the south-east wind, which is not so inconvenient or felt so strongly here, from the sheltered situation of the village. The country around abounds in game, several species of the antelope and deer, hares, wild pigeons, flamingoes, wild peacocks and bustards. The Hottentots, who accompanied our party on the different excursions we took to some extent in every direction from Stellenbosch, were exceedingly active sportsmen and excellent marksmen.

Gardens and plantations in the neighbourhood.

Game.

Mountain of Parlberg.

Two or three days journey from Stellenbosch lies an extensive range of mountains, which bound the sandy plains and hills for a great space. The principal mountain is called the Parlberg, which with a few others in its vicinity are pretty well wooded with oak, silver-trees, shrubs, and some timber trees peculiar to the Cape. On the flat spaces the castor oil shrub, Cape olive, indigo plant, cochineal, cotton, and coffee tree, are very common; but not cultivated to

any advantage or indeed used to any extent by the indolent farmers.

Heath, and a great variety of plants, are found here in Plants. profusion. All this tract of country goes under the denomination of the Parl, and is fruitful in wine, corn, cattle, and those articles already mentioned to belong to the colony. The vallies amidst those mountains contain the villages of the two Drakensteens, Franche Hoek, and the Parl. There are besides a few scattered houses and plantations, wherever convenient and fertile spots allow of easy cultivation. The village of the Parl is the largest of those mentioned. It contains about thirty houses in two rows or lines forming a long and extended street. The church stands in the centre of this village, and several of the slaves, free people of colour, and a few of the domesticated Hottentots, attend the service, being converted to the established religion of the colony. Those villages produce a considerable quantity of wine, which with some cattle is the staple commodity with which they supply Cape Town.

The province of Swellendam is two or three days journey Swellendam. from the Parl country, and is one of the most extensive in the colony. The journey by land to Swellendam is very long, tedious, and in many parts extremely difficult, besides being interrupted by several broad rivers which must be passed; and at some of those no boats are stationed. In the rainy seasons when the rivers in consequence swell, and become extremely rapid, a traveller has to wait till the violence of the current is abated. The passes through the

Hottentot
Holland's
Kloof.

different mountains, the steep ascents at one side, and the declivities on the other which one must afterwards descend, are dangerous to a great degree; but are indeed still more so in appearance than reality, as the astonishing dexterity of the waggon drivers, and the docility of the cattle, greatly tend to prevent any accident. Hottentot Holland's Kloof, thirty-six miles from Cape Town, and another pass through the Black Mountain, might be sufficient to deter the timid from ever entering the interior of the country; wild, awful and steep to a very great degree, a stranger is surprised at finding he has passed them in safety. The poor cattle suffer severely in those difficult places, for the Dutch farmers seem to have lost all feeling in their treatment of them. The cruelty I have seen those wretched and willing animals experience, from the merciless hand of their owners through all this journey, has frequently both shocked and disgusted me. Even those Hottentots, who are looked on by the colonists as mere ignorant savages, express their pity and horror at such barbarity, and endeavour as far as lies in their power to alleviate the miseries of those unfortunate brutes.

District of
of Swellen-
dam.

The district of Swellendam contains a very considerable number of plantations. The village itself is small, consisting of about twenty or thirty houses neat enough in appearance, and well planted round. The inhabitants in their manners are mere country boors, and attend to nothing else but husbandry. Its chief produce is timber, dried fruit, corn, wine, oxen, sheep, butter, and a species of soap made from the fat of beef and sheep, with the ashes of some

Produce.

particular plants; it resembles in appearance bluish spotted marble. Antelopes, steen-bocks, and all species of the deer kind, with game of every sort peculiar to the interior, are found here in great abundance; and the botanist has a wide field for exercising his ingenuity. Swellendam district stands much in need of further cultivation; many fertile tracts are unheeded and unnoticed, and many of the spots which are inhabited, and brought under cultivation, are in want of timber and other useful articles. The plantations are so much scattered and so wide asunder, as to be able to render little assistance to each other in case of any attack.

The provinces of Graaf Reynet, which borders on the north-east part of the colony, is of great extent, and divided into several districts; it supplies Cape Town with a considerable quantity of cattle, and some corn, wine, and timber.

The village of Graaf Reynet, situated in the drosdy or principal district, contains only a few houses, but there are several in the neighbourhood belonging to the Dutch boors and planters. It is about five hundred miles from the Cape Town, in latitude $31^{\circ} 11'$ south, and 26° east longitude. The English established a military post at Graaf Reynet, with a block house and barracks for two companies of foot, who are stationed here to check the Dutch planters, and to prevent them from again exercising their outrages on the Hottentots and the Caffees. The Dutch settlers here have ever been exceedingly turbulent and ill-disposed towards their own government as well as ours, and were the cause of all the disturbances which happened

Graaf Reynet.

Conduct of the Dutch farmers to the natives.