

GLEANINGS
IN
A F R I C A;
EXHIBITING
A FAITHFUL AND CORRECT VIEW
OF THE
MANNERS AND CUSTOMS OF THE INHABITANTS
OF THE
CAPE OF GOOD HOPE,
AND SURROUNDING COUNTRY.

With a full and comprehensive Account of the System of Agriculture adopted
by the Colonists:

Soil, Climate, Natural Productions
&c. &c. &c.

INTERSPERSED WITH OBSERVATIONS AND REFLECTIONS
ON THE
State of Slavery
In the Southern Extremity of
THE AFRICAN CONTINENT.

In a Series of Letters from an English Officer during the Period in which this
Colony was under the Protection of
THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT.

ILLUSTRATED WITH ENGRAVINGS

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THE
EDITOR'S PREFACE.

THE small collection of Letters here presented to the public, was not originally intended for any such purpose, and would never have gone abroad, had not several persons of distinguished taste and abilities, as well as of extensive information, solicited the publication, being convinced that it would exhibit a fund of valuable instruction and rational amusement. In this respect, indeed, it is presumed that the reader will not be disappointed, but will find a great deal both of the useful and the agreeable comprised within a narrow compass.

The following sheets consist of a Series of Letters from a gentleman who resided a considerable time at the Cape of Good Hope, during the period in which that celebrated Dutch settlement so much talked of, and so little known in this country, was in the possession of the British government. The letters are interesting, sentimental, and strikingly descriptive both of men, manners, and the scenery of Nature in that

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part

part of the world. He appears to have been a person of accurate observation and refined sentiments. He possessed the most ample means of acquiring a knowledge of the manners and customs of the colonists, as well as of the agricultural system in use among them, and examined, with the eye of a philosopher, the whole œconomy of the settlement. His description of the face of the country, and the situations of the principal villages, farms, and plantations dispersed in various parts of the colony, are singularly animated and picturesque; and his observations on the habits of life among the colonists, are judicious and interesting: and, upon the whole, the information which we find contained in these Letters, although concentrated within a narrow compass, is, perhaps, as accurate and extensive as any that has ever been obtained in this country relative to the southern extremity of the African continent. The sensibility of his heart corresponds with the acuteness of his observation, and we cannot read his remarks and reflections on slavery, without experiencing in our breasts, a sympathetic unison with his feelings.

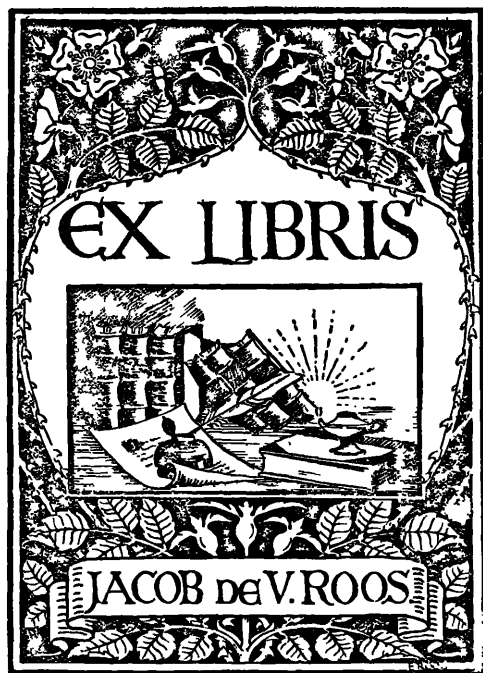
The Letters are written in the plain and un-studied style of familiar correspondence, the unaffected but expressive language of one friend speaking

speaking to another, which renders them not less, but more valuable. While we read the Letters, we seem indeed to be conversing with the writer, and accompanying the traveller in his excursions, to join in his remarks, and participate in his reflections and sentiments; and while we must acknowledge that he is perfectly qualified to observe, reflect and compare, we cannot but perceive, at the same time, that to those talents so essential to a traveller, he unites the inestimable virtues of attachment to the constitution of his country, and loyalty to his Sovereign.

In a well-grounded confidence that the expectation of the public will not be disappointed in this small performance, it is laid before the reader

By his very humble servant,

THE EDITOR.



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