PLATE XXIX.

FELIS LEO.—THE LION.

Leuew of the Cape Colonists. Tao of the Matabili and Bechuana.

Generic Character.—Adult male about three feet eight inches high at the shoulder and rather less at the rump. Extreme length usually about ten feet six inches. Figure noble and imposing; the model of activity and strength. Tail three feet long, tufted at the extremity with a tassel of black hair. Ears rounded and black. Five toes on the fore feet, four on the hind. Claws retractile, and each concealed by a tuft of blackish hair. Hair on the body and extremities, short and close, varying in colour between yellow, tawny, brown, and slate colour, according to the age of the animal; but uniformly darker on the upper parts, and lighter on the belly, where it is often dappled. The upper portions of the head, the chin, neck, shoulders and belly, covered with long silky hairs, forming a copious and shaggy mane, which sprouts during the third year, and increases in depth of shade, as the animal advances in age, until it becomes perfectly black. A tuft of black hair under the arm-pits. An angular black spot at each corner of the mouth on the lower jaw, which is white, bearded, and projects beyond the upper. Whiskers and eye-brows strong and white, each hair set in a black spot. Eye-balls yellow, pupils capable of contraction and dilation.

Lioness smaller; more slender, agile, and graceful, and destitute of any appearance of a mane. Gregarious in small troops, or solitary. Inhabits variously, but is most usually found on the open plains of the interior among reeds and long grass, or along the wooded banks of rivers. Very numerous towards the Tropic.
THE AFRICAN LION.

Ye who have beheld the blood-seeking "monarch of the forest" but in crippling captivity, immured in a cage barely double his own length, until his brawny sinews have become relaxed by irksome confinement, have seen but the shadow of the lordly savage that wields the sceptre of the desert! The pen and the pencil are alike inadequate to do justice to the majesty of this terrible original as he appears when prowling at liberty over his native plains; and neither by verbal description, nor even by the most accurate of portraits can I hope to convey more than a feeble representation of him, beneath the gleam of whose tawny eye the brute creation quail. Side by side with the aristocratic heraldry, a fit emblem of the courage of Britain's sons, has from time immemorial formed the most prominent figure of our national

Forth stalks the despot, attended by a knot of hungry vultures; and early in the morning, should his nocturnal foray have proved unsuccessful, may he be seen with tasselled tail erect, chasing his dismayed subjects over the open plain. Twice I have attended such a scene; and although the pencil is in many respects insufficient to convey an adequate representation of Leo in all his grandeur, in uncontrolled abundance, it is in the scorched and desolate regions of the torrid zone, whence mankind are excluded by the rigorous heat of climate, that the Lion has established his head quarters, and may most properly be said to reign Lord of the wastes.

But in the desert, the tawny eye the brute creation quail. Side by side with the aristocratic heraldry, a fit emblem of the courage of Britain's sons, has from time immemorial formed the most prominent figure of our national

It is in the scorched and desolate regions of the torrid zone, whence mankind are excluded by the rigorous heat of climate, that the Lion has established his head quarters, and may most properly be said to reign Lord Paramount. The desert of Zahara, and the interior tracts of the vast continent of Africa, exhibit him in all his grandeur, and in uncontrolled abundance, his disposition partaking strongly of the ardour of his native soil. Residing in Southern Africa chiefly on immense open plains which are in no way redeemed from their pristine sterility by any attempt at cultivation, the Lion, as a king of beasts, he has maintained over the human mind an ascendancy, which his noble and imposing presence, his gigantic bodily powers, his undaunted resolution, and his dignified self-possession, are alike calculated to inspire. That haughty growl, the deep-toned thunder of his roar, the fixed and steady gaze of his terribly expressive eye, proclaim him facies princeps. Combining the models of strength and of agility, his carnivorous regimen, his predatory habits, and the tremendous machinery by which he is adapted for the work of destruction, have created Leo indisputable tyrant of the waste.

...a fit emblem of the courage of Britain's sons, has from time immemorial formed the most prominent figure of our national

Yet Syria, Armenia, and the classic soil of Greece were formerly overrun; numbers, we are told by Herodotus, having been engaged in a single fight; and even in the time of the Emperors a hundred were frequently expended at once in the Circus, to minister to the insatiable appetites of the people for such bloody spectacles. About the middle of the third century, which corresponds with the period of the Arabian migration into Africa, the destruction of Lions became so rapid that the chase of them was forbidden except to certain individuals, lest the Circus should be depopulated of its victors; but under Honorius this humane law was subsequently abrogated. More would appear to have been imported from Lybia in a single year for those bloody contests in the amphitheatre than could probably now be collected in ten; and even in the heart of the African wilderness, Leo maintains at the present day no provision a feeling that he may in fact be said to define the limits of civilization.

...a fit emblem of the courage of Britain's sons, has from time immemorial formed the most prominent figure of our national

CHAPTER XXIX.

YE who have beheld the blood-seeking "monarch of the forest" but in crippling captivity, immured in a cage barely double his own length, until his brawny sinews have become relaxed by irksome confinement, have seen but the shadow of the lordly savage that wields the sceptre of the desert! The pen and the pencil are alike inadequate to do justice to the majesty of this terrible original as he appears when prowling at liberty over his native plains; and neither by verbal description, nor even by the most accurate of portraits can I hope to convey more than a feeble representation of him, beneath the gleam of whose tawny eye the brute creation quail. Side by side with the aristocratic heraldry, a fit emblem of the courage of Britain's sons, has from time immemorial formed the most prominent figure of our national

...a fit emblem of the courage of Britain's sons, has from time immemorial formed the most prominent figure of our national

Now while the shades of eve come slowly down,
And wood's are wrapt in deeper brown

...a fit emblem of the courage of Britain's sons, has from time immemorial formed the most prominent figure of our national

...a fit emblem of the courage of Britain's sons, has from time immemorial formed the most prominent figure of our national

...a fit emblem of the courage of Britain's sons, has from time immemorial formed the most prominent figure of our national
or five. A shaggy truculent-looking rascal was observed on one occasion to emerge from his hiding place as the twilight drew on, stretch himself like a drowsy Tom cat, and walk steadily forward with a look that seemed to imply, "I'm not to be trifled with." Yet, like the rest of the brute creation, Leo uniformly retreated when aware of the approach of man, seldom during the day manifesting the slightest inclination to be uncivil unless we first commenced hostilities. This fact, while it will not fail to astonish those who couple the idea of a violent and sudden death with the bare proximity of a Lion, may readily enough be accounted for by the animal's nocturnal habits, and the consequent inability of his eye, supposed to support the glare of a tropical sun reflected from a sandy soil, naturally enough begets an unwillingness to measure his strength with man, should he happen to cross his path in the full blaze of day.

The inconvenience with which he may thus be supposed to support the glare of a tropical sun reflected from a sandy soil, naturally enough begets an unwillingness to measure his strength with man, should he happen to cross his path in the full blaze of day. "Attitude, physiognomy, and language," remarks the eloquent Buffon, "proclaim the rudest savage that traverses the desert, to be lord of the prone and mute creation;" nor does the character of supremacy which the Most High hath stamped upon its feet, and betaking itself to headlong flight, not unfrequently rushes into the teeth of the very danger it is seeking to avoid.

"There to the solitary Lion's roar
So many echoes answer that there seems
Ten in the hail for one, whereof they turn
The flying animals from one to one,
Their voice issuing, not recall again
Only to meet it worse than before.
Or else they see his shadow, or his bow
Fall dead before his thunder-stilling paw!"

Sarely a day passed towards the tropic without our party observing one or more either in deep repose amid the struggling thicket of bracken and evergreens which skirt the "green pastures by the quiet waters"—issuing from their lair among clumps of reeds and mat rushes, or, "resolute and slow," promenading over the open plain in troops to the number of four or five. A shaggy truculent-looking rascal was observed on one occasion to emerge from his hiding place as the twilight drew on, stretch himself like a drowsy Tom cat, and walk steadily forward with a look that seemed to imply, "Know, Sin, that I'm not to be trifled with." Yet, like the rest of the brute creation, Leo uniformly retreated when aware of the approach of man, seldom during the day manifesting the slightest inclination to be uncivil unless we first commenced hostilities. This fact, while it will not fail to astonish those who couple the idea of a violent and sudden death with the bare proximity of a Lion, may readily enough be accounted for by the animal's nocturnal habits, and the consequent inability of his eye, in common with that of most of others of the cat tribe, to bear a strong light. The inconvenience with which he may thus be supposed to support the glare of a tropical sun reflected from a sandy soil, naturally enough begets an unwillingness to measure his strength with man, should he happen to cross his path in the full blaze of day.

Whilst a cutting blast whistled through the unsheltered waggons with a violence that bid fair to overturn them, the foe prowled a round our slender breastwork, and roaring in concert with the howling of the tempest, strove ever and anon to break away from the inclosure, in the vain hope of escaping the danger that threatened it. No possibility existing of keeping up the usual fires for defence against such nocturnal invasion, our cattle became momentarily more restless and uncontrollable; and aware before ourselves of the advent of their blood-thirsty enemy, struggled to break away from the inclosure, in the vain hope of escaping by flight the danger that impended; repeated volleys of firearms alone serving to allay their uneasiness, or to avert the threatened attack. It was our practice to encamp, if possible, near to a grove of mimosa, and the felling two or three dozen of those thorny trees, whilst the flying animals from cave to cave, there to the solitary Lion's roar, So many echoes answer that there seems Ten in the hail for one, whereof they turn The flying animals from one to one, Their voice issuing, not recall again Only to meet it worse than before. Or else they see his shadow, or his bow, Fall dead before his thunder-stilling paw!"
repeatedly with the breezes; and about midnight, being encompassed on the broken and jungle-cumbered banks of the Meritsane, he introduced himself in a mode befitting his rank and character. An unusual commotion causing us to start from our slumbers, we found that the whole of the cattle had burst through the thorn fence, and panic-stricken, were blindly charging they knew not whither—oxen, horses, and sheep, tumbling headlong over the waggons poles, and over each other, in indescribable confusion.

The night was intensely dark, and all the watchfires had gone out. Cæsar de Lion, ever the first to take the alarm, had clambered upon the top of the omnibus, whence he was screaming like a woman for assistance; whilst each Hottentot, as he sprang from his sleep, was precipitately discharging his gun, loaded with a hard bullet, in any direction that the muzzles might happen to have assumed. Of our live stock, the horses were least dismayed; and after floundering about in the dark for a considerable time, and scratching ourselves considerably among the thorns, we succeeded in recovering all save one; but every endeavour to reclaim the oxen and sheep proving abortive, we retired again to our beds, having first ascertained by the light of a candle that the consternation had been caused by three Lions, that had entered the fold, and slain two of the sheep.

The moment it was light enough to see, we dispatched the Hottentots upon the tracks of the fugitives, escorted by a party of Baalopi who had passed the night in our camp. Some of these latter shortly returned with the flock, several more having however been devoured during their flight; but our own people did not make their appearance again until soon, when they imparted the exhilarating intelligence that the oxen had divided into two parties, and being dreadfully terrified, would not tarry in all probability until they should reach the Kuruman; adding, that if we were desirous of recovering a sufficient number to draw the waggons, each Hottentot must forthwith be provided with one of the best horses, and a week's supply of ammunition. Aware from our experience of the mischief that would befall our steeds, upon whose well being our future sport entirely depended, we stoutly resisted this modést application, whereupon the whole gong, Claas and Ethaldur alone excepted, begged at once to throw up their commissions. Andries, who looked especially out of humour, was evidently the ring-leader of this mutiny, as indeed was he of all mischief; but it was not until after he had been bullied into taking his departure on one of the sorriest hacks, accompanied only by Cobus, that we discovered the wretch to have been the instigator of a plot, which had at first been joined by all, to desert us in the wilderness, and ascend to the Colony with the horses and whatever other property they could lay their hands upon. Apprehensive of another attack, we shifted our waggons in the afternoon to the opposite bank of the river, clearing away the jungle around the waggons, which were so drawn up on the top of a hillock as to flank the cattle enclosure—a large arrangement that was ever afterwards observed with the greatest advantage. Much to our surprise, our friends the Baalopi returned about sunset with all the oxen, reporting that they had overtaken them about twelve miles off, for which signal piece of service they were rewarded, according to previous stipulation, with a yard of tobacco and a tinder-box. Cobus and Andries likewise struggled back during the night, after deeply galling the backs of both the horses, as we had anticipated, without however obtaining the smallest tidings of the lost one; and it afterwards appeared that, instead of attending to the important business upon which they were sent, they had been engaged in an attempt to destroy a Lion, that drove them fairly out of the field after nearly making an end of Cobus. The whole of the following day was passed in fruitless endeavours to recover the treant; and it was not until six months afterwards that we ascertained him to have found his way back to the farm on which he had been bred, in New Hants, a distance of five hundred miles.

As our little party rolled further and further from the shades of civilized man, few evenings passed during which we did not hear the solemn voice of Leo rumbling along the ground like the distant cloudburst of thunder; and in return for our obstruction upon his legitimate empire, many were the unwelcome visits that he paid us during that hour, when sleep is wont to be the most secure. We determined to "knit up the ravelled sleeve of care." My first and least agreeable interview with the Governor took place after the night's solitary bivouac on the banks of the Meritsane, detailed in a former chapter. Although long accustomed to the sound of his voice, and to the contemplation of his shaggy figure from the back of an elephant or of a fleet Arab horse, I confess that on the occasion in question, I neither felt soothed by his deep drawn nocturnal music, nor gratified when bestriding a jaded garron of most potent obtrusion upon his legitimate empire, and with conjectures as to the whither and how it had departed this life, Lingap, the old and respected hound, whom, fortunately for me, were from home at the period of my accidental visit. We found the banks of the Bagobone equally infested by the species. Being engrossed with the contemplation of a dead elephant, and with conjectures as to the whither and how it had departed this life, Lingap suddenly pointed with his assegai to a bush a few yards distant, and whispered Tsw, when I immediately perceived through the unbroken noisome smoke, no fewer than three Lions in the neighbourly district. Enraged himself behind his shield, he made signs to me to fire, which I foolishly did into the middle of the party, spurring at the same moment behind a tree which completely screened me. Thus unceremoniously surrounded, the royal harem broke covert, roaring in concert, and bounding over brakes and bushes like so many cats over a footstool, darted into an adjacent thicket, whilst we continued our course in the opposite direction as expeditiously as our legs could carry us. I had killed a gallant water buck the preceding evening not far from this spot, and the report of my rifle caused a lion with his sleek consort to bounce out of a copse and stalk into the dense jungle. Piet,
who had been shooting a little higher up the river, also reporting on his return that whilst walking through a patch of long rank grass, he had narrowly escaped treading upon the tail of a huge black male, which he designated "een groot zwart manuvin." The vast abundance of the feline race in this wild spot, induced us to bestow upon our fortifications more labour than usual; nor had we any reason to repent of the precaution, numbers roaring around in every direction until the day broke, and in the face of a blazing watchfire, making three ineffectual attempts to carry the stockade by storm.

Being encamped one moonlight night on the banks of the Machachochan, north of the Cashan mountains, our slumbers were disturbed by sounds of desperate strife at no great distance, which elicited many surmises as to the nature of the noisy conflict. Proceeding at break of day to the spot, we found that "the Emperor" had done his pleasure upon an unfortunate cow giraffe, heavy in foal, that had come down to quench her thirst at a pool surrounded by tall green reeds, whence she was surprised, and overthrown on the spot.

The dark nights were usually tempestuous, but how boisterous a soever they might be, the weather generally cleared up with the dawn,

"when the sun blue
With broken points the moon, and all the rest
Conclusion with blood full gorged reves
Into their dearest ends, their united ends
Our dripping aches, and over weighted backs."

Upon one occasion, however, whilst encamped near a rushy bottom, it continued until nine o'clock to pour with such violence that we were unable to open the canvas curtains of the waggon. Richardson and myself were the first astir, and peeping out during a temporary cessation to ascertain whether there existed any prospect of the rain holding up, we perceived three He-Lions insolently squatted on their haunches in the open plain within one hundred yards of the cattle pound. Their round golden orbs were attentively fixed upon the oxen, whose wet coats stood on end with the cold; and watching their motions from the naked branches of a withered tree at the back of the herd, sat a family of expectant vultures with drooping wings and ruffled plumage—their hung dog air of poverty and abject humiliation calling to mind a herd of wandering gypsies drying their rags. With a view to the dislodgment of this formidable foraging party our rifles were hastily unstrapped, but the excessive dampness of the atmosphere prevented either of them from exploding. Proceeding at break of day to the spot, we found that "the Emperor" had done his pleasure upon an unfortunate cow giraffe, heavy in foal, that had come down to quench her thirst at a pool surrounded by tall green reeds, whence she was surprised, and overthrown on the spot.

The dark nights were usually tempestuous, but how boisterous a soever they might be, the weather generally cleared up with the dawn,

"Loose in the gale his main redundant plugy,"

whilst every one instinctively snatched his weapon and calling loudly to warn the expected victim of his danger, rushed to the rescue. But without taking the smallest heed either of the shepherd or his mutton, the infuriated monster, intent upon some urgent business best understood by himself, dashed past at a lumbering gallop, roaring and lashing his dun sides, until con­cealed behind the mist.

Having advanced one afternoon during our return route some five and twenty miles over boundless plains covered with pale yellow dry grass, a long line of Kaross trees darkening the horizon, proclaimed our approach to some hidden stream; and at a late hour we struck upon a sudden bend of the Vaal river winding abruptly between willowed banks round a narrow peninsula, the neck of which scarcely exceeded six hundred yards in breadth. Whilst our cavalcade was in the act of drawing up near a cluster of deserted Bushman wigwams, three saucy lionesses, as active and as greyhounds, leaped out of a bush immediately on our flank; and the lynx-eyed Piet, who vowed that he could discern the tawny muzzle of a lion black as night, snapped each his long gun at the unwelcome intruders, as they moved swiftly away at a good round trot, and took up their position on a stony eminence within point blank range. Fresh caps and priming were quickly applied, and a general volley fired by word of command, was followed by the instantaneous demise of the largest, whose muffled cranium was perforated by two bullets at the same instant. His sinewy frame just quivered slightly—his huge head dropped upon the ground—and he was lying on his side a corpse. Swinging his tasseled tail hoisted and whirling in a circle—charging vigorously along the base of the range—and in desperate wrath making his teeth, his faded eye

"test your teeth, his faded eye
Your freely back on vacancy."

and his demise having been tested by a volley directed against his protruded stern, his body was dragged out for inspection.
There is much of repose and grandeur about the mortal remains of Leo, and I never recollect to have seen the asserted resemblance to the human face divine, more perfectly preserved than in this subject, already in the last stage of imbecility. Years had robbed him of his pristine vigour, and the honourable scars of many a fierce conflict seemed his scabby hide. His once splendid mane had waxed scant and scraggy—his yellow fangs were worn away to their stumps—and so deeply had age arrowed his savage cheek, that with his overhanging brow and bearded jaw, he might have furnished a handsome portrait for a toothless Jew. The weight of the Lion's body as compared with its size is very remarkable, and is accounted for by the singular density of the muscles and the compactness of the principal bones; which latter, like the teeth of the hippopotamus, will produce fire with steel. The force with which he must alight after a bound of fifteen or twenty feet is therefore sufficiently obvious, and his massy paw will batter in the skull of an ox quite as effectually as if a sledge hammer had been employed.

Among the Dutch Colonists it is a fashionable belief that there are two distinct species of the African Lion, which they designate the soul and the asort, or the yellow and the black variety, maintaining stoutly that the one is infinitely less ferocious than the other. But I need scarcely inform the well instructed reader that both the colour and the size depend chiefly upon the animal's age—the development of the physical powers and of the mane also—which does not sprout until the third year, but continues to increase long after the wearer has arrived at maturity,—being principally influenced by a like contingency. In point of size and complexion the South African subject differs in no respect from that found so abundantly in Guzerat—one of the only two provinces of India wherein the species exists—measuring usually between ten and eleven feet in extreme length, and varying in hue betwixt ash colour and tawny dun; but generally possessing a much more elaborate and matted mane, which peculiarity is attributable in a great measure to the less jingly character of the country that he infests, and to the more advanced age to which, from the comparatively small number of his mortal foes, he is suffered to attain. In India the Lion is often compelled to establish himself in heavy jungles, which comb out a considerable portion of the long loose silky hair about his head and neck; but this impervious shade, and is oft en disturbed from a clump of rushes barely large enough to conceal his portly figure.

Among probably possessing none of those magnanimous qualities that have been attributed to the Royal beast by the romantic imagery of poetical naturalists, yet when compared with the tiger—which it has already been said exists not in Africa—the Lion is unquestionably a noble animal. He displays more confidence and self-possession, with a much larger share of intrepidity than the only other cat that can vie with him in point of size or power; and he is consequently less easily irritated, and far more resolute in his charge when fairly provoked to a combat. Wounds then enrage, but rarely serve to a s soon as he

* In the year 1705, half a century after the first establishment of the Dutch at the Cape, Jan. Sterenberg Kapt, the Lendtvoet, proceeded on a journey into the interior to purchase oxen for the Dutch East India Company; and the following curious adventure, at which I have enjoyed, like a hearty laugh, is thus quaintly related in the journal of his proceedings. Modern Lions do not require so heavy an expenditure of ammunition.

"We pitched our tent about a hundred yards from the kraal, and went to rest; but were soon disturbed; for about midnight the cattle and horses which were standing between the wagons, began to start and run, and one of the drivers to shout; on which every one hurried out of the tent with his gun. About thirty paces from it stood a lion, which at seeing us, walked very deliberately about thirty paces farther, behind a small thorn bush, snuffing something with him, which I took to be a young ox. We fired more than sixty shots at the bush, and pinned it sturdily, without permitting any movement. The south-east wind blew strong, the sky was clear, and the moon shone very bright, so that we could perceive every thing at that distance. After the cattle had been quieted and I had looked over every thing, I missed the oxen from behind the tent. "Joe Snyk," from Antwerp, belonging to the Grieter kraal. We called as loudly as possible, but in vain—nobody answered; from which I concluded that the Lion had carried him off. Three or four men then advanced very cautiously to the bush, which stood eight or ten paces to the door of the tent; but I saw everything of the man, but returned helter-skelter, for the lion was still there, rose up, and began to roar. They found them the remnant of the oxen, which was cooked, and also his cap and his shoes."

"We fired again about a hundred shots at the bush (which was thirty paces from the tent and only thirty from the wagons), and where we were able to point as to a target, without perceiving anything of the lion; from which we concluded that he was killed, or had run away. This induced the colonel Jan Sterenberg, to go and see if he was there still or not, taking with him a fire brand. But as soon as he approached the bush, the lion roused terribly, and leapt at him; on which he threw the fire brand at him, and the other people having fired about ten shots, he retired directly to his former place behind that bush.

The animal which he had thrown at the lion, but fallen in the midst of the bush, and beset by a strong south-east wind it began to burn with a great flame as we could see very closely into and through it. We continued our firing into it without the least interruption; the light passed away, and the day began to break, which excited every one to aim at the lion, because he could not go from thence without exposing himself entirely, as the bush stood directly against a steep bank. Seven men posted on the furthest wagons, watched him to take aim at him if he should come out.
from the conflict bearing with them the head and paws to their Royal master—trophies of their valor which are left to decompose within the area of the imperial kraal, every part whereof is strewed with the relics of wild animals.

The only instance in which I believe our party to have had a very narrow escape from the clutches of the Felinae, was on the occasion adverted to in a preceding chapter, of our arrival at the source of the likwa, immediately prior to our exit from Moselkatse's dominions. It was late in the afternoon when we prepared to unyoke, and two lions, with manes like new mops, were observed actively shifting their quarters among the labyrinth of ravines, and seeming vastly disposed to assert their pretensions to the dominion of the desert, and to dispute our right to encamp thereon. My whole attention being shortly afterwards directed towards the slaughter of a Hippopotamus that was ploughing up the turbid waters, and making directly for the shore, the first I observed of a couchant lioness was her tufted tail vibrating angrily among the grass within a yard only of my foot. Happily her buttocks were turned towards me, and her ladyship's thoughts were so full of beef, that I had time to retreat and to draw back Piet, who was even still nearer than myself, without her being aware of our intrusion; and she would have retired quietly enough, had not another of the Hottentots stupidly fired at, and turned her.

Roaring, branding her tail, and ripe for any mischief, she dashed impetuously through the middle of our party, and had she not fallen to his own talons. Returning with Maphook on another occasion to the theatre of my morning's sport, in order to take up the horns of a koodoo which I had concealed in a bush, I was not a little surprised to find an enormous fellow, rougher than a French poodle, banquetting upon the headless trunk, whilst an odious assemblage of eager vultures garrisons the adjacent trees, and awaited their turn when the gorged monarch should make way for them. Immediately upon my appearance, his majesty walked heavily off, expressing by a stifled growl his Royal displeasure at being thus unceremoniously disturbed at his meals. It was not, however, destined that our acquaintance should terminate here; for passing the scene of this introductory interview the following morning, Richardson and myself were suddenly made aware of the monster's presence, by perceiving a pair of round gooseberry eyes, with small jet black pupils, glaring upon us from beneath the screen of a shady bush; and instantly upon reining up our horses, out the grim savage bolted with a roar like thunder, and bounded across the plain with the agility of a greyhound. The luxuriant beauty of his shaggy black mane, which in its full and bushy grandeur almost swept the ground, tempted us, contrary to established rule, to offer him battle with the design of appropriating his regalia—and on putting spurs to our horses, he no sooner felt himself hotly pursued, than he swung round like a cutter letting go his anchor under a full press of canvas, and standing at bay in a minous grove, measured the strength of his assailants with a port the most noble and imposing. Dillidking our appearance, however, and not relishing the smell of gunpowder, he soon abandoned the grove and took up a strong position on the summit of an adjacent stony hill, of which the base was so thickly clothed with thorn trees, that we could only obtain a clear view of him from the distance of three hundred yards, and were thus compelled to open battery at long range. Crouched on this fortified pinnacle like the sculptured figure at the entrance of a nobleman's park, the enemy disdainfully surveyed us for several minutes, daring us to approach with an air of conscious power and pride which well beseemed his regal appurtenances. Unable, however, to overtake our horses, he shortly retreated under a galling fire, lisping and discomfited to his strong hold. Again we bombarded him, and again, exasperated,

“...At last before it became quite light, he walked up the hill with the man in his mouth, when about forty shots were fired at him without hitting him, although some went very near. Every time this happened he turned round towards the tent, and came roaring towards us; and I saw of opinion that if he had been hit, he would have rushed on the people and the tent.

“...When it became broad day-light, we perceived by the blood and a piece of the clothes of the man, that the lion had taken him away and carried him with him. We also found behind the bush, the place where the lion had been keeping the man, and it appeared impossible that no ball should have hit him, as we found in that place several balls beaten flat. We concluded that he was wounded and not far from this. The people therefore requested permission to go in search of the man's corpse in order to bring it, supposing that by our emotional acting, the lion would not have had time to devour much of it. I gave permission to some, on condition that they should take a good party of armed Hottentots with them, and made them promise that they would not run into danger, but keep a good look out, and be circumspect. On this, seven of them, assisted by forty-three armed Hottentots followed the track, and found the lion about half a league further on, lying behind a little bush. On the scent of the Hottentots he sprang up and ran away, on which they all pursued him. At last the beast turned round, and rushed, roaring terribly, amongst the crowd. The people, fatigued and out of breath with their running, fired and missed him, on which he made directly towards them. The captain or chief head of the Kraal, here did a brave act in aid of two of the people whom the lion attacked. The gun of one of them missed fire, and the other missed his aim on which the captain threw himself between the lion and the people, so close, that the lion struck his claws one of them missed, and then turned him to his side, and the other missed his aim, on which the captain threw himself between the lion and the people, so close, that the lion struck his claws into the canoe or skin cloak of the Hottentot. But he was too agile for him, defied his marches, and eluded him with an assagai. Instantly the other Hottentot hastened on and assisted him with their assagais, so that he looked like a percy. Notwithstanding this he did not lose of running and keeping, and hit off some of the assagais, until the medicines, two Stummers, fired a ball into his eye, which made him turn over, and he was shot dead by the other people. He was a tremendously large beast, and had but a short time before carved off a Hottentot from the kraal, and devoured him.”
he rushed into the plain with headlong fury — the blood now streaming from his open jaws, and dyeing his clotted mane with crimson.

"To his bold charge the savage turns lone,
His snarling fury with a hollow groan;
His grin, he buries, he rolls his eyes around;
Lashed by his tail his heaving sides resound;
Calling up all his rage, he grinds his teeth,
Resolved on vengeance, or resolved on death."

It was a gallant charge, but it was to be his last. A well directed shot arrested him in full career, he sprang into the air as if seized with vertigo — pitched with violence upon his ample skull, and throwing a complete somerset, subsided amid a cloud of dust!