XXII. ELEPHAS AFRICANUS - THE AFRICAN ELEPHANT.
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**Olifant** of the Dutch Colonists. **Olo and Molo** of the Bechuana.

**Generic Character.**—Male attains the height of twelve feet at the shoulder; droops considerably behind. Extreme length between eighteen and nineteen feet. Provided with a flexible proboscis and finger. Skin solid, black, rough, and nearly destitute of hair. Tail moderately long, and tufted with long hair of the thickness of common iron wire, set round the edges of the flattened extremity. Head rounder, forehead more convex, and ears four times larger than in the Asiatic variety. The latter appendages extremely flat, reaching to the setting on of the legs, and overlapping each other at the top of the neck. Legs pillar-like and shapeless. Five toes on all the feet, so encrusted in the callous skin which envelops them, that their existence is only indicated externally by the nails. Double the circumference of the foot invariably denotes the height at the withers. Tusks two, composed of solid ivory, arched and springing from immediately before the eyes; eight or nine feet in length, and often weighing each more than one hundred pounds. No canine or incisorial teeth. Two enamelled molars or grinders in each jaw, marked with lozenge-shaped ribands. These teeth are shed and renewed during the whole life, as occasion requires, by a lateral process—a new tooth growing from behind, gradually forcing the old one forward, and eventually taking its place, so that at certain periods the total number in the head may be eight instead of four.

Female from eight to nine feet high, usually provided with tusks about four feet in length. **Mammie** two, placed between the fore-legs. Male sometimes found alone, but the species usually gregarious in huge troops. Still said to exist in the forest of Zitzikamma, and is common in the extensive plains, woods, and hills, of the interior.
CHAPTER XXII.

THE AFRICAN ELEPHANT.

"On comes the elephant, to drink
His thirst, at noon, in yon pellucid spring.
Let from his trunk up-twist, swift he flings
The grateful shower; and now,
Mark how the boundless laugh
Of yonder plains, with varying motion slow
Passing the hospitable air,
He wavers it to and fro."

Throughout the more remote and unfrequented portions of the African continent which have yet been explored, the Elephant, mightiest and most peaceful of all the denizens of the woods, has been found in far greater abundance than in any other quarter of the globe. Many of the southern regions are still teeming with vast herds; and the unwholesome, though fertile borders of the almost inaccessible rivers on the eastern and western coast, have ever formed its chosen habitat. Since the first establishment of the Portuguese settlements about the close of the fifteenth century, man has waged against this lordly animal, a ruthless and exterminating war. Hunted and persecuted for the sake of its costly ivory, it has been driven further and further from the haunts of civilization, and is only now to be found in multitudes, amid regions to which its arch enemy seldom penetrates. Delighting especially in wide and secluded savannahs, where sluggish streams are skirted by a congenial vegetation, this giant among quadrupeds resides towards the southern tropic in stately troops, comprising many hundred individuals. There, fearless of danger, he wanders with calm solemnity amid the groves of aged mimosas, with which the broad meadows are sprinkled—leisurely prizing out of the ground, by means of his huge tusks, used upon the principle of the crow-bar, those which please him best, and inverting them with his single hand, the more readily to browse upon the soft and juicy roots that constitute his favourite food. Social in habits, and secure in his own strength from every four-footed foe, the wisest of brutes luxuriates in the waters of the lone stream that he has troubled, and, unless when man invades his repose, passes a lengthened life of tranquil enjoyment.

With the image of the Elephant we are apt to associate the idea of the gorgeous and stupendous vegetation of an Indian forest—to imagine trees of a growth and foliage proportioned to the bulk of the gigantic tenants which they screen. Such at least was my own impression, and I was therefore not a little amazed to find countless herds inhabiting the most open tracts, embellished with occasional straggling woods, so stunted in growth, that a host of colossal backs were not unfrequently to be seen above the tops of them. The face of the verdant hills, that in time of danger form the strong-hold of the species, usually terminate in an abrupt scarp, resembling a coronet, whence a number of ravines arising, are encumbered with rocks and precipices overshadowed by heavy forests—the intervening rounded space being quite destitute of trees. Through the denser covert, in parts impervious to man, the monstrous inmates have cleared many a path that would do credit to the pioneers of an army, and even by them would not have been accomplished without infinite labour. Marching

* Among many other early absurdities, it was currently believed of the Elephant, that he invariably slept in a standing posture, leaning against a tree for support. Sir T. Brown, in allusion to this popular notion, remarks, that "it sleeps against a tree, which the hunters observing, do saw it almost in two; whereas the beast rising, by the fall of the tree falls also down itself, and is able to rise no more."
in the van of his troop, the great bull Elephant bursts through the heaviest jungle, with the same facility that a bullock would make its way through a hop-garden, trampling under his heavy foot the thorny brushwood, and with his sinewy pro-

boscis summarily wrenching off the larger branches, and tugging away the parasitic web that obstructs his progress; whilst the females, with the younger members of the herd, bringing up the rear in single file, complete the Herculean labour which their lord has so ably commenced.

But, notwithstanding the extravagant traditions that have been handed down of the colossal stature attained in Africa by "Fiture's great master-piece," I am strongly disposed to the belief, that twelve feet form the maximum height of the male, and nine of the female. Readily might the stupendous bulk of such an animal deceive an eye accustomed to its com-
templation; but twice the circumference of none of the many foot-prints I measured, among the hundreds which were daily seen, yielded a product in excess of this standard. In Africa the backs of the male unquestionably attain a much greater size than is usual in Asia, and nearly all of the cows are possessed also of these accessories, measuring from three to four feet in length. The enormous magnitude of the ears—which in the subject before us not only cover the whole of the shoulder, but overlap each other at the neck, to the complete exclusion of a driver—together with the increased volume and promi-
nence of the forehead, constitute the most striking external features of difference between the two species. Nor will those who have been accustomed to the sight of a groomed and well-groomed elephant in his stall, fail to view with astonishment the brick-dust complexion of the animal's hide in its native forest—this latter fact being attributable to the collection of adven-
turous matter by rubbing against trees and rocks, no less than to the habit peculiar to the whole race, of dusting the carcase after a cold bath, with a shower of earth and gravel cast up by the aid of the trunk.

On first entering the haunts of the elephant, nothing surprised me more than the extraordinary facility with which, in a wild state, unincumbered by the howdah, the unwieldy quadruped contrives to clamber to the very rigging of the steepest and most inaccessible hills—dexterously traversing narrow mountain paths, descents, and gullies, over which a horse can follow with extreme difficulty—and like a sculptured monument, standing out at last in the boldest relief against the clear blue sky. Solemn and dignified in his ordinary gait, the long slouching amble to which he has recourse when pursued, covers the ground at an inconceivable rate, and will at first keep a good steed at a round gallop; but the tracts over which we usually hunted, being flinty, and strewn with loose pointed stones, it was only necessary to press the herd a mile beyond their speed, to render them so tender-footed that they were glad to seek shelter in the first wooded ravine that fell in their way—up and down which they might be driven, and murdered from the banks ad libitum. That portion of the forehead lying immediately above the eyes, consists of two walls or tables, between which a wide cellular space intervening, a bullet hardened either with tin or quicksilver readily penetrates through the honeycomb to the cavity of the brain—proving so instantaneously fatal that the unfortunate animal often passes from life to death, without either a groan or a struggle. Guided usually by some mon­strous male, long standing in years, it is not easy to separate the herd; and whether they attack, march, or fly, they appear to act with discipline, and in concert. Their enormous bulk and power considered, there is probably no creature in the creation possessed of a smaller share of animal courage; yet, if easily terrified and routed, they never hesitate when roused into fury to charge the assailant with persevering hostility, and although turning clumsily upon a wide circle, not unfrequently conclude the pursuit by playing a game of foot-ball with his lifeless body.

From the very outset of our campaign against the wild beasts, and long before we had obtained from his Amazoono Majesty the freedom of his tropical preserves, our respectable acquaintance, Andries Afriencider, had gratuitously assumed unto himself the office of lecturer on the intricate science of elephant hunting, wherein, during three successive expeditions with ivory traders from the colony, he flattered himself to have acquired no ordinary skill. A day never elapsed without some gastronomic of his by-gone or coming exploits; but although perpetually thrusting upon us his code of sage laws on the subject, we subsequently found that the impostor was uniformly the first to infringe it. Whilst winding through a ground and exten­sive forest which covered a slight accliivity leading to the Cashan mountains, we for the first time beheld the vertigo of the noble object of our search. Minnoss trees were there up-torn by the roots; sturdy branches rent from the parent stock over-hung the path, or stripped of their foliage were strewn upon the ground; and hundreds of deep holes, impressed during some recent heavy rain by the feet of a gigantic drove, together with great heaps of their fresh excrement, were visible in every direction. Heretofore our aspirant tutor had affected to consider beneath his notice all animals that had been found; and at the near prospect now presented of displaying his science to advantage, he became perfectly frantic. Checking the team of the waggon which he was leading, he waved aloft his greasy blue cap, tossed a mass of dung into the air, and hustled till he was hoarse.

\* The Asiatic Elephant has been employed from the earliest epochs, to swell the pomp of eastern princes and potentates—his enormous strength and sur-
passing capacity having been equally applied to warlike, ornamental, and laborious purposes. In ancient days the African species also would appear to have been extensively employed by the Carthaginians, who during the first Punic war brought great multitudes against the Romans, invested with that at the siege of Posenza (Palermo) no fewer than one hundred and forty are said to have been drawn up in a single line. But whilst the barbarous tribes that people Southern Africa have never dreamed of the possibility of rendering this noble animal serviceable in any domestic capacity, the assertion that it is capable of being tamed and ridden, is received with universal incredulity—an unaccountable exposition, existing even among the Dutch Colonists, that its subjugation is not to be accom-
plished. Readily captured, and appearing to agree with its Indian relative both as to essential habits, and in spirit for service, it is in the general absence, within the Colony, of sufficient food for its support, that the chief difficulty is presented. Were it once arrayed against the beasts of the forest, Africa would realize the very rare idea of magnificent sport!
Not an hour was lost in setting fire to the grass on the hills, and making other customary preparations for forcing the elephants into the more open plains; but although the ravages committed by their foraging parties became hourly more and more apparent, and their footprints more recent and numerous, many days were still passed in fruitless search. During one excursion a gigantic savage of a subordinate tribe of the Baquaina nation, accidentally joining our party, confidently volunteered to lead us to a troop out of whose ranks he had the preceding day speared a large calf—an act, be it observed, of which no one could be better capable, seeing that he was a perfect ogre in dimensions, six feet four inches "without his boots," and built in proportion. On reaching a sequestered valley at the opposite foot of the range, we found the recently evacuated cantonment of the herd, wherein was a portion of the victim's skull, being all that the hyenas had left of the little that this Goliath of Gath had deemed too hard for his own digestion. But after following the trail of the receding column nearly the whole day, and twice passing across and through the mountains—from the summit of which was presented an extensive prospect over one of the wildest and most savage regions that the whole universe can produce—the main body was ascertained to have marched eastward, in which direction it was deemed necessary that the camp should forthwith be shifted. Like small specks in the distant valley, our white wagons could be discerned from the bare and sterile rocks which crown the highest elevation, and form a strong contrast to the middle and lower regions, so thickly covered with verdure and forest. The latter occupies the ravines and hollows only, whilst the whole plain beyond on either side is studded with detached pyramidal stony hills, interspersed with dilapidated castle enclosures, and with crumbling "cities of the dead."

Wild elephants make the most extraordinary forced marches, invariably travelling in troops during the night, and with all military precaution. We followed on their route during the day, and thus it happened, that although frequently coming upon the bivouac or encampment which they had evacuated only a few hours previously, their retreating forces were always in advance. On the third day of our pursuit, hugging the base of the mountains, we passed through high coarse grass, between two conical hills of singularly twin-like appearance, which stood like sentinels on either hand, and were yepleted by our guides the Claywalo and Clayungamen—gaining at length the vicinity of a remarkably abrupt aperture in the range, which through a telescope promised to afford a practicable road for wagons to the northward. The heat had gradually waxed intense—not a breath stirred—and heavy black clouds fast collecting bade us prepare for a deluge. We accordingly formed the camp in a sheltered but elevated position under the lee of a high stone enclosure, which only required the entrance to be stopped with bushes to become a secure pound for the cattle. Scarcely were these arrangements completed, when a stream of liquid fire ran along the ground, and a deafening thunder clap, exploding close above us, was instantly followed by a torrent of rain, which "came dancing to the earth," not in drops, but in continuous streams, and with indescribable violence, during the greater portion of the night; the thunder now receding, and rumbling less and less distinctly, but more incessantly, among the distant mountains—now pealing in echoes over the nearer hills, and again returning to burst with redoubled violence above our heads.

The horses and oxen were presently standing knee deep in water, and the sheep were in imminent danger of being drowned. Our followers remained crowded all night in the baggage wagon which leaked immoderately; but our own vehicle being better covered, fortunately resisted the pitiless storm. Sleep was, however, perfectly out of the question, the swamped earth actually threatening to give way under us, and the lightning being so painfully vivid, that we were glad to hide our diminished heads beneath the pillow!

Those only who have witnessed the setting in of the south-west monsoon in India are capable of fully understanding the awful tempest that I have thus feebly attempted to describe. About an hour before dawn its fury began to abate, and at sunrise the weather was perfectly fine; but the mountain streams being quite impassable to the wagons, I proceeded on foot. Descending from the highest peak, whence, after prying with a telescope into every nook and corner of the vast landscape that lay expanded before us, several herds of buffaloes only could be descried, we came unexpectedly upon the deep sunken tracks of a monstrous bull Elephant, that could not have passed above an hour before, and finding that the trail proceeded eastward along the chain, we re-crossed the river—of which the waters had now considerably subsided—and without loss of time returned to the encampment for horses and ammunition.

Leaving the wagons to proceed to a spot agreed upon, we took the field about ten o'clock, and pursued the track indefatigably for seven or eight miles, over a country presenting every variety of feature. At one time we crossed bare stony ridges; at another threaded the intricacies of shady, but dilapidated forests; now struggled through high fields of waving grass, and again emerged into open downs. At length we arrived amongst extensive groups of grassy hillocks, covered with
loose stones, interspersed with streams, and with occasional patches of forest, in which the recent ravages of elephants were more than ever surprising. Here, to our inexpressible gratification, we descried a large herd of those long-sought animals, browsing lazily at the head of a distant valley, to which our attention had first been directed by the strong, and not to be mistaken effluvia wherewith the wind was impregnated. Having never before seen the noble Elephant in his native abode, we gazed on the sight with intense and indescribable interest, our own feelings on the occasion extending to the whole of our followers. As for Andries, he became so agitated, that he could scarcely articulate. The blood forsook his sallow cheek, while with open eyes and quivering lip he barely contrived to stammer forth "*Door stovs de Olifant!*" Methamour and Lingap were immediately despatched by a circuitous route to head the herd back into the valley, up which we rode slowly and without noise against the wind—and arriving unseen within one hundred and fifty yards, made our horses fast, and took up an elevated position in an old stone kraal. The shooting of the savages who now appeared upon the height, rattling their white ox-hide shields, presently caused the huge animals to advance unsuspiciously towards us, and even within ten paces of our ambuscade. The group consisted of nine—all females with large tusks. Selecting the finest, with perfect deliberation we took up an elevated position in an old stone kraal. The shouting of the savages who now appeared upon the height, rattling 'Lingap were immediately despatched by a circuitous route to file among the trees which they were disfiguring with giant strength, being seen the next majestically emerging from the open glades, bearing branches in their trunks with which they indolently defended themselves from the flies. The back ground was filled in by a limited peep of the blue-mountain range which here assumed a remarkably precipitous character, and partly scathed by fire, completed a picture, at once soul-stirring and sublime!

The approach of our party being still against the wind, was unobserved, and created no alarm, until the vanguard of the herd that we had left behind, suddenly showed itself, rockishly thundering down the side of the hill to join the main body, and passing so close to us, that we could not refrain from pouring a broad-side into the leader, who, however, bravely withstood it. Having secured our horses on the summit of a stony ridge, and stationed ourselves at an opportune place, on a ledge overlooking a portion of the wooded defile, we sent Andries to manœuvre so that as many of the elephants as possible should pass before us in order of review, designing to ascertain, by a close inspection, whether there was not a male amongst them. Filing sluggishly along, numbers halted at intervals, and crossing their hind legs, stood at ease beneath an umbrageous tree, some fifteen yards below the rock on which we sat, lazily fanning themselves with their ample ears; blowing away the loose stones ill suited for the feet of the wounded lady, soon closed with her. Streaming with blood, and infuriated with pain, she turned upon us with uplifted trunk, her little eyes glowing like live coals;—nor was it until after repeated discharges that a bull took effect in her brain, and cast her lifeless on the earth, which resounded with the fall.

Turning our attention from this exciting scene, we perceived that a second valley had opened upon us, surrounded by bare stony hills, and traversed by a thinly wooded ravine. Here a grand and magnificent panorama fired a volley of five balls into her side. She diedible celerity, their huge fan-like ears flapping in the ratio of their speed. We instantly mounted our horses, and without noise against the wind—and arriving unperceived within one hundred and fifty yards, made our horses fast, and under the pretext that the animal was shamming, in the most bravado manner discharged his cumbersome piece into the dead carcass. The villain's object evidently was, however, to confound the enemy. But this scene of ludicrous confusion—did not long continue, and being soon enabled to approach the prostrate lady, we put an end to her struggles by a rifle shot in the forehead. Andries now came puffing up in high good humour at his achievements, and under the pretence that the animal was shamming, in the most bravado manner discharged his cumbersome piece into the dead carcass. The villain's object evidently was, however, to confound the shots—for thrusting his middle finger into the orifice made by my two-ounce ball, he with the most modest assurance declared himself to be the author of the deed, being pleased altogether to overlook the fact of the mortal wound having been inflicted on the side opposite to that on which he was stationed, whilst his own bullet, whether designedly or otherwise, had all but expended my worthy and esteemed fellow-traveller.

On our way back to the camp, of the exact position of which we were rendered somewhat uncertain, owing to the difficulties opposed to the advance of the waggon by the late inundation, we passed three other large herds. One of them standing directly in our route, we attacked and pursued the fugitives about a mile over loose stones. Much has been said and written of the attachment of elephants to their young, but neither on this nor on any subsequent occasion could we...
perceive that the mothers evinced the smallest concern for the safety of their offspring. On the contrary, they left them to shift for themselves, and Mohanycom with "Lingop" being behind us, assumed her little fellow whose tail they brought in.\textsuperscript{8}

Another old female was slain as we ascended the brow of an eminence, and at the same moment our wagons were revealed within a few hundred yards of the spot. The whole drove dashed through the middle of the camp, causing indelible confusion both amongst cattle and followers; but fortunately no accident occurred, and after the fatiguing day's work that we had undergone, we were not sorry to find ourselves again at home.

Water clouds hung about the sun as he set heavily behind the mountains. Loud peals of crashing thunder rent the air, and before night-fall we had a repetition of yesterday's storm,—the river roaring past us with frightful fury. Troops of elephants flying from the scene of carnage, passed close to our wagons during the darkness, their wild voices re-echoing amongst the mountains, and sounding like trumpets above the tempest. It was not possible to keep the fires burning, and the oxen and sheep were alarmed to so great a degree, that they broke from the kraal, and sought safety in the wilderness.

Tired as I was, the excitement of the recent proceedings banished sleep from my eyes. I ruminated on the spirit-stirring events of the day, and burned with impatience to renew them. Headless of the withering blast that bowled without, I felt that my most sanguine expectations had been realized, and that we had already been more than amply repaid for the difficulties, privations, and dangers, that we had encountered in our tortuous journey towards this fairy-land of sport.

It was still raining heavily when the day slowly and gloomily broke; and the mountain torrents having overflowed their banks, had rendered the valley in which we were encamped one continuous pool of water. High roads had been ploughed through the mire by the passage of the giant army; and whole acres of grass by which we had been surrounded the preceding evening were trampled level with the ground. The weather clearing up as usual, shortly after sunrise, and the truant cattle having been recovered, we armed a party with hatchets, and proceeded to collect the ivory. After a little brush with the crusty rhinoceros, and a long and tedious trudge through deep black slime, from which our feet were extricated with extreme labour, we again sought the living picture—but upon all the plain which was yesterday so teeming with noble quadrupeds, not one was to be seen. On reaching the glen, however, which had been the scene of our exploits during the earlier part of the action, a calf some three and a half feet high, walked forth from a bush, and saluted us with mournful antics, accompanied the party to the body of its dam, which, swollen to an enormous girth, was surrounded by an inquest of persons desirous of raising her stiff limbs with its tiny trunk. I confess that I had not been without compunctions when committing the murder, and now felt so bitterly reproached by this moving behaviour, that I half resolved never to be found aiding or abetting in another.

The operation of hewing out three pairs of tusks occupied several hours, their roots, embedded in massive sockets, spreading over the greater portion of the face.\textsuperscript{9} After considerable labour we also succeeded in extracting the ball which Andrics pretended to have fired; and the groves of my rifle being conspicuous upon it, that worthy but unabashed 'squire, by the slaughter of a first-rate bull elephant, each, were subsequently captured.

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Arriving next in the valley of the Limpopo, I went out alone one afternoon, shortly after the caravan had halted, and having ascended the hill by a narrow path trodden by wild animals, entered a strip of forest occupying an extensive ravine. Several elephants had been seen from the wagons during the morning, clambering with the agility of chamois to the very summit of the chain; and I had now not advanced many yards, before I perceived a solitary bull posted on the outskirts of the glen, amidst a perfect thicket of bushes, and at a distance of about one hundred yards. The operation of hewing out three pairs of tusks occupied several hours, their roots, embedded in massive sockets, spreading over the greater portion of the face.\textsuperscript{9} After considerable labour we also succeeded in extracting the ball which Andrics pretended to have fired; and the groves of my rifle being conspicuous upon it, that worthy but unabashed 'squire, by the slaughter of a first-rate bull elephant, each, were subsequently captured.
the wood, upon one of the lower steps—his ponderous trunk wreathed around his white tank, and but for the measured
slap of his amble ears, motionless as a marble statue. Securing my dapple grey mare to a convenient tree, I crept noise-
lessly behind a huge red block of stone; and from this ambush, which completely concealed and protected me, levelled my
ride at his amble forehead—

"Ride like a trooper brave,
Clean undisturbed, the steed bestirred before!"

the very earth trembling under his stupendous weight as he subsided with a heavy crash, and uttering one deep groan ex-
pired without a struggle! The echoes of the report, reverberating through hill and dale, whilst they caused the mare to
break her tether and abscond, brought forth a whole colony of pig-faced baboons from their sylvan haunts to affront me by
their ridiculous grimaces, any thing but sympathy; and so long was it before I recovered my truant steed, that I did not
regain the party until some hours after nightfall.

We were now in the very heart of the elephant country, but the perils of wagon travelling were hourly so materially
increased by the more rugged character of the ground as we advanced, that in order to follow a retreating herd it was found
requisite to leave the camp standing—a measure to which we were further impelled by a positive refusal on the part of the
rebellious guides to accompany us one step to the eastward of the Limpopo. Crossing that river, therefore, we skirted the
mountain chain on horseback, overtaking the rear guard of the fugitives at the close of the second day, below the highest
point, where the sources of the Ruckome and Umkelaban mark the site of the last bloody conflict betwixt the savage forces of
Moselekatse and Dingana. Speciously becoming confidant, these rivers describe a nearly semi-circular course before joining the
Limpopo considerably to the northward of the range, where the country, intersected by detached stony hills, and by mountain
spurs of barren and forbidding aspect, assumes a more rugged character than ever. Open and level to the southward, it is
dotted over with clumps of forest literally swarming with elephants: but although the rich black soil continues, vegetation
becomes visibly less and less abundant.

Seated the following morning upon a grey rock, we were discussing our frugal meal on the summit of a lofty knoll
which overlooked a wild tract of this broken forest, when some of the Hottentots, shading their squinty eyes with one hand,
pointed to the other to certain noble objects upon an eminence about two miles in advance, the which, on being recon-
noitred through a glass, proved as conjectured, to be the out-lying picquets of the vast troop of which we were in search.
The unconsumed portion of our coarse repast being hastily thrust into our pockets, we ''saddled
and leading my horse, attempted to force my way on foot through a ravine at its base, tangled
with trees and undergrowth. Confused and unintelligible shouts from the height presently warned me of the proximity of
these picquets, which overlooked a wild tract of this broken forest, when some of the Hottentots, shading their squinty eyes with one hand; and having gauged a moment in mute astonishment at the intrusion of such a caugale—whilst the females crowded up as if to claim his protection—erected his enormous
ears, and moving his column-like legs after the fashion of seven-league boots, atrode rapidly past. Crouning Andries first in
order, that skilful Nimrod, anxiously probably to accelerate his pace, dismounted nimbly, and marked the hind-quarters of the
quarry with a four-to-the pound bullet, the heavy pat of which was instantly followed by a copious flow
of blood. A shrill scream of mingled rage and dinny gave token of the pain occasioned by this wound, as, curling his
flail-like tail betwixt his legs, the giant pressed on at his utmost speed—the wrathful voices of his associates,
mingled with the crackling of broken branches, resounding meanwhile in the hollows, as they burst through the wood in various
directions. Alternately galloping up on either flank, Richardson and myself then saluted him by turns, each with two barrels
of powder, and leading my horse, attempted to force my way on foot through a ravine at its base, tangled
with trees and undergrowth. Confused and unintelligible shouts from the height presently warned me of the proximity of
danger—Daar stau hy! Daar lopu hy!! Daar cum hy!! but who or what he was, or in what direction he stood, ran, or
came, I had not the most remote idea; and being consequently unable to extricate myself—bearing at the same time a fearful
crash among the branches, accompanied by a sound resembling the rolling of numerous large stones, I abandoned my horse to
his fate, and hastily ascended the nearest tree, whence I obtained a bird's eye view of the broad red backs of a large detach-
ment of females, emerging with heavy tramp from the defile not twenty yards from my secure position. Andries had in the
meantime been descried scouring over the plain below, with the wounded bull in front, and having fired two dozen shots in
rapid succession before any one could arrive to his aid, he finally left the ivory standing, and came blustering back to say his
"powder was out." This terrible piece of mismanagement affording the animal a fresh start, we were compelled to follow the
bloody trail a full mile, and having been again delayed by the attack of a rhinoceros, the lengthened shadows plainly told that
it was late in the afternoon, when from a rising ground we once more obtained a partial view of the colossus, standing solitary
in the very middle of an isolated scrub, hanging to and fro his broad ears, and occasionally, by way of interlude, trumpeting
forth a challenge to advance "an we dared." Having fired several salvos without the slightest effect, and long waited in the
van hope of the Philistine coming forth to do us battle, Richardson, as a dernier resort, proposed that before it grew too
dark, we should cut business short by going in to him in a body. Andries, upon hearing this rash proposal, began to foam

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and stature like a man, stating, as soon as his powers of articulation had returned, that in event of our entering the jungle we should certainly "kill de Olifant." "That," remarked my companion, "is the very thing we are ambitious of doing, so come along." "Na, no, no," screamed our vaunting ivory hunter, with much painful blushing of the eyes to accelerate his delivery, "I fes dat de Olifant shall undutifully kill de Sier; he's he's—he—very goud."*

This was indeed a clean different affair, and after some deliberation it appeared so highly probable that Andries' last position was correct, that seeing the poor beast was in no condition to travel far, we bivouacked in a snug situation, hoping to find him somewhat the worse of his wounds when hostilities should be renewed in the morning. But no! The moment the badgered animal again perceived his persecutors, like a champion knight of old entering the lists to cast down the gauntlet to all comers, his little twinkling red eyes glaring under the fire of madness like lenses of glass—out he burst into the open space, grinding his heavy foot along the soil, brandishing his ponderous trunk aloft, and screaming forth his shrill note of rage and defiance! Charge succeeding charge, volley after volley, was poured into the moving mountain of flesh, now completely begrimed with dust and clothed gore. Premised by pain, he rushed recklessly in every direction, squirming the crimson tide from his nostrils, and appearing to be almost suffocated with rage—until, covered with wounds and with glory, and fairly exhausted by exertion and loss of blood, he quietly sank upon his knees after a last desperate hunger, and receiving another shower of balls in the broad forehead, rolled over like a falling tower! Great as was our triumph, and loud and long though the cheering that followed the reduction of this most invincible of his race, the manner of his death could not fail to recall somewhat unpleasantly to mind the foul murder in Exter 'Change of the unfortunate Chasse, upon whose luckless carcass were expended more than a bushel of rifle bullets, in addition to the entire ammunition possessed by a strong detachment of the military.

The attempt to capture a sturdy little bull calf that had lagged behind, and been abandoned by its comrades in the yesterday's skirmish, next afforded us infinite diversion. Far from attempting any pathetic appeal to our humanity, the rascal charged with the utmost vice and indignation every person who ventured within its range; and finally overturning one of the Matabille guides, was by the sentence of a drum-head court martial, summarily impaled and executed on the pot. The last of the elephants of the last of the Matabilles, it seemed, had gone to the pot. Our vaunting ivory hunter with much painful blinking of the eyes to accelerate his come along.

Our column consisting of one hundred at least, the whole rushed frantically down a ravine, with ears upraised, and trumpeting wildly, and levelling every thing before them. A shot fired from the bank, whilst it sealed the fate of the leader, made us stop to recover our breath; and a volley after a volley of rifle bullets, in addition to the entire ammunition possessed by a strong detachment of the military.

A stupendous army of elephants thus ranging amid the primitive magnificence of an African landscape—their sagacious appearance giving earnest of their exalted intellectual endowments amongst quadrupeds, and their very
attitude and motion so in unison with the majestic solemnity of their deportment, as to inspire sentiments approaching to
eveneration—doubtless forms a most uncommon and imposing spectacle; and both to my companion and to myself, the first
view of a herd under such circumstances—now industriously working among the aromatic trees with their ivory crowbars, and
now with "lithe proboscis" idly culling the succulent shoots

"pery for flowery lap:
Of some triguan valley."

afforded infinitely greater gratification than the wholesale butchery of the noble quadruped which might have ensued. In most
instances, this chase is followed as an avocation solely for the profits arising from the ivory; but as we possessed not the
means of bringing away this valuable commodity, had we even been so minded, the chief incentive to continued pursuit was
obviously wanting; and after the novelty of the excitement had worn off, I do not hesitate to confess, that although the
tracking among scenery of the wildest and most romantic character, backed by the various turns and accidents of the spirit-
stirring chase, possessed a never fading charm in my eyes, I could not at any time thoroughly divest myself of the idea that
the 'half reasoning' quadruped, against whose voluminous cat-case I had turned my deadly weapons, was none other than mine
own stalwart ally, my tried and trusty favorite Mowla Buksh, from whose gallant back I had during many happy years van-
quished my feline foes in Western India, and whose fancied presence—how idle soever the impression must appear—detracted
not a little from the satisfaction that I experienced.